

## Academic Study Lets Wal-Mart Off Far Too Lightly

A **study** by University of California researchers claims that the Wal-Mart chain of stores is costing the State of California a mere \$86 million a year. How did they arrive at this absurdly low figure? Like this:

“Wal-Mart workers' reliance on public assistance due to substandard wages and benefits has become a form of indirect public subsidy to the company,” said the report issued by the University of California, Berkeley Labor Center.

“[It] comes at a cost to the taxpayers of an estimated \$86 million annually; this is comprised of \$32 million in health related expenses and \$54 million in other assistance.”

But this method of calculation wilfully neglects the far greater costs that Wal-Mart inflicts on the people whom it *refuses* to employ, or pay, at all! – namely all the other welfare recipients in the State. And it shamelessly ignores the wrongdoing of all the higher-wage employers in California, whose conspiracy not to employ fleeing Wal-Mart workers is a necessary condition for them to be a burden on the State, and for Wal-Mart to exist in the first place.

What could have caused supposedly impartial academic researchers to display such blatant right-wing bias, ignore the massive conspiracy that is staring them in the face, and whitewash a bunch of companies who are, quite frankly, capitalist? The answer to any such question is always the same: *follow the money*. Who do you think pays the salaries of these idle, bourgeois parasites on the backs of the working people of California? Why, the taxpayer, of course – in other words, *Wal-Mart*, and the other employers. Is it any wonder that their lackeys are reluctant to bite the hand that feeds them?

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### What I can't imagine

is why anyone would be so dumb as to work at Walmart if they were capable of doing anything else. However I also wonder why migrants pick oranges. Maybe it is because people need to eat to

live and nothing is free even if you live in California. I would rather work at Walmart then pick oranges. I would also rather not live in California among the millions of idle burzwazie parasites. So I do none of the above.

by a reader on Wed, 08/04/2004 - 01:56 | [reply](#)

## **satisfying**

i just want to say i admire the elegance and self-consistency of this post. ;-)--Blix

by a reader on Fri, 08/06/2004 - 04:44 | [reply](#)

## **Re: satisfying**

Thank you! :)

by **Editor** on Fri, 08/06/2004 - 16:48 | [reply](#)