

# The Technical Truth



## Going Out of Business

by Karen Dutan & Evelyn Hernandez



Paola Gonzalez

**The Virtual Enterprise program will be ending at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. It's unclear what will come next.**

Queens Technical High School has gone through many changes within the past year and one of the biggest changes has been the recent name change. Now, a new change that will remove the virtual enterprise and entrepreneurship program has been announced.

Students who are admitted into Queens Tech had the chance to explore this program during their freshman year, if they were inducted into the exploratory program where they explore all the shops the school has to offer. However, it wasn't until their

sophomore year when they were able to be officially part of the business program.

This shop class provided students with business skills including Microsoft applications, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. Seniors ran a virtual business simulation which gave them experience on how to work professionally and become successful entrepreneurs.

Ms. Burg, the Principal of Queens Tech stated, "A lot of the students are not achieving a CTE endorsement and our ultimate goal is to prepare students for both the workplace and for college."

VE Students are expected to pass all their classes in the sequence, pass all certifications like Word, Excel, Powerpoint and the NOCTI, both written and practical exams. They must also complete 60 hours of work based learning, pass Career Financial Management and complete the portfolio in order to gain their endorsed diploma.

Mr. Garcia, the Assistant

Principal for the Virtual Enterprise program at Queens Tech states, "There's a lot of steps that have been taken in the background to make sure first that we didn't take down the program for the past two and a half years."

He adds, "We have been instituting extra tutoring classes for students to pass their certifications, which a lot of the students did not take advantage of. I spent over \$20,000 making sure it happened for two years and still, the passing rate for certifications was very low. On top of that, too many students were failing classes in the sequence."

Out of the last two business classes, only three students graduated with a CTE endorsement and only three students signed up for the business program out of two classes of 56 students.

Much of the class was filled with students who did not select anything else during their selection night or who didn't fit anywhere else. These were major indications for the administration

that the program was not working or at least not working in its current state.

This year, the program was supposed to be recertified by the state, however with the current numbers there was little chance the state would re-approve it with only three students graduating out of a class of 56.

Mr. Garcia continues by saying, "In order for us not to do all that work and get rejected, we decided as a school to not submit it and re-imagine the program."

The removal of the business program will allow for a replacement program in its place which will start in the fall term of 2019.

"My task right now is to really start looking for what are other programs could really work for the students that we have here. We have some ideas that will be started with the students in the next two weeks," said Mr. Garcia.

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## QT Gives Blood

by Eliza Cortez

On Feb. 26, students arrived at the Queens Tech auditorium according to their appointment time to donate blood sometime between 8:30am-2:30pm.

However, many students and staff were rejected due to complications such as "low iron" or did not meet the minimum weight criteria.

This year, Leadership students recruited 68 people, including seven staff and 61 students however a large number of students were rejected. 16 students were turned down because they did not meet the criteria.

Throughout the month of January and February students from Leadership were promoting the event of the blood drive by putting up posters and reaching out to the staff and students to encourage them to donate blood.

Junior leadership student, Noor Aayla said, "The best way to reach out to students was to remind them and inform them of the lives they can save and how

extremely important donating blood can be."

Despite medical and technological advances, blood cannot be made, so donations are the only way we can give blood to those who need it. A simple donation of a pint of blood can save up to three lives.

However, not every student was capable to donate because they didn't meet the criteria. There are various of reasons why an individual is not able to donate such as; not meeting the age requirement, height and weight criteria, having trouble outside of U.S., or the individual has iron deficiency.

The age requirement is the age of at least 17 years old to donate, or 16 years old with parental or guardian consent, if allowed by state law.

For your own safety, you must weigh at least 110 lbs to be eligible for blood donation. Students of the age of 16 and 17 must also meet additional height and weight requirements for whole blood donation which applies to girls shorter than 5'6" and boys shorter than 5'.

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Eliza Cortez

**Principal Burg stands with Izarius Haris, Mohammed Alam, Janna Ghoneim and Sebastian Gomez, who all gave blood.**

## Attacking Tattoo Taboos

by Pawel Aleksiejuk

Many years ago, tattoos were seen as reason to not hire someone, convict them as guilty, or judge someone, all based on looks. Recently, tattoos are becoming normalized. Within Queens Technical, there are plenty of students and even teachers that wear ink with pride.

One teacher who has plenty of tattoos to boast about, a whopping 18 to be exact, is Mr. Zambrotta, who teaches History and coaches the wrestling team. Zambrotta's first tattoo is a family crest across his back that he received when he was 19 years old.

"I don't think it's a reflection on anything, and if students are going to be distracted visually by tattoos there's probably a bigger problem than the tattoos themselves. How I tattoo my body in ink has no effect on my ability to teach," stated Mr. Zambrotta.

Another teacher at Queens Tech who is inked up is Mrs. Carey, who teaches English. She has two, the first on her forearm,

the other on her back. "A lot of people consider tattoos to be unprofessional in a field like ours where we are professionals, many of us do indeed have tattoos concealed and not, there's a lot more teachers that are inked than students would think." Carey mentioned.

Carey's tattoo is an orange ribbon with wings in honor of her mother who passed away from skin cancer. "It's a memory of my mother and it's a token. Every time I see it, it reminds me of her and my loss," she explained.

"I would say the number of teachers tattooed is pretty high in this building," Mrs. Hoffman, one of Queens Tech's health teachers said. Hoffman has six of her own tattoos at present, one being on her wrist. "Ms. Burg actually has one on her wrist, and that's actually what drove me to get one on my wrist too."

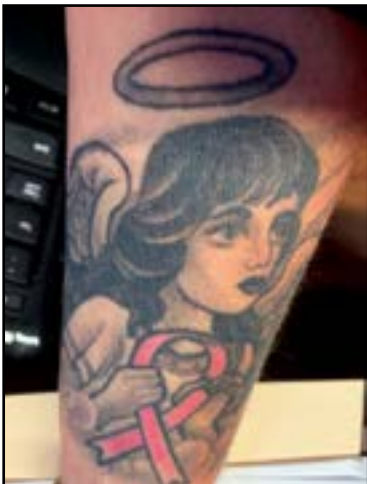
Principal Burg stated, "I have more than one tattoo, but only one is visible much of the time. It is

an angel holding the breast cancer symbol and it is for my mother who died of breast cancer when I was 17. I figured that even if you hate tattoos, you can't hate the meaning behind this one so it was okay to place it somewhere more visible, so I got it on my forearm."

"I got my first tattoo at age 30 when I was established in my career. Tattoos were more taboo then and I knew that I had to place it in a spot where I can keep it covered when I need to. This is true of all of my tattoos including the one on my forearm," she added.

Burg also had some advice to give to those considering getting their own ink: "I think tattoos, just like many other things, are a way to express yourself, but people have to remember that they are permanent and you should love what you get now and think about loving it when you are 70 years old too! You also, like I did, have to think about placement and your future because you can't take it back once you get one!"

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Pawel Aleksiejuk

**Principal Burg's tattoo was an inspiration for Mrs. Hoffman to get her own.**

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## New Lights Improve Gym

by Roselin Jacobo



**The Department of Education covered the expenses of the new gym lights.**

Between Jan 21 through Jan 28, Queens Tech made enlightening changes to the gymnasium and locker rooms. The school has replaced the lights causing it to become brighter.

When students came back after Regents week they noticed that there was something different about the gym.

The gym lights used to be very dim but students who had gym throughout the years were used to the lighting. When this change happened they were intrigued about what had happened.

Senior Jessie Huerta stated, “The lights appeared brighter and I was able to see the court better.”

Not only were the gym lights changed, but the lights in the boys and girls locker rooms were now more vivid as well.

According to Mr. Alikakos, the assistant principal, the gym lights kept burning out. The Division Of School Facilities Electricians

did an inspection to ascertain if the lights in the gym were bright enough.

They were able to determine the brightness based off the regulations of how bright or how dim the gym lights could be. For example, in a movie theater the lights are supposed to be dim in order to be able to see the screen.

In a office space where the lights are supposed to be brighter to be able to do work.

According to noao.edu, the recommended light level for a physical fitness space is supposed to be 500 watts. The recommended light level for a locker room is 200 watts. Since the gym lights were below the recommended level, the school’s administration decided to change it. The city sent the inspector to perform the test and paid for the light fixture as well.

Now students are able to do physical activity in a well illuminated gymnasium.

## Business Shuts Down

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The current sophomores and juniors in the business program will also be transferred to the replacement program, which is as of now, still undecided.

Jessica Pinguil, a junior states, “I actually do like the program. It was the only one that I was interested in, which is why I’m a bit disappointed that it would be taken away. I’ve learned mostly about Microsoft Office such as Word, PowerPoint, and Excel which are very useful in my school work.”

Mr. Garcia adds, “The way that we’re foreseeing this is that the classes we currently have in place, are going to keep happening until we graduate the juniors from this year. So next year we won’t have a VE, but we’ll have a VE-like class. If our students are not going to be certified it doesn’t make sense for us to spend that \$10,000 on a class.”

Juniors will still need to take the advertising design class and students who are still in the program will still be exposed to the same coursework, however they will not be receiving a seal on their diploma.

“Although we are taking

something away which is the endorsement and the diploma, we are giving them the space to take more advanced placement courses and do more things that they’ll need in order to go to college. In a way it’s a win-win situation, we are looking to move forward with really creating a program that is more exciting to the students that are at Queens Tech and that really line up with their interests a little bit more,” said Mr. Garcia.

“Will there be students who are disappointed? Absolutely and I know that and I feel very bad for it. It’s not an easy decision to make. There was a lot of people that I spoke to including the principal and people that have been part of the conversation. We needed to make sure we had a plan before presenting it to the students and a plan that’ll work for everybody when it comes down to it the only difference is going to be that sticker on the diploma that says you’re CTE or not CTE endorsed.”

“It’s not like I’m taking something away, I’m replacing it with something that has the potential to be better,” he concluded.

react but this person is completely stone cold not responding, not even trying to live. I hear my daughter in the back of my head yelling for me not to go in, slowly the water is up to my neck but I can still feel the rocks, there becomes a point where I can no longer feel the rocks and I grab a hold of the woman and start swimming back a little until I can reach the rocks again. The woman looked like she was dead which was terrifying, I pull her back to the bank and there were four other pedestrians who helped me pull the woman out of the water. We lay her down and I see the water pouring out of her mouth, I put her on her side and smacked her back and she started coughing up the water at which point I knew she was breathing. I screamed out excitedly because I felt so good,” McLean stated.

“Maybe she was trying to take her life but I wasn’t prepared to just let this woman float away in front of my eyes. I didn’t want my eight year old daughter to associate the park with this woman floating away. I don’t believe the whole hero thing. I just think at certain points, humans have to make quick decisive decisions and react to situations fast and that’s what I did. I don’t think I’m a hero but I am really proud of what I did that day,” he concludes.

Students and staff learned about the event from news articles such as the New York Post. Titles read “Good Samaritan saves woman from waters below Hell Gate Bridge.”

Mr. McLean’s name is never mentioned in any of the articles.

When classes resumed after spring break, students asked Mr. Mclean about the event. He explained, “After saving this woman, I wasn’t waiting for press to come interview me and take my picture.”

## QT’S Got Talent

by Erick Rivera

It’s a pitch dark, empty auditorium full of audience seats with only three sets of stage lights aimed at the center of the stage upfront. A small, timid student steps up, pitches her throat, and begins to sing loud and clearly as possible to the song, “When I Was Your Man” by Bruno Mars.

Queens Technical High School was preparing for their annual talent show by having students show up to rehearse and adjusting themselves to the stage. Students all around the school put their talents such as singing, dancing and performing in front of their peers and showing off school spirit.

“I’ve been doing the talent show for four years now,” said Bryant Cuero, a senior and host of this year’s talent show.

“I think it’s a good way for people to lose fear and it shows discipline to all the students including stage crew and everybody else there,” he adds.

“Hopefully I can show off my talents of being a MC or you know, a ‘master of ceremony,’” stated Bryant.

“My friend convinced me to do the talent show and I thought it would be fun so I just auditioned,” said junior student Tanha Rani, “I wanted to prove even if you’re really anxious you can still make things happen as long as you have the right people to guide you.”

The dance team run by the freshman guidance counselor Ms.Vasquez also gave a major performance during the talent show.

