Factory workers detail abuses

By Alaina Gallagher COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Gina Cano and Maritza Vargas, who say their rights were violated while working in Latin America ers' paychecks being deducted ny in the Dominican Republic, for apparel companies, put a face to the plight of workers laboring in sweatshops Thursday night.

Speaking through a translator, the women gave accounts in their native Spanish of their experiences of working in factories producing apparel for American companies to a crowded classroom in Willard at an event hosted by Penn State's United Students Against Sweatshops.

Cano spoke of the poor working conditions in Honduras, which included being watched by security guards during bathroom and water breaks and receiving no health benefits -- despite work- experiences working for a compa-



Maritza Vargas (center) and Gina Cano (right) talk about their experiences working in apparel factories at a USAS discussion Thursday.

weekly for them.

Cano said the factory was eventually shut down to the workers' surprise. Although the factory owners claimed it was because of the recession in America, Cano said it was actually because of workers' efforts to organize a

As a member of the Central General de Trabajadores union. Cano recently won a historic settlement, which forced Nike to give severance pay for people like Cano who had lost their jobs in Nike's subcontracted factory.

Vargas also spoke of her

which employed 3,500 workers and provided apparel for companies such as the Gap, Nike and Adidas.

After trying to organize a union, Vargas said workers were kicked out of the factory and union leaders were fired.

"I really wanted to come and see what the workers' actual opinions were about how the sweatshops affected their countries and [...] directly affected them. attendee Dave Stevens (sophomore-hotel restaurant and institutional management) said.

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Council to discuss future of building

By Zach Geiger **COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER**

The State College Borough Council will review the fate of the former Verizon building, 224 S. Allen St., on Nov. 15.

The building was acquired by the council in October 2007 after a unanimous vote to approve the \$750,000 purchase.

Plans to redevelop the 10,000 square-foot building space for community use have been in the works for months, State College Planning Director Carl Hess

"Their suggestion would be some type of mixed-use project." Hess said. "The community bought that property for some kind of community use.

Discovery Space of Central Pennsylvania Inc. originally planned to house a children's science center and museum in the building, but plans for the location fell through.

Other groups, like the studentcreated Innoblue, recently expressed interest in renting space in the building, State

Goreham said. The council requested the Planning Commission evaluate possible uses for the former Verizon building, Hess said. Though the Planning Commission did not recommend selling the property, there are still multiple possibilities for the site included in the recommendation report that will be presented to borough council, Hess said. The building could be reused for multiple purposes, Hess said. But the building's design, which is long and narrow, may need to be completely redeveloped to accommodate future tenants. Hess said.

The redeveloped space combined with the possibility of a partnership between the borough council and the neighboring building, First National Bank would be suitable for a mix of commercial, office and residential space, Hess said.

Collegian staff writer Colleen Boyle contributed to this report.

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Sorority holds date auction for Lupus Foundation

By Kathleen Loughran and Jessica Tully COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Damian Gates said he didn't care it he was only auctioned off good cause the Lupus Foundation of America.

one of the men auctioned off at Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.'s The the 19th annual male date auction held Thursday night in 124 Findlay

tion, which is the sorority's nationphilanthropy, Event Chair Shinique Wright said.

This is not going into our pockets," said Wright (senior-psycholofor a penny because it all was for a gy). "It's going to raise awareness and to find a cure for lupus.

Last year, the sorority raised Gates (senior-economics) was about \$800 through the 100 people who attended the event, she said. This year they hope to beat the previous year's total money raised.

"Last year was the middle of the economic recession, so I think this All of the money raised through year people have more money,"

the auction will go to the founda- Wright said. "Hopefully they'll be willing to give to a good cause."

About 175 people attended the free admission event and were given auction paddles upon entering the room, which was decorated with star balloons and a refreshment table. A DJ was set off to the side so that music could accompany each male as they strutted down the runway with a rose in hand.

