Media raises fair trade awareness with festival

By Lilach Assayag
Staff Writer

While you’re sitting in a café sipping a latte, imagine working in a coffee plantation in the smoldering heat of South America. Your spouse labors next to you and so does your child, who doesn’t attend school because you can hardly afford food, let alone education.

According to Transfair USA, a third-party certifier of fair trade products in the United States, only 2 cents out of a $3 latte goes back to coffee farmers on non fair trade farms.

Fair trade, as defined by the Fair Trade Federation (FTF), a North American trade association, is “a system of exchange” that aims to assist developing countries through “trade-based relationships.”

It just so happens that nearby Media is “America’s first fair trade town.”

State Street, a shaded brick-paved road in downtown Media, was the heart of the town’s fair trade initiative, a local business owner’s enterprise that led to Media’s status as a fair trade town.

State Street was also the stage for the fair trade Live Concert on Sunday, Sept. 14. The event featured 60 fair trade vendors who offered goods from the Far East, Africa, South and Central America, and about 30 live performances, according to Elizabeth Killough, chair of Media’s Fair Trade Committee.

“[Five thousand visitors] was our goal,” she added, “and we were surprised to meet it on such a hot day.”

Along the event’s avenue, visitors enjoyed authentic performances of classical Cambodian and Indonesian dance, traditional Indian and Native American music, and African and Brazilian drumming.

Among the goods presented at the event were hand-sewn dolls from Sri Lanka, painted mobiles made of candy wrappers, and musical rock paperweights from Kenya, Indian instruments from various countries. Media, a .75 square mile town with approximately 6,000 residents, according to its borough’s statistics, received the status of a fair trade town in 2006.

To become a certified fair trade town, Media met the British Fairtrade Federation (BFF) criteria, said Killough.

The BFF criteria require a percentage of businesses and retail stores (three businesses for every 1,000 residents) to sell and use fair trade products, and an active committee promoting fair trade events and educational programs, Killough said.

“Since there weren’t any fair trade towns in the Americas, and we didn’t know where to begin,” Killough said, “we decided to follow the criteria used by Britain.”

The practice of fair trade eliminates the middlemen and creates a direct market between distributors in developed countries and artisans and farmers in developing countries, enabling these workers to receive greater financial returns for their produce and handcrafts.

Fair trade, though, is not only about making a fair profit, supporters say.

The FTF lists other actions taken to empower producers like supplying technical support, and providing education on environmental sustainability, gender and ethnic equality.

In a nutshell, according to FTF, its members aim to “help producers help themselves.”

Fair trade importers “develop ethically sound business relationships with small producers in developing nations,” said Christopher Keefe, a fair trade importer who prefers to be called “a fair trade developer.”

Keefe moved to South America in 1995 for 'Real World’ star urges DCCC students to ROCK THE VOTE

By Tanya Douglas
Staff Writer

Students had the chance to register to vote and join Jose Tapia from MTV’s The Real World. Key West, on Sept. 18 to discuss current political issues and the importance of their vote on Nov 4.

However, the number of students who attended his lecture was barely enough to fill a classroom.

That didn’t stop the 23-year-old New York native, Florida State University graduate and real estate investor who travels with “three bags, two hats and one purpose,” from raising voter awareness.

After introducing himself as a former Real World competitor from the 17th season which aired in 2006, Tapia talked about how he’s been traveling for about three years spreading his thoughts on politics, diversity, leadership and inspiration at colleges.

He offered information about voting statistics among young adults in past elections, and unbiased comparisons of the candidate’s views on issues such as tax cuts, the Iraq war, same-sex marriages and immigration. In between discussing...
**FAIR from Page 1**

missionary work as a Jehovah’s Witness and later developed work relationships with artisans in Ecuador and Peru, selling their handicrafts to boutiques in North America. Ethical business behavior and community responsibility, he said, are inseparable parts of fair trade practice.