“The dance team is a club that meets once a week on Tuesdays where we learn dance routines and also perform in the talent show. We mainly use the main stage area to warm up, practice, and to choreograph our routines,” stated Ms. Vasquez.

Behind the scenes of the Talent Show, the leadership team led by Mr. Vega, with the help of Ms. Rejalaga, worked on many of the stage crew elements of the show focusing on the stage lights, music, sound systems, and they made sure that everything went as planned.

“We’re a team and right now were having some practices for the actual talent show, but our main goal is to get to know the basics of setting up the speakers, the microphones, and getting every contestant ready so that they’re comfortable and not nervous on stage, and to learn the ropes,” said senior student and stage crew member Ricardo Limon.

“I feel like everything is going to be fine since we started learning the basics, our team is prepared for anything that could happen like you could say a microphone stops working in the middle of a singer’s performance ... we always have back ups, we know what to do,” added Limon.

Over 300 seats were filled the night of the talent show.

*contined on page 7*

## McLean:The New Avenger?

by Magali Barrientos and Nicole Vasquez



**McLean moved to NY in 2010 from Milton Keynes, England.**

Don McLean is a Government and Economics teacher who likes to spend quality time with his family. He decided to go on a walk with his wife and daughter on Easter Sunday, April 21 not knowing he would be saving a life that day.

Mr. McLean, an avid football fan said, “I was watching Manchester United against Everton, Manchester United was losing really badly so I decided to go on a walk with my wife and daughter. We get to the Hell Gate Bridge, I took a look to the right and I noticed this elderly person, who at first I thought was a male elderly person submerged up to their waist into the water. I thought this is strange behavior but it’s New York City so you’re used to seeing irrational behavior at times.”

He continued “The person was

bathing their head in the water. It looked like they were washing themselves except you don’t wash yourself in the East River. My wife who’s a New Yorker was saying, ‘Let’s go’ but something wasn’t right.”

McLean thought what he was seeing was quite troubling, so he called 911 because this person might have needed help.

“While I am on the phone with the cops the woman starts rolling around the East River and it starts getting quite morbid. The woman then went on her back and started floating away with the currents, at this moment I am still on the phone with the police so I give my phone to my wife who continues talking to the police,” states McLean.

“I sprint around to the beach area which is all rocky and I’m running as fast as I can with my old 36 year old legs at which point I hear my wife yelling ‘Hurry up!’ I look across and see the woman floating away as her head is submerging under the water and I can see bubbles coming out of her mouth and nose,” explains McLean.

According to McLean, another man was on the beach but told McLean that he couldn’t swim that well, so he wouldn’t get in the water.

“I start wading into the water screaming to the elderly person to



Letter from the Principal



Melissa Burg,  
Principal

“Success doesn’t come to you, you go to it”, said Marva Collins, educator as she founded a prep school in an impoverished neighborhood in Chicago in 1975. Keep that in mind as we finish out this school year. Good things don’t just “happen, you must make them happen.”

How do you do that? You must work hard to be ready for opportunities. That may mean practicing a skill, researching ideas that are important to you or studying for those all-important exams. Remember that no one was born great at what they do. Next, pay attention to the people and situations around you and evaluate them. Don’t blindly trust others. Use logic and your gut to tell you what to do or not do. Then put yourself out there. Explore different ideas, meet different people, try different ways of being. Finally, be optimistic and resilient. Believe and visualize a win and when you fail (we all do), learn from your mistakes, stay committed and move on as a more informed individual.

Good luck to all of our graduates!

Letter from the Advisor

The hardest thing I’ve had to do as the teacher and advisor for this Journalism class, and the production of this newspaper is to step back and let the students do the work.

Last year, I was so nervous when I took over that I wanted to make sure everything was perfect, and even in my hysteria and attention to detail, so much managed to get past me: typos, errors, and more. I definitely gained a few more gray hairs that year.

That’s not to say that this year didn’t cause its own grays, but for different reasons, but I think alot of the grays from this year were cause by worry. I worried my seniors wouldn’t hit their deadlines, but they did (most of the time). I worried that my seniors wouldn’t gather all the necessary information to fully tell a proper journalistic story, but they did. And I worried that the newspaper wouldn’t be as good. But so many of my students stepped up this year. So many of them wrote multiple articles and we barely had room on the pages. This class showed so much compassion for the paper,

and for each other.

An enourmous shout out to Kevin Hernandez, my head layout editor who, since joining the class, spent almost every Monday and Wednesday with me after school until at least 5:30. Most of what you see on these pages was placed there, with care by Mr. Hernandez.

This year was about stepping back. I let these young adults take over. I hope they are as proud of what they’ve done as I am. I wish them the best, but there are no more grays, because I know they will succed in whatever they do.

- Mr. Bahrenburg

Do you have an opinion about any of the articles in this issue of *Technical Truth* Write and tell us! Be sure to include your name and put it in Mr. Bahrenburg’s mailbox in the main office.

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Did you know?  
You don’t have to be in journalism to write for the school newspaper. See Mr. Bahrenburg in room 417 if you’re interested.



Forever

Mr. Bahrenburg  
Main Office

Yearbook Under Construction

by Magali Barrientos

The senior yearbook is a way graduating classes can look back and reminisce on high school years. This year the Queens Technical yearbook is being run by Mr. McLean. It was previously run by Mrs. DeCarlo. The Yearbook Club meets every Tuesday during period 10 in the computer lab.

Mr. McLean is a Government and Economics teacher who, just this year, took charge of the yearbook club from Mrs. DeCarlo. In the beginning of the year she had announced that she had to leave her yearbook advisor and teaching duties because she was expecting a baby.

Mrs. DeCarlo had a list of people in mind to take over the yearbook club and Mr. McLean was one of them. “She asked me to take over yearbook and I was like ‘oh what?!’ She asked McLean if he would like her office to be his own. “At first I was really scared but then I met the lovely students that were going to help contribute to the yearbook and I loved it.”

It is Mr. McLean’s first year running the yearbook and there have been several changes so far. The seniors have been cooperating as well by contributing and submitting their own pictures that will be included.

One of the main goals for Mr. McLean and his students was to make the best yearbook possible.

“I know that we won’t please everyone, but I am adamant that the yearbookers did their very best, and I just want all the seniors to be thankful with the book they receive. We’ve tried to ensure that you will have a classy document which you can look back on in 20 years, and smile about all the memories which come flooding back to you,” says Mr. McLean.

It was important to make a yearbook that would please most of the senior class. The addition of new pages with a variation in design and layout would be a great way to make it more visually pleasing to students.

“Joining yearbook is something I don’t ever regret doing. The whole ‘behind the scenes’ of taking pictures of our senior class and putting together the yearbook is just fun to me. My favorite part of doing the yearbook was the bonds that you grew with the people around you and the teachers.” Senior Sam Damian says.

Yearbook students work on the yearbook every Tuesday. From the beginning of the school year, the days consisted of making decisions, laying out pages, designs, and a lot of creating. One of the first steps was coming up with what pages were going to be included and how they would be layed out. Designing the pages was another step that included creativity to ensure each page looked unique and put together.

Students who are involved in the club decided to join to be part in the creation of something

that the class of 2019 will be able to look back to and remember. The input of the seniors was important in order to have a well rounded, inclusive yearbook where everyone felt represented. The club’s goal was to involve as many students as possible.

An exciting event that the Yearbook club coordinates each year for seniors is “Oscar Night.” This year, McLean, with the help of students, decided to make some changes to the event. They added in various skits in between the award ceremony. These activities include makeup transformation with teachers, musical performances, stand up comedy and much more. Earlier in the year, students were able to nominate fellow classmates for senior superlatives. Some of the categories included, “class sweetheart,” “most athletic,” “class clown,” “best dressed,” “dynamic duo,” “cutest couple,” and more. After the nominations the next round of voting determined the winners.

The Queens Tech Choice Awards was held on April 11th and was hosted by Senior Bryant Cuero.

“As the host of the Oscar Night it was a learning experience because I got to use my talent of public speaking. I loved the event, the fact that the yearbook committee successfully put it together with little-to-no rehearsal is incredible. I had so much fun and some highlights of the night were: the teacher makeover and the best friend questionnaire. Overall, the night was full of fun and laughter throughout the whole night.”

The Yearbookers met every week to discuss what 2019 Oscar Night was going to look like. They wanted it to be inclusive for the whole senior student body to be able to go and participate in the event. Students came and participated in contests and won prizes.

Senior Nancy Hernandez says, “Oscar night was a wonderful experience, I think the mini games were entertaining and it was funny how each category had a different result from the winners and it was different because of the contests and how they were made for specific categories.”

Another major event the yearbook club is coordinating is a “Yearbook Signing Day.” This event is organized just for seniors, it’s a day where students have an entire day dedicated to signing each others yearbooks.

The yearbook club under the advisement of Mr. McLean has worked the entire school year to complete the class of 2019 yearbook and hope students are able to enjoy it. “It has been an absolute pleasure. Decarlo told me that getting the students motivated would be the hardest part, but I think [the guys] ended up motivating me!”



## Homeroom Removed

by Chollada Sookkae

For over 20 years, homeroom has been part of schedules to distribute notifications, report cards, and to give out reminders.

Last year, the school slightly parted from its traditional path and combined multiple homerooms into one. Many homerooms had up to three different grade levels. This was due to an increase in numbers of incoming freshmen.

At the beginning of this year, homeroom was still too crowded and some seniors had homeroom in the gymnasium. After two attempts with packed classes, the administration realized a lot of time and hassle would be saved if students just had homeroom after their third period class.

Now, official attendance is still being taken during third period and memos, schedules, report cards, and reminders are given out by third period teachers.

Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal, believes that this change has allowed students to take one step out of their schedules, allow them to be in class longer, and quicker to carry on with their regular schedule.

“I kinda feel like it’s better because my old homeroom was in the gym so I went from the third floor, down to the gym, then back. I never found a point in homeroom and dreaded going. This way, I don’t go to class late and get tired,” stated Ana Urbano.

## 1Million Project Arrives

by Elsie Tecalero

About 70 percent of teachers in the United States assign homework that has to be completed online but more than five million families who have children attending school do not have access to the internet or mobile devices.

The 1Million Project is an organization that provides high school students across the nation, who do not have reliable source of internet access, with a free phone. Now, students at Queens Technical High School can receive one by picking up a form from Sunnyside Community Services, located in room 212.

The phone given is a Motorola phone with service provided by Sprint. It doesn’t require any sort of payments unless you want to make calls, which is three dollars per month. It is not required for the phone to be returned.

Director of Community Schools, Theresa McCoy got an email about the 1Million Project stating how it will be beneficial and a great opportunity for students. So she went to talk to Ms. Burg, the principal, and Ms. Ocampo, the assistant principal, in order to get their approval.

Theresa stated, “They agreed

it will be a great opportunity for students to be able to have access to the internet to be able to do their homework.”

The Community Schools Program Coordinator, Madeline Hatcher also agrees that it will help students. Out of 1,497 students, only 115 signed up to receive a free phone. Theresa stated, “This allows them to do their homework and do it on the device that can help them complete the assignment.”

Sophomore Melanie Zhagui stated, “I got the phone because I wanted to study and use an app that only the the Android had for math.” She also uses it for entertainment purposes such as movies and social media.

Theresa stated, “We are Community Schools and that’s what we do when certain things occur like 1Million Project like other kinds of parent engagement or enrichment and tutoring and different things we want students to know about it.”

They will continue the 1Million Project throughout the years. Community Schools’ job is to help students in any way possible by giving out opportunities that most high schools don’t give.

## Make Summer Cash

by Carlos Reyes

As summer slowly approaches and the school year is coming to an end, a lot of Queens Tech students begin to plan ahead on how to stay occupied. Many may be wondering, “Where can I find a job that hires at my age?” or, “How can I make sure I get the job?”

The first step to getting a job as a high school student is to obtain your working papers. Without your working papers, you wouldn’t be able to get hired anywhere. To obtain your working papers, make sure you speak to your designated guidance counselor.

Once you’ve received your working papers, it’s time to look for a job. A job opportunity that is suitable for the summer is the Summer Youth Employment Program. SYEP is a program

that provides students with the opportunity to have work experience while also getting paid.

The requirements needed to be able to participate include: having your working papers, social security, being between 16 to 21 years of age, and having proof of your current school status. It is also important to note that you must have your working papers before you are able to begin working or you won’t qualify. Your parents are also required to sign certain documents if you are under the age of 18.

