

First-ever 'Fair Trade Fair' set for Sept. 24

By Jennifer Chesworth

Our community will come together Saturday, Sept. 24 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Municipal Building Plaza and on the block of Allen Street between Foster Avenue and Highland Alley to celebrate and to learn about a new form of doing business that is changing the world — fair trade.

The Fair Trade Fair is free and open to the public. It features live music by local bands, a coffee “cupping” (or taste evaluation) workshop and free samples of fair trade coffee, children’s activities and story telling, educational displays by local non-profit organizations and student groups, and a sidewalk sale of both fair trade certified and locally made products.

Fair trade is a strategy for buying products from overseas in a way that guarantees farmers, craftsman, and laborers involved in getting us those products were paid a decent living wage. It is specifically designed to provide work and income for people who are currently living in poverty. Fair trade coffee, chocolate, tea, and “sweatshop-free” clothing are examples of products that are starting to find their ways into our economy and into households across the United States and around the

world.

Did you know that the city of San Francisco recently passed an ordinance requiring all government purchases of uniforms and other textile products to be “sweatshop-free”? And that the British Parliament now serves only fair trade teas and coffees at all government offices and functions? As fair trade becomes more common in the marketplace, it becoming more like common sense. What helps the poor helps our economy in a fundamental way. It means more people have new and better buying power.

Bringing fair trade home to Centre County means creating local market interest and venues for fair trade products. Fair trade and other forms of globalization need to be balanced with concern for building strong local and regional economies that support a right to a livelihood for ourselves and our neighbors. Striking this balance will require that we become informed about the issues and engaged in public discourse, not merely as “consumers” but as people who vote, run households, work, make products, share our talents and care about our communities, other people and the planet. We know that not every business can or should import products from over-

seas. We know that for those that do, customers need to want to buy fair trade products before it makes good business sense.

The goal of the Fair Trade Fair is to raise awareness in our community among consumers, business owners, students and others. Our buying power can make a big difference in the world. It can change people’s lives in the best sense.

What you need to know

**Fair Trade Fair
Sept. 24, 2005
Noon - 5 p.m.
Municipal Building Plaza
243 S. Allen St.
State College, PA 16801**

**Free and open to the public.
Coffee tasting, children’s
games, live music, vendors
and more**



Fair Trade Fair organizer Jennifer Chesworth picks coffee at a farm in Honduras.



ASK Cosmo

Dear Cosmo,

I am new in your country and I have confuse about the manner English language people are doing there spelling. Their are so many different sounds that are all spelled in a new way each time. I am finding it impossible to get good marks in class for writing by hand when they're is no spell check in my pencil or pen. How is it your country can lead the world in many things—science, food, movies—but seems very antiquated when it comes to your languageness? Maybe I am just unaccustomed because

your language to me is foreign, as I am to you, except I don't call your language names. Signed Lingua Franca Franz

Dear Frankly Speaking,

Our language, like our population, is made from the contributions of many other countries. We call it English, but it's not quite the same English spoken in England. Its spelling certainly takes on a different colour—or palour. It's a hard language to learn, as evidence by our high illiteracy rates. You'd never guess by looking at it that the words “through, tough, plough and though” rhyme with “coo, cuff, cow and co.” And then we can throw cough into the coffers as well. Our chief executive still has a hard time with the word “nuclear.” Spectacular or Sicklier?

Why wouldn't one be confused? Most of our society uses the terms capitalism and democracy as if they were interchangeable. Some would even say that complaining about capitalism is un-American, when, in fact, capitalism accounts for some of the most un-democratic behaviors we'll ever witness.

I wouldn't worry too much about the spelling—if you can think, you've already got a leg up on most people. I don't have a leg up on most people, but I can outdo them

all on fenceposts, trees and hydrants, paws down.

Dear Cosmo,

In our English Lit seminar, we are being trained to identify all types of literary forms: sonnets, blank verse, antithesis, Petrarchan conceits, etc. What about dull, plodding fascination with trivial detail that seems to go nowhere, takes forever getting there, and has absolutely no practical application? Is there a name for that? Signed, Teacher's Pet

Dear Teacher's Pet What?

That could be anything – a college lecture, a Republican campaign commercial, Fox News, or heaven forbid, a blog. It would seem the blogladytes have emerged from their caves and taken over large sections of the internet. How they ever wrestled that turf away from the pornographers, I'll never know—unless they're doing double duty, like White House press corps blogger James Guckert, alias Jeff Gannon.

Gannon was granted daily passes for two years to White House briefings as Washington bureau chief for Talon News (insert your best Austin Powers' ‘rrrrrowww’ here). Talon is a conservative online news outfit associated with another

Web site, GOPUSA. (I think that's pronounced “G.O.P. – U.S.A.,” not “Go Pusa!”) They stuck his pin in the map when he asked Bush the head-scratcher about working with Democrats “who seem to have divorced themselves from reality.”

His ass cashed the alimony check his suddenly-single mouth had written that day via his own little separation from reality. But the way Fox News tells it, his statement “attracted scrutiny from liberal bloggers, who linked Guckert with Web sites containing gay pornography.” In their spin, it was the liberals who created this link—they failed to mention that it was Guckert himself in the buff who created the URL! None of that “fools' names and fools' faces” stuff. Poor victim. It wasn't the fact that in addition to being a big biased prick at press conferences, his personal website seemed biased toward big prick worship in general. Especially his own, “eight inches, cut,” freely shown, describing his pride in it as a “personal trainer” and overnight escort. I'm no homophobe—Lord knows I've hunched a few guys' legs in my time. Do what you want—a guy's gotta eat. One can be both a male escort, a conservative pundit, and suck at both. Silly me, I just figured it out. That's what a compassionate conservative is! No wonder they've been so hush-hush in explaining it!