"Fair trade is more than just getting [a fair] price. It also means, in the process, not stepping on anybody else, not lying, not cheating, and not pushing someone else out of [an] opportunity to work just so you could supposedly protect your future employment," said Keefe. "One of our missions is to improve the education of both producers and artisans as well as the retailers [in the U.S.]"

There are some, however, who criticize fair trade practices.

In his book, "The Undercover Economist," Tim Harford unleashes a delusion of both fair trade farmers and fair trade advocate customers. Hartford claimed that although fair trade farmers receive a set premium, an amount above average value (an element of fair trade practice made to ensure the farmers’ livelihood) the premium does not correspond with the costly amount customers are being charged.

In other words, although fair trade farmers may profit slightly more than average because of consumers’ fair trade awareness, the profit retailers make from using fair trade products, like coffee, is disproportionately larger.

The Economist magazine joins Hartford saying, "No amount of fair trade coffee will eliminate poverty."

One reason The Economist lists is "overproduction." Encouraging farmers to adopt fair trade criteria only puts more of the same product into a market that is already saturated and therefore low-priced, "making non-fair trade farmers poorer."

The second reason The Economist provides is that most fair trade certifications are given to co-ops, shared farms, thereby pushing aside farms owned by large families, which are the majority of working farms in developing countries.

The social impact of fair trade practices, however, is noticeable, Keefe said.

"What touches my heart is when I see [artisans’] attitude change," Keefe said. "When you see them reflecting the same business practices we’re striving so hard to implement, it just makes you feel good."

Keefe’s greatest pride is being able to employ over 1,000 individuals in South America through his businesses serving about 200 clients in the U.S., and seeing how these individuals contribute to their communities through various charitable and educational programs.

Although his business focus is mainly on wholesale to boutiques, Keefe said he attended Media’s Fair Trade Live Concert as a vendor because of the event’s theme.

"The fair trade concert was supposed to be for awareness," said Robert McMahon, mayor of Media. "When I walked in to the first meeting about having a fair trade concert I was skeptical, and shortly after the meeting I believed that it would work."

Although hesitant about the fair trade initiative at first, said McMahon, he now believes residents are more informed about the practice, feel good about the town, and view the initiative as "inclusive."

"[Artisans’] prices are not China’s prices but [Crafted quality]," said Denise Wilt, 48, from Green Lane, Montgomery County, who attended the fair. Wilt said she is a potter and understands how hard it is for artisans to make a living.

Standing behind the podium with a Mac notebook resting on top, Tapia recited background information on each presidential nominee, focusing on John McCain’s war history and Barack Obama’s achievement of the American dream.

"I’m raising voter awareness because a lot of people don’t think voting is important," Tapia said.

"I want at least one student to realize that their vote is important so they are more eager to know the presidential candidates’ views on issues including education, health care and abortion."

Abandoning the podium and his Mac, Tapia moved to the center of the stage and began discussing hot topics such as the economy, the Iraq war, and abortion rights.

The latter of the three caused a heated discussion between two females prompting Tapia to change issues.

"The government spends $10 billion per month on the Iraq war," Tapia said.

"Students responded by saying, ‘That’s shameful’ and ‘It doesn’t make sense,’ to communicate their dissatisfaction," said Tanya Douglas, a political science student at DCCC, who went to Tapia’s presentation.

"He was very thorough in discussing current issues and allowing students to voice their opinions," she said.

At the end of the presentation, Tapia’s fans took pictures and praised him for his work.

Tapia said he likes visiting colleges.

"My experiences during my visits at colleges have been wonderful and very rewarding and hopefully [students] will go to the polls and make a difference on Nov. 4," said Tapia.

Tapia then asked for registered voters to raise their hands.

The majority of the audience did, and they smiled.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Fair trade – The myths, facts, and figures**

By Lilach Assayag

Staff Writer

The following is from the Fair Trade Federation and TransFair USA.

Fair wages are dependent on local economy. As production cost differs in developed and underdeveloped countries, so do wages.

Fair trade is NOT a form of outsourcing. It aims to improve by eliminating exploitation. Proliferation of Fair Trade organizations creates new jobs in the workforce.