Students will be earning minimum wage and working a total of 20 to 25 hours a week, depending on your age. The program lasts for up to 6 weeks, beginning early July and ending in the middle of August. On top of getting paid, students will also receive information regarding bank accounts, money management, safe sex, and more information that could be valuable to a high school student.

## Pranks Fall Short

by Mary Macancela

Queens Technical High School has been involved in multiple pranks that seniors had planned. These mischievous acts usually take place around the time seniors are getting ready for prom and graduation. If it’s either students wanting to leave a memorable farewell or just continue with this tradition, students would pull a prank during their last year as Queens Tech’s students.

In 2011, chickens were set out free in the hallways to seniors throwing smoke bombs.

Then in 2012, a water balloon fight occurred in the hallways.

Additionally during 2014, there was a smoke bomb that caused the school to close down.

Following that, in 2015, a stink bomb was released in the hallways.

Then in 2016, a smoke bomb was released in the hallways.

Lesly Ramirez, a senior, stated, “When I applied to Queens Tech during eighth grade, my cousin who graduated in 2014 informed me about the senior

pranks, and explained how chaotic and funny they are.” Lesly listed how her cousin went through smoke bombs, water balloons and insects and chickens loose in the hallways during her four years at Queens Tech.

“Senior pranks should be cute and memorable, not pranks that will cause an evacuation in which students take it as an opportunity to ditch school,” Lesly stated.

Punishments can either result in seniors not being able to attend senior activities to getting suspended. This usually happens when a senior prank ends up causing a chaos among students and putting in danger to those who are in the building.

“Punishments aren’t handed down by deans but by the administration and if caught, suspension is given with the removal of senior activities,” stated Dean Mendez.

For example, a student from the class of 2018 decided to pull the fire alarm as a prank while a couple of smoke bombs were

taking over the hallways. As a result, this student was suspended, had senior activities taken away, and the they had to pay a fine of \$250 for pulling a false fire alarm.

Lizbeth Martinez, Senior President, stated, “I want something funny, original and nothing hurtful, something that won’t send us outside in the hot weather.” However, Mr. Mendez believes senior pranks shouldn’t be a thing, especially pranks that are very dangerous to the student body.

Senior Pranks can either be funny or dangerous, putting staff, students, and visitors in danger. It disrupts teachers lessons, and creates chaos among the students.

On June 7, Queens Tech evacuated it’s students when smoke bombs took over the hallway. Because of this, Queens Tech appeared in CBS news while police officers and firetrucks rushed to the school.

Even if senior pranks are meant to be funny, it can cause problematic occurrence and can ruin the student’s school record and future.

that has created an imbalance between both female and male dean presence. It is important to include a strong female presence within the dean department, to create a balance.

“I feel she knows more of the students since she was a teacher so she has a better knowledge of how the kids are.” said Erika Michaka, a senior student.

Throughout the years, Ms.Roberts has had a strong impact on both students and staff.

“I wouldn’t upset her she is a strong opinionated women. I know that all of the present, more experienced deans are spending time assisting her in understanding all of the protocols, familiarizing her with the position.” said Mr. Zambrotta.

“I respect her choice of becoming the new dean of Queens Technical, she is very responsible and strict which puts the kids on check,” said Daniel Hernandez, a senior student.

an efficient way to prepare for the interview process. Once the interview process is done and over with, you just wait to hear back from your employer.

To sum up, the amount of opportunities that are available for high school students who want to make money are endless. Participating in SYEP, working at a pizzeria or fast-food restaurant, or even selling your own stuff, are all ways you can acquire some sort of income for this upcoming summer.

## School Adds Additional Dean

by Eliza Cortez



Eliza Cortez

**Ms. Roberts has been teaching at Queens Tech for 12 years.**

Beginning the fall semester, Ms. Roberts, a global history teacher has taken additional responsibilities in her educational career and is now a dean at Queens Technical High School.

Acceptance to the program, however, is not guaranteed as it is lottery based.

“I’m glad I was chosen to participate in SYEP because I got the opportunity to save money and get the things I wanted while also receiving a lot of knowledge regarding the real world,” said senior Jayden Cruz who was a part of SYEP last summer.

Another way you can get a job this summer is by finding a local pizzeria or fast-food restaurant that is hiring. Many fast-food restaurants and pizzerias are always looking to employ young people. Visiting your local McDonalds or Burger King and asking if they have a position available could possibly get you a job.

Senior Maylene Baez, who works at Lenny’s Pizza, mentioned, “Although I work a lot of long hours, working at a pizzeria has benefited me immensely.” She continued by saying, “My work hours are flexible and can be

Ms. Roberts has taught Global History at Queens Tech for 12 years. Ms. Roberts believes she is able to help students more as a dean than in the classroom.

“I wanted something new, doing the same thing over and over gets a little tiring. I felt that I would be able to have more of an impact and do something more for the school, opposed to just being in the classroom.” said Ms Roberts.

Jessica Bjay, a junior student, said “I feel that by puting a female dean, it causes more female students to feel like they can have someone they can rely on and have trust towards them when speaking to a male dean.”

Since Mrs. Gallagher stepped out, there hasn’t been a female dean within the department and

rearranged based on my school schedule and the extracurricular activities I participate in after school.”

After finding an open position, the next step is to prepare yourself in order to make sure you get the job. The three most important things you need to worry about are your resume, your cover letter, and the job interview. Making sure you have a document that states all of your educational accomplishments and work experience is very important for your employer as it helps them get a feel of what you’re capable of.

The following step to preparing yourself for the position is to practice for your upcoming job interview. Your employer’s first impressions on you are crucial and can make or break you. It is important to make sure you show up with appropriate attire and greet your employer in a polite manner. Next, preparing answers for common questions your employer might ask you is

**Hurry!**

**Spots in the 2019-2020 Honors Journalism class are filling up fast.**

**Imagine a class where you write for the entire student body!**

**See Mr. Bahrenburg in 417 or Mr. MacDonald in 103 to ask about enrolling in the class.**



Drowning in Plastic

by Chollada Sookkae

On average, 24 percent of school waste is recyclable paper, 50 percent is food waste, and 26 percent is plastic waste. Despite the Department of Education gifting students S’well bottles, students and faculty are still buying plastic bottles daily and disposing plastic wastefully.

Every day, a majority of Queens Technical students go to Star Deli, Nube de Jesus Grocery or Cyprianas Cafe on their way to school. A “typical” breakfast includes a sandwich and a bottle of water, Arizona Tea, or a cup of coffee. When students are finished, many throw out a plastic bag, a brown bag, paper wrapping from the sandwich, and their plastic bottle. Rarely do students and faculty give second thoughts to where the plastic goes.

Students tend to throw away their garbage in any trash can, disregarding the proper color coded bin.

“I never learned the proper way to recycle, I don’t know what any of the colors mean. The janitors are the ones who separate garbage at the end of the day anyways,” said senior, Carolina Leon.

In October, all New York City Public High Schools received a S’well reusable water bottle. The movement called BringIt NYC, is an attempt at motivating teenagers to reduce waste and take stand to reduce 54 million water bottles that are being thrown out. The founder of S’well, Sarah Kauss, wanted people to stop using plastic water bottles. Kauss’s mission is to have students tell their friends and family the importance of using reusable water bottles. However, most students do not use the S’well bottles that were provided and are still buying single-use plastic water bottles.

“It’s a grab and go bottle, which is convenient. I don’t have time to wash my S’well bottle daily and refill it. It’s filtered compared to tap water at home. The S’well bottles are too bulky and heavy for my bag,” stated Leon.

In the lunchroom, students throw out garbage in the wrong bins despite multiple posters depicting proper garbage placement.

While getting lunch, students at the lunch line get plastic cups and fill it with water before leaving. Some students accidentally grab multiple cups and some go back and forth and get new cups every trip.

“Sometimes the cups of water are attached to each other and I get too lazy to separate it. I also go to the lunch rooms throughout the day because the water fountains taste bad. I can’t be bothered to carry one cup around all day,” David Morales, a junior, stated.

At the end of each day, janitors try their best to throw out garbage in the proper bags despite students disregarding each garbage bin. Though this is tedious, the janitors do it to better the world.

“I’ve had to clean up bottles from the toilets, plastic bags in the locker rooms and much worse. At the end of each day, I do try my best to separate the recyclables and the regular trash,” said Queens Tech janitor, Wilson.

The problem starts in the classrooms. Walking around each classroom, many could notice lack of proper garbage and recycling consisting of mismatched bins, repetitive bins, and even no bins.

“Students and faculty move the bins. If they wanted to get the proper bins, the faculty can consult with the custodians. Every four to six months, we deep clean and try to put the proper bins in each classroom,” janitor Nagi states.

How can you play your part? Omit plastic straws, knives, forks, and spoons from daily use, replace the plastic utensils with reusable utensils. Instead of printing out memos and worksheets, teachers and administration should send it electronically. Shopping at farmers markets reduces the amount of plastic containers and plastic wrapping. Another important way people can reduce plastic waste is to not buy breakfast daily and begin bringing food from home in reusable containers and mugs.

If we don’t make a change now, by 2050, the world will be filled with 12 billion metric tons of plastic.

Students and staff in Queens Tech experienced extremely high temperatures in their classrooms during the winter season because the heater was left on.

Students’ education were affected by this problem because the SMART Boards were overheating causing them to turn off, resulting in an interruption in the lesson.

Dayana Bravo, a senior stated, “Having to deal with this heat has caused the SMART Board to shut off, and it’s annoying especially right now that we’re preparing to take our tests.”

Not only does this affect students, but it also affects their teachers because they weren’t able to finish their lessons and cover their material on time.

Ms. Lingstuyt, a cosmetology teacher said, “It had a very negative impact on my lessons.

Seniors Beautify Community

by Andrea Fajardo



Carlos Reyes

Seniors Erika Michaca, Gurjeet Kaur, and Alexandra Rivera perform backrubs for guests.

The Queens Tech senior cosmetology classes executed a Senior Cosmetology Open House on Apr 4th from 7:45am to 1:45pm in rooms 334 and 344.

This is the first year Queens Tech offered a senior cosmetology open house.

The event allowed senior cosmetology students to demonstrate the skills they have obtained within the four years they have been in this major.

The services that were offered on April 4 were shampoos, haircuts, makeup applications, facials, manicures, blowouts, ponytails, paraffin treatments and massages.

All services were free and clients who were not Queens Tech students had to be 18 years of age or older or must be accompanied by an adult.

Although the services were free, tips were gladly accepted.

This event was for the students, staff, and teachers in Queens Technical High School as well as family and community.

This event was approved by Mr. Garcia. “I think it’s a great idea and it’s something we have been trying to do in one way or another for the past couple of years,” Mr. Garcia said, “I’m glad that it’s actually picking up and actually getting done,” he said.

“I got the idea because we would like to give back to the community and to the staff,” said Ms. Lingstuyt.

It forced me to have to skip some things in the lesson at times...I didn’t have enough time to summarize as I do normally. I think it was unfair that you’re losing valuable instructional time.”

There are teachers who even had to take their students outside to the hallway and have lessons there because they couldn’t handle the heat anymore.

Studies had been run at Harvard University that show that students score lower on their assignments when they have just experienced a hot day in school than after experiencing a cool school day. They stated that, “The drop in performance is significant, the research showed. On average, student achievement fell by the equivalent of one percent of a year’s worth of learning for each additional degree Fahrenheit in temperature during the year preceding the exam.”

Having high temperatures in classrooms causes students to

“There are two fold reasons for doing this open house,” Garcia went on, “One is for the students to get more of the idea of working on actual people and putting their skills that they have learned in the program to use in both cosmetology and barbering,” said Garcia “A lso for the community, teachers, and students to take advantages of the services that we offer,” he added.

“They have been preparing for four years for their open house, they used all the skills that they learned to do manicures, to do hair, to do facials,” Mrs. Quartuccio said, “They worked for four years to prepare for that.”

“We made sure that we practiced on one another and we also invited other people in from the outside to use as clients,” said Ms. Lingstuyt. “We asked the students first what skills they think they were best at, gave them an opportunity to give us their first, second and third choice as to what jobs they will be doing that day,”

Ms. Lingstuyt said “we tried our best to give them at least one of their choices, I gave them two of the three choices that they picked and we were able to do that because we switched off, we didn’t let a student stay only on one job.”

