

Vocational Voice

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Queens Vocational and Technical High School, Long Island City, NY 11101

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Seniors serve students to raise money.

Seniors Spring into Action

by Anayancy Moreno

Senior year is coming to an end for the graduating class of 2003. After a successful trip to the Pinegrove Dude Ranch and the luncheon at Bruno's, seniors are preparing for their upcoming prom.

The senior trip, held February 7-9 at the Pinegrove Dude Ranch in upstate New York, was a huge success. Thirty-four of the school's seniors attended the three-day, two night trip. "The senior trip was special to me because at the trip a special bond grew between the senior's who attended the trip. We became closer and we had more fun because of that. There were a lot of activities that we could do. The trip was something unforgettable that happened senior year," said Massiel Estevez, senior class vice president.

The senior luncheon, which took place on Friday, March 21, was held at Bruno's on the Boulevard. One hundred and twenty two seniors attended the sold out luncheon. Mr. Vega, senior advisor, initially reserved

Bruno's for 85 people; he thought that many of the seniors would not come through, but was proven wrong when more seniors than he expected came through. The theme, "the 80s," was picked by majority vote of seniors. The cost for the luncheon was \$10 for seniors who had paid their dues in full and \$20 for those who did not.

At the luncheon, seniors got a chance to be with their friends and enjoy a buffet lunch, followed by hours of dancing. "I had more fun than expected. The senior luncheon was good and there were a lot of people, which made things more enjoyable," said Raymond Lanzer, EI student. There were also contests held such as best dressed, and salsa and merengue dance contests. Tinna Laruy and Maylin Mateo won the best-dressed contest. The merengue contest winners were Valentina Vargas and Jennifer Roman; Denise Rodriguez and Henry Hernandez took second place. The salsa contest was won by Jennifer Buitrago and Jessica Lopez, and Roddy Tolentino

and Maylin Mateo won second place.

The prom this year will be held in Brooklyn, at Giando on the Water, on Friday, May 30. "The location of the prom was changed from last year because last year's prom and luncheon were held at the same place and we didn't want that for the class of '03. We wanted our senior class to be different. Giando is a very nice elegant place with a beautiful view and we thought that senior class would like it. We also held a vote to decide where the prom would be held and Giando won," said Jessica Kenniff, senior class secretary.

The cost of the prom is \$75 per ticket, but because of the fundraisers that have been held, the cost for the first 100 tickets was lowered to \$65 per ticket, all tickets sold after that will cost the full \$75. Over \$1,000 has already been raised. "I am hoping that the price will go down to \$60 for the first 100 tickets after further fundraisers," said Mr. Vega.

On Thursday, March 27, the second food festival was held in the library. The food fest was such a success that Mr. Vega announced during 5th period that the food had sold out. The home-cooked food was prepared by students, although the highly popular meatballs were cooked and donated by EI teacher and dean, Mr. Maloney. The senior class raised hundreds of dollars as they provided students and faculty members with lunch plates for \$4 each.

The Sidewalk Sale, originally scheduled for the fall, will be held on May 3. The senior class is requesting donations from the staff and students. Items can be brought to Mr. Vega in room 217.

Seniors can also sell candy

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Regents Results: Good News, Bad News

by Lady Velastegui

This year's January Regents results showed some improvement among the student population.

For students to earn Regents credit, they must obtain a grade of 65 or higher. Some students can earn credit towards a local diploma by scoring at least 55 on a Regents. Receiving local diploma credit depends upon when a student first entered 9th grade. Some students who receive Instructional Support Services can also qualify to receive a local diploma.

Students who entered 9th grade for the first time in September 1999 qualify for local diploma credit with a grade of 55 or higher on any of the five Regents exams.

Students who entered in September 2000 qualify for local diploma credit with a grade of 55 or higher on the Math and Science Regents,

while a 65 or higher on the English, Global, and U.S. History Regents.

Students who entered 9th grade in September 2001 and beyond are not eligible to receive a local diploma. They must pass five specific Regents exams in order to earn a Regents diploma. These exams include the English, Global History, U.S. History, Math A, and any science Regents.

There are some exams that showed improvement over last year's January Regents results. This January, a greater percentage of students passed the English, Global History, and Living Environment exams. Students did worse on the U.S. History and Math A Regents. When it comes to RCTs, results for the Global History, Math, and Writing exams showed improvement, while the U.S. History, Science, Reading, and IO RCTs showed a declining percentage of students passing.

Regents Examination Results for January 2003

REGENTS	Number of students who took the exam	Percent of students who passed the exam with a 65 or higher	Percent of students who scored from 55-64 and qualified for Local Diploma Credit
English	229	57.2	3.1
Global History	114	22.8	5.3
U.S. History	35	25.7	37.1
Math A	285	14.4	4.7
Living Environment	67	28.4	9.0
Physics	1	0	0

RCTs	Number of students who took the exam	Percents of students who passed
Global History	27	33.3
U.S. History	14	42.9
Math	18	55.6
Science	24	16.7
Reading	28	57.1
Writing	34	67.6
Introduction to Occupations (IO)	223	65.0

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"Good enough is" the enemy of "it can be better"



Sparkle Girls dress for 80s.

School Leadership Team News

by Alexis Benitez

In March, the School Leadership Team (SLT) sponsored a Best Class Attendance Contest. The prize was a t-shirt for each student.

To reward Queens Voc's students who attained perfect attendance in December, the SLT purchased and distributed movie passes. Movie passes were available to all 70 students who had not been absent all month. Only 25 students picked up their free movie passes.

The fifteen-member SLT includes six students who were nominated by teachers and elected by students. There are two students from each of the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. In addition, two teachers, five parents, the UFT representative, and the school principal serve on the team. The SLT meets each month to discuss school-related issues. Ms. Suarez, AP of Instructional Support Services, chairs the team; Ms. Sweet-McNeil is the UFT representative; and Mr. Davidson and Mr. Maloney are the teachers elected to the team.

Meetings are closed to the public. Only members and invited guests are allowed to attend. The last meeting of the year is on May 15, is the only

meeting which is open to the public. The meetings are held in the library and are usually three hours long.

There is an all-you-can-eat buffet for members. According to Jessica Lopez, a senior, food is ordered because staff and students have to stay after school and parents come from work with an appetite. The cost of the food ranges from \$100 to \$120 per meeting. Unlike after-school clubs, the SLT's budget has money to pay for the food.

All SLT members are paid \$10 an hour for their participation, which comes out of the SLT budget. For the 2002-2003 school year, the budget is \$8,490. "They're not a club, they are different, it's a job," said Ms. Vittor. The Department of Education, Ms. Suarez pointed out, sets money aside for the stipends. The SLT uses leftover funds for the school, such as for the movie passes.

In 1998, the School Chancellor, Rudolph F. Crew, created an SLT in each New York City school. All schools in New York State are required to have school leadership teams.

According to the New York City Department of Education website, the role of the SLT is to develop school-based edu-

cational strategies and make sure that resources are available to put these strategies into action. They are responsible for evaluating the quality of the school's educational program and its effect on student success. They are to maintain the school community's focus on developing educational strategies that lead to constant progress.

The students on the team get a behind-the-scenes look at how a school is run. They also gain "first-hand experience about working on a group," said Ms. Suarez.

Diana Casallas, a senior who has been on the team for 3 years, said that at the meetings "everybody is the same" when it comes to making decisions because it is a consensus in the SLT. However, at the meetings, she said, "students don't always have enough to say. I think students should participate more." Nathalie Alonso, represents the junior class at Queens Voc. "I participate in discussions, I eat, and vote," she said. But the votes have been largely on committee positions such as chairperson. The SLT has voted also on days for events to be held, such as Career Day.

* * * * *

Black History Month Celebrated at Queens Voc Ms. Himmel Reminds QV of Rich Heritage of African Americans

by Tanvir Toy

Black History Month "is a chance to celebrate the achievements of African American Culture," said Ms. Himmel, who has coordinated the event for the past three years.

Every February for the past 3 years, Queens Voc has held Black History Month events. As part of the celebration, a weekly famous black history moment was announced over the public address (PA) system, followed by a question posed to the Queens Voc community.

Two of the moments Ms. Himmel included were the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and passage of the 13th Amendment. Clues for these

the PA system. Students were then asked to write their answer and place them in a box located in the main office.

"A year before the arrival of the celebrated Mayflower, two hundred forty-four years before the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, a ship sailed up the River James. No ships called at an American port with a more important cargo. In the hold of that ship was the whole spectacular panorama of black America: The Spirituals, Jazz, Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad; George Washington Carver planting and growing, Mahalia Jackson singing, Duke Ellington composing, Zora and Langston writing, Martin and Malcolm leading, and Michael slam-dunking! It was all there that day in August, when, as John Rolfe, the English colonist wrote in a letter, 'some twenty or so Negroes' stepped ashore, and the history of Africans in America began." The event was the landing of the first group of Africans at Jamestown, Virginia in 1619. Kirkland Harris, Tyhem Harris, DeShawn Jones, and Shannon McLean answered the clue correctly.

Kirkland Harris received a certificate and an eraser for his



Sylvio proud of heritage.

correct answer. For Kirkland, Black History Month is about "reflecting on things African Americans have done to make America a better place for all."

About 18 Queens Voc students and teachers participated in the event. Teachers included Ms. Hulak, Ms. Kubota, Mr. Maloney, Ms. Roberson, and Ms. Salih. Students included Caroline Best, Alvaro Morel, Casandra Toole, Michael Amato, Jessica Thomas, Dayquan Stevenson, and Sylvio Lamisere. The participants all received a token commemorating Black History Month and recognizing their participation. Winners were announced and given certificates by Ms. Himmel.