Fair trade does not pertain only to coffee. One can find other fair trade agriculture products like tea and sugar, rice, wine, vanilla, and handcrafted merchandise like baskets, clothing, furniture, jewelry, and toys.

Fair trade is NOT a new trend. Fair Trade traces back to 1988 when a Dutchers’ fair trade certification for coffee beans was initiated. In the late 1980’s, European and North American churches imported and sold authentic handicrafts and provided greater returns to artisans.

An increase of only 1 percent in export would generate African countries $870 billion – approximately what the continent receives in aid.

Seventy percent of women in developing countries work in non-agricultural fair trade production as compared to 35 percent in conventional production (2004).


**DCCC symposium on exploring the 2008 election**

The Department of Public Service and Social Sciences and the Campus Life Office at Delaware County Community College are sponsoring a discussion focusing on important social issues making news today. The symposium, free and open to the public, will be held in the large auditorium on the Main Campus in Media on Thursday, Oct. 16, at 11:10 a.m.

The Election of 2008: Scholars and Politicians will be held on Thursday, October 16, at 11:10 a.m. The purpose of the symposium is to provide useful information regarding the significance of the 2008 presidential election and the American political process from the perspective of both scholars and politicians.

There will be a panel of three scholars from different fields and three politicians to answer moderated questions. Participants scheduled to appear include: Dr. George Shore, History, Temple University; Dr. Zoe Spencer, Sociology, Virginia State University; Dr. J. Wesley Leckrone, Political Science, Widener University; Rep. Chaka Fattah, U.S. Congress 2nd District Pa.; Rep. Jim Gerlach, U.S. Congress 6th District Pa.; and Craig Williams, Candidate for U.S. Congress 7th District Pa.

Moderators will be Dr. Audrey Ervin, Psychology, and Dr. Joseph Myers, History, both from Delaware County Community College’s Public Service and Social Sciences Department. For more information, call Dr. Joseph Myers at 610-359-5247. The College’s Main Campus is located on Route 252 between Media and Newtown Square.


**Get your resumes ready: Job Fest is here**

The Student Employment Services & Co-op Center is proud to once again sponsor the Fall Job Fest for students, alumni and community members seeking immediate part-time positions.

The Fall Job Fest for students, alumni and community members seeking immediate part-time positions.

The Fall Job Fest will be held on Tuesday, October 14 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the A Lobby of the Academic Building on Main Campus.

Attendees are encouraged to bring an up-to-date resume and to dress professionally for the event.

Any questions can be directed to 610-359-5304 or the Student Employment & Co-op Center in room 1305.

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the candidates, Tapia encouraged the audience to ask questions and informed that they do not be shy about expressing their thoughts.

He also spoke about the mission of “Buzz The Ballot Decision 2008!” and explained his reason for coming to DCCC.

“There is more to an election,” Tapia said.

“[There are] issues that pertain to [voters] whether they affect us now or in the future."

“I’m very happy about [the attendance at the fair],” said Wendy Hibberd, 60, from Media.

“My husband was involved with the fair.”

Hibberd believes the educational aspect of fair trade is most important, especially for children, and therefore she hands out fair trade candies during Halloween’s trick or treating night.

Contact Lilach Assayag at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu.
The Jack-O’-All pumpkin beers

By David Foster
News Editor

It’s time to break out your autumn sweaters and plan that weekend bonfire with your friends. But what beer do you bring? Pumpkin beers are becoming all the rage with U.S. breweries. Even Anheuser-Busch has put out a pumpkin beer called Jack Pumpkin Spice Ale.

To decide what pumpkin beer stands on top, I brought together a panel of four avid beer drinkers and 10 different pumpkin beers from the United States. See below to see how they rated.

The Communitarian wants to remind all students to always drink responsibly and don’t drink and drive.

