

# Style

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## THE RELIABLE SOURCE

By Lloyd Grove

### Backing a Winner

■ Democratic media consultant **Chris Sautter** is a lawyer by training but a filmmaker at heart. His award-winning documentary about the political machine in East Chicago, Ind., "The King of Steeltown," will be shown tonight at Visions Cinema. "It's definitely an extracurricular activity," said Sautter, a recount specialist who worked on **Al Gore's** Florida battle after the presidential election.

He spent \$75,000—mostly his own money with a little help from friends—to make this movie about East Chicago Mayor **Robert Pastrick's** seventh reelection campaign in 1999. "I joke that it was taken out of my kids' college fund."

Sautter told us: "Some time ago I had wanted to do a documentary. . . . I think that explains why I was willing to jump into this project without any financial backing.



COURTESY CHRIS SAUTTER

### Political strategist Chris Sautter.

Because this particular political figure is not well known outside of the area, I'm not sure one *could* find funding for this project." Pastrick's campaign "may be one of the last examples of what we call machine politics, and so for me it was an opportunity to capture that before it faded from the scene."