Seniors enjoy themselves at Bruno's on the Boulevard.

Seniors Spring into Action

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to reduce the cost of their tickets.

Although the cost of the prom tickets was reduced partly because of funds by the breakfast sales, the breakfast sale was cancelled because many of the seniors began their school day first period and were unable to stay in the lobby to sell breakfast for teachers and students.

Senior T-shirts, funded by

senior dues, were ordered in March and are expected to be in sometime in April. Seniors who want to order a senior jersey (basketball, baseball, or football) have the opportunity to do so this week as officers will go to the shop classes taking orders from students. The deadline for jersey orders is April 11 and there must be a minimum of 40 jersey orders. The cost of each jersey is \$20 and students can have their names or nicknames added.

Business Day Approaches

by Rezaur Rahman

Business Day at Queens Voc will be held on Wednesday, April 30, according to Mrs. Hunter, Business Day coordinator. The annual Business Day is held to celebrate the business department and its students' accomplishments," said Mrs. Hunter. Business Day "is a very important day for Queens Voc and the business department; it has a positive impact on the students who are in business classes," said Mrs. Hunter.

"Business Days are held to show that business is very important to the students and school," said Mr. Garrison, assistant principal of trade & tech/business. During the annual Business Day, the accomplishments and talents of the business students will be displayed. "The business classes create business cards, labels, and other business related materials," said Mrs. Hunter. These items are sold as a fundraising activity, along with flowers and cake. "The profit made from the fundraising is used to buy extra

materials for the business classes that the school doesn't supply them with," said Mrs. Hunter. The business classes have to buy banner and design paper, they also have to buy color ink cartridges.

Business Day is also an advertisement to the freshmen that are going to be choosing their majors soon.

For Business Day, the business students dress up in business attire. The men are encouraged to wear casual shirt and slacks, and the women, skirts and blouses.

The final decisions on what new activities will the annual Business Day have this year have not been provided. Business Day coordinator Mrs. Hunter has released no further information. When asked to provide updated information about the annual event, she replied, "I don't think so, I am too busy."

"I don't think we will have a business day this year, because the business teachers including the Business Day coordinator Mrs. Hunter have not given me enough information to have an annual Business Day," said Mr. Garrison.

Queen Voc's Calendar of Events

Date	Event
April 27	March of Dimes
April 30	Business Day
May 3	Senior Yard Sale
May 6	Honor Roll Trip
May 9	Career Day
May 15	Honor Society Ceremony
May 15-16	TOPPP Trip - Teen Retreat
May 30	Prom at Giando on the Water
June 3	Sports Awards Dinner

Black History Month is about "reflecting on things African Americans have done to make America a better place for all."

Moments in African American History were announced over

Case Closed!

by Natalie Parada

The Queens Voc mock trial team was among the top 48 schools that successfully competed in the third round of the mock trial competition on Tuesday, March 11. "We won on the facts of the case but lost on the performance," said Mr. Davidson, coach of the Queens Voc mock trial team. "I think we should have won because we did very well," said Alex Katechis, a member of the team. The mock trial tournament is sponsored by the New York State Bar Association.

The mock trial case involved a fight between two students during a fire drill in a school. Students and staff evacuated the building. One of the students, C.C. Rider, the defendant, went outside the school and overheard the principal say that one teacher was missing. C.C. went back into the school to save her beloved teacher. As she was going up the stairs, she bumped into a group of students going down the same stairs. She apologized but the students started making trouble. One of the students grabbed C.C. Rider's arm. C.C. lashed out and struck another student. The student's glasses broke and he suffered an injury to his nose. C.C. Rider was accused of assault in the third degree.

The problem of the mock trial case was how does one convict somebody of a crime when the complainant is unable to testify? The victim did not testify at the trial because he had an accident in London and was hospitalized. According to the Fifth Amendment, there must be a speedy and public trial.

The mock trial team had its second round, prosecuting the case on Monday, March 3. The team members role-played the vice principal, the friend of complainant, and the school nurse. The team lost the second round.

The team won the first round by defeating Yeshiva High School for Girls at Queens Supreme Court on Tuesday, February 25. "We won on the facts of the case and the performance," Mr. Davidson said. Junior Umbreen Hanif, a team member, was also pleased

after winning the first round. "It was great winning. We did a good job and it was our first time," Umbreen said.

"I was very proud of the team," Mr. Davidson said, after the first round win. "We had a number of our objections sustained by the judge. The team's questions were very good and the witnesses knew their part." The judge thought the Queens Voc mock trial team gave a better performance than the other team. Mr. Davidson said the team's attorney advisor, Brian Michaels, was very impressed with the students on the Queens Voc mock trial team.

During the first round, the Queens Voc mock trial team was on the defense side, which consisted of three characters: the defendant, her best friend, and the security guard. The remaining members of the team role-played lawyers and witnesses.

Stephen Bacchus, a member of the team, shared his experience as a lawyer in the competition. "I got to make my objections and convince a judge to rule in my favor. It feels good to know you can be persuasive," Stephen said.

There were seven rounds in the citywide competition. "The city champs will get an all expense paid trip to Albany to compete in the finals," Mr. Davidson said.

There will be a celebration at Queens Voc to honor the success of the team, and Ms. Vittor will present the students with awards in late April. Also, the team will attend the student award ceremony at United States Courthouse in late May.

Through their participation, members of the team gain knowledge about how the legal system works. "I have learned a great deal by being on the mock trial team. I've learned about group work and about the way a trial is carried out," said Nathalie Alonso.

The members of the Queens Voc mock trial team are all juniors in Mr. Davidson's U.S. History and Government class. The members are Nathalie Alonso, Stephen Bacchus, Elvia Collado, Arpita Chowdhury, Ravi Gupta, Umbreen Hanif, Alex Katechis, Maritza Mora, Marlon Oliva, and Adeline Romero.



FBLA reaches for the statewide competition.

Future Business Leaders Ready to Compete

by Jennifer Ng

After much practice and preparation, Mrs. Sweet-McNeil's new FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) team is ready to compete in the FBLA state-wide conference. The competition will take place during April 9 and 10 at Rochester, New York.

This year's FBLA team is a brand new group. Mrs. Sweet-McNeil's sabbatical last year caused FBLA to be inactive for a year as no replacement was made during her time of absence. "I'm particularly proud because they jumped in not knowing what they were up against," said Mrs. Sweet-McNeil.

FBLA's most recent trip was to Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn for a Spring Leadership Conference on February 7. "It was a great experience competing with students from other schools," said Tania Hernandez. At the conference, students competed in various business areas such as job interviewing, impromptu speaking, public speaking, economics, and introduction to occupations. "Each of us was assigned an exam on a course of business we took," said Tarzunai Mou.

"I felt proud that these children came out in the worst possible weather and demonstrated their excellence in their various business areas," said Mrs. Sweet-McNeil. The team brought home 8 trophies. Annuliana Bedoya took first place in Word, Roslyn Gomez took fifth place in Basic Decision Making. Joseph Gonzalez took second place in Economics, Zinnia Gonzalez took fifth place in Business English and Communication, Tania Hernandez took fifth place in Introduction to Occupations, Tarzunai Mou took first place in Accounting, Catalina Ramon took second place in Business Calculations, and Adeline Romero took second place in BA/BCA.

Winning trophies and competing with other schools

are some of the many benefits of being in FBLA. Students who join FBLA receive its national publication, scholarship opportunities, career exploration, networking opportunities, professional development, and the opportunity to participate in community service projects and leadership conferences. Students who are interested should see Mrs. Sweet-McNeil. "I joined FBLA because it is a positive club and I learn business skills," said Quatisha Norris.

"FBLA's goal is to develop competent business leaders. The members need an understanding of and interest in the global enterprise, while not forgetting about the community. They also need to develop character and prepare themselves be productive citizens," said Mrs. Sweet-McNeil, "citizens who can contribute to our society and not be a burden to it."

In April, FBLA members will create story books for small children about how to become good leaders, participate in the March of Dimes Walkathon on April 27, and in May there will be a partnership-sponsored luncheon at Red Lobster as a reward for the students.

Queens Voc's FBLA has 15 members: Annuliana Bedoya, Roslyn Gomez, Cindy Gonzalez, Joseph Gonzalez, Zinnia Gonzalez, Diana Hernandez, Tania Hernandez, Angelica Lopez, Tarzunai Mou, Quatisha Norris, Catalina Ramon, Adeline Romero, Aura Sarria, Casandra Toole, Jessenia Vasquez, and Joseph Vival.

According to Mrs. Sweet-McNeil, the FBLA chapter faces a problem in obtaining uniforms to wear to compete at the state level in April. FBLA is planning a fundraiser in April to help cover expenses, which include "refreshments, transportation, lunch, trip, uniforms, and donations to community service projects," Mrs. Sweet-McNeil said.



VICA Chapter Participates in State Competition

by Alex Chico

Queens Voc is back into the New York State VICA conference, after being absent last year. To make up for their absence, Queens Voc's VICA team members are striving to win all the competitions in which they are participating. "This year, we started preparing early and took care of money, reservations, and assigned our members to the competitions they will compete in," said VICA member, Rezaur Rahman.

The VICA competition is taking place in Syracuse, New York, Wednesday, April 2 through Friday, April 4. The Queens Voc VICA members are staying in the Ramada Inn, close to where the competition is taking place.