How Did They Stack Up?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beer Name</th>
<th>Alcohol</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elysian Brewing Company Night Owl Pumpkin Ale</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>9.5 *</td>
<td>Pumpkin flavor hits you from start to finish. Very smooth and reminiscent of pumpkin pie. It also comes in a 22 ounce bottle, which means more beer. Brewed with pumpkin and pumpkin seeds and fermented with nutmeg, clove, cinnamon, ginger and allspice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smuttynose Brewing Company Pumpkin Ale</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>8.5 **</td>
<td>Light spice and prominent hops. Light bodied and smooth. Nice hint of pumpkin flavor. Brewed with pumpkin puree and spices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saranac Pumpkin Ale</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>8.2 **</td>
<td>Medium bodied and smooth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Moon Brewing Company Harvest Moon Pumpkin Ale</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>8.0 *</td>
<td>The most approachable pumpkin beer for the novice beer person. Light and smooth with subtle hints of pumpkin and spice. According to Spaz Beverage Co. in West Chester, Harvest Moon is the number one selling pumpkin beer in the area. Brewed with pumpkin, clove, nutmeg, and allspice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Holland Brewing Company Ichabod Ale</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>7.8 *</td>
<td>Very light spice and finishes with a slight pumpkin flavor. Not the worst but no where near the best. Brewed with pumpkin and spices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Brewery Post Road Pumpkin Ale</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>7.2 **</td>
<td>Spacer and hops are prominent, but with little pumpkin flavor. No finish at all. Brewed with pumpkin and spices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weyerbacher Brewing Company Imperial Pumpkin Ale</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>7.0 **</td>
<td>The heaviest bodied beer sampled. Not smooth with light spice. Mostly pumpkin flavor. High alcohol content is obvious in flavor. Brewed with pumpkin, cinnamon, nutmeg, cardamom, and cloves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogfish Head Craft Brewery Punkin Ale</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>6.8 *</td>
<td>Another strong pumpkin beer with similar results. Almost has a malt beer flavor to it. Full bodied brown ale and spice more prominent than pumpkin. Brewed with real pumpkin, brown sugar, allspice, cinnamon and nutmeg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolaver’s Brewing Will Steven’s Pumpkin Ale</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>4.2 *</td>
<td>Certified organic beer, but the flavor tastes overwhelmingly fake. Too much spice and by far the sweetest beer tasted. Brewed with pumpkin and spices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipyard Brewing Company Pumpkinhead Ale</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>3.1 **</td>
<td>The clove factory across the street must have exploded and all the cloves seeped into this beer. McCormick called and they want their spices back. Miller Lite and spice. Yuck.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Beers purchased at The Epicurean Restaurant and Bar in Phoenixville.
** Beers purchased at Ron’s Original in Exton.

Contact David Foster at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

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This is your country, act like it

By Joe Smith
Executive Editor

Nov. 4 is fast approaching, and the hype surrounding the presidential election is beyond the point of saturation. Constant ads attacking the competence and legitimacy of both candidates, news clips and viral videos featuring botched interviews and beefy pardoners, and talking heads spewing divisive commentary are only a fraction of the information bombarding constantly buffeting the people who hold the keys to our nation’s future.

Amid this maelstrom of televisions commercials, news coverage and incessant back-and-forth, Americans are charged with a responsibility of great importance. This responsibility is a choice, and one that determines the power for one candidate or the other. Whether to stay home or enter a booth and cast a ballot is an easy choice, but many Americans seem to blow it.

There is no shortage of people hammering away on the importance of voting. On our own campus, volunteers have been pushing registration on students for several weeks now. There are Rock the Vote posters plastered across the halls. Recently, a heavily promoted and encouraging students to participate in the election took place, featuring a cast member from MTV’s The Real World.

And practically no one attended. This begs the question: Do you, as student, not care who becomes the next president of the United States? Are you actually considering not voting some Election Day?

The right to vote is the simplest yet most powerful right you have as a U.S. citizen. Beyond the right to free speech, assembly, or religion, the right to vote has the most direct impact on how you live your life. We always complain in this country that we deserve better politicians who care more about the people they represent. What this country really deserves are better citizens, who care enough about it to take a small portion of their time every four years to show their support.

