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OPINION



New Prices Effective May 1, 2010

Martin Cleaning Service

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Residential & Commercial Services
 Minimum Service CHG. \$45.00
 A small distance/travel charge may be applied

CARPET CLEANING
 2 Cleaning Areas or more \$30.00 Each Area
 Pre-Spray Traffic Areas (Includes: 1 small Hallway)

1 Cleaning Area (only) \$40.00
 Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area (Hallway Extra)

Stairs (12-16 stairs - With Other Services): \$25.00

Area/Oriental Rugs: \$25.00 Minimum
 Area/Oriental Rugs (Wool): \$40.00 Minimum

Heavily Soiled Area: Additional \$10.00 each area (Requiring Extensive Pre-Spraying)

UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
 Sofa: \$69.00
 Loveseat: \$49.00
 Sectional: \$109 - \$139
 Chair or Recliner: \$25 - \$49
 Throw Pillows (With Other Services): \$5.00

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Area & Oriental Rug Cleaning
- Auto/Boat/RV Cleaning
- Deodorizing & Pet Odor Treatment
- Spot & Stain Removal Service
- Scotchguard Protection
- Minor Water Damage Services

SEE CURRENT FLYER FOR ADDITIONAL PRICES & SERVICES
 Call for Appointment (503) 281-3949

Pushing Back Against Extreme Inequality

The people aren't powerless

BY CHUCK COLLINS

In the coming weeks, millions of Americans will take to the streets as part of the "99 percent spring," echoing last year's "Arab Spring."



At the root of this discontent are the extreme inequalities of income, wealth, and opportunity that have emerged over the last four decades.

The richest one percent now owns over 36 percent of all the wealth in the United States. That's more than the net worth of the bottom 95 percent combined. This 1 percent has pocketed almost all of the wealth gains of the last decade.

In 2010, the one percent earned 21 percent of all income, up from only eight percent in mid-1970s. The 400 wealthiest individuals on the Forbes 400 list have more wealth than the bottom 150 million Americans.

These trends among the one percent are bad for the rest of us. Concentrated wealth translates into political clout — the power to use

campaign contributions to rent politicians and tilt the rules of the economy in their favor.

Websites dramatizing the "We are the 99 percent" movement are full of personal stories of young people who are saddled with debt and no futures, and middle class families that have seen the American Dream collapse around them, losing jobs, homes, and hopes for the fu-

The "99 to 1" dichotomy may strike some folks as polarizing and inaccurate. Yet it's a powerful lens for understanding what's happened to our society and economy over the last several decades. The rules guiding our economy have been skewed to benefit the one percent at the expense of the 99 percent. These rules include tax policies, global trade agreements, and government actions that benefit asset owners at

ence the political game so that they and their corporations get more power and wealth.

Just as individuals in the one percent are diverse actors, the one percent of corporations is also not unified. There are several thousand multinational corporations — the Wall Street inequality machine — that are the drivers of rule changes. But they are the minority. There are millions of other built-to-last corporations and Main Street businesses that strengthen our communities and have a stake in an economy that works for everyone.

We must defend ourselves from the bad actors — the built-to-loom companies whose business model is focused on shifting costs onto society, shedding jobs, and extracting wealth from our communities and the healthy economy.

This spring, watch for millions of people in motion, participating in protests at banks, outside lawmakers' offices, and in the streets. They'll be pressing for an economy that works for the 100 percent, not just the one percent. This is a healthy sign for our nation because it dramatizes that the people aren't powerless in the face of extreme inequality.

Chuck Collins, a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies.

There's a small segment within the one percent — the "rule riggers" — who use their power and wealth to influence the political game so that they and their corporations get more power and wealth.

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"I used to dream about becoming the first woman president," one woman wrote. "Now I dream about getting a job with health insurance."

Reading these stories, I'm struck that the underlying conditions that have squeezed millions of Americans aren't going away. The current political system, captured by large corporations and the wealthy, is incapable of responding to their needs.

the expense of wage earners.

Who is the "one percent"? Primarily it consists of households with annual incomes that top \$500,000 and wealth exceeding \$5 million. The one percent isn't a monolithic interest group. Plenty of people within this group have devoted their lives to building a healthy economy that works for everyone. But there's a small segment within the one percent — the "rule riggers" — who use their power and wealth to influ-