Ten Queens Voc students are participating in the competition: Raymond Lanzer, Miguel Velez, Veronica Mulligan, Rezaur Rahman, Mohammed Salahuddin, Cassandra Falcon, Andy Perlaza, Suen Suen Wong, and Rifat Islam.

They are participating in the following events: electrical, plumbing, computer maintenance, computer applications, job interview, technical math, job demonstration, and prepared speech. VICA member Vincent Calderon will take pictures and report on the competition.

"Competitions in which we have prior experience, such as electrical and plumbing, I expect that we'll do really well in," said VICA coach, Mr. Cintron. "As for the computer-related competitions, this will be our first time entering them."

But regardless of past experience, all Queens Voc students have worked hard to prepare. "I have been practicing intensely on the computers the last couple of weeks before the competition," said Rezaur Rahman. Suen Suen Wong is ready too. "I will be putting my abilities to the test," she said.

To help fund the trip, students held a bake sale on Tuesday, March 4. They raised about \$159, which does not cover the amount of money needed for the trip completely, but combined with the other fund raising they have done, it has decreased the amount needed to pay for registration from \$70 to \$40 per student.

Winners of the New York State competition will attend the National VICA finals, which takes place in June, where the winners of the Queens Voc VICA team might represent the school nationwide.



Mock trial team smiles at the competition.

Honor Roll Names Announced

100 Students Achieve High Honor

by Arturo Cazares

One hundred Queens Voc students have attained Honor Roll status for the fall semester.

To achieve Honor Roll status, students must earn an overall 85 average, with a minimum grade of 65 for all classes. For their hard work, Queens Voc Honor Roll students are rewarded.

The Honor Roll trip is one of the rewards Honor Roll students have. It gives students a chance to forget about school and have fun with friends on the trip. Mixelins Arroyo, a senior at Queens Voc, likes the trip "because it's a day off from school, and a chance to have fun with some of my friends." Mixelins had been on the Honor Roll since she came to Queens Voc as a freshman. "All my hard work is paying off," she said.

Many of these students are proud of themselves. "I was happy when I got my report card and found out I was on the Honor Roll," Cassandra Falcon said, a senior at Queens Voc. Cassandra believes that being on the Honor Roll is prestigious because not many students make it. Umbreen Hanif, a junior, thinks that the Honor Roll is a good achievement. "It wasn't hard for me, I did my work and teachers felt I deserved a high grade," she said.

Not all students claim they work hard to achieve Honor Roll. For Kan Kan Fang, being on the Honor Roll is easy. "Achieving Honor Roll status was not hard at all because high school is not a challenge, I'll just sit in class and get an 85 average or more," he said.

Students who achieve Honor Roll for the fall semester are inducted into the Honor Society. Only students who maintain an 85 or more average throughout their high school career are eligible to be inducted into the Honor Society. Ms. Abrams and Ms. Hulak are the co-founders of the Honor Society at Queens Voc. The induction ceremony is held at night in the auditorium. The school provides food, heroes and salads, and a ceremony is held to allow students to perform, act, write, and talk about the keys to success. "Of course, we also wanted to make it enjoyable for the parents," said Ms. Hulak.

According to Ms. Abrams, the ceremony traditionally includes the Pledge of Allegiance, the national anthem, and a congratulations speech by the principal. "During the ceremony, students recite the Ephebic Oath, and the Honor Society pledge," said

Ms. Abrams. Ms. Abrams and the inductees are presented with a special pin to symbolize induction into the Honor Society.

There are two levels of Honor Roll categories: Honor Roll Excellence, for students whose averages are 90 and up, and Honor Roll Achievement, for students whose averages are between 85 and 90.

All Honor Roll students receive a letter from the president, congratulating them for their achievements.

The following students have achieved Honor Roll status:

Rasel Ahmed
Syeda Ali (204)
Nathalie Alonso
Rawle Anoop
Mixelins Arroyo
Stephen Bacchus
Mishell Baquero
Andrew Bator
Rajendra Bharath
Asim Bhatti
Cesarina Calderon
Angela Calisti
Diana P Casallas
Alex D Chico
Elvia Collado
Jacqueline Corona
Ingrid Cotrina
Shakima Davis
Melissa De Jesus
Gian Carlo Del Rosario
Andres Diaz
Dianely Disla
Naoual Elidrissi
Melissa Encarnacion
Cassandra Falcon
Maria Faler
Kan Kan Fang
James Fernandez
Anabella Fortuny
Bruno Gallego
Andres Gallo
Rosa Garcia
Ivan Gomez
Yolanda Griffith
Ravi Gupta
Umbreen Hanif
Sydney Harris
Christopher Hernandez
Henry Hernandez (402)
Viktor Hristov
Xiao Dan Hu
Miao Miao Huang
Hui Jin
Precious Johnson
Stephanie Jorge
Alexandros Katechis
Amritjoty Kaur
Navjot Kaur
Rattan Kaur
Jessica Kenniff
Salman Khan
Adiyasa Kurniadi
Ryan Lai
Eliseo Larancuent
Ting Lin
Angelica Lopez
Jaime Lopez (301)
Peter J Lopez
Mamuel Luna
Majdi Mansour
Matthew Markiewicz
Richard Maslankowski
Sumon Miah
Segundo Minchala

Javier Miranda
Maritza Mora
Vanessa Morales
Juan Moscoso
Jennifer Moy
Jennifer Ng
Lillian Nieves
Carlos Ojeda
Marlon Oliva
Kendra Pajevic
Ci Jing Pan
Vivek Panneer
Natalie Parada
Johnathan A Pena
Yessenia Pena
Alexis Ramirez
Catalina Ramon
Arisleida Rodriguez
Jacqueline Rodriguez
Victor Rodriguez
Henry Romero
Ariana Rosas
Sheila Ruiz
Mohammed Salahuddin
Vivian Sanchez
Harpreet Singh
Leonel Taveras
Tanvir Toy
Daisy Valdez
Ronny Vega
Lady C Velastegui
Jainer Villafane
Suen Suen Wong
Botao Yu
Tahjib Zaman
Miao Ling Zhao

Ms. Mohan is Outstanding

by Alex Chico

Ms. Mohan, a science teacher at Queens Voc, was recently honored as one of five outstanding teachers in New York City. Ms. Mohan was cited in the February issue of *Education Update*.

"She is an excellent teacher who is devoted to her work," said Mr. Gorman, assistant principal of the Math, Science, and Physical Education Department. "She adds a tremendous amount of knowledge to make chemistry exciting," he added.

"I felt honored that I was recognized as an outstanding teacher," said Ms. Mohan, who teaches Chemistry, and has taught Living Environment.

Students enjoy being in her class. Ms. Mohan receives compliments from students who appreciate what she has taught them. "Ms. Mohan helped me gain a clear understanding of chemistry," said senior Richard Dos Santos. "She makes sure her students understand what she is teaching, before she moves on to another topic," Richard said.

"I try to help my students and new teachers, so they can perform at their fullest," said the outstanding New York City teacher from Queens Voc.



Students are enlightened by philosophical contest.

Hulak's Houseplans Hoppin'

by Diana Casallas

Talent shows, planting flowers, charity drives, memorial services, jeopardy games and Read 2003 are some of the activities organized by Ms. Hulak through Houseplans.

Ms. Hulak enjoys "creating new activities for students to enjoy themselves," and on Friday March 7, Ms. Hulak held Presidential Jeopardy during period six. The winners were Angel Vasquez, Gabriel Ramos, Brian Freely, Noel Persaud, and Ralph Wilson. Mr. Schimenz's period six Global class also attended along with Ms. Vittor. The runners-up were Daryl Villavicencio, Precious Johnson, Stacy Sempepos, Petra Rodriguez, and Stephanie Jorge. Both teams received trophies for their efforts. There were also some members of the audience who participated. They received patriotic pens as prizes. According to Ms. Hulak, Presidential Jeopardy "gives students an opportunity to work in groups, experience cooperative thinking and learn more about American history and our presidents."

From March 4, through March 7, Houseplans participated in the Good Will Writing Campaign. "The Good Will Writing Campaign is for soldiers overseas," said Ms. Hulak, especially for "Steven Tychnowitz, who attended our school," and for his brother Paul who is also a soldier. Ms. Hulak also got some gifts for them, "thanks to the GCU (Greek Catholic Union)," she said. Ms. Hulak sent 22 letters and gifts for the soldiers on March 17.

A Philosophy Slam, held on Wednesday, March 19, during period four and on Thursday, March 20, during period five was another Houseplans activity. Ms. Hulak created a list of different topics "students felt comfortable with, and they talked about the topic in front of the class." Mr. Burke's 4th and 5th period classes attended the Philosophy Slam. Some of the topics were school safety, friendship, peer pressure,

parents, bullies, President Bush, and the War on Iraq.

Philosophy Slam winners were announced Friday, March 28, during morning announcements. The winners were Edward Duran, Jackie Hagans, Sophia Mian, and David Ramirez.

Brian Freely, who is part of many Houseplans activities, says he enjoys participating in Jeopardy and in the talent shows held by Houseplans. Brian also mentioned that Houseplans benefits the students because "students get to see how it is to do charity work and also learn in a fun way."

But not all students know about Houseplans. Kristen Reyes believes "more people should know about it through announcements and flyers." According to Ms. Vittor, more students would get involved if Houseplans, "could be promoted differently, advertised more with flyers around the school, and be a club with specific times and days."