There were a total of 43 senior cosmetology students and three barbering students working in the open house.

slow down their thinking process and makes it difficult for them to have a good level of concentration.

Instead of focusing on what’s important, most students shift their attention to how hot the rooms are and they become distracted.

Although most of the complaints have been happening this year, it is not an issue that just started. This began when the new building was built, it was not built with a good balance of the system.

“The electronics never worked correctly, the system was outdated before it even went live,” said Mr. Alikakos, Queens Tech’s assistant principal, “The problem is ongoing until somebody at the city level decides they want to redo it at the cost of millions of dollars.” The school has been trying to contact the city to get somebody to fix it. Even when the mayor came to the school to visit, they sent three emergency crews but they weren’t able to fix anything.

The students were advised to be at school at 7:00am to set up their work stations and to dress professionally with either black or white clothing and wear dress shoes.

“The services I got in the open house were manicures and make-up and I liked the outcome of it because the people I got to do the services on me were really nice & patient,” said senior Jessica Romero.

“At the open house I got a back massage,” said senior Jonathan Espinoza “I actually liked the results because I was feeling more light and felt no more tension on my upper back so I was more awake the whole day.”

“In the morning session I was assigned to shampoo clients’ hair and in the afternoon I was on thermal curling,” said senior cosmetologist Stephanie Cardenas.

“I learned that working in a salon is stressful because every client you meet is different and have different attitudes,” said Cardenas, “I enjoyed the experience because I was able to meet new people and satisfy them with my cosmetology skills.”

“The jobs I was assigned to do were braiding in the morning and manicures in the afternoon,” said senior cosmetologist Crystal Flores

“I learned that working in a salon isn’t easy, it requires a lot of patience and respect when it comes to dealing with clients because not every client is the same,” Flores said,

She continued by stating, “I enjoyed the experience because I got the chance to actually work in a salon environment and see if I’m capable in working under so much pressure and dealing with different types of clients.”

“When I was walking around I was able to see that all the students were very professional wearing their capes, talking to their clients and I actually took some pictures and the pictures came out very professional,” Mr. Garcia said, “It looked like a really professional salon when you walked in, it didn’t look like a classroom.”

“I was thinking we can expand this event doing it perhaps four times a year, two times in the fall term and two times in the spring term,” said Mr. Garcia.

It’s Getting Hot In Here

by Karen Dutan



A thermostat seen on the third floor was seen reading 93 degrees fahrenheit.

Students and staff in Queens Tech experienced extremely high temperatures in their classrooms during the winter season because the heater was left on.

Students’ education were affected by this problem because the SMART Boards were overheating causing them to turn off, resulting in an interruption in the lesson.

Dayana Bravo, a senior stated, “Having to deal with this heat has caused the SMART Board to shut off, and it’s annoying especially right now that we’re preparing to take our tests.”

Not only does this affect students, but it also affects their teachers because they weren’t able to finish their lessons and cover their material on time.

Ms. Lingstuyt, a cosmetology teacher said, “It had a very negative impact on my lessons.

AFTER FIVE VISITS = FREE AFTERCARE KIT

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AFTERCARE

Do not wet lashes for 24 hours.  
Do not use oil based eye products or creams.  
Remove eye makeup with a cotton pad.  
Do not perm, tint, or use an eyelash curler.  
Be careful to avoid pulling eyelashes out or rubbing them away.

NEXT RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENT



## QT Falls Under Surveillance

by Joseph Moroch



Guillermina Cielo

**Stavroula Nicolovienis is in charge of bathroom surveillance. Working Monday to Thursday from 9 to 4:30pm and Fridays from 8 to 3:30pm.**

Since students returned from their winter break, there was a new change for them in order to enter and access the library room. An ID swipe machine was installed before entering the library. This action was taken after the previous year when the school temporarily installed the ID swipe machine before the entrance of the auditorium.

Before February there was no need to sign in and students were free to enter the restroom at any time. Students would spend around ten to thirty minutes inside the restroom to not even use it in the first place, sometimes even a whole period. This issue wasn't only a problem that affected in the first floor bathrooms but also in the auditorium.

Installing the ID machine near the auditorium has become a big

help to the faculty. It helped alert the school if a student is scheduled to be in the auditorium at that proper time or if they are skipping class. This school year has the library receiving the same treatment.

Before this change, in order to enter the library there was a sign-in sheet for students coming inside the library during their lunch periods. Other ways students would go inside the library would be by rewriting the same name of another student who previously signed in on the sheet or writing another students name that has lunch that period.

"Yeah it used to be easier to walk inside the library but now it's more complicated. Some students would scribble on the sign in sheet and just walk in," said Elvis Estrada.

The school took another initiative with student surveillance by having bathroom monitors outside the boys and girls restrooms in the first floor. Students are now required to sign in their name and the time on a notebook when using the restroom. This action was done after multiple minor incidents occurred of teens being caught smoking narcotics.

"I wasn't in the bathroom but I was in the hallway when a bunch of kids were escorted out of the bathroom," said senior Ariel Rivera.

Going to the restrooms are the students alternative for the auditorium or library to skip class. After many minor incidents a new policy was implemented. Now with monitors students have a limited time to be inside the restroom, amount of times and amount of people inside the restroom.

"I went to the bathroom one time and the guy told me to sign in on the notebook before I could enter. I walked in and the bathroom was empty," said Moises Guevara.

These changes are made with intentions to create a safer school environment for students and faculty.

**Are you a Creative Person?**  
**Would you like to see your writing showcased in the next issue of The Technical Times.**  
**Submit to room 417, and maybe you'll see it in the pages in the fall!**

## NOCTI Moved Up

by Nicole Vasquez

In their senior year, Queens Tech cosmetology students have to pass both a written and practical exam, NOCTI, in order for them to get the CTE seal on their diploma. Until this year, the practical exam was taken in May, giving seniors time to be prepared. The practical exam was taken on March 27.

The exam is approximately three hours long consisting of many jobs such as: roller setting, chemical restructuring and finger waves, as well as several others.

All senior cosmetology students had to take the practical exam at the same time. There are about 45 senior cosmetology students divided between the five cosmetology teachers: Ms. Lingstuy, Mrs. Quartuccio, Ms. Crosbie, Ms. Cagen and Ms. Donofrio.

Mrs. Quartuccio has been teaching the senior class for several years. This was Ms. Lingstuy's first time teaching the senior class in over 10 years. "I first came in the late 90s I worked here for two years, left and then came back. I taught the senior class once ten years ago," she said.

Mr. Garcia is the Assistant Principal for cosmetology. He is usually given more time before having the students take the exam but this year was an exception, he states, "We wanted to make sure to give the test on SAT day and since SAT day is in March we decided to do it during the school day instead of a Saturday. I think

it worked out better so we don't have to come out on a Saturday and do the whole setup which requires more organization as well as having to get permits."

Guillermina Cielo, a senior, thinks students should know something she wasn't aware of, "I got into the cosmetology program sophomore year, I didn't think my immigration status would affect me getting my cosmetology license senior year. This year my teacher mentioned it, it hit me that I'm an immigrant but since I'm a DACA recipient I would still be eligible to take both NOCTI & State Board to get my license."

Ms. Lingstuy had students come in at 7am a couple of days a week before the test. She said, "I believe they did well, although we're still waiting to get the final grades. It's hard to tell if the grades were affected by the date moving up, I think it would've been better if we had a day in between the day they took it and the day it usually was, I wish we had the practical and written closer together."

Sheila Aguilar stated, "Ms. Q. prepared us by timing us while we did each part of the haircut. We kept practicing a section of the test every day. She made us prepare all our materials that were going to be needed for the test beforehand."

Nancy Hernandez, Ms. Lingstuy's student said, "I think the NOCTI is something I had been preparing myself for since we began the school year and my instructor Ms. Lingstuy had been teaching us all the skills we need to know for the test. I feel more prepared since we have been doing the jobs on a regular basis."

## Seniors Celebrate

by Guillermina Cielo

Queens Tech seniors went on their senior trip on January 18 to Honor's Haven Resort located in upstate New York, for relaxation, enjoyment, and making memories with friends before leaving high school.

The cost of attending this trip was \$320. The price included three meals a day and transportation. Honor's Haven Resort provided many indoor activities such as a swimming pool, basketball, volleyball, tennis, a gym, nightclub, karaoke night, laser tag, and a carnival.

Activities such as paintball, skiing, snowboarding, and horseback riding required additional payments.

Mr. Vega, electrical installation teacher and coordinator of student activities, arranged the senior trip. Students were told to join the 'Band' app before going on the trip. This app made it easy to communicate with all students and chaperones.

According to Mr. Vega, 102 students attended the senior trip.

Being 91 miles away, and arriving around 12pm, students were then escorted to Atlantic Hall and were given instructions on how the resort operates.

Several high schools such as Aviation, American Studies, New-



Guillermina Cielo

**Students gathered on the last day of the senior trip and right after this photo was taken, had a snowball fight.**

comers, and Saint Edmonds High School were present at the resort. For this reason, staff at the resort distributed color coded bracelets to maintain organization. Therefore, students were responsible for wearing their school color bracelet at all times to have access to all activities and meals. Seniors were held accountable for their room key and showing up on time for breakfast at 8am, lunch at 2pm, and dinner at 6pm.

After getting settled, students were free to tour the resort and do any activity they wished.

"We looked for a indoor soccer gym or field but didn't find any so we went out in the snow with Mr. McLean to play soccer," senior Mohammed stated.

"I really wanted to go to the pool first before getting ready for the party," senior Crystal Flores stated.

Chaperones checked rooms at 1:30am. This meant students weren't allowed to go to each others rooms anymore but could stay awake to play board games, watch movies and some stayed up playing Xbox the first night.

On the snowy night of the party, around 2am, the announcement speaker went on: 'There's a fire in the building please evacuate this is not a DRILL! THIS IS NOT A DRILL!'

"At first I thought it was some type of joke," Flores stated, "Once I saw the messages on band I knew it was real. The girls next to us were out like a light so I started banging on the door."

"I never heard the alarm, it was actually because of Crystal that I woke up because she was banging on the door," stated senior Jennifer Ilhuicatz, "It startled me because you don't expect it. But I was wor-

ried for my friends because when they were taking attendance some of them were still upstairs."

"The fire warning was a waste of my sleep time. We couldn't even wake up one of our roommates because he was dropped dead. Not to mention that we all came out in our pajamas in 20 degree weather and stayed out there for about 30 minutes. Once we went inside we couldn't even sleep cause we were still traumatized from the fire warning," stated senior Jonathan Espinoza

"It was a false alarm we evacuated and we were able to gather all the students making sure everyone was safe," stated Mr. Vega, "It was a good life lesson. For a drill our students were calm and weren't overreacting," stated Mr. Vega.

Mr. Vega arranged a morning session of paintball for Queens Tech students to participate. Paintball was one of the additional activities that was an additional 40 dollars.

Snowboarding was a 75 dollar fee and skiing was 60. In order to do these specific activities seniors had to drive to Holiday Ski Mountain, that was about 20 minutes away on a normal day but due to weather conditions it took longer than usual.

"I was so excited to do snowboarding for the first time, I didn't think I would have done so good" stated senior Nancy Hernandez.

The senior class was scheduled to go roller skating before leaving. But that didn't happen. Mr Vega

stated, "Due to the snow condition it didn't allow us to go the roller skating rink. It was also a 20 minute drive and I didn't want to put the students in danger."

"Snow tubing was my favorite activity because my best friend and I went snow tubing. I went and slid first then it was her turn she slid down and she didn't get too far. So another girl was going down while my best friend was getting up another girl came down and pushed her and she fell on top of the girl and kept sliding down. Which was pretty funny. She wasn't expecting that at all and I witnessed it all," stated senior Mirian Del Rosario.

"My favorite memory would have to be when my friends and I went snow tubing because I remember throwing them down accidentally but at the end it was fun to spend time with them. I started talking to people that I used to talk to before and I was glad to share a memory with them once again even if we're not as close as we used to be," stated senior Stephanie Cardenas.

"My favorite memory was dancing and watching all the qv kids watch all the other kids dance," said senior Bryant Cuero.

The last few minutes before leaving the senior class chanted "Q WHAT, QV! Q WHAT, QV! QV, Q WHAT! Q WHAT!" because the students still feel 'QV'.

