OMNI WAL-MART NEWS, November 24, 2012.
Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace, Justice, and Environmental Stewardship.

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http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

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For a knowledge-based peace, justice, and ecology movement and an informed citizenry as the foundation for change.

BLACK FRIDAY STRIKE AGAINST WALMART or "the hi cost of low prices"
from David Druding, Nov. 23, 2012.

Fernando & friends

I just wrote this reply to a person who used the name Alicia writing on this Facebook page that working for Walmart was a "public servant" occupation!!

What Koolaid has she been drinking??

my Facebook post to alicia:
"I have lived in NW AR for 38yrs and have watched Walmart grow during that time. I have witnessed women continually be forced to work hard long hrs, the same as their male counterparts, and routinely as COMPANY POLICY, receive half or 2/3’s what their male co-workers get for doing the exact SAME JOB.
I have had friends who were ORDERED by their supervisors to clock out for a LEGALLY REQUIRED lunch or other rest break and then WORK THRU that work break. These were standard Walmart employee practices until they were taken to court and ordered to pay millions of dollars in fines and back pay for discriminating against women and forcing their employees to work without pay.
Walmart has recently applied for and received over $1.5 BILLION in various gov’t subsidies, from you & me, that they required from hundreds of US city and counties in order to locate one of their big box stores in our communities. They demanded tax and other "incentive" rewards to set up their highly lucrative retail stores and offer those of us needing jobs $7.50/hr for 39.5hrs of work each week so Walmart would not have to offer these "part-time" employees any benefits.
Please be aware Walmart is NOT a public servant. Far from that, they are a ruthless, predatory multi-national corp that steals, bribes, and lies to us, the consumer, and the gov' agencies it interfaces with and continually takes advantage of its employees in order to expand their profits.
I urge everyone to watch Robert Greenwald's film, "The High Cost of Low Prices" about Walmart's biz practices. It's available for free on Youtube. Happy Holidays."  
david druding
On Fri, Nov 23, 2012 at 1:27 AM, Facebook <notification+kjdm_hd7777d@facebookmail.com> wrote:

facebook

Shanna

This book demonstrates the usefulness of anthropological concepts by taking a critical look at Wal-Mart and the American Dream. Rather than singling Wal-Mart out for criticism, the authors treat it as a product of a socio-political order that it also helps to shape. *The book attributes Wal-Mart’s success to the failure of American (and global) society to make the Dream available to everyone.* It shows how decades of neoliberal economic policies have exposed contradictions at the heart of the Dream, creating an opening for Wal-Mart. The company’s success has generated a *host of negative externalities,* however, fueling popular ambivalence and organized opposition.

The book also describes the strategies that Wal-Mart uses to maintain legitimacy, fend off unions, enter new markets, and cultivate an aura of benevolence and ordinariness, despite these externalities. It focuses on Wal-Mart’s efforts to forge symbolic and affective inclusion, and their self-promotion as a free market solution to social problems of poverty, inequality, and environmental destruction. Finally, the book contrasts the *conceptions of freedom and human rights* that underlie Wal-Mart’s business model to the alternative visions of freedom forwarded by their critics. (publisher)

See: NICK COPELAND, “COLLECTIVE ACTION, LABOR UNIONS, AND THE BIGGEST SECRET IN THE WORLD.” Talk presented at Earth Fest April 26, 2012, Fayetteville, AR, by OMNI UA. Need for collection action to solve world’s problems, and therefore the importance of unions, which Wal-Mart USA has
Liza Featherstone. “Walmart Exposed.” *The Nation* (May 21, 2012).: documents show “that Walmart officials at the highest levels knew about the Mexican bribery scandal and took steps to thwart—and even cover up—an internal investigation.” (D)

“Wal Mart Impact on Hundreds of Millions of People”

**Wal-Mart's Shocking Impact on the Lives of Hundreds of Millions of People**  
By David Moberg, *The American Prospect*  
Posted on April 28, 2011, Printed on April 30, 2011


Wal-Mart casts a global shadow across the lives of hundreds of millions of people, whether or not they ever enter a Supercenter. With $405 billion in sales in the last fiscal year, Wal-Mart is so big, and so obsessively focused on cost-cutting, that its actions shape our landscape, work, income distribution, consumption patterns, transport and communication, politics and culture, and the organization of industries from retail to manufacturing, from California to China.

Yet other paths are possible….Read more  
[http://www.alternet.org/module/printversion/150781](http://www.alternet.org/module/printversion/150781)

“Know the Impact of ‘The Walmart Economy’”

April 12, 2011

Dear Dick,

*The American Prospect* has released *The Walmart Economy*, a new special report. Filled with articles by some of the premiere Walmart analysts of our time, this is a must-read for anyone keeping a watchful eye on Walmart. Here’s a sampling of what’s inside:

In "How Wal-Mart Shapes the World", David Moberg, a senior editor at *In These Times*, turns a critical eye on Walmart’s
impact on local economies worldwide. Moberg dissects the company’s influence on global suppliers, America’s main street businesses, and the associates who work in retail stores from coast to coast.