When Houseplans was established in Queens Voc, about 10 years ago, it was funded by the Board of Education. Today it is "for the students and by the students," said Ms. Vittor, since the SO (Student Organization) now funds the program. Funds are needed for trophies, books, planners, folders, and certificates which Ms. Hulak uses to reward students' efforts. According to Mr. Vega "they don't ask for much." A little more than a hundred dollars is spent on the program each year.



Hulak among the greats!

Senior Trip: Just the Way it Should be, Unforgettable Trip to Pinegrove Dude Ranch was fun-packed and exciting

by Alexis Peña

With only a few months left to the end of their high school career, thirty four Queens Voc seniors anxiously boarded a bus that would take them to a place destined to leave memories for life.



Sharon goes for a tumble!

On February 7, the seniors and their three chaperones left Queens Voc on their way to Pinegrove Dude Ranch, in Kerhonkson, New York, for their one and only Senior Trip.

The seniors watched "The Bourne Identity" as the bus headed upstate. The seniors arrived at Pinegrove, at 2:30pm, and were immediately handed their room assignments and a schedule of all the activities that were going to take place that weekend. Males and females slept in different rooms, 4 or 5 to a room. The activities list included: paintball, skiing, snow-tubing, horseback riding, karaoke, indoor basketball, indoor pool, archery, game room (arcades), and ping pong. There was also a night club at the dude ranch.

The seniors who went on the trip were scheduled to learn about animal husbandry (the way animals are raised and bred) after they were assigned their rooms, but they only made it in time to listen to the last 15 minutes of the session. After the animal husbandry seminar, Mr. Vega and Mr. Garofano went with most of the boys to play basketball at the indoor basketball court, where Mr. Garofano sprained his knee. All of the girls and the rest of the boys went to the indoor pool. Later in the day, some of the seniors went to eat at the all-you-can-eat snack bar. The snack bar served hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, fries, hot chocolate, ice cream, and juice. Others went to play billiards, air hockey, and ping pong, and others just hung out in their rooms for a while.

Dinner was at 7pm. After dinner, the seniors went to the night club. A hypnotist performed on stage. Tania Correa, Alexis Benitez, Christopher Hernandez, Suen Suen Wong, and Andy Peralaza from Queens Voc participated

in his act. "My most memorable moment was when Tania was hypnotized," said Vincent Calderon. "She didn't have any control over her body. It was hilarious." After the hypnotist finished, the DJ played music and the dancing began. "My favorite part of the trip was the night club parties. It was fun and we got a chance to talk to people from other schools," said Vincent. A 1:30am curfew for Queens Voc students was in force as the chaperones, Mr. Vega, Mr. Garofano, and Ms. Lo Bosco, took attendance.

On Saturday morning after breakfast, the Queens Voc seniors split up to participate in activities such as snow-tubing, skiing, horseback riding, while others just hung around.

Challenge, 3 Point-Shootout, Slam Dunk Contest), and some played air hockey and billiards.

The Night Club opened at 9pm, and many seniors went again, but didn't stay long.

A few seniors begged Mr. Vega for an extension of the curfew, so they could hang out until 3am. That's when the pillow fight began! Alexis Peña came up with the idea to run in and out of everyone's room and start a pillow fight. "My most memorable moment from the trip was the pillow fight incident because they caught me by surprise and I never expected that to happen," said Yoskaira Peña.

On Sunday the seniors had to pack their bags before they did anything else. Since there was a lot of time left to

together."

Rosy Abreu, one of the seniors who did not go on the trip, had thought that \$230 was too expensive for a 3-day trip. "I regret not going because when all my friends came back, they told me how much fun it was and that I missed out on a lot. I felt bad," Rosy added.



Guys ready to ski downhill.

Mr. Vega had no complaints about this year's trip. "What I enjoyed most on this year's trip was that I was able to participate in more activities than on last year's trip because we all did activities together in big groups," said Mr. Vega. "On next year's trip," Mr. Vega said, "I would really like to go more in depth with the animal husbandry, and hopefully we could stay longer next year."

The following seniors went on the trip: Tania Correa, Jessica Kenniff, Massiel Estevez, Cassandra Falcon, Valeria Felix, Jessica Lopez, Anyancy Moreno, Jennifer Ng, Natalie Parada, Yoskaira Peña, Sharon Reyes, Jennifer Rodriguez, Roddy Tolentino, Giselle Urena, Lady Velastegui, Jelixa Villa, Suen Suen Wong, Alexis Benitez, Vincent Calderon, Isaac Collado, Richard DosSantos, Christopher Hernandez, Henry Hernandez, Hui Jin, Briant Osorio, Alexis Peña, Andy Peralaza, Evan Prestano, David Robles, Mohammed Salahuddin, Karol Szekszala, Tanvir Toy, John Uruchima, and Miguel Velez. The seniors were chaperoned by Mr. Vega, Ms. Lo Bosco, and Mr. Garofano.

"I'll never forget this trip, that's the way the Senior Trip should be, unforgettable," concluded David Robles.



Queens Voc soldiers ready for war!

At 2pm, many of the seniors met in the Bull Room to learn the rules and regulations of paintball and how to operate the equipment. "My most memorable moment," said Isaac Collado, "was when we went paintballing, because I have never done that before and it turned out to be really fun."

At dinner on Saturday night, the seniors sang "Happy Birthday" to Giselle Urena as a birthday cake was brought out. "I didn't expect them to do something like this for me. I really appreciated it. They made my 18th birthday an unforgettable one," said a very happy Giselle Urena. After dinner, some of the seniors went back to the rooms to watch the NBA All-Star Weekend Contests (Point Guard

participate in activities, everyone took advantage of that time. Richard Dos Santos went skiing after breakfast. "I enjoyed it the first day and I got the hang of it. It was a lot of fun. I was addicted to it," Richard said. Everyone had to take everything out of their rooms by 2pm and meet up at the main entrance. Before boarding the bus, everyone took a group picture. The seniors and their chaperones left Pinegrove at 2:30pm. On the way home they listened to music, including Polish hip-hop supplied by Karol Szekszala. The bus arrived at Queens Voc at 4:30pm.

Jessica Lopez, senior class president said, "I enjoyed the whole trip because it gave the seniors time to grow closer



2003 Senior Trip comes to an end.



Counseling Teachers.

SPARK

Student problems not alien to counselor

by Jennifer Ng

SPARK (Substance Prevention And Recovery through Knowledge) is a program "where students can go to talk about problems and have someone help them out," said Ms. Dayna Kurnitz, the new SPARK counselor.

Before coming to Queens Voc, Ms. Kurnitz was a SPARK counselor at Brooklyn High School of the Arts for one year. She spent ten years in social services and received three years of service training, which included difference aspects of counseling, group work, and dealing with different populations. Ms. Kurnitz receives SPARK training several times a year and has a BA (Bachelor of Arts) in psychology.

SPARK used to focus on substance abuse but is now open to help students with any type of problems they may have. Basic problems some students face are boyfriend/girlfriend relationships, sex, sexuality, drugs, and suicide. Problems might also involve parents, school, and teachers.

Ms. Kurnitz can offer students individual counseling, group counseling, referrals to outside agencies, or talk with teachers, counselors, and parents. "I think it's a nice program and you could talk about anything. She helped me a lot with stuff that I wouldn't tell my mom," said Jacqueline Hagans, a tenth grader.

"A lot of kids have come here with major problems and left feeling better. Not only have they resolved their problems but they left having to solve other problems," said Ms. Kurnitz.

Students who need help should see Ms. Kurnitz or Ms. Smithwick, who sometimes assists with the counseling in room 214. There will be someone to listen to the person's problems, keep it confidential, show respect, and offer a solution to the problem.

"I think people with problems should come to SPARK so they can learn how to be open and learn to solve their problems," said Yuncydys Rondon, a ninth grader.

Check out
**Career
Day**
on
**Friday
May 9**

Business Curriculum Revamped

Department revising curriculum to meet new standards

by Asim Bhatti

Business students in Queens Voc will have to get used to changes being made to their business classes. These changes will be necessary in order for students to get Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Certification. The MOS Certification program has been enacted this term on a limited basis, and will be in full effect in the fall 2003 term.

cover the cost of the tests, or we may enact a cost-sharing program."

There has been a delay in the enactment of the MOS Certification program in Queens Voc because the business teachers are receiving training for MOS Certification. Some attend Newton High School on Saturdays and some train at home. "The business teachers are also just beginning to learn some of the things they



Mrs. Hunter instructs student for MOS Certification.

The business curriculum will not change drastically because many of the requirements needed for MOS certification are already being taught in business classes. Some changes will be in name only, for example Keyboarding will become Word 2000. "The two major programs that business students will need to know for MOS certification are Microsoft Word 2000 and Excel 2000," said Ms. Lambert, a new business teacher at Queens Voc. Ms. Lambert has been teaching business-related classes for 28 years and recently worked in the Queens superintendent's office.

Queens Voc Students will only be required to take tests in the Core Certification, which includes five different tests, on five different Microsoft programs. Current seniors will only have to take one test in Core Certification. They will have a choice of which Core Certification test they want to take, Microsoft Word 2000, Excel 2000, PowerPoint 2000, Access 2000, or Outlook 2000.

Ms. Vittor said that juniors would be required to take two Core Certification tests, by the end of their senior year, sophomores will take three exams, and current freshman will have to take four Core exams. She also added, "even though some students may take four exams, only two will be required for graduation."

The tests that will be taken by business students will cost students \$38 each. When asked how the cost will be covered, Ms. Vittor replied, "We are trying to purchase vouchers to

need to teach for the MOS certification, so it will take a while before the program is running," said Ms. Lambert. Ms. Vittor pointed out that teachers have to be MOS certified in order to teach the program.