The trip ended with a memorable snowball fight between students and teachers.



Talented OT’S



Elsie Tecalero

**The cheerleaders ended the night with a mashup of songs.**  
*continued from pg. 2*

Students attended after school rehearsals for the talent show that was on May 22 where they were hoping for the best and that many of their peers would come see their talents. “The talent show has always been a lot of fun when I watched it so I think people should come for the experience,” said Adriel.

“I encourage all the underclassmen and even some seniors who have never been to a talent show to come because it’s such an amazing thing to see, it’s inspiring,” said Ricardo, “and for all those underclassmen that have a talent and can sing, play

an instrument, but are just too nervous, I encourage them to try because they’re not gonna regret it and there is nothing to lose.”

“I think it’s a good way to support the people of this school, and if you go here you should definitely support all the stuff that we do, but this is mainly because I think in the world we live in today there’s a lot of bullying and people are afraid of doing what they love for fear of being made fun of,” stated Bryant, “They should come in and show support that we can all come together with our different dreams and allow each other to spread our voices, minds, ideas, and our talents without being shut down or being oppressed.”

Where Are QT Students Going Next?

by Eliza Fernandez

Some seniors at Queens Tech have made their final decision on which college they will be attending for the fall semester, while others have to decide on what trade they are going to pursue once high school is over.

Many seniors who aren’t enrolling in college are planning to get jobs in their field of study.

For example, students in electrical or plumbing tracks are trying to get into a union or construction work forces.

Queens Tech is known for their students graduating with a CTE diploma and which assists alumni with admission into unions throughout New York City.

Even though most of the students will be graduating with a CTE diploma, it does not mean they are going to continue pursuing that major. Often, students change their mind and find an interest on something else whereas others are still lost and trying to find their passion.

Those who are thinking of attending college but are lost and in need of help go to Ms. Karabelas.

Anna Karabelas is the college advisor at Queens Tech and helps students find their right fit in college.

“I plan on going to community college so I can get my grades up and then eventually go to the college that I want to go to,” said senior Gurjeet Kaur.

Kaur will be enrolling at BMCC and after that plans on transferring to Baruch College and would like to major in business or journalism.

Jayleen Valenzuela has a similar path and said, “I want to get a bachelor degree but for now I am just aiming for an associates because that’s the closest thing I can get right now. I might be going to into medical but I don’t know right now.”

Another student, Celine Rodriguez, said her plans after high school are to attend John Jay then transferring to NYU. She’ll be majoring in computer science.

“I’m in Construction Skills but since I’m 16 I can’t join until I’m 18 so my plan is I’m going to community college either to Laguardia or to Queensborough.”

said former student Paul Ramon who’s waiting to turn 18 so he can work in the trade. As of now, Ramon is pursuing his associates degree at Queensborough Community College.

Seniors who aren’t considering college and want to work into the industry also have additional help from both Ms. Zagada and Mr. Garcia.

They are both shop teachers at Queens Tech and get kids internships based on their major. It helps the students get connections and experience in the field.

“I did my internship over the summer. my experience was different than others because I didn’t really do much there but I know a lot of other people actually got to work out in the field and did a lot more stuff... it did help me understand what the job was actually about and if I wanted to do it or not,” said senior Joshua Hernandez who completed his CTE hours working for Kopp Electric in the Bronx.

Herdnadez’s plans after high school include either going into the union, the MTA, or going away for college to Buffalo.

In a few more months the class of 2019 will become Queens Technical High School alumni and will be off to start a new chapter in their life.

Staring Depression In the Face

by Paola Gonzalez

You wake up one day, and you feel weird, different almost. Your body feels heavy as does your brain and heart. Everything you once loved has no meaning. You can only wish that your pain goes away, but you feel helpless.

“Oh, I am not ready for this. I haven’t even done my hair!” said Joshua Mercado, 2018 graduate of Queen’s Tech. He was slouching on his chair, clenching his jaw. He looked as uncomfortable as his jokes were.

Brown hair falling over his face as he changed hard core rock to mellow jazz. “Dramatic change right? Hard rock is what ignites my soul and [I’m] guessing that this conversation isn’t for motivation, am I right?” he laughed and shook his head.

“I don’t why I even agreed to this. I’m excited, nervous, and sad all at the same time... Shall we start,” stated Joshua as he began to pace in his chair.

“I felt isolated. I felt out of place and alone. I didn’t feel like there was anyone there to help me or understand what was going through my mind. I was broken on the inside and coming to school made everything feel unrepairable,” stated Joshua. Throughout his four years in high school, he elaborated on how he felt the school was oblivious to the signs of depression.

“You walked around [the] school, and you could tell students were on the verge of breaking down. If somebody wasn’t crying, it wasn’t school,” said Joshua Mercado.

“My freshman year of high

school the only teacher to ever notice was Mr. Samuelson... I had insomnia, so I went into his class to sleep because my depression didn’t give me peace. I appreciated him. He came and talked to me, and I felt like someone cared. No one noticed other than him, and it was disappointing,” stated Joshua.

"Junior year came, and everyone... knew not to talk to me. [My classmates] didn’t want to talk to me. They chose to... ignore me. My freshman and sophomore year I was not supported whatsoever. My stepdad passed, my friend committed suicide, and a week later my friend gets hot. My world fell apart. I couldn’t hide it. Someone is going to notice. I didn’t try to hide it. I couldn’t. I always felt like I was drowning.”

“For half a week I had Mr. Valdez, he noticed... right away. He felt more like a friend than a teacher. He felt like the only real support I had at that time,” said Joshua.

“Ms. Martino Alvarez was the one who acted on getting help though. She called the guidance counselor after finding out that I was hospitalized. She helped me begin the whole process into getting better,” stated Joshua. It took two years for him to get the help he needed after Ms. Alvarez was notified of Joshua’s continuous absences.

“Senior year was a huge turnaround. I began to focus on myself and my grades skyrocketed. It felt weird to be happy, I guess. I was so used to feeling [bad] that when I began to feel better, I began to feel complete,” stated Joshua.

Now Joshua has found a full-time job and has entered a program that will allow him to work in top technology companies.

“It was hard getting back on my feet. But I did it... I don’t regret anything. If I could I would go through it all again because its made who I am and I love who I am,” stated Joshua.

“The school picks five teachers and puts them through a program, and they are qualified... Its five teachers for 300 students. If this were a job, I mean that would be illegal. Wouldn’t it?” he began to shake in anger. “For a long time, I thought that having depression, having anxiety, and panic attacks were a sign of weakness. But after two years, I realize that it’s just a sign for someone staying strong for too long and now needs a little help. You shouldn’t be scared of getting help. Everyone needs a little therapy in their life.”

Mental health awareness has now become one of Queen Tech top priorities. There are new banners posted around the school that addresses drug addiction and therapy opportunities. Although the school in the past has failed to advertise its active programs, it has leaped success to ensure that their students are receiving the help they need.

In modern times, mental health is no longer hidden or shadowed. Nowadays, mental health is a trending discussion in every aspect of life. Mental health is a topic that should be discussed openly and without fear and with the help of public figures, it has become part of our lifestyle.

Learning with TeacherTrekker

by Jessica Carretero



Shafraz Ali

**Last April, Mr. Zambrotta travelled with Mr. Bahrenburg, Mr. McLean, and Mr. Muzamali and friends to Machu Picchu.**

Almost reaching 4,000 followers on Instagram, Mr. Zambrotta isn’t alone on the website. He says “I’m not good at web designing so it slows down the process. My aunt is a college level english professor and she helps me edit and I cite the sources to teach students that they are suppose to cite. It also serves to teach students about history as much as travel.”

A highlight of the website would have to be the “My Classroom” and the “Travel Blog” and Educational resources.

In the “My Classroom” he has the projects that he assigns his government and economics class.

In his “Educational Resources” tab you can find resources that can help when writing papers

Mr. Muzammil, a special education teacher, and close friend of Zambrotta, says “It’s awesome, I mean that’s what you want to do if you’re traveling at least make it productive and let other people see that and learn from that as well you know and that Mr. Zambrotta uses it in the classroom that’s a way to inspire other students to go out and explore the world that’s where you learn from the most.”



# Swingin’ in the Auditorium

by Erick Rivera



Erika Michaca

**The auditorium was filled with parents and students during the CTE Night on Wednesday, May 15.**

At Queens Technical High School, the auditorium has gone unnoticed by many staff and students around the building as it isn’t utilized as much as it has been in previous years.

However, there are some interesting uses of the auditorium that have taken place after school.

The auditorium is located in the first floor at the end of the old wing and inside is a large hall full of old wooden seats, sets of spotlights, and has a stage upfront.

It has been used for graduation class announcements, honor roll society ceremonies, and even the yearly talent show.

It has also been the main location where absent teachers’ classes would sit. Students are sent down to the auditorium where substitute teachers supervise over them and take their class attendance.

However, this school year has seen a sudden change on how Queens Tech is now handling these coverages. Instead of having students sent down to the auditorium, classes are now having a surplus of new substitute teachers taking over for the absent teachers, keeping students in class.

“I kinda miss the auditorium because it was chill, now with

the subs you just stay in the classroom,” said sophomore student Melody Gonzales.

“The subs at this school don’t really provide anything, it doesn’t really seem like they do anything ... in the auditorium I feel like kids we’re more relaxed,” said sophomore student Fernando Tobar.

Students from the previous school years used to appreciate the auditorium because of how they would use that whole entire period to relax, socialize, or catch up on work from other classes.

Junior student Daniel Ramirez says, “The subs aren’t that fun and they make us feel more imprisoned now and I had a bunch of memories from being in the auditorium.”

Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal of organization and security administrator, stated on the surplus of new substitute teachers, “We have much more money this school year to spend to hire these substitutes, we find this more educationally sound and better off for the students.”

Nowadays, the auditorium is a bare and empty hall with rows full of missing or broken chairs, LED lights on the sides of seats, unused speakers and wiring under the seats, books all over the entrance desks, and even a missing tile on

the ceiling; with some students lingering around on occasion.

Adriel Arias, a senior student, says, “There’s broken chairs, literally one of the chairs doesn’t have a seat!” Many question whether these damages and fixtures will be repaired and used now that the auditorium is empty throughout the day.

“Plans for repairs have been in effect for many years, people occupying the auditorium last year didn’t stop this, but the contractor’s taking forever and not coming back is what’s stopping it,” stated Mr. Alikakos.

On the other hand, there are some after school activities and clubs that have taken place in the auditorium which include the dance team run by freshman guidance counsellor, Ms. Vasquez on Tuesdays and the cheerleading team organized by Ms. Irizarry on Thursdays.

“We use the main stage area to warm up, practice our choreography, everything is on the main stage,” says Ms. Vasquez, “I do think it would be good if the stage didn’t have random storage room things there and was made better suited for its role as an auditorium.”

The auditorium is also used for the annual talent show overseen by Mr. Vega, the leadership team

coordinator, where many students perform in front of their peers to show off their abilities. Students used this space to rehearse their act along with the technical stage crew who learn how to use the stage’s equipment for the day of the talent show.

“Were having some practices for the talent show ... getting to know the basics of setting up the speakers and microphones, getting every contestant ready so that they’re comfortable on stage and learn the ropes,” says Ricardo Limon, senior student and member of the stage crew behind the talent show.

Nonetheless, there still seems to be concerns behind the quality and repairs of the auditorium along with the seats remaining to be a repeated issue. “There’s some chairs that are damaged, but I’m sure that can be resolved ... we just want everyone to be comfortable and enjoy the show,” said Limon.

“I also wish it was treated a bit nicer by students who leave their trash around, we need to take better care of it,” stated. Vasquez.

The auditorium seems is a unique part of Queens Tech that seems to be empty and dismantled throughout the day, but behind the scenes has been incorporated for many clubs and activities in the school.

## Poisoned by E-Cigs

by Evelyn Hernandez

Teen vaping has become very popular among high schools across the country and Queens Technical High School is no exception. As a repercussion of having a large teenage following, Juul, a company that produces e-cigarettes, has been served with several lawsuits for having their commercials and ads marketed towards the teen population. It has been reported that at least two million middle school, high school, and college students use e-cigarettes.

The Juul epidemic has affected Queens Tech in many ways. For example, there are many cases of security guards walking into the staircases to find students vaping or deans who are called into classrooms to pull out students who are intoxicated.

