

YOUR EVANGELISTA, ESPERANZA

CUPPA JOE, PAL? Addicted to the stuff! Coffee, that is. I'm a newsman, you see, and the newsroom that doesn't run on coffee puts out a lousy paper, I'll bet. The pots here at the *Tri-Cities Daily News/Herald* are filled to the brim, even as most of the staff head out for the ubiquitous high-end spots, the ones with baristas and flavor shots for six bucks a throw. A tour of the caffeine parlors in our three conjoined metropolises will prove that good wake-'em-up is roasted, brewed, pressure-steamed, and poured in damn fine style. Try Amy's Drive-Thru, a converted taco stand on the Miracle Mile. She'll pop your eyes wide with a triple-bang espresso with a hot-pepper stirrer... The Corker & Smythe Coffee Shop in the old Kahle Mercantile Building on Triumph Square just recently offered takeout, and reluctantly at that. Better to sit at the counter and sip that *nectar d'noir* out of those deep porcelain mugs... Kaffee Boss has three stores – one at Wadsworth and Sequoia – serving the locals in leather-sleeved mason jars. Whatever you do, don't ask for milk or creamer. They are coffee purists and make a point of telling you why. Java-Va-Voom on Second Boulevard at North Payne in East Corning has something no other coffee place can match – a unique sound. There is the *whissh* of the frother, the chitter-chatter of the staff and customers, and music, soft, in the background, like the musical score of a movie playing next door. Occasionally, there is also the *click-clack* made by a typist, but in no ordinary sense of the word.