The new MOS Certification was bought to Queens Voc to keep up with the changes in technology. "Anyone who works with technology knows that it is ongoing, it changes, and people need to learn new programs and skills to keep up with the times, and to keep a job," said Ms. Lambert.



New Dells for Business.

New PCs

for Business

by Yoshira Pena

Thirty five new computers have recently been installed in room 411. "The business room needed new computers because the old ones worked too slowly, they had too many problems," said Mixelines Arroyo, a senior in majoring business. But to get the new computers according to Mr. Garrison, assistant principal of the Business Education, Trade, and Technology Department, "we complained until the people in the superintendent's office heard us."

According to Mr. Garrison, the computers in room 411 were removed and placed in room 407, and the computers in room 407 were put in the basement so that John Adams High School could come pick them up for their use.

"Originally, the computers in room 411 were supposed to be for the freshmen in room 407, but we teachers have noticed that the freshmen tend to destroy computers, so the new PCs seem to be better in the senior room because they will be using them for their certification exam," said Mrs. Hunter.

Shakespeare Festival Wowed by QV Darryl Sorrentino Wins Queens Title

by Martin Galeano

In a room painted in dark red with velvet seats, four judges determined who would be the Queens Borough Shakespeare Competition winner. At the twenty-first annual Shakespeare competition on February 25, the judges crowned sophomore Darryl Sorrentino this year's winner. But the ride had just begun.

Of the 22 schools that participated in the Queens finals, 19 schools were eliminated and 3 were chosen to move on to the citywide level. The Citywide finals hosted 13 schools including Norte Dame Academy, Riverdale Country School, St. Ann's School, Long Island City High School and a few other schools had a chance to showcase their ability at the competition. The opposition

was excellent for the most part, but Darryl performed with such finesse and professionalism that those who followed had a rough time capturing the spot light.

The city finals were held on Friday, March 7, a day that began badly as Ms. Himmel, Darryl's Shakespeare Competition coach, had an accident that left her limping and in pain. But Ms. Himmel pulled through for Darryl who needed his mentor by his side for the big performance. Darryl did not let Ms. Himmel or the school down. As long as I gave it my all on that stage I'm happy," said Darryl, who would like to be an actor some day.

Darryl did not win the City title but he showed all of New York City what students at Queens Voc are capable of doing when they apply themselves.

SO News

by Anayancy Moreno

The Student Organization (SO) has been trying to change the location of the Honor Roll trip, plan a talent show, and participate in the March of Dimes.

Plans to change the location of the Honor Roll trip, which for the past few years has been a cruise around Manhattan, have succeeded. This year's Honor Roll trip will be held on Tuesday, May 6, at Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum followed by lunch at the ESPN Zone. Students who have achieved an 85 or higher average for the fall term are eligible to attend the trip.

The SO is trying to produce a talent show for the spring term. Auditions will take place in April. The show is tentatively scheduled for May, according to Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities.

SO will once again participate in the March of Dimes Walkathon, which will be held on Sunday, April 27. Students who want to participate can sign up during the next two weeks.

Spirit Week will be held on May 19 to May 23. The themes have not yet been set, but the officers distributed and collected the surveys during lunch periods during the last week of March. Students could choose 5 themes from a list of thirteen choices. The themes with the highest votes will be used for Spirit Week. The

ballot choices consisted of the following: heritage/flag day, celebrity day, inside-out day, Hawaiian luau day, stuffed animal day, wig day, funky shoes day, red, white and blue day, wild wild west day, fabulous fifties day, Disney/Warner Brothers day, school pride day, and colored shirt day in which each grade has an assigned color.

Mr. Bhatti

Goes to Albany

by Alexis Benitez

From Sunday, April 6 through Wednesday, April 9, Asim Bhatti, a junior at Queens Voc, will be in Albany for the Students Inside Albany Conference.

Asim earned the trip by writing a comprehensive essay in Mr. Davison's U.S. History & Government class.

Asim wrote an essay about how to increase participation of citizens in government. On the three day trip, Asim will attend meetings of the New York State legislature and he will participate in activities with 34 high school students from around New York State.

"I feel it'll be a good experience for me because I will be able to see how the state government works," said Asim.

Asim is very involved in school activities. He is a member of the debate team, participated in the Constitution Contest, is an editor of the school newspaper, *Vocational Voice*, and is a member of the varsity baseball team.

Students Travel to Albany to Lobby

Queens Voc students represent Queens schools at summit for fairness in education funding

by Asim Bhatti

funding.

Tuesday, March 4, would begin early for some students in Mr. Davidson's honors United States History class. These students had to come to school at 6:45am. At 7am, they boarded a bus to Albany, where they represented Queens at a conference for the Alliance for Quality Education (AQE).

The AQE is lobbying for equitable funding for New York City school children. And now, with the weakened economy and shrinking revenues, the state is reducing education aid. The AQE believes that the budget cuts proposed by governor Pataki take too much money away from schools.

The students began their day in Albany with a briefing from leaders of the AQE. They met with students from around the state, and learned about the AQE and its mission. Afterward, the New York City students went to a convention center to make presentations on why their schools need more

Seven Queens Voc students made impassioned speeches about the need for more funding for Queens Voc. Stephen Bacchus, Asim Bhatti, Ravi Gupta, Umbreen Hanif, Alex Katechis, Tiffany Negron, Marion Oliva, Talha Pasha, and Adeline Romero spoke about the need for construction of an annex, and how more qualified teachers and better equipment are needed in Queens Voc.

After the presentations, students heard from state legislators who were present at the conference. Later, the Queens Voc students convinced some state senators to sign a contract in which the senator went on record opposing educational budget cuts, and promising to work to stop any cuts.

Students from Queens Voc got ready to go back home, and a long bus ride awaited them. The students returned to the school at 8pm, feeling confident that their trip had been a success.

Our Readers Speak Out

by Diana Casallas

After the third edition of our school newspaper, *Vocational Voice*, we received many letters from fellow students. Most letters were from Mr. Burke's and Ms. Hulak's classes. The letters included comments, compliments, suggestions, and opinions.

Many students enjoyed the article "Students Trash Queens

"The students complain that the school is very messy, but they are part of the problem."

Voc," by Jennifer Rodriguez as well as Asim Bhatti's commentary "Quit Trashing QV." They agree that the students are the cause of all the garbage in the Cafeteria. "The students complain that the school is very messy, but they are part of the problem," wrote Rajendra Bharath. Bruno Gallego wrote that like Jennifer and Asim, he too has seen students "throwing their lunch trays on the floor instead of putting them in the garbage can," he has also seen "the lunch aides pick up the lunch trays." Vanessa Morales wrote that the students spend much of their time in Queens Voc, which "is like a second home... so it should be [kept] clean and not filthy." Denise Rosa chided the offending students. "I bet they don't trash so much in their homes," she wrote. Samira Lesure was shocked that students left the Cafeteria full of garbage. She wrote that she knows "for a fact that they [students] wouldn't leave their homes like that." Salman Khan, who has lunch 6th period, wrote that it's not just dirty. "It's like a zoo when you go there, from pushing to get in, to fights, to dirty floors," wrote Salman. Melissa Encarnacion has her Physical Education class in the lunchroom. She wrote, "I see the floors so dirty and sticky. It's frustrating to sit and touch the floor." Andrew Bator wrote, "It is very disgusting," to see the Cafeteria so filthy. Zeneida Tavaraz wrote, "it is nasty to eat in such a dirty place."

Other students suggested that the lack of a lunchroom is the problem. "We need a cafeteria," wrote Melissa De Jesus. Syeda Ali concurred. "No kid eats in an auditorium, you are supposed to eat in a lunchroom... but I guess we have to wait." Angelique Bland wrote a message to all students, "take control, show some

respect for your school."

Carlos Ojeda received some letters on his article, "Take off the Hat." Jacqueline Corona liked the article because it was "well written," she also liked the idea of how Carlos "went out and did his own experimentation." Obviously, many students do not agree that the wearing of hats should be prohibited in school. That is apparent by the number of them who continue to wear hats everyday despite often having them confiscated. Jennifer Moy wrote, "I think students should have the right to wear hats... it's part of some people's style to wear hats." Steven Battle and Dennis Mansour also agree Dennis' argument is that "they're not harming anyone, they're not bothering anyone." Carlos Santos wrote that wearing a hat in school does not "cause any harm to anybody." Ruben Villalobos wrote, "why don't you make them take off their jacket." Mohammed Ahmed also thinks there is nothing wrong with wearing a hat. "Students should have the right to wear a hat," he wrote. What many students do not realize is that school is a place where students are prepared for the real world. At many places, especially at work, wearing a hat is not acceptable.

The advice column, "Mouse and Monkey" by Alex Peña and Vin Calderon received a couple of letters. Rosenny Taveras thinks that is "great how students can ask for help when they are stuck." Yesenia Peña wrote, "I thought they gave great advice," and she encouraged them to continue the good work. The advice column "gives students a chance to express what they feel or what happened to them," wrote Helen Morales. "Those two situations," she wrote, "are real crazy, Alex and Vin gave some good advice."

Student ID barcode readers were the subject of several letters. The article "New ID System Leaves Juan Smiling" by Tamir Toy prompted a response from Jeremy Lorenzi. "The ID system is good," he wrote, "but takes up a lot of time." Andres Gallo proved Jeremy's point. "One time there was a long line. I waited to swipe my card, when the bell rang it was my turn to swipe my card and I was marked late," wrote Andres. Jacqueline Rodriguez wrote a letter responding to the editorial "Long Lines and Technology" which mentioned how dangerous and inefficient it is to have only one ID barcode reader station working because it causes crowding in the hallway and it creates a distraction for students in room

111. Jacqueline wrote, "I agree with all that you wrote." Jacqueline says that she has to wait on long lines in the morning when she gets to school and when she waits outside the auditorium for lunch.