Juul has denied all claims of them intentionally marketing their products to minors and has stated that they made sure all the models used in their campaigns were over the age of 21. Juul has simplified the names of their flavors like changing cool cucumber to cucumber and crème brûlée to creme, as a way for Juul to get teens to dislike the “new” flavor profiles and ultimately stop using them.

Juul announced that there will be a discontinuation of flavors like mango, fruit, crème and cucumber Juul pods which account for about 45% of the sales, along with the discontinuation of their social media promotions. However the decision has caused some students

to purchase in bulk. This lead to Juul restricting customers to two devices and 15 pod packages per month and no more than 10 devices per year.

Due to the rapidly growing use of Juul by teens, the FDA, Food and Drug Administration, is responsible for the protection of the public’s health and reducing the use of tobacco by minors, has planned to ban the sales of the most popular e-cigarette flavors that are being sold in stores and gas stations across the country.

“We cannot allow a whole new generation to become addicted to nicotine,” says FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb.

As a way to stop the growing issue of vaping among teens, another regulation the FDA is trying to put in place is to make age-verification a requirement for online purchases in order to ensure that minors will not be able to buy flavor pods online.

Other than the FDA, Ms. Mieses, Queens Tech’s School Prevention of Addiction through Rehabilitation and Knowledge (SPARK) counselor, is trying to spread information regarding the negative side effects that come with vaping. Ms. Mieses has taken it upon herself with the help of Queens Tech students to put up posters distributing important information in the most populated areas of the school, like the bathrooms.

When asked about how Queens Tech tries to bring awareness to the teen vaping epidemic, Ms. Mieses states, “Primarily I’ll have conversations with students who have been caught and often times students who come across my office are referred by other students. Second, I’ll go into classrooms and health classes and

talk about the drug portion of that teachers curriculum and now were dealing with two really big things, the legalization of marijuana and the prominence of juul and vapes. We have presentations and conversations to ... educate students on the dangers of vaping and the juuling.”

“Often times alot of students don’t know and maybe if they knew they’d make different types of decisions. Any way we can get the information out there is a plus.” said Ms. Mieses.

What students aren’t aware of are the negative side effects that come with vaping. A single Juul pod is 6% nicotine, a highly addictive drug and the same amount is found in a pack of cigarettes. Vaping was originally created to help adult smokers quit smoking, however that has not been proven yet. Instead vaping can increase the risk of a teen smoking cigarettes later in life.

“Low doses may cause nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and eye irritation. High doses of nicotine may cause tachycardia, high blood pressure, seizures, coma, and death. Moreover, the FDA reported detecting ethylene glycol in some of the e-cigarettes and cancer-causing substances called nitrosamines in others. In addition, some e-cigarettes have caught fire and/or exploded because of faulty batteries or malfunctioning battery chargers.” says Dr. Charles Davis, a board certified Emergency Medicine Doctor.

The Real Cost, a campaign working closely with the FDA’s center for tobacco products states, “It can transmit metal particles like nickel, tin and aluminum into your lungs and can release dangerous particles into your lungs.”

## The Glitch in CUNY

by Gurjeet Kaur

Every year, hundreds of seniors in our school make the decision to apply to colleges whether it’s CUNY, SUNY, or using the Common App to apply to private schools, throughout the country.

Some decide whether they want to stay in New York City and apply to CUNY. Others move upstate and apply to SUNY whereas, others go to a private school.

Recently students have been facing a problem with applying to CUNY.

In order to apply to CUNY colleges, students have to send an application in through the internet. The online applications require students to send their transcripts, SAT scores, and additional information regarding financial aid for colleges to view and make decisions upon.

While this may seem convenient, reportedly there has been a glitch on the CUNY website.

Many students have reported that their transcripts won’t upload onto the application therefore, making it difficult for colleges to review them.

Others have had their birth dates changed on their own, while others complained that their application got deleted completely.

Jeilyn Nunez, a senior stated, “Instead of 11/22/2001, my birth date came up as 11/22/1918 and I swear I looked it over many times. And when I emailed them about it, they didn’t even reply.”

In order to fix their problems, seniors had to redo their entire application all over again for it to

be processed correctly which is time consuming.

Pawel Aleksiejuk, senior, said, “When my application got deleted, I basically had to redo the whole application and then send it.”

Alberto Crespo, a senior who also had the same problem, stated, “When you call them, they literally just tell you to redo it.”

This is a problem for many students because as time passes, they will soon have to make a decision as to which college they will attend but they can’t do that if their applications haven’t been sent.

Ms. Karabelas, the college advisor, addressed this issue as well stating, “This is the first year that the new application is up and running and that is why students are seeing so many problems. This is not a school problem but just a problem with the website itself so there’s nothing we can do but I have been attending many CUNY workshops and getting in touch with representatives from CUNY to understand this problem.”

She continued by saying “I have urged students to immediately log into their CUNYFirst accounts and report any problems they see but it’s all I can do. I can’t really do anything if students don’t take responsibility. Worst case scenario is students not getting into a four year college and having to enroll in a two year community college instead.”

While this problem has set students back in sending their applications in to the colleges they want, it also makes juniors and upcoming college applicants aware of problems that could happen to them as well.



## Government Shuts Down for Longest in History

by Bianca Llivicota



from foreignpolicy.com

### **President Trump speaks at his first State of the Union address in 2018 to a joint session of Congress**

America has had 21 billion dollars on constructing government shutdowns since 1976, when Congress established a formal federal budget process. The most recent government shutdown started on Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018 and ended on Friday, Jan. 25 making it the longest government shutdown in the history of the United States.

A government shutdown occurs when Congress neglects to appropriate funds. Congress has the power to approve or deny government spending bills. The President has the power to sign or veto any of the spending bills. Therefore, if there is any disagreement between the Congress and the President of the United States about federal funds then it may prompt a shutdown.

The government shutdown occurred because of a disagreement between Congress and Donald Trump, the President of the United States, on if the government should spend five

Some federal agencies affected by the shutdown are Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

TSA officers are essential to security. They provide protection by screening bags and passengers throughout U.S. airports.

When asked about federal workers not getting paid, Mr. Gallagher, Assistant Principal and Government teacher said, "Security is a big deal at airports and there were TSA workers that were being forced to work without getting paid. A lot of them were calling out sick because of it."

More than 800,000 federal

workers missed their first paycheck and were working without pay while others are furloughed temporarily.

"What it really highlights is that when there is a government shutdown and federal workers stop getting paychecks, they don't have tons of money saved up, like emergency funds," says Gallagher.

"I believe that Trump's government shutdown was irrelevant because it left so many people without jobs and could've put them in debt. In addition, the only reason Trump wanted to get money was for the border wall which promotes inequality and disgrace," says Jonathan Espinoza, Senior at Queens Tech.

Many federal workers that did not get paid are worried or stressed. This affected their ability to pay bills at the end of the month without receiving a paycheck.

Mr. Gallagher also said that, "After missing one paycheck, by the time the next pay cycle came around which is only a few weeks, they ran out of money. So that's really where a big problem came up, is you see how many people are really living paycheck to paycheck, where if you miss one paycheck it's going to have an impact on your ability to have food and pay your bills."

In a televised statement in Rose Garden, Trump stated, "We're going to confront the national security crisis on our southern border, and we're going to do it our way or the other. We have an invasion of drugs and criminals coming to our country."

Ultimately, Trump could not get Congress to fund five billion dollars on the wall, which caused him to declare a national emergency. Members of his own party thought declaring a national emergency was too extreme so they pushed it back.

## Temperature Spikes Cause Weather Changes

by Alexis Toxqui

Global warming has been a concept viewed by many as a myth, but has been recently proven to be a real crisis.

Global Warming is the increase of global temperatures due to the greenhouse effect of various pollutants.

Warm weather has been very common throughout the years and research shows that it keeps getting warmer.

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, "18 of the 19 warmest years all have occurred since 2000." The main contributors to this greenhouse effect are direct results from humans everyday life.

"The largest source of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities in the United States is from burning fossil fuels for electricity, heat, and transportation," stated the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

These pollutants get trapped in Earth's atmosphere causing a "global oven."

Cases of global temperatures rising have been more critical in the recent years. For example, one incident occurred in a small town in Russia by the name of Belushya Guba, North of Moscow, where over 50 polar bears swarmed the small town.

"The bears arrived in December and have acted aggressively since then, attacking people and entering residences and businesses," stated Doyle Rice of USA Today.

This is a direct result of ice sheets melting at a faster rate and polar bears not having a surface to

hunt on and catch food, therefore moving onto land.

"Polar bears are at risk of losing their homes and now people are being affected by it, more problems may occur in the future affecting more people all around the world," stated Moises Guevara a senior in Pre Engineering.

Warmer winters have also been very common and now the warmest on record. "For December, the average contiguous U.S. temperature was 35.6°F, 2.9°F above the 20th century average, ranking as the 21st warmest in the historical record." stated the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Many alive today can also simply look back to their own experiences and memories from recent winters.

"Well throughout past winters it becomes more noticeable about how global warming affects our weather, throughout the years I noticed that winters have become less colder, past winters compared to now have been more cooler therefore showing us that global warming is present," said Ariel Rivera a senior in Pre engineering.

There have been many efforts in controlling this crisis by limiting the amount of pollutants in the air.

Multiple forms of green energy have been adapted by many companies and the government; such as solar panels, wind power, and hydro power to name a few.

However, there is an abundance of political influencers who firmly believe Global Warming is not a real problem.

## Green New Deal For America

by Kevin Hernandez

On Feb. 7, New York Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts, proposed a Green New Deal in an effort to combat climate change in America.

The deal addresses the problem of climate change with several goals included in the bill.

Rep. Ocasio-Cortez claims that the world is in extreme danger and we must act quickly in order to prevent pollution from killing millions of people. She cites that scientists claim that the expected time before global pollution becomes a deadly consequence for humans is in 12 years.

"The world is going to end in 12 years if we don't address climate change and your biggest issue is how are we gonna pay for it?" Ocasio-Cortez said, addressing opponents.

This twelve year deadline originated in a report by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on

Oct. 2018. The deadline is not essentially a hardline for when the world ends as she claims, but a point where we should try to aim for a 45 percent reduction in net human-caused carbon emissions as the report actually states.

The bill promises to eventually reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions for all communities, create millions of high wage jobs, invest in infrastructure of the U.S., and aims to stop oppression of indigenous people, people of color, migrants, the poor, the elderly, and the youth.

The Green New Deal has been praised by the Democrats and has been endorsed by nearly all the major Democratic presidential candidates. On the other side, Republicans have been most critical of the deal for pushing forward what seems to be a socialist agenda for the U.S. Promises of guaranteed jobs, economic security, and high-quality universal healthcare through the Green New Deal has

led opponents to call it a system of socialism.

"Under the guise of Medicare-for-all and a Green New Deal, Democrats are embracing the same tired economic theories that have impoverished nations and stifled the liberties of millions over the past century," Vice President Mike Pence told an audience at the Conservative Political Action Conference on March 1, "But what they're actually offering is just more of the same: more taxes, more spending, more government and less freedom."

The bill also includes the retrofitting of all existing buildings in the United States in order to upgrade to an environmentally friendly infrastructure. In order to even consider completing this goal, talks of government nationalization of private property have to happen. This means that the government could seize ownership of people's private homes and businesses, which is already not a popular idea in America.

The Green New Deal is also under criticism on terms of practicality. Ten years is the goal of the deal. This includes the removal of fossil fuels, meeting 100 percent of the United States

power demand through non-renewable energy, a high speed rail to eradicate air travel, the retrofitting of buildings, and even hopes of removing "farting cows" at some point. Some critics are calling the deal aspirational, meaning it is a good place to start but it is mostly lacking plausibility and details.

Some even question if the deal was made to address the threat of climate change with so little details included about how we are going to achieve the goals laid out in the actual bill.

Addressing problems about racial inequality, poverty, and injustice are points that stand out in this Green New Deal. According to Ocasio-Cortez's website, the deal supports economic security such as parental leave, a wage, vacation time, medical leave, and retirement to those "unable to and unwilling to work." The deal does not connect these issues to the battle against worsening climate change, making them seem unnecessary to be addressed.

The bill even enforces the idea that women earn 80 percent as much as a man in wage earnings, which is not true at all. The gender pay gap needs to be examined closely to figure out that it is not an

issue of being a man or a woman but what choices that individual makes to determine their salary.

