

Letters to the Editor, Lancaster *Intelligencer Journal/New Era* (October 24, 2011)

One of the 99 percenters

TO THE EDITORS:

Tuesday, I stood along Prince Street carrying a placard saying "I am one of the 99%" and got positive as well as negative reactions, including the obscene gesture from an obviously well-off, sixtyish man driving an SUV.

Today I will again join Occupy Lancaster, one older figure among the many young demonstrators who have pitched tents on land owned by the city police department.

I will be there in solidarity with the 99 percent of Americans, including my hard-working daughters and my hardworking former officemates, who are pessimistic about their future. They see their 401(k)s dwindle in value by the day. They are afraid that Social Security and Medicare will not be there when they retire. Their one certainty, voiced with wry humor by a former colleague, is this: "I will work until the day I die. In fact, I need three lifetimes to pay off all my debts."

I will stand there hoping that all this standing and occupying will touch the consciences of the 1 percent and bring about a more even distribution of the country's wealth.

Marichelle Roque-Lutz, New Holland