Steven Garcia's article "What Students Really Know?" received a letter by David Molina, who wrote, "it's a shame that students in high school don't know what the nation's capital is." David also mentioned, "the only difficult question is what's George Bush's middle name?" By the way, the correct answers is Walker not William. An editing mistake caused the right answer, Walker, to be italicized. (William, the wrong answer, should have been italicized instead.)

Malik Kashif wrote to Anayancy Moreno about her article "Time for Change in C-Tech." Malik thinks that the new C-Tech room arrangement was beneficial. He wrote, "I think it's true that the setting of a classroom affects the students in it." [So does the cleanliness of it. See our commentary and article in this edition.]

After reading the "Spirit Week Activities" article by Jessica Kenniff, Elizabeth Bonilla wrote, "there should be different categories made up, it will give students a better chance to express their creativity." Eric Sanchez also

"...putting names in the newspaper of those who never missed a day is good, because it shows that their attendance pays off."

enjoyed the article because it showed "how the teachers participated as well." Jessica also received a letter for her article "Wanna Chat With Me?" In that article Jessica mentioned that students start writing their school work the same way they type on the internet. Tania Ariles wrote, "This is really true because sometimes I find myself writing like that."

Mercedes Lopez wrote a letter to Steven Garcia about the article "Preparing Students for the Future." Mercedes likes the LEARN program because students "get an opportunity to experience a job and to be responsible."

Toneise Holmes wrote a letter to Gioconda Gordillo about her article "Good Grades Pay Off." Toneise wrote, "I think it's good that the Honor

Roll students' hard work pays off; they get to enjoy a day without having to do work."

Sheila Ruiz liked the article "Never Missed a Day" by John Uruchima. Sheila wrote, "I think that putting names in the newspaper of those who never missed a day is good, because it shows that their attendance pays off."

Jenneth Grullon wrote a letter to Jennifer Rodriguez on her article "Weird Facts." Jenneth wrote "it has unusual facts that we don't come across, that is why it's interesting to me."

Alexander Gonzalez liked the article "Popular QV Intramurals have Exciting Fall Season" by Alexis Benitez. Alexander wrote "I rate your article on the intramurals 4 stars."

"Houseplans Collects Toys for the Needy," by John Uruchima, really touched Diana Rodriguez. "Many of us have a place to live and food to eat," she wrote, "but during the holidays we just care about us and we don't remember the homeless... I think you [Houseplans] did a good job. You made many kids happy."

Jennifer Ng received a letter from Kendra Paye on the article "Turning Pennies into Good Deeds." Kendra wrote that she was amazed to see how many "classes participated to help the needy I am proud to say that Queens Voc has participated in a good cause," she wrote.

Michal Ciach wrote a letter about the article "Students On-A-Roll to Improvement" by Arturo Cazares. He wrote that he enjoyed the article because students "are able to see if they are doing better in school."

Diana Casallas received a few letters about the article "Feedback on Video Games." Andres Castano wrote, "the people who gave their opinion... had interesting points." Andres pointed out another positive side of video games. "Some games even teach the kids the consequences of crimes," he wrote. Bryant Perez enjoyed reading the article because "it gave a lot of different points of view." Ivan Gomez was very pleased to have seen his quote in the article. "I want to thank you for putting my opinion in," he wrote.

Patsy Sanchez enjoyed the Feedback article "Our Readers Speak Out." "It tells what people really think and what ideas some students have," wrote Patsy.

We also received a very encouraging letter from Leslye Peña, she wrote, "I like the *Vocational Voice* because it tells you different things that

are going on around the school, different things that students do in the school. The editors are doing a good job, and they should keep it up."

Once again, Ms. Hulak and Ms. Vittor congratulated the Journalism class on a great newspaper. We also received letters from Ms. Abrams and Mr. Davidson. We appreciate their encouragement and support as well. The Journalism class is looking forward to receiving more letters from the students sharing their opinions and ideas. Letters can be placed in Mr. Schimenz's mailbox in the Main Office or e-mailed to VocVoice@aol.com

From the desk of the Senior Class President:

As we approach the end of a school year full of unforgettable memories, we should take a moment to recognize that we are all working hard to accomplish the goals we had set for this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the seniors who put their trust in me and supported me throughout this year. This year we have accomplished many goals of which I'm very proud. The senior trip was a success and it had a lot of activities that made the trip fun. We went skiing, horse back riding, swimming, and paintballing. The Luncheon was incredible, thanks to all the people who made it possible. It was truly an unforgettable moment in our lives.

One of the accomplishments of which I'm most proud was the fundraising. The food festivals were amazing successes and they helped the seniors lower their senior prom fee.

All this became possible thanks to the hard work of the senior class, the senior officers, and Mr. Vega and Ms. Vittor.

The senior class is now preparing for our upcoming prom, which promises to be a very memorable event. But while we have focused on the parties and trips we have had together, we should not forget our schoolwork so that we can graduate together.

Sincerely,

Jessica Lopez,
Senior President

EDITORIALS & COMMENTARIES

Finally, Students Get a Voice

We have tried several times this year to publish articles about education at Queens Voc. But, as our readers know, we haven't printed any. "Not appropriate," "personal attacks," and "offensive" is what our advisor says.

Discussing the quality of education is a valid and important topic. We have covered teachers and their innovative methods. We should be allowed to point out weaknesses in our education as well. We are, after all, the ones who are directly affected. But somehow, unlike "consumers," students have no real voice. The SO is mostly focused on student activities such as spirit week. Our representatives on the school leadership team, which most students don't even know about, have little input. Candidate selection committees only exist for administrators, not the teachers who directly affect our education.

So how do we get our voices heard? We will never be heard within the system; most of us students recognize that and so we accept our situation. But now there is a way, outside the system.

The website www.ratemyteacher.com is one way for us to be heard. But we must use it responsibly, so that our voices are valued and taken seriously. Several students have pointed out this website to us, and we find that it can be a useful tool; but only if it is used properly, otherwise our voices will be dismissed.

War, What is it Good For? Students and teachers speak out

by John Uruchima

War is here. President George W. Bush gave Saddam Hussein 48 hours to leave Iraq. The deadline was set for Wednesday March 19, at 8pm our time, Thursday March 20, 4am, Iraqi time. But Saddam refused to meet President Bush's demands. President Bush then used his power as commander-in-chief and gave the United States military the order to attack. And attack they did.

Now we can't turn on the television without being informed of war updates. This military action has become a big concern to the citizens of the United States and to the students of Queens Voc.

Many agree with President George W. Bush and want war on Iraq. "We need to defend ourselves and take action," said Catherine Reichling. Christian Corella agrees. "A person like Saddam Hussein, who threatens his own people to gain power, should be stopped," Christian said. "If we were to leave Iraq alone to avoid war, Saddam Hussein will build up its military and attack aggressively just like Hitler did in World War II," said Victor Panora.

But not all students support the war on Iraq. "I personally think we shouldn't have the war on Iraq because there is no reason for it and because Bush just wants to finish what his father started," said Mixelines Arroyo. Luz Arias also opposes the attacks. "Being in war will cause more problems and it will bring more people around the world against us, and guarantee further terrorist attacks towards us," said Luz. "There really isn't a point in attacking Iraq, what it does is hurt a lot of innocent people," she added. "It will affect the economy," said Anna Maria Bou, "and will bring a lot of tension between the Middle East and the United States, and a lot more racist and terrorist attacks." Leonela Pichardo fears the losses. "If we continue this war, it can end up being an endless war many people will suffer from," said Leonela.

In a random poll conducted in Queens Voc before the attack, students and teachers were asked if they thought the United States was right to attack Iraq. The results:

Students		Teachers	
Yes	No	Yes	No
49	76	7	15

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"Good enough"
is the enemy of
"it can be better."

To Read or Not to Read

by Sharon Reyes and
Jennifer Rodriguez

1, 2, 3...read! Read 2003 encourages students throughout the school to read during a common time period for 2,003 seconds. But how many students actually read? Many students admit that they are not enthusiastic readers. And teachers tend to be so focused on their curriculum that they disregard activities such as Read 2003. Some are not even aware the activities are being held. Is this the result of a lack of promotion or is it carelessness? *Mission:* Navigate the school on our little hunt for "readers."

Evidence: As we began on the first floor, we searched the auditorium. The aides were walking around and talking, and students were not even aware Read 2003 was being held. Let's face it, announcements are nowhere near being heard in the auditorium, so we dismissed this and proceeded to the Main Office, where the office aides, secretaries, and administrators were not reading either. Maybe it should have been obvious that they wouldn't be reading, they still have their daily work to do and the Attendance Office seemed too busy for any reading to be going on.

We made our way to the second floor. In 202, the teacher was teaching a regular lesson. Maybe she didn't get the memo, or were the teachers

not notified? We moved on. Ah, we notice that in 203, a lab room, students are walking around and the teacher is helping the students. Well, at least something productive is being done. Second floor complete!

We excitedly approach the third floor, thinking maybe there would be some reading going on there. Our expectations turned to dashed hopes and dreams, as we pass by classroom after classroom without students reading. Darn. I guess we could excuse the shop classes, right? After all, they are very busy with their work and they must continue. We moved on to the fourth floor.

