

Corruptions of Empire:

Journalist Alexander Cockburn
to speak and sign new book



Alexander Cockburn, noted journalist and author of recently published *Corruptions of Empire*, will be speaking in Eugene on Tuesday.

by Larry Lewin

Followers of Alexander Cockburn's "Ashes and Diamonds" column, published by *What's Happening* twice a month, will be able to hear this gifted journalist in person next week. Cockburn will be in Eugene on Tuesday, November 24, to speak at the U of O and to appear at the downtown Peralandra Bookstore to promote his newest book, *Corruptions of Empire*.

The book, published by Verso, is the first collection of his journalism.

As readers of *What's Happening* have learned over the past few months since the paper has carried the bi-monthly column, Cockburn covers such topics as Central America, the U.S. media, food fads, and the Reagan Presidency. Few journalists either in the radical or mainstream press have his range.

No matter what his topic, Cockburn covers it with depth, insight, and outrageously right-on humor, such as his complaint that MacNeil and Lehrer,

"the two most boring people on television," even take a balanced view of cannibalism, or his expose of why journalists give themselves more awards and prizes than either bankers or hog farmers.

And his viewpoint is clear, quick, and deservedly angry, as in this quote from his Oct. 29 column:

The degree to which the U.S. media have turned this [Costa Rican Pres.] Arias [Central American peace] plan into a document applying solely to Nicaragua rather than to those of all five signatories, is fairly amazing, even by normal depraved standards.

From 1973-83 Cockburn wrote a column for the *Village Voice* after arriving in the U.S. from the United Kingdom where he was born and educated. In the U.S. he has contributed articles to the *New York Review of Books*, *Atlantic*, *Harpers*, *Esquire*, *Playboy*, and *Vanity Fair*. He has also appeared on such programs as ABC's "Nightline" and the "Phil Donohue Show." He is published regularly in the *Nation*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *American Film*, *L.A. Weekly* and *House and Garden*.

Last February Cockburn spoke at the U of O on the role of the media in U.S. foreign policy. The overflow crowd of 600 was treated to important information, eye-opening analysis, and very funny commentary.

Next Tuesday Cockburn will be at the downtown Peralandra Bookstore, 1016 Willamette, for book signing and conversation from 4-6 pm and then at the U of O's 150 Geology for a wide-ranging talk on his favorite topics beginning at 7:30 pm. There is a sliding admission price of \$3-\$5 at the door. This appearance is a benefit fundraiser for the Committee in Solidarity with the Central American People (CISCAP) and the U of O's University of El Salvador Sister University Project. The event is co-sponsored by *What's Happening*.

Cockburn will also be interviewed by Alan Siporin on KLCC's Blue Plate Special news program between 12-12:30 pm on November 24.



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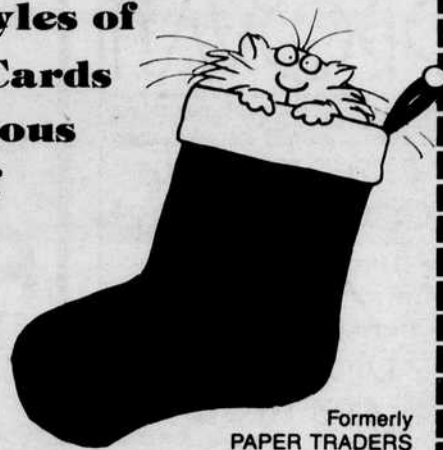
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