The politicians will never change if the people don’t, and voting is the ultimate act of involvement in how the country is governed.

If you don’t plan on voting, you have to ask yourself what stopping you? You wouldn’t let a politician physically reach into your wallet and take your money. I’m sure you would have something to say if a political came to your workplace and fired you on the spot. So why would you let someone in Washington, D.C., who has never met you before, do the same things? If you could stop choices that affect your life from being made for you, why wouldn’t you?

One of the most common excuses for not voting is the “My vote doesn’t matter.” That, however, could not be any less true. No one soldier believes he can win a war by himself, but that doesn’t stop him from taking up arms to fight for a cause he believes in. Many soldiers standing together constitute an army, capable of effecting great change. You, by yourself, cannot win an election, but that shouldn’t stop you from being a part of a greater whole, one that can bring about greater change than even the mightiest army.

Another reason people don’t vote is that they don’t care for either the Democratic or Republican candidate. If that’s the case, there are several independent candidates that would eagerly accept your vote. Never let anyone tell you that you aren’t a part of an independent is a “wasted vote.” That very term splits in the face of the principles that our country, a representative democracy, was founded on.

To say that people have wasted their votes is to tell them that they have wasted their voices as citizens, and it negates the value of their ideas and opinions.

Abraham Lincoln, in his Gettysburg Address, reminded us that ours is a government “of the people, by the people, for the people.” Consider this when you feel you have no say in how the nation is run. Remember that your vote is a powerful tool that is sharper than any blade, louder than any bullhorn, and stronger than any metal. Put this tool to use and take the fate of the country into your hands.

Contact Joe Smith at
communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Fair Trade is not exactly ‘fair’ for some

By David Foster
News Editor

I started out my Wednesday night drinking a couple of beers with my girlfriend at the Oakmont Pub in Havertown to celebrate the Phillies first playoff win since 1993. This is the time of year that we can kick back and watch America’s pastime and feel proud to be a fan.

But this tea was cultivated from ancient trees that are 1,300 years old. For example, Ghiradelli from San Francisco, Calif., makes some of the most amazing chocolate in the world. One of their amazing chocolate in the world. One of their chocolate bars cost $1.99. A candy bar from the fair trade company, the El Zacate Cooperative from Bolivia, cost $3.99.

I must have started to look suspicious again because I realized the security guard with the cart was following me around the store. So I decided I needed to support something that made me feel good about buying it.

I had just gotten off the phone with my mom before entering the store and she was talking about Paul Newman’s death. She was saying what a great guy he was and how he always gave back to the community. I knew all this, but he also made bad lemonade, sad dressings, and paint.

This led me straight to the lemonade section and was trying to buy my own can of lemonade. I looked at the label and it read, “Paul Newman and the Newman’s Own Foundation donate all profits and royalties after taxes to educational and charitable purposes.” This is what it really means to be “fair.”

I bought the lemonade and left the store thinking maybe more people should follow Newman’s Fair policies.

Rest in peace, Paul Newman.

Contact David Foster at
communitarian@mail.dccc.edu
A buxom blonde sits in her pink bedroom with her cute lopsided bunny ears on her head. Her effusive and friendly friend hands her an envelope notifying her that she's been kicked out of the Playboy Mansion. When she asks why, her friend tells her it's probably because she's too old.

“But I'm 27!” she proclaims in a high-pitched voice.

“That's like, 59 in bunny years,” her friend replies.

The movie “The House Bunny” is about a Playboy bunny played by Anna Faris, who, after being rejected by Hugh Hefner, returns to college, where she decides to give make-overs to a sorority consisting of unpopular, homely smart women.

Faris, trips, falls on her face, finds love, struts around in skimpy pink clothing and gets a burst of hot steam up her shirt in this ridiculous fashion.

Quirky character actresses, good-looking leading men, gorgeous women with impressively perfect hair, and beautiful dresses in the latest fashion.

Where can you find these people?

Drive to the nearest movie theater, sit back in the cushiony chair, and watch a polished, sappy, feel-good chick flick.