Democrats, however, praise the inclusion of these issues in The Green New Deal. They support the ideas because they feel the problems need to be addressed by the government and a viable solution must be put in place for the American people.

The Green New Deal would bankrupt the nation. With a price tag sitting at roughly \$93 trillion per decade, more than the combined world GDP, the U.S. cannot afford it. A solution that comes to anyone's mind is to tax the rich. However, taxing the wealthy is not a viable solution as it will only raise approximately \$10 trillion each decade, assuming the taxes are placed on the top one and two percent of earners in the U.S.

The world might not be ending in 12 years but solutions to slow down climate change are being suggested. However, these plans will always come apart when looked at closely because of their likely interference with the world economy. People must decide if they are willing to risk that if they want to save the environment and potentially our future.



## New Abortion Law Signed in New York

by Jason Morales

On January 22, the Governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, signed the Reproductive Health Act, an updated abortion law. The law enabled abortions to be considered after 24 weeks if the mother is in danger, or if the fetus is not viable anymore.

The Reproductive Health Act was introduced in 2006 but was rejected. According to CNN, "It was blocked for consideration by the Republican-controlled state Senate. With Democrats now in the majority, the bill passed the legislature Tuesday night and was signed into law."

Despite having failed, the law was presented once again this year on Jan. 9. It was once again up for revision. Upon votings, the law was signed on Jan. 22, it was a huge leap forward for New York State.

Prior to the law being signed it was illegal for abortions to happen after 24 weeks.

Many misconceptions were going around social media, many users began to feel like the Reproductive Health Act allowed for abortions to happen for any reason. Although the reality was different.

The newly added law states that an abortion may only happen under three circumstances:

1. The abortion occurs before the 24th week of pregnancy.

2. The abortion is necessary to protect the mother's health.

3. The mother learns the fetus is not viable in the womb, or after birth.

The new law allows the patients health care provider to be able to decide if an abortion after 24 weeks is necessary or not.

The law also now allows non-physicians to perform abortion procedures. For example, practitioners, and physician assistants. Restrictions, however are that the person performing the procedure must be licensed and certified by the state. They must follow legal practices at all times.

New York abortion laws has been in the state penal code since 1970.

The new law states what was once considered an abortion will no longer be considered "abortion," which would decriminalize it, and make it a part of the public health law.

Felipe Santos, a senior at Queens Tech view on abortion is, "I think that overall it's something that shouldn't be allowed for the purpose that it's taking a life, yes it's a decision based on the mom and situation but that alone shouldn't be allowed because like I said it's taking a life."

When given the scenario of a mother carrying a not viable fetus and putting her life at risk, Santos said, "If the fetus is already unresponsive with no life then it should be removed for the sake of the mother. As well if in the

case that it puts the mother's life at risk it's a choice in which the mother has to take." He proceeded to say, "There should be liberty for the mother to account and contemplate her actions and to see what she's going to do."

Controversy seems to begin on what basis the abortions are being allowed, for the many misconceptions that were also going around on social media, where people were saying abortions were legalized as a whole.

## Amazon Backs Out

by Tania Jimenez

On Feb. 14 Amazon announced the company would no longer be establishing their headquarters in Long Island City, New York.

Amazon was going to bring many opportunities for college students and local residents of LIC.

After much consideration and various factors, Amazon decided to pull out of the deal and instead relocate their headquarters to Arlington, Virginia.

When Amazon announced the plan for their headquarters in Long Island City, local residents immediately opposed and brought up factors that would be an inconvenience if the deal actually went through. Amazon was going to bring about 25,000 jobs, and also equip local residents with skills for some of the jobs they would have offered. Local residents brought up the issues

The government officials have been planning for the possibility of Brexit without a deal.

UK government officials have come to an agreement with other countries to grant people, living in the UK, the right to travel without a visa for a maximum of six months.

There is also a plan to set up an electrical application form called ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System). This would allow many non-EU countries, including the UK, to pay a fee of €7 (£6.30) every three years to travel around the EU.

There is also another issue that involves the Irish border. In the past, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have had outbursts of violence and chaos along the border. A massive military appearance, roads being blocked, checkups at the borders and bridges being blown up.

When the UK joined the EU single market, the border has disappeared and the violence has lessened over the years. Since the UK wants to leave, they haven't agreed on what they should do at the border.

"They would frequently bomb the border it was a protest against the British government and for me, I think we might see a return to that," said Mr. Mclean.

There is a backstop plan which basically is the last resort plan to maintain an open border between both countries.



Jason Vargas

**The train yards where amazon was supposed to go have been used by multiple companies for storage and parking.**

it would cause for them such as increased traffic, higher home costs and gentrification of the neighborhood. Prices in rent and homes had already started rising in Long Island City.

Not only did Amazon receive fierce opposition from local residents but also from local politicians such as Democrat, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Congress woman Ocasio spoke out on twitter when she said, "Amazon is a billion-dollar company. The idea that it will receive hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks at a time when our subway is crumbling and our communities need more investment, not less, is extremely concerning to residents here."

Before the decision was made not to move to Long Island City, Amazon had announced it was going to offer a cloud computing program for college students by teaming up with LaGuardia, CUNY and SUNY. The program

would be completed through a 15 credit course and a certificate that students would later use for jobs at Amazon. After announcing the deal for NYC headquarters was off, Amazon contacted LaGuardia,

"Right after the announcement, they reached out to me reiterating their commitment to continuing our partnership," said Francesca Fiore, associate dean of workforce development at LaGuardia.

Despite the efforts of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the mayor of New York City, Bill De Blasio, to renegotiate with Amazon, the company said the reason the deal broke off was because "a number of state and local politicians have made it clear that they oppose our presence and will not work with us."

Ocasio then spoke out, "Can everyday people come together and effectively organize against creeping overreach of one of the world's biggest corporations? Yes, they can."

## Problems Arise Across the Atlantic

by Jason Vargas

The United Kingdom is set to leave the European Union parliament this year, this has accumulated a series of questions and concerns that need to be addressed before the UK leaves the EU.

On June of 2016, the UK, which consists of Wales, Northern Ireland, England, and Scotland, voted 51.9 percent to 48.1 percent in favor to leave the EU parliament.

One reason for people wanting to leave the EU is the immigration policy. Since the EU parliament has granted people the right to move freely within the 28 countries. The UK has tripled in population since 1995-2015 due to EU immigrants and citizens are concerned that the number of people coming into the country could result in an increase in unemployment.

People believe that there should be rules and regulations at the border in order to prevent another wave of immigrants coming into the UK.

"Years later you had more immigrants that are coming from the Middle East, the UK has been plagued by several acts of terrorism as you saw over the years, and supporters of Brexit have blamed those mass casualties on the people of the middle east,"

said Mrs. Eterno.

Others disagree with the idea that immigrants are increasing unemployment rates, and instead, they believe that the immigration policy has actually helped the economy.

According to the "Brexit and the Impact of Immigration on the UK", by Jonathan Wadsworth, Swati Dhingra, Gianmarco Ottaviano, and John Van Reenen, it states, "Immigrants consume goods and services and this increased demand helps to create more employment opportunities. Immigrants also might have skills that complement. EU immigrants pay more in taxes than they take out in welfare and the use of public services. They, therefore, help reduce the budget deficit."

"For me personally, I played in bands when I was a kid and we traveled all around Europe without a visa and there weren't problems. We were free to travel throughout Europe. I think that Britain has made a grave mistake," said Mr. Mclean, who is an AP government and economics teacher. "We're scared of immigration. We're scared about terrorism and the threat to the British culture, but all of these threats that we have come up with, they're imaginary," said Mclean.

Brexit is a complicated issue and there is still lots of confusion about this topic. There are people that want to remain in the EU. There is a petition that asks the government to shutdown article 50, which is Brexit, that has gotten over six million signatures. In the first 24 hours of the petition, there were around 2,000 signatures being added every minute, and even made the website crash due to all of the signatures being generated, but there is an issue to this. It's so easy to sign this petition. You can just change your name, no need to use a different email address.

"People voted narrowly 51% leave Europe. Okay. Where's that leave the 49% of people who thought it was a terrible idea, "

said Mr. Mclean.

Brexit has been pushed back to Oct. 31st and Theresa May is trying her best to find a compromise between the EU, the members of parliament and the people but there hasn't been any luck to make them agree on a deal to leave the EU smoothly.

"So how feasible is it for Britain to be completely self-sufficient and not interact with the members of the EU members anymore," said Mrs. Eterno.

"The tea even comes from India as well. That's the real sad thing... And then it starts to affect things like the Premier League and football and things people are genuinely interested in, then they will see their true mistake," said Mr. Mclean.



from nationalpost.com

**UK Parliament rejects Theresa May's deal on the Brexit policy. May has been serving as the United Kingdom's Prime minister since 2016. She is the leader of the Conservative Party.**



Exploring Elsewhere

by Yesenia Quiroz

*In need for places to hang out with your friends, family or simply by yourself this season? The following locations vary in activities such as walking on a rail trail in Manhattan's West Side to decorating your very own choice of ceramics. All are situated less than an hour away from Queens Technical High School, varying in price.*



from timeout.com

**The Highline is a outdoor green space that runs for 1.45 miles along an old New York City Central Rail train track.**

**The Highline** is a public free park built on the historic rail trail that was last used in the year 1980. It is perfect for first dates or just to enjoy the scenery surrounding it. Throughout the 45 minute walk, you come across multiple types of flowers, and areas in which you can rest. There is a seating area that is angled towards the street, with a clear glass barrier at the bottom. Along with the view, there are also activities one can choose to take part in, such as painting on small square canvases.

*The Highline is located between Gansevoort Street and West 34th Street, hours are from 7am to 7pm.*

**The Museum of the Moving Image** is perfect place to go after school with your friends, varying in activities, challenging your form of perception, and understanding the creative process of movies and other forms of entertainment. It is 20 minutes at walking distance from Queens Technical High School. Prices range from \$9 to \$15 depending whether you’re a student and have a Student I.D. card.

*The Museum of the Moving Image is located at 36-01 35th Avenue, Hours vary, however the museum offers free admission Fridays from 4pm to 8pm.*

**Taiyaki** is ice cream dessert found at 119 Baxter St, that originated in Japan 1909. Taiyaki serves its ice cream in fish shaped ice cream cones, served with swirls of ice cream such as vanilla, matcha, chocolate. Along with your choice of toppings, which range from black sesame, matcha powder and other basic toppings.

*The place is a small shop in the middle of Chinatown, cones being from \$3 to \$8.*

**Color Be Mine** is a pottery painting studio full of many choices of ceramic. One can choose from the walls and shelves to paint anything from mugs to vases. It is also for everyone of all ages. Color Be Mine takes in walk-ins for a group as large as five. Price ranges from \$30 to \$70 depending on the size of the ceramic.

*Located at 123 Baxter St on the same block as Taiyaki ice cream shop. Hours are from 11am and closing varies on the day.*

***We are always looking for new places to travel to.***

***Where should we travel to next?***

“Age Ain’t Nothing But a Number”

by Jayleen Valenzuela

Robert Sylvester Kelly, known as “R. Kelly,” was charged with ten counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse on Feb. 22.

His charges span from the years 1998 to 2010. During this time, some of his victims were women were between the ages of thirteen to sixteen years old.

R. Kelly first sparked up in controversy when he married former “Try Again,” singer Aaliyah at the age of fourteen in 1994. They had a secret ceremony in Cook County, Chicago but Aaliyah had lied on the certificate saying she was eighteen and in February 1995 their marriage was annulled.

In 2008, he was charged with fourteen counts of child pornography but found not guilty on all counts.

More recently, some women have spoken up to what he has allegedly done to them in the past.

A lot of women have opened up more since the #MeToo movement sparked up. The #MeToo movement is a movement that was founded in 2006 to help survivors of sexual assault find pathways to healing.

“I felt special. I actually thought I was his girlfriend.” said Lisa VanAllen, one of the women who spoke out on “Surviving R. Kelly.”

R. Kelly’s brother, Carey Kelly, accused him of sexually abusing their fourteen year old cousin and also possibly

impregnating her. He said this caused a lot of “turmoil” in the family. He says he won’t go into details about the incident because it already has caused so much pain on the family.

“A lot of people didn’t believe it because of who he is, and that’s how he’s been able to sustain in this business as an artist and as a human being [without] being locked away,” Carey said. “It’s almost hard to believe that this icon, this superstar, would do things of that nature.”