“Walmart Tries to Go to Town”: UC, Santa Barbara professor Nelson Lichtenstein, author of The Retail Revolution: How Wal-Mart Created a Brave New World of Business, clearly lays out the reasons why Walmart is desperate to gain entry into the U.S.’s largest cities. In one word: profit.

The late Jonathan Rowe’s piece, “The Greening of Walmart,” tells how Walmart’s recent environmentalist bent is as much a public relations ploy as anything else.

And in “It’s Alive” the renowned author of Nickel and Dimed, Barbara Ehrenreich, calls out a Supreme Court that, on the one hand, has ruled that corporations are persons, entitled to such rights as freedom of speech, but could, on the other hand, potentially rule that Walmart is “too big, too multifaceted and diverse, to be sued” by the women of the Dukes v. Walmart sex discrimination case. Ehrenreich points out that the company controls the smallest minutiae of its stores, from personnel policies to floor layout, from headquarters in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Be sure to check out these articles and more at The American Prospect, and share this information to others who will want to read this important report.

https://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=dd75a4efec&view=cv&fs=1&tf=1&ver=Y8M4VH4wdAY.en.&amp=!4ZMZMVHteft_DX0jI_E08oghW3x22mMXrI-DCS-3Z5mfhIsjg8tJ8B6LqQ&search=inbox&th=12f4b919a9ec6d72&cvid=1

Sincerely, Walmart Watch

2008 NEWSPAPER REPORT of W-M Crime (more below)

Near the end of 2008, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported that “Wal-Mart Stores Inc. will pay between $352 million and $640 million to settle 63 class-action lawsuits alleging violations of wage and hour laws….The lawsuits claim that Wal-Mart employees were required to work off the clock….The settlements cover lawsuits in 42 states, including Arkansas, dating as far back as 2000. The Arkansas case is Works vs. Wal-Mart Stores Inc., filed in May 2005 in Miller County.”
"Walmartopia" begins performances August 21st, 2007 at The Minetta Lane Theatre (18 Minetta Lane), with opening night set, appropriately, for Labor Day 2007 - Monday, September 3rd at 7:00 p.m. This "irreverent political satire of big business and eternal smiley faces" is written by Catherine Capellaro (Book) and Andrew Rohn (Music and Lyrics). With direction by Daniel Goldstein and choreography by Wendy Seyb, the cast..."It's Mom vs. Mart! Walmartopia tells the hilarious and timely tale of Vicki Latrell, a single mom and Wal-Mart employee who speaks out against her company’s working conditions and finds herself and her young daughter jettisoned to 2036, into a future where Wal-Mart dominates the entire world," state press notes. The show was previously a hit at last summer's New York International Fringe Festival.

http://www.broadwayworld.com/viewcolumn.cfm?colid=20711

DEMOnSTRATIONS AGAINST WAL-MART

Hi y'all!

This year’s Against the Wal week of protest at the Wal-Mart shareholder’s meeting was a major success! With hard work, cooperation and creativity we brought our message of change to shareholders with multiple appearances and stunts throughout the week. We were all over the media, and our message rang out loud and clear. Wal-Mart: respect working people, communities and the earth! Thank you everyone who helped out and we’ll see you in the streets next year!

-Greg

Heres a recap of the week’s activities: Click here to visit our website>

Wed & Thursday, May 30th & 31st
The Greediest Show on Earth!
Street Theatre Performance
In the days leading up to the meeting, as Wal-Mart shareholders from around the world dined and recreated in Fayetteville's entertainment district, Against the Wal members hit the streets with multiple street theatre appearances of "The Greediest Show on Earth!"

Clowns distributed information alleging Wal-Mart's bad business practice with candy and balloons while entertaining shareholders with Wal-Mart jokes and circus tricks.

Click here to see more pictures>

Friday, June 1st
4th Annual Shareholders Meeting Protest
At the Bud Walton Arena

On June 1st, while the shareholders were packed into Bud Walton Arena, we marched down with signs, leaflets and large puppets to make our point one final time. With signs that read "Universal Health Care," "Living Wage NOW!" and more, we interacted with shareholders as they passed.