Chick flicks have long been a guilty pleasure for women, who have shelled out their hard earned money to see these films since Hollywood started making them over half a century ago.

Personally, I love chick flicks. I love the glamorous romance, and humor that only female-center fic movies seem to get.

Over the years, though, my sweet old standbys have been disappointing me. Where did all the complex women with a past go?

Why is the female protagonist allowed to act in a most amazing way, seemingly helpless, even when she is supposed to be mean or assertive, putting herself out of reach of the man she is in love with?

Lilli Tomlin, Dolly Parton, and Jane Fonda, was the line of dialogue and direction forces the actress to depict herself that way.

What’s worse, the male characters may look up to the Hollywood version of the modern woman, and emulate what they see.

In the early days of Hollywood, actresses like Greta Garbo, Bette Davis, and Rosalind Russell stood tall.

They may not have been the given the most feminist-friendly dialogue, but they delivered their lines with more than enough poise and fervor to be respected.

In “His Girl Friday” Rosalind Russell plays a tough reporter whose ex-boyfriend and husband, played by Cary Grant, goes to extremes to win her back before she marries another man.

Russell carries, shouts, and moves with authority about the newsroom, all the while looking elegant with her dark hair nicely coiffed and clothes sharp and pressed.

The film gives Russell’s character Hildy some clout because not only does she ex want her back, but she wants her back to work and not as a girlfriend.

Russell could take a lesson from Russell’s elegant assertiveness, as Faris could learn to use her sexuality without reverting to the vulnerability of a dumb blonde.

It’s much more interesting to see real women coping with unrealistic situations, rather than these boring, polished, docile dolls.

Where are all the Annie Halls?

The problem isn’t with the absurdity of the situation, but the lack of strength or variety of emotion from the female lead.

More and more, women’s roles seem apologetic for being successful, not because the story is about a successful woman who yearns for an average life, but because the film’s dialogue and direction forces the actress to depict herself that way.

The films of the eighties and nineties showed women with a greater power, achieving success without apology, and without losing their femininity.

In 1980 the movie “Nine to Five,” starring Lilli Tomlin, Dolly Parton, and Jane Fonda, was set in an office, where three women, who are fed up with their boss’s sexism and arrogance, talk about how they’d kill him.

The boss ends up falling and knocking himself unconscious, and Violet, played by Tomlin, thinks she killed him with rat poison she accidentally put into his coffee.

Mistaking him for dead, the three women go on an adventure, trying to cover up the “murder” in hilarious and absurd ways.

The plot is pretty screwball, and the characters fight, cry, and attempt to clean up their mess convincingly, without having to play victims or rely on low cut dresses, Parton excluded.

Even though Parson and Fonda are attractive, they don’t rely on their looks and sex appeal to lead their actions, and the no less attractive Tomlin who plays a spunky, lonely, funny character, doesn’t fall into the stereotypical angry little ugly girl mode.

Even earlier in film history, actresses like Greta Garbo, Bette Davis, and Rosalind Russell stood tall.

Sovereign Russell portrays a sharp, stylized reporter in the classic screwball romantic comedy “His Girl Friday.”

(Photograph courtesy of New York Post)

Matthew McConaughey.

The STEM scholarship program is part of the College’s larger initiative that includes construction of a $60 million STEM complex. The complex, which will be completed in 2009, consists of a 105,000 square foot STEM complex as well as regional efforts to promote the study of STEM programs. The complex, which will be completed in 2009, consists of a 105,000 square foot four-story building that will house science, engineering and mathematics laboratories; and a 12,000 square foot pre-engineered building that will house technical programs and contracted training for business and industry.

In accepting the gift, College president Dr. Jerry Parker said, “Sovereign Bank’s support will allow the College to continue responding in a meaningful way to the needs of business and industry by creating an educated workforce. We are grateful for their investment in the future of the College and our students.”

The check from Sovereign Bank was presented by Terry D’Alessandro, Market Chief Executive Officer, and Vice Presidents Anne McFadden and Sean P. Rinda.