The sorority ladies recruited the men to be auctioned off from the Interfraternity Council, the University Park Undergraduate Association and other various

organizations. UPUA President Inc. said he heard about the event Christian Ragland said the reason because the "Zetas are our sororihe went for a high-ticket price of \$47 is because of his ability to enhance the classic push-up.

"I think what won them over was my one-armed push-up and my ability to push-up people sitting on my back," said Ragland (senior-political science).

Ragland added that he decided to be a part of the event because he feels it is his duty as president to give back and it is something about which he is passionate.

Edwin Rossi, vice president of Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity.

ty cousins.

Rossi (senior-business administration) said he knew the girl, Debie Blair, who bid \$27 on him because she is in his fraternity's sister sorority.

Before the event was over, Gates said he alr**eady had made** plans for the date.

"I'm going to take her to Rotelli's," he said.

The ladies like it. It's all about pleasing women.

To elipse reported kri5106@psu.edu

Artist speaks on experience, creative process at Palmer

By Allegra O'Neili

artist Craig McPherson will show you the artwork he created along

presented his lecture "Road Rio de Janeiro, Sydney, Istanbul Work" during the Anderson and Hong Kong and painting their Lecture Series last night in the landscape for the lobby.

Palmer Museum of Art of approximately 50 people focused on the development of his style of work over the 40 years

since he graduated college. "I went to ten schools in 12 ing cities," McPherson said.

years," McPherson said. "It was good practice as an artist.

He spoke about his project It all roads lead to heaven, then "Harbors of the World," which was a mural project for the American Express Tower in Manhattan.

The project involved visiting six The realist and working artist harbor cities: New York, Venice,

McPherson said the McPherson's lecture to a group took five years and he placed his paintings in a geographical man-

"On the northern walls of the building I placed the northern-fac-

The project, which features the World Trade Center towers in the New York City skyline, miraculously survived the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, he said.

McPherson said to create the large murals, some over 11 feet tall. he used a perspective device also used by Leonardo da Vinci to said. As a realist, McPherson has create schematic drawings.

McPherson talked about his earliart, he said. er days as a starving artist.

"I moved to New York with \$1.500 in my pocket and that lasted me my first year," McPherson said. "By the second year I had

run out of money."

He talked about trading art for ior-printmaking) who said the meals and felt sorry for himself until he saw a man who was living out of a crate in the middle of winter who ultimately inspired McPherson to keep going.

"He became my iconic symbol of endurance and survival," he had the opportunity to paint peo-In addition to his world travels, ple who are as interesting as his

Kid" represents a man who had been elected the "King of the Hobos" in Iowa for four years running. This story interested audience member Lauren Down (jun- with trends.

story of the "King of the Hobos" was something she was unaware existed.

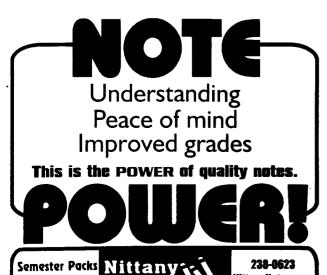
"When I met him he was quoting Voltaire, 'McPherson said. 'He was an intellect.'

Jane Hargrave Gunior-printmaking) said she was intrigued by McPherson's approach to his work.

"It was interesting that he His painting "The Pennsylvania focused on personal development rather than following the trends of New York," Hargrave said. "As a 21-year-old, that is not something I ever thought of. I am obsessed

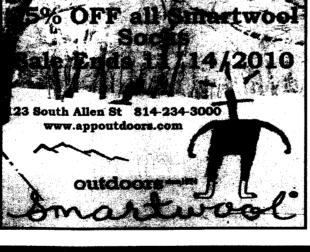






Notes

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Use the equity in your home for all of life's expenses...

- winter heating bills
- debt consolidation
- braces for the kids
- vacation



*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are dependent on your credit score and the Joan term. Above rate requires the best c apply. Loan-to-value may not exceed 80%. Above rate is valid on new loans only. See Rate & Fee Schedule for rate details, Excess on a