



Robert Greenwald

FILM BASHES WAL-MART

A standing-room-only crowd packed into LCC Nov. 17 to see Robert Greenwald's documentary *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price*. The film screened in more than 7,000 other locations nationwide last week, and Greenwald himself attended the LCC screening.

Greenwald's other muck-raking documentaries include *Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism*, *Uncovered: The Whole Truth About the Iraq War*, *Unconstitutional: The War on Our Civil Liberties* and *Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election*.

The filmmaker said that he didn't know anything about Wal-Mart one year ago, but his research led him to discover a filthy-rich company that methodically drives small retailers out of business, under-pays and mistreats its workers, exploits international sweatshop laborers and lays waste to land across America. Despite Wal-Mart's propensity to suck the economic life from downtowns, local governments regularly reward the company with hefty subsidies.

Greenwald's "Wake Up Wal-Mart"

campaign has found allies in scores of community activists, progressive nonprofits and politicians. On Nov. 15, Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) attacked the corporation, saying "Wal-Mart sells itself as an all-American company, but it violates American family values every day by mistreating its workers."

The documentary drew scathing criticism from the right. Wal-Mart spokesperson Chris Gallagher denounced the film, calling it "a sensationalized and one-sided view of our company." Fox anchor Bill O'Reilly blasted Greenwald, saying, "He's a radical progressive who blames America first ... This guy is just to the right of Fidel Castro."

In the conversation following the LCC screening, some audience members thanked Greenwald and commended him for the documentary, and others offered

constructive criticism. One man called the documentary a "nice, liberal film," but questioned whether it would speak to people who weren't already opposed to Wal-Mart. Greenwald replied that his intention in making the film was to reach "outside the choir" to every-day, red-state Americans as well as urban liberals.

For more info, visit www.walmart-movie.com — Kera Abraham

BOOK FOCUSES ON KIP KINKEL

Eugene author and *EW* free-lance writer Joe Lieberman's *The Shooting Game* is being published by Seven Locks Press at the end of January.

"The book reveals the synchronous na-

ture and common roots of school shootings from the most recent to those going back 30 years and more, along with how those relate to workplace rampages and suicidal terrorist acts," says Lieberman. "It is global in scope, including such things as a dozen school knife attacks in East Asia where guns are less available to the public."

The book's special focus is on the dramatic story of Kip Kinkel, Oregon's only school shooter, who murdered both his teacher-parents before he attacked Thurston High School in Springfield in May 1998. Lieberman has been following the case over the years and wrote a cover story on it for *EW* (see archives for 8/29/02). See more about the new book at www.theshootinggame.com

MILLEGAN MISTRIAL

The federal case against local publisher Kris Millegan held on Halloween ended in a mistrial when the lead attorney for the plaintiffs became too ill to continue, according to Millegan.

"We won the battle, but we are still in a war," says Millegan, who expects the trial in South Carolina to be rescheduled for January.

Millegan and his Waltham publishing company TrineDay are defendants against a lawsuit filed by former members of the Special Forces (see "Sinister Forces" cover story, 8/25).

The lawsuit sought compensatory and punitive damages in excess of \$100,000 for each of the plaintiffs, who it says were "libeled and slandered," and portrayed in a book published by TrineDay as "loose cannons." The book in question, *Expendable Elite: One Soldier's Journey Into Covert Warfare*, documents illegal Special Forces incursions into Cambodia in 1966, as well as assassination missions.

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

CYNTHIUS SCANLON & SUSAN SCHNEIDER

Since they began taking in foster children seven years ago, Cynthius Scanlon and Susan Schneider have cared for more than 60 kids awaiting adoption or return to their families.

"Usually we have two babies, three to five kids in all," says Scanlon. "One of our goals is to keep siblings together. We try to make it 'one stop,' until they are adopted or taken back."

The couple provides a "tier 3" home, capable of serving the most medically fragile children, some of them damaged by exposure to meth in utero. Scanlon and Schneider had a successful business making herbal aromatic products when they moved from Boring, Ore., to Eugene in 1994. "Our number-one seller was refillable organic catnip slugs," says Schneider. "We got fan mail from cats." They sold the business after they adopted Chris, an 11-year-old whom Scanlon had tutored in a foster home. They began their foster care career as respite providers, offering weekend breaks to regular foster parents. "It's good work for the heart," says Scanlon. "The kids come in tough — they don't trust anyone. They drop that and learn to laugh and play when they don't have to worry about food and safety."



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