Click here to see more pictures>

www.againstthewal.net info@againstthewal.net

2005 NEWSPAPER REPORTING WAL-MART CRIMES by Dick Bennett

For many years I have occasionally clipped newspaper reports on Wal-Mart. Here's my analysis of reports of Wal-Mart crimes published in local newspapers in 2005. Dick

(From public sources, local media, esp. The Morning News (TMN). Also: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
AGAINST THE WAL

"Greediest Show on Earth" Hits Dickson Street

At 7pm on Wednesday, May 30, 2005, a group of approximately 30 local activists performed "The Walton Bros. Circus: The Greediest Show on Earth," street theatre show for Wal-Mart shareholders on Dickson St. The event was organized by Against the Wal, a 4 year old Wal-Mart opposition group based in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

An activist on stilts wearing a suit and holding a remote control (representing Wal-Mart CEO Lee Scott) walked behind a larger-than-life size paper mache representation of Wal-Mart's smiling mascot. The representation of Wal-Mart's mascot chased a gaggle of blue-vested clowns in yellow and black face paint. Clowns distributed information alleging Wal-Mart's bad business practice with candy and balloons while entertaining shareholders with Wal-Mart jokes and circus tricks. Some clowns posed as spies, tailing and photographing shareholders. They distributed a memo warning about Wal-mart's alleged surveillance of shareholders, which was excerpted from the Wall Street Journal's April 5 article entitled "Inside Wal-Mart's 'Threat Research' Operation". Others held surveillance cameras that spit silly string. The Walton Bros. Circus included a "freak show," including "the world's smallest child laborer" and "the tight-rope walker without health care".

Against the Wal plans to perform again on Dickson Street on Thursday evening, May 31. Also, on Friday, June 1 at 9:30am, Against the Wal plans to march from Fayetteville High School to Bud Walton Arena. They welcome everyone to join them.

Against the Wal, which organizes this protest annually during the Wal-Mart shareholders meeting, used this event as an opportunity to present their eight demands for institutional change in Wal-Mart's business practices. These demands range from providing higher wages and affordable health care for workers to respecting the environment. A full list of Against the Wal's demands can be seen at www.againstthewal.net. [Web site unavailable Nov. 2012—Dick]

"Against the Wal is not against any individuals including shoppers, workers or shareholders," Said
Rozlyn Grace, the group's spokesperson, "We are protesting egregious corporate behavior."

UNIONS
Cristal Cody, “Vote for Union at Canadian Wal-Mart Fails.” ADG (3-10-05). Both the union and W-M filed intimidation grievances.

WAGES AND BENEFITS (see Sextist)
Jon Sarche, “Decade-Old Lawsuit Against Wal-Mart Revived.” TMN (4-27-05) 2D. “A decade-old lawsuit accusing Wal-Mart Stores Inc. of violating federal labor laws on overtime pay began a new round….”
Chuck Bartels, “Wal-Mart Targeted by Group.” TMN (4-21-05) 1D. Wal-Mart Watch launched a media campaign to improve W-M pay and benefits for its workers, including an ad in the New York Times accusing W-M of forcing its employees to rely on Medicaid, food stamps, and federal housing in order to survive.
“Maryland Bill Passes; Wal-Mart Impacted.” TMN (4-10-05). W-M will have to spend more money on health care for its Maryland employees. The Gov. says he will veto.
Anita French, “Wal-Mart Workers Top List for Aid.” TMN (3-17-05) 1A. W-M “heads the list of the top 10 employeers in Arkansas whose workers are receiving state aid.” Nearly 4,000 receive public assistance.

INJURY TO COMMUNITIES
Elizabeth Mehren, “Vermont Town Ponders Wal-Mart.” TMN (4-24-05) 4B. Citizens who fear a new W-M will drive small merchants out of business and preservationists who worry that Vermont will lose its character and beauty oppose building a W-M in St. Albans.

SEXIST POLICIES
WAGES, BENEFITS, PROMOTIONS

Anita French, “Wal-Mart Said in Settlement Talks.” *TMN* (3-10-05) 1D. W-M trying to settle a class-action lawsuit (Dukes v. Wal-Mart) that could be the largest of its kind in history, involving 1.6 million female employees claming discrimination against women in pay and promotions.

**ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT LABOR**


**REFUSAL TO PAY COMPENSATION**


**FIRING WHISTLEBLOWERS**

“Wal-Mart Employee Asks for Investigation” *TMN* (5-1-05). Whistleblower Jared Bowen claims he was fired after exposing improper expenses.

**WAL-MART’S MEDIA IMAGE CAMPAIGN**

“Wal-Mart Tries Changing Corporate Image.” General commentary on W-M’s big public relations campaign to defend its image.

**DEFENDERS OF WAL-MART**

In addition to W-M’s public relations, W-M has plenty of defenders. Here are two during the early months of 2005.


MEDIA WATCH: This compilation provides material for studying how well our media are reporting Wal-Mart’s wrongdoings. A good subject for a university term paper, a master’s thesis, or doctoral dissertation.

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