Golly gee, more shop classes doing their dirty work, the exception is the Business students. Their work isn't dirty! In 403, the substitute seemed to be talking to himself while the students were not reading at all. In 406, the teacher was standing around while the students were just "chilling." We're pretty sure they were thinking about reading though.

As we concluded our mission we decided, maybe we should do math instead of reading. Yeah, right. Maybe in the next millennium.

Mission complete. Facts found: Only English classes actually "read" during Read 2003, or at least the students pretended to do so.

Reality Shows are a Waste

by Steven Garcia

I'm a hot 17-year old high school student. Will you marry me? This could be the best reality show to ever hit America. I'll have 50 women fight each other to capture my heart, and fulfill their roles as my wife. These women will be told that I'm a 23 year-old single man, who has just inherited \$100,000,000. But what America will know from the beginning is that I'm really a 17-year-old high school student who doesn't even have a job. Will true love surpass these lies?

The name of the show should be *I'm a 17-year-old High School Student*, and on the bottom in small print it'll say, "the search for America's most anticipated couple." I think, I could sell this idea to every channel, well at least every channel on basic TV channels, and become famous. I'll get my

15 minutes of fame and I'll have a hot wife who probably doesn't even care about me.

Reality shows have become more and more common nowadays. Everyday another reality show is said to be the best show of the year, no matter how stupid the show might be. This reality show craze has annoyed the heck out of me. I try to watch a decent hour of TV and end up watching some "celebrities," whom I've never heard of, on a corny show titled, *I'm a Celebrity: Get Me Out Of Here*. After my hour of torment is done, I change the channel and start watching the news. News is the last thing that I want to watch, but, ironically, my only choice. To my surprise even friggin' newscasters are talking about some woman, who was on *American Idol*, and got kicked out because of starring in porn movies. Speaking of porn,

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Principal's Message



QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Denise Vittor, Principal

Spring is here, at last! With the long winter soon behind us, we have an opportunity to start over. Spring is a time to grow, to energize ourselves. Here at Queens Vocational and Technical High School it's also a time to revitalize our minds and gear up for the "home stretch." Now is the time to "begin with the end in mind." What is it you would like to accomplish by June? How would you like this year to end? Begin planning the steps you will take to reach these goals. What immediate changes, if any, do you need to make in order to improve your performance in school? What will you do in April to get you closer to your goals? What special efforts will you make in order to be successful in May? How will you prepare for finals and Regents in June?

Answering these questions now will help you to create a plan which will keep you focused and goal oriented. Once you decide on your plan of action, the faculty at QVTHS is ready to help you achieve your goals. PM school is already in session for those of you who need course credit. Tutoring is available for Math, Science, English and Social Studies during specific periods throughout the day. Schedules are posted in key offices and in the hallways. Regents review classes begin in May and last 6 weeks until Regents week. See Ms. Smith-Norman, Mr. Gorman or Mr. Rivera for details. Need assistance figuring out the best way to achieve your goals? Visit the Guidance Department for assistance with planning. These services are available to anyone who wants to succeed. Why not make a commitment to making the best of this semester, and signing up for tutoring or regents review classes? We are ready to help, but only *you* can make Spring 2003 a success.

Sincerely,

Ms. Vittor
Principal

Reality Shows

continued from page 8

whatever happened to Darva Conger? This woman got married with a multi-millionaire on TV, divorced him, and posed nude for *Playboy*. She let America see more of her body than her ex-husband saw.

Another reality show that makes me want to break my TV is *High School Reunion*. Get a group of stupid looking people that are willing to do anything to get on TV, and you make a reality show that is pointless and disturbingly lame.

It's not that I'm against reality shows, it's just that reality shows are pointless. Not only are they pointless but also stupid how people will do anything for fame, even look like a bunch of idiots on TV.

The Lost Books

by Lady Velastegui

Students either lose them or just leave them home and never bring them back, but it all comes down to unreturned textbooks and a lot of wasted money.

The Department of Education provides Queens Voc with money to purchase textbooks. Each department orders and distributes textbooks to the students. From there, students are responsible for each book they are given. Book receipts are used to track textbooks assigned to students. The receipts are kept by teachers and returned to the students when they have returned the textbooks at the end of the term. That is, if the textbooks are returned.

While most students return their books at the end of the term, there are many who don't. As of March 25, 332 students owed books to the Humanities Department. "This includes approximately 100 students who were discharged in September 2002," said Ms. Smith-Norman, assistant principal of the Humanities Department. According to information provided by the Program Office, 165 students owed books to the Math, Science, Physical Education and Health Department, while 51 students owed books to the Business Education, Trade, and Technology Department. These numbers do not represent the actual number of unreturned textbooks, though, because some students owe more than one book.

Students who don't return their books are supposed to pay for them. "The cost of each book ranges from \$10 to \$70 depending on the book," said Mr. Garrison, assistant principal of the Business Education,

Trade, and Technology Department. "The Humanities Department spent several thousand dollars on the books which were not returned," said Ms. Smith-Norman, yet few of the textbooks are ever paid for. "Approximately \$500 was recovered," she added.

Ms. Smith-Norman said that the money they recover goes back into the book fund, "to replenish either the unreturned books or books that had to be discarded due to damage." Ms. Vittor, acknowledged that the problem of unreturned textbooks greatly affects the school's budget. "We sometimes have to use next year's budget to buy new books because we don't recover enough money from students. This leaves us with less money to spend on books or supplies needed for the following year," she said. "The problem also has an effect on instruction because we can't buy other materials needed until the unreturned books are replaced," the principal added.

Receipts of books not returned go to the assistant principals of each department and the names of students are kept on file. The school sends letters to the students' homes or tries to contact parents by phone. Students are also reminded to return their books or pay the penalty, via their program and report cards. "The school policy that applies to students who owe books is to withhold transportation cards," said Ms. Smith-Norman.

There are other measures that can be taken to encourage students to take care of their books and return them to school. More penalties can be set for students who don't return their books.

Ms. Vittor suggests that every teacher give a test the day textbooks are collected. The test should require the use of the textbook for a 20 point question. "This will encourage students to bring in their books to earn a better grade. Students should also learn to be more responsible with the material given to them because it is not a gift, it is a loan," she concluded.

Do Students Know?

by Steven Garcia

Ever wonder how much students really know? Do students really pay attention in class? Once more we asked students "difficult" questions that made them break a sweat. (Italics denote wrong answers.)

1. How many degrees are there in a circle?
2. What is 0 - 1?
3. How many planets are there in our solar system?
4. What Galaxy do we live

- in?
5. What is the closest star to our planet?
6. What is the smallest planet in our solar system?
7. How many natural satellites does Earth have?

Camilo Rubio 108

1. 100 degrees
2. -1
3. 12
4. Laccus
5. Mars
6. Venus
7. 10

Francisco Fiallos 203

1. I'm bad at math
2. 0
3. 9
4. No clue
5. North Star
6. "Darnit"
7. 6

Ingrid Cotrina 204

1. 360 degrees
2. -1
3. 12
4. Milky Way
5. North Star
6. Pluto
7. 27

Catalina Ramon 204

1. 180
2. 1
3. 12
4. Earth
5. Sun
6. Pluto
7. 3

Nanette Lagares 252

1. 360
2. -1
3. 9
4. Milky Way
5. Sun
6. Pluto
7. 1

Nathalie Alonso 301

1. -360
2. -1
3. 9
4. Milky Way
5. Sun
6. Pluto
7. 1, the moon

Michelangelo Franqui 302

1. 0 degrees
2. -1
3. 9
4. Milky Way
5. Sun
6. Pluto
7. 0

Mohammed Salahuddin 401

1. 360
2. -1
3. 12
4. Milky Way
5. Moon
6. Pluto
7. 5

Evan Prestano 402

1. 360
2. -1
3. 9
4. Milky Way
5. Sun
6. Pluto
7. 1

Do you have an opinion on any of the articles in this issue of the Vocational Voice?

Write to us and tell us! Be sure to sign your letter and put it in Mr. Schimenz's mailbox.



Mr. Schimenz's Mailbox

Students Abuse PCs

We Need Functioning Equipment to Learn

by Asim Bhatti

The use of computers in schools has increased dramatically within the last seven years, and this is particularly true in vocational schools such as Queens Voc, where business classes and computer technology classes are taught.

In these majors, students must work with computers everyday, and in order for the students to be proficient, the computers they train on have to be functioning properly. This is a problem in business classes because many of the computers do not function properly. On March 21, for instance there

Students have to be more mature and trustworthy and understand the importance of computers to their education.

were 14 computers of 35 in room 402 not functioning properly. 18 of 33 computers in room 407 were out of order as well.

The Business Department has three computer rooms available for use: 402, 407, and 411. The problem with rooms 402 and 407 is that many of the machines have been vandalized and are either physically broken or have internal software problems. Room 411 has brand new machines, which have not been vandalized yet.

Students are largely responsible for the destruction of the computers. Computers

do not break so easily, but when students purposely stick objects such as gum, pens, paper, and pencils, in the disk drives, the computers get destroyed quickly. Students who steal mouse balls also effectively put the computers out of use.

Better supervision in the classrooms might minimize the destruction. Teachers who teach classes in rooms that contain computers need to be vigilant in the protection of the computer resources. And if they catch students vandalizing a computer, the teachers should report them to the proper authorities.

Students have to be more mature and trustworthy and understand the importance of computers to their education. And there should be harsh penalties for offenders. If students are actually punished for destroying computers, they might think twice about doing it again and harsh punishments might send a message to other students considering vandalism.