“The STEM Scholars Program reflects Sovereign Bank’s commitment to the economic prosperity of our service region. We understand the important role that education and training play in this process by improving job skills for individuals in the community,” said D’Alessandro.

“We do not need change,” Biden said. “We need fundamental alteration, not change,” Biden said. Biden also discussed ending the Iraq war which drew a thundering applause from the 3,000 plus crowd.

Biden defined the middle class as people who earn between $50,000 to $125,000 a year, but couldn’t miss two paychecks without suffering economic crisis.

“The middle class is in the toughest shape it’s been in the last five decades,” he said, adding that America has isolated its economy from the rest of the world and has outsourced tremendous amounts of labor jobs that Americans depend upon.

According to Biden, Sen. John McCain is out of touch because McCain said the fundamentals of the economy are strong, then an hour later said the economy is in economic crisis. Biden then told the crowd the United States spends $10 billion a month in Iraq while Iraq has an $80 billion surplus.

Biden claimed that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have expressed concern that the U.S. Army is being stretched thin.

The senator continued discussing his plan to produce jobs by spending $70 billion a year to build bridges, water systems, ports, and airports. Biden also wants to enable the middle class to keep their homes when in financial crisis, he said.

“I could walk from here to Wilmington and couldn’t find a single person that thought the economy was doing great, except though if I ran into John McCain,” joked Biden.

In his comments about taxation, the senator talked about the people that earn the most and account for 1 percent of Americans. Biden said that the top 1 percent is receiving $85 billion a year in tax breaks. For those $85 billion dollars, every single American could have health coverage, he added.

“This is not just about spending, it’s about what we value,” Biden said. “Obama’s tax plan will, in fact, cut taxes for 95 percent of Americans. Biden then said McCain plans to cut the same groups taxes another 1.3 trillion in the next 10 years. Biden quoted his father: “I don’t expect the government to solve the problems, but to know what they are.”

Biden compared McCain to George Bush, saying a vote for McCain will become a vote for “Bush forty-four.” Although McCain is a veteran, it doesn’t mean he cares about veterans, Biden said, referring to a bill that would have enabled National Guard members to receive the GI bill for education but was voted against by McCain.

Biden also emphasized that McCain and Bush have voted on similar issues such as privatization of social security.

“The McCain campaign says it’s not about the issues, but that’s like saying it not about people,” said Biden, adding that unlike Bush and McCain, Obama measures success on how many people are finding jobs where they’re shown respect and can tell their kids it’ll be ok. “We used to call it the American dream,” Biden said. “I’m sick and tired of this Republican garbage.”

Contact Brian Callaghan at communitymail@dcce.com

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**Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1. Java or “languorous” (8)
2. Dinner and a movie, e.g. (10)
3. Molecular building block (6)
4. Flynn of “Captain Blood” (6)
5. Top the line (5)
6. Maui feast (6)
7. Tree knot (9)
8. Urban buildings (5,5)
9. Home girl (7)
10. Art (5)
11. Places of learning (5)
12. Can in London (7)
13. Glass objects (5)
14. Actor Hoffman (7)
15. Arctic explorer (7)
16. Minor adjustments (7)
17. Traffic diverter (5)
18. Ferber and (4,4)
19. Lily or Wallach (6)
20. Chop into small pieces (9)
21. All in a row (5)
22. Turf (7)
23. Fitted together in a Heidi (6)
24. Monday (7)
25. Coils (5)
26. Runed (5)
27. Damaged by fire (5)
28. LAX stat (5)
29. Attention (7)
30. Part of (6)
31. Satyapal (7)
32. Artistic (7)
33. Gymnast (7)
34. Comment (7)
35. Mustered (9)
36. Cromwell’s uniform (9)