R. Kelly’s music streams have actually gone up since the allegations started.

The day before “Surviving R. Kelly” aired, Jan. 2, his music was streamed 870,316 times.

After the sixth episode of the miniseries aired on Jan 6,2019 his streams had risen to nearly 1.73 million streams.

Artists that have collaborated with Kelly are having their songs removed off of music streaming platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, and Youtube.

Celine Dion, Chance The Rapper, Lady Gaga, and Jennifer Hudson have removed their songs with him from music streaming platforms.

Additionally, Lady Gaga and Chance The Rapper both came out with apologies for working on music with him.

Chance The Rapper said on Twitter, “Any of us who ever ignored the R. Kelly stories, or

ever believed he was being setup/ attacked by the system (as black men often are) were doing so at the detriment of black woman and girls. I apologize to all of his survivors for working with him and for taking this long to speak out.”

Lady Gaga said, “I intend to remove this song off of iTunes and other streaming platforms and will not be working with him again. I’m sorry, both for my poor judgment when I was young, and for not speaking out sooner.”

On Apr. 7, he made an appearance at a club in Illinois that fans had to pay a hundred dollar entrance fee for twenty-eight second performance and about a hour of taking pictures.

Before his performance he posted a video asking the media “to take it easy” on him stating “this is how I got to get paid, for right now.” The money that he is making from these appearances are what he is using to pay for child support, legal expenses, and his everyday living expenses.

A woman who accused R. Kelly of sexual abuse has won a civil case by default against him, after he failed to respond to her lawsuit and was a no show in court. She had accused him of having sex with her when she was 16, and filed a case the day before he was arrested. The lawsuit said Kelly first met her when she was 16 yrs old and initiated a sexual relationship for over a year.

Advice Column

By Jessy Huerta

*Everyone has issues in their everyday lives whether it involves family, friends, relationships, or even school. In this column, I can do my best to answer your questions and offer advice. I may not be a professional but I can sure do my best and give some advice.*

*I’m having trouble balancing my time in school and my time outside of school. Any tips?*

*I have a crush on someone. What can I do to go on a date with my crush?*

Yes it may be stressful to balance two things at one time, but focus on school first. Do all your assignments that are due the next day. It should take about an hour or an hour and a half to do your homework. If you have a lunch period, you can do some homework that you have already been assigned in the previous periods to minimize the amount of homework load you may have. This will give you more time for other things you may want to do to or other priorities you may have.

*I’m struggling to pass my class because of the tests. How can I pass my class?*

Start by letting that person know you like them with subtle hints. Smile at them in class if you have a class with them or in the hallways when you see them. If he or she stops to talk to you, try to redirect the conversation and talk about what you like to do for fun. Mention a movie you would like to see or maybe your favorite restaurant you may want to try and go to. If your crush takes the hint, they might ask you to go out on a date. If they don’t, then be more direct with them and ask them out. Don’t be afraid.

*What can I do to be successful in high school?*

Try studying before an upcoming test. Teachers almost always give reviews before a test. So if your teacher gives you a review sheet and you don’t understand something on that review sheet, ask your teacher for help. He/she is there to help you.

*My parents know I’m in a relationship but I feel like they don’t trust me that much and believe I can’t take care of myself. How can I make them trust me more?*

Parents always worry about you. They always want what’s best for you. It’s not that they don’t trust you, it’s that they don’t want to see you get hurt.

To be successful in high school you have to, first, attend all your classes and arrive to class early or on time. Skipping class won’t help you become successful in school. It will hold you back instead. Another thing you can do is to take notes while in class. Taking notes on what a teacher is saying will be beneficial for future reference. If you listen carefully to your teachers, you may hear key points or hints for an important test or quiz. Also, don’t be afraid to ask questions during class. Your teacher is always there to help and clarify anything you may not understand. There is also tutoring available at Queens Tech, so take advantage of it if you need help.

QT Word Search

by Yesenia Quiroz

*Find your teachers hidden throughout the word search.*

B	Y	S	Y	N	T	R	W	T	Q
A	A	D	O	L	A	Z	M	Q	N
D	V	H	M	K	Q	E	W	B	A
A	O	L	R	V	A	G	L	R	D
G	L	N	Y	E	B	K	A	C	Q
A	P	D	B	T	N	R	I	A	M
Z	E	Q	Q	U	R	B	Y	L	M
J	J	G	J	E	R	U	U	I	A
X	B	N	F	K	P	G	R	R	Y
N	W	M	Y	M	W	L	Q	B	G

Word Bank

Bahrenburg

Volpe

Yu

Burg

Mclean

Zagada

Ferrara

Ali

Alikakos





# Final Quarter For Seniors

by Joshua Hernandez



Erika Michaca

**Seniors Rios, Torres, Aleksiejuk, Tlapanco, Denis, Harris, and Hernandez will be graduating in June.**

On February 6, the final game of the season for the Queen’s Tech boys Varsity basketball team was played in their home gym.

This season the Tigers finished with a record of three wins and 13 losses. While improving from last year’s record the Tigers fell short of their goal to reach the playoffs. The team averaged a total of 51 points per game and the team’s leading scorer was sophomore Teyshaan Hall, who averaged a total of 19.6 points per game and 9.5 rebounds per game. The second leading scorer was Raymond Abreu Vidal who averaged 9.8 points per game.

Head Coach Maloney on his thoughts of this season

stated, “Even though we lost many games I believe under the conditions we were in, we played decent basketball. The odds were stacked against us as we played teams bigger and stronger than us. We almost needed to play perfect basketball, which is very unlikely.”

Christopher Rios, a senior who finished his last season stated, “The year was full of fun bonding experiences with my team. From practice to traveling to other schools we would always be laughing and making jokes. I wish I was able to spend another year with my teammates because I’m going to miss them after graduation. A way the team can

improve next year is by doing team building exercises that help build trust in each others abilities.”

“I want to thank the seniors for their dedication and commitment to the team and I wish them the best in their futures and I hope they keep playing basketball. I had fun this year I hope they did too,” said Coach Maloney.

As this season comes to a close the Tigers now look to the future with the next season of Tigers basketball starting up in about five months.

“I think the season didn’t go as we all envisioned, but throughout games I could tell we had the potential to do a lot better. Next season we’ll have a strong squad and win every game since we have people and the height to fill every position. We should definitely make the playoffs,” stated sophomore Teyshaan Hall.

“Next season we plan on relying on the returning players, and look to add on some talent from J.V. and others. Out of all the J.V. players I predict about four of their available players will make the team,” said Coach Maloney.

Some players in J.V. who made some noise and might try to play for Varsity are Cesar Moncion, who averaged a team high 14.8 points, Alex Plumaj, who averaged 10 points and a team high 11 rebounds per game, and Gagi Jean Rene, second leading scorer on the team with 12.2 points.

# “Give me a T”

by Erika Michaca

This is the first year ever that Queens Tech has an official cheer-leading team.

For Ms. Irizarry, a speech teacher in the school, this is her first year coaching the team, which consists of freshman all the way to seniors.

“The team has evolved from a cheer club that went to games and supported QT boys JV and Varsity basketball teams to learning chants, step, and dance routines to perform during half-times” Ms.Irizarry explained.

Ms. Irizarry says she is excited for this years team since this was their first year with actual uniforms and also explains that they will be taking part in this years talent show.

Irizarry feels the team was not only a group of students cheering and dancing together, but they became something more. They all

became a family that trusts and supports each other.

Daniela, a sophomore on the team says that the team is “stressful at times and we have our rough times with each other but it’s also really fun, you get to like make new friends”

Daniela also mentioned that hopefully next year she hopes to improve her skills such as flips and hopes to help in building a team that is a hundred percent focus on cheerleading and form a bond that won’t break over time.

Ms. Irizarry advises: “Anyone interested in joining next year must be aware that they are required to be at all basketball games, practices, selected school functions and, most importantly have a lot of school spirit!.....I look forward to having Cheerleading a part of Queens Tech culture for many years! “

# Coach Takes on Two Teams

by Joshua Hernandez

Baseball always follows up the end of the basketball season and in this particular case Queens Tech’s head coach for JV Basketball Ms.Karcher is also in the midst of coaching softball for Baccalaureate School For Global Education.

“My son goes to Baccalaureate and a couple of girls that I used to coach in little league, my friends kids, went to Baccalaureate, and I used to watch their games. I became friends with their coach, who then became my daughters pitching coach, and I spent a lot of time [with him] when she was taking lessons from him. Then when he retired he asked me personally to take over the team,” and that’s exactly what she did.

The last game played against Queens Tech and Baccalaureate was played at Big Bush Park and ending in a victory for Queens Tech, 11 to 6. Queens Tech and Baccalaureate being coached by two Queens Tech teachers, there is a rivalry that Ms. Karcher finds fun.

“I liked the intensity of the game, it felt like a playoff game but it was really only the middle

of the season. It was confusing because we obviously wanted to our team to win but we wanted Karcher teams to do good to because we want her to be able to have a successful season with her team as well,” stated Oscar Liriano, 2nd year player on Queens Tech Varsity baseball.

“The challenging part is coaching in a school that I don’t teach in,that’s challenging, because i’m not there to talk to the girls everyday, i’m not there to form relationships that way and so I don’t know their academic strengths and i also can’t talk to them about if i get a text for a free clinic or something. I’m not there to be able to give it to them,” said Ms.Karcher.

Coaching at two different schools has given Karcher the chance to meet more people and different personalities.

The season now over, Ms. Karcher looks toward the future of improving not only the J.V basketball team but also her Softball team for Baccalaureate, to bring out the talent shes sees in both teams, and hopefully bring championships to both schools.

# END OF YEAR SHOUT OUTS

Here at Queens Tech, we have students and faculty with wide varieties of talents and lives that sometimes go overlooked. We want to take a moment at the *The Technical Truth* to celebrate the accomplishments of the entire population of the building.

*New QT in the Family!*  
*Birth Announcement*



*Congratulations*  
*Mrs. DeCarlo*

*for the birth of*  
*John Peter Albert*  
*on*  
*March 07, 2019*

*7lbs 12ozs*  
*and 20.5 inches*

To 11th and 12 grade English Teachers: For allowing me to push-in throughout the school year in order to help students more directly.

To the College & Career Planning Team: For helping with all of this year’s events, college trips, and staying late! The help is SO appreciated.

To Mr. Vega & the Leadership students: Thank you isn’t enough for all the assistance you gave me with the events I had all year. I’m very grateful

To Diego: A giant shout-out for helping our College reps set-up in the cafeteria during the entire month of May. You’re always a huge help!

Ms. Karabelas

Shoutout to the Reader’s Realm Book Club graduating seniors: Michelle Rojas, Karen Solano, Cindy Lema, and Bianca Llivicota. I’m so proud of you all!

Mrs. Lewis

Ms. Karabelas on your wedding!  
5/26/2019

Mr. Vasquez

**Police Commander Award**  
*Police Athletic League*  
*Police Commisioner for a Day*  
*Essay Contest*

*108 Precinct*  
**Guillermina Cielo**  
*115 Precinct*  
**Kevin Hernandez**

Congratulations to the staff of the Technical Truth for 1st place in the ASPA Scholastic Press Award.  
Mr. Bahrenburg

To the Microsoft Excel class The following students have passed the industry certification thus far. Abigal Giron, Afrida Khan, Daniel Ramirez, Denise De Leon, Jessica Pinguil, Kayla Grant, Leslie Tenesca, Litzy Delgado, Marbeli Tellez-Florez, Michelle Hernandez, Angelica Diaz, Ashby Chabla, Dylan Orellana, Ingrid Ramirez, Michelle Pacio Grande, Nancy Montiel, Natalia Mejia, Rimakshi Roy, Stephanie Nepomuceno, Valentina Castrillon, Wendy Sanchez.

Mr. Mugan

Congratulations to our Graduates!  
From, the Guidance Crew

To Nicolas Mendez and the Girls Flag Football team with an 8-4 season and a playoff spot.

To Jamie Hoffman and Boys Varsity Baseball with an increase of 5 wins from the previous season.

To Lauren Poltawsky and the Girls Varsity Softball teamwith a 10-4 record and a playoff spot.

To every coach at QT who works hard to provide motivation and leadership to student athletes.  
Mr. Maloney