

Wal-Mart Facts

- The average Wal-Mart discount store uses 98,000 square feet.
- The average Wal-Mart Supercenter uses 186,000 square feet per store and 20 acres for the parking lot (1,000 parking spaces), generating an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 car trips per day.
- Wal-Mart's revenue in 2004 was \$288 billion — or \$33 million every hour.
- At the end of 2004, Wal-Mart had 3,551 U.S. stores. On average, one new Wal-Mart store opens every day.
- Wal-Mart stores receive government subsidies of almost \$4 billion in tax breaks, cheap land, etc.
- Wal-Mart costs the federal government hundreds of millions annually in welfare benefits for under-paid workers.
- There are currently more than 350 empty Wal-Mart stores nationwide, comprising about 52 million sq. ft. of unused space.
- On average, for every Wal-Mart Supercenter that opens, two local grocery stores go out of business.

Sources: The United States of Wal-Mart, by John Dicker; Sprawl Busters (www.sprawl-busters.com); Good Jobs First (www.goodjobsfirst.com)

3,700 residents have signed a petition opposing a proposal for a Wal-Mart Supercenter in their community (see sidebar).

Sneaky Schemes

Any way you look at it — as a model corporate gesture or a shady corporate scheme — the Acres for America campaign is smart. It's as if a Wal-Mart PR executive wanted to amend the opening line of Dicker's book: "Unless you've been residing in a national wildlife refuge, you probably hear a lot about Wal-Mart."

Bussel sees the Acres for America campaign as an attempt to divide the political left, which has been largely united against Wal-Mart for its poor labor and environmental practices. He says that by appealing to environmentalists, the company is attempting to

shake up the sense of "green" solidarity with the "blue" pro-labor movement. "Wal-Mart has a real sense of divide and conquer," he says. "From a strategic point of view, [Acres for America] is a clever move on Wal-Mart's part. But people have to recognize that they're dealing with a very sophisticated company that is under fire because of its policies."

Norman agrees, relating the Acres for America campaign to the company's strategies of featuring African Americans in their marketing and underwriting programs for National Public Radio. "They're clearly going into areas of the American culture that are not naturally allies of corporate greed to do some disorganization and put out disinformation," Norman says. "They're trying to buy goodwill. It's part of an elaborate bribe." **EW**

ON JUNE 18 A PERCENTAGE OF SALES FROM ALL UNIQUE EUGENE MEMBER STORES WILL GO TOWARDS A SWING SET AT EUGENE'S NEW RIVERPLAY PARK.



UNIQUE EUGENE

blue moon jewelry
saturday market
tactics boardshop
down to earth
paul's bicycle way of life
dot dotsons
newman's fish company
smith family bookstore
footwise the birkenstock store
greater goods
oregon art supply
harlequin beads
sundance natural foods
eugene toy and hobby
rainbow optics
pacific winds music
passionflower design

SHOP FOR A SWING!
JUNE 18TH!



EUGENE WEEKLY'S
SUMMER MUSIC
I S S U E
JUNE 30
ADVERTISE IN THIS SPECIAL ISSUE: 484-0519
RESERVE AD SPACE BY FRIDAY, JUNE 24.

*Now
you can
tuck in
late...*

tuck in: v : eat up; to eat
or drink heartily .

**SERVING DINNER
UNTIL 1AM
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
NIGHTS.**

DISH

COMFORT CUISINE

DINNER M-TH. 5 PM-10 PM,
FRI & SAT 5PM -1AM
LUNCH M-F 11AM-3 PM
LATE NIGHT MENU 10 PM-LATE
MINORS WELCOME 'TIL 9PM

**959 PEARL STREET
AT THE DOWNTOWN LOUNGE
DOWNTOWN EUGENE
541.393.0158**