**DOWN**

1. Ask for a handout (9)
2. 50 eagles (8)
3. Song syllable (4)
4. Bodies (6)
5. Denholm and Bob (6)
6. E-mail symbol (6)
7. Help in (7)
8. Everything (7)
9. Religious belief (8)
10. Page Turner (5,7)
11. Sushi chef (6)
12. Feeds dog (6)
13. Rule (7)
14. Handout (7)
15. Side order (5)
16. Room divider (7)
17. Infant’s bad (6)
18. Sennelier (7)
19. Summer (7)
20. Catch some Z’s (9)
21. Beauty center (10)
22. Half of B.S. (5)
23. Threat guardian (7)
24. Tax figure (4)
25. Was without (7)
26. Metric weight (9)
27. Aechmann’s bird (5)
28. Fishtown (7)
29. Feature (7)
30. Those who worship (7)
31. Run length (7)
32. Biblical garden (8)
33. Small ornaments (5)
34. Arms capital (5)
35. Human (7)
36. Domain (7)
37. Bush’s tale (6)

**Solutions**

45. Run length
46. Biblical garden
47. Small ornaments
50. Arms capital
56. Bush’s tale

**Contact Brian Callaghan at communitymail@dcce.com**
SPORTS

Hope still high after big 07-08

By Donald Wood Jr.
Staff Writer

Two seasons ago the Philadelphia Flyers had the worst record in the National Hockey League with just 22 wins, the lowest in franchise history. Finishing last caused ownership to clear house by firing long time General Manager and Flyer great Bob Clarke, as well as head coach Ken Hitchcock.

As the 2007-2008 season began, a new G.M. Paul Holmgren and new coach in former Philadelphia Phantoms coach Jon Stevens were named and a new page was turned.

After trading some of the bigger, slower players, Holmgren went on the offensive in the free agency market. A free agent is a player who is no longer contractually obligated to any team and can sign with anyone. With the idea of rebuilding his ailing franchise, he acquired some of the top players in the NHL. Key acquisitions such as center Daniel Briere, defenseman Kimmo Timonen, and goalie Martin Biron solidified the Flyers as a playoff favorite.

With faster and more talented forwards, a quick, strong defense, and a tested NHL caliber goalie, the Flyers made huge improvements last year. They finished sixth in the Eastern Conference and went deep into the playoffs before losing to the Pittsburgh Penguins in the Eastern Conference Championship.

But G.M. Paul Holmgren isn't happy yet, he wants more this year. Although he is limited by the salary cap, the talent that is already in the Flyers junior systems can be used this year.

Key rookies such as forward Claude Giroux, defensemen Ryan Parent, and old-school fighting forward Steve Downie are expected to show big improvements in training camp and possibly even become full time starters for the Flyers this year. Injuries also played a role in the Flyers failing to make the Stanley Cup Finals last year. Joffrey Lupul and Mike Knuble missed good chunks of the season but were back by playoff time. Also, Simon Gagne, the teams leading scorer for the past five years, missed 60 regular season games and the entire playoffs.

With these players healthy, the Flyers have the potential to go even deeper into the playoffs and possibly even bring the Stanley Cup back to Philadelphia for the first time since 1976.

With the departures of Sami Kapanen, R.J. Umberger, and former captain Jason Smith, the rookies are expected to fill the gaps. Holmgren picked up a few players to ensure depth at key positions. Holmgren added fighting forward Arron Asham to make sure teams don't try to bully our smaller forwards. He also added two younger, quicker defensemen in Steve Eminger and Ossi Vaanenen. With the loss of Smith, the Flyers had to give the “C” to another player.

And there is no one on the Flyers who deserves it more than center Mike Richards. Mike Richards is a power forward in every sense. He fights, he scores, he sets up scoring drives down the ice, and he logs ice time on the power-play and short-handed. But most importantly, he inspires the team to do their best. He may be young but he is the best choice to be the captain.

With the season already beginning, time is of the essence to get the rookies ready and the rest of the players back into game shape. Training camp started September 20, but the rookies have been there since the 14.

Preseason games started on Sept. 22 and the Flyers’ first game was at the rival New Jersey Devil’s new stadium. The first regular season game is Oct. 11 at the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia against another rival, The New York Rangers.

With big expectations carrying over from last year, this year will be a big test for the Philadelphia Flyers.

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