Students should know better, but teachers should know how to handle their students when they break the rules and not let students get away with destroying computers.



Computer takes abuse.

Lateness to School: Barcoded Excuses

by Sharon Reyes

Not every student can relate to being early to school. Excuses abound as the students often blame the lateness on the ID/CAASS system. After listening to the million and one complaints about the system, I realized the students are really the ones to be held responsible for the latenesses.

It is sometimes difficult in the morning for students to enter the building because of the long lines that form. The students block the entrance trying to swipe their ID cards. Walking into school just minutes before the late bell rings just does not cut it sometimes. Students complain about the "slowness" of the ID system and how it holds them

up and makes them late to their first class. It is true the students often get marked late because of the long lines, but the ID system has been up and running for several months now and the students should know how it works. "Being on time has nothing to do with the CAASS system," said Mr. Boubeiv, the attendance coordinator. "It's all excuses. Being consistently late is unacceptable."

Students need to stop blaming the defenseless ID system. The next time you are late, do not use the ID system excuse. It is used excessively and is not effective at all.



Students relaxing on the 2nd floor after the bell has rung.

Lateness to Class: Disrupting Education

by Tanvir Toy

The late bell rings, students are in class ready to learn, and the hallways are quite. That is how it's supposed to be. But the hallways are not always cleared as soon as the bell rings.

On any given day, after the late bell has rung, the halls are filled with students.

A few weeks ago, I conducted an unscientific but mathematically accurate survey in which I looked at the issue of lateness and the consequences of it. This isn't a problem with one floor, it is spread throughout the building.

After the late bell rang to begin 4th period, 63 students were still in the 4th floor hallway. Of these students, three walked into a shop class late, four walked into an English class late, and three walked into a social studies class late. During 7th period, a teacher wrote on the board while two students walked in unnoticed.

The next day on the 3rd floor, 80 students were still in the hall after 4th period had begun. Three students walked into their social studies class late, seven students nonchalantly walked into Cosmo, and five students walked into Electronics late. On the 3rd floor, it seemed as if more students stand outside their classroom doors and go in late than actually enter on time.

The lateness dilemma continued on the second floor. On the third day of the survey, and again, at the start of 4th

period, 10 students walked into their science class late. At the start of 9th period, two students walked in late while a teacher was writing on the board, and seven students walked in late to their science class.

It seems as though students can enter class late without any trouble. This creates several problems. Students who enter late disrupt their class. The noisy halls also disrupt classes that begin on time. Further, it is unfair to students who get to class on time that many of these late students enter without passes and without penalty. Students who arrive late also have somewhat of a negative influence on students who come to class on time. When students witness other students getting away with being late to class, they think it's okay for them to do it too. And lateness causes lateness, as groups assemble in the halls slowing down traffic causing further lateness.

Education is not well served by lateness and the disruptions that come with it. Other schools have hall sweeps regularly. If students are in the hall after the bell rings, they are brought to the detention room. The policy at Queens Voc is that students must be admitted to class late even without a pass.

Some teachers penalize for lateness, some don't. There is no consistency and that is a poor lesson for students. A school policy, such as hall sweeps, would let us know that the school is serious about lateness.



Lateness to class: no better on the 3rd floor than the 2nd.

Keep QV Clean

by Gioconda Gordillo

How often do we see a clean classroom, with no garbage, no bottles, or no paper on the floor? It's a common sight early in the morning, but a rare sight at the end of the day. Students criticize that classrooms are always dirty, and they expect something to be done about it. But how is this possible, when they don't do their share in keeping the school clean?

Ultimately, students and teachers are responsible for dirty classrooms. I went to several rooms at the end of 9th period and took note of the garbage on the floor: paper, bottles, gum wrappers, Doritos bags, and even cafeteria food leftovers. Students eat food and drink juice in classrooms often discarding wrappers and plastic bottles on the floor.

Okay, many students are slobs, but what do our teachers do to limit this? Apparently not

Dirty classrooms impact our education.

much, since most classrooms are filthy by the end of the day. Rooms 202, 303, and 403, for example are dirty classrooms and the rooms remain that way or get worse period after period. But not all classrooms are dirty by the end of the day. Rooms 411 and 105 are kept clean all day long.

Our environment affects our attitudes. Dirty classrooms impact our education. Further, our school is like our second home. It is the place where we spend much of our time. Since we are part of the school, it's only fair that we take care of it, as if it were our own room. We need to find a way to keep our rooms clean. If we want to change this bad habit, we can start by being more disciplined and conscious of what is right and wrong.

Teachers who allow students to eat in class should make sure that those students throw away their garbage once they are done eating. Students who take advantage of that privilege shouldn't be allowed to eat in class anymore.

Teachers who stay in the same room for several periods are more likely to try to keep their room clean. But many teachers bounce from room to room. Perhaps simple concept, such as leaving the room as clean at the end of the period as it was in the beginning would assure cleaner rooms. These are simple suggestions that can help improve the problem with the garbage in the classrooms.

Students Debate

by Sylvio Lamisere

On March 13, the Queens Voc debate team competed against other schools at Pace University. This year's topic was whether or not the United States should be subject to the jurisdiction of the international criminal courts.

Coached by Mr. Davidson, the four-member team went to Pace University prepared to debate. The members of the debate team, Jorge Cervantes, Ravi Gupta, Betsy Galan, and Asim Bhatti, each took different positions in the debates. Jorge and Ravi presented the arguments for the debate and Betsy was the cross-examiner. She had to ask questions of the other team, summarize the debate in three minutes, and tell the judges why they should win. Asim was the alternate.

The tournament, the Jerry Goldberg Memorial Tournament of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, is a one-day tournament in which every participating school debates four times. In the morning, the debate teams were served breakfast and then debated twice. Following the morning debates, the students were served lunch and then debated twice in the afternoon. After the final round of the tournament, there was an award ceremony and the top sixteen schools that advanced in each level of the competition were announced. Awards were also presented to the top ten best speakers in the competition.

While the debate team didn't win any of the debates, one of the members, Ravi Gupta, was selected as the number one speaker in one of the debates.

"I really enjoyed the experience of debating with other schools because my team and I saw the debates from both sides; the affirmative and the negative side. I plan to join the team again because I enjoy the arguing and debating. I also like that each of the players on the team received \$50 for just going to the first round," said Ravi, a junior.

Mr. Davidson, the debate team coach, is proud of his team. "Naturally, in the first round the students were nervous. As the day went on, they gained more confidence. It was very nice to see their growth in confidence and I hope next year they will join again," said Mr. Davidson.

Write to us at

VocVoice@aol.com

Shop Profiles We Honor the Best

by Sylvio Lamisere

We highlighted sophomores in our first installment of Shop Profiles in the last edition of *Vocational Voice*. In this edition, we focus on juniors who are outstanding in their shop and business classes.

The following questions were asked to the selected students:

1. Why did you choose this major?
2. Are you planning to make a career out of this major? Why?
3. Why do you think your teacher chose you to be the most outstanding student?

PLUMBING

Salvador Ruiz was selected by his Plumbing teachers Mr.



Garrison and Mr. McCarthy. Mr. Garrison selected Salvador because "he's willing to work at his trade and he retains the knowledge that we give him." Mr. McCarthy said that Salvador "tries his best at all of his jobs and he doesn't ever give up when he runs into a problem with a job. This shows the making of a good plumber."

1. I chose this major because I like to create jobs with my physical power. I also like using my own hands to work with heavy machinery.
2. Yes, because you earn a lot of money and you can meet a lot of people doing this work.
3. I think they chose me because I'm more serious than the other students and every job I get I try to finish it up as soon as I can.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Umbreen Hanif was selected by her C-Tech teacher Mr. Cintron because "she is one of the most dedicated student that tries. She does well on the physical and mental part of the course and she is also helpful in the assisting of the organization of the class."



1. I chose this major to learn the basic and more of computer technology.
2. I don't plan on making a career from this major. The reason is not that it doesn't interest me, but I have interests in other fields as well. I would like this to be a career I can fall back on.
3. I think my teacher chose me to be the most outstanding student because I am serious about my work. Also, I place this class as my top priority, since it is my major, and the esteem I reserve for this class shows through the work I give to my teacher.

Miao-Ling Zhao was selected by her C-Tech teacher Mr. Stigliano because "she works very hard on her lessons, does her



homework, pays attention, and is willing to do extra to learn. She has also overcome learning in a new language."

1. I chose it because I heard if you pass the A+ Exam, you can get a good job in this major and you can have a good future.
2. I would like to take this major again in college, but I am not sure if I would like to make this a career.
3. I think he chose me because I try my best in class and I do extra credit labs sometimes. I do all the lessons, the Do Nows, and homeworks. I also think I do well on all of his tests.

COSMETOLOGY

Hana Heshimu was selected by her Cosmo teacher Ms. Thomas because "she is highly motivated, cooperative, and she gets along with her peers. She is also dedicated to her vocation and leads the class in number of practical jobs to be completed for the term."



1. I chose this major because I found it very interesting and I thought that I could make something out of this trade.
2. Yes I do plan on making a career out of my major because it is a very high paying industry.
3. My teacher chose me to be the most outstanding student because I had the most jobs done, I'm very hardworking, I work well with others, and I enjoy what I do as a Cosmetology student.

Eliana Tuberquia was selected by her Cosmo teacher Ms.



Basirico because "she does her work in a timely fashion, she attends class regularly, she is highly motivated, and her grades are excellent."

1. I chose this major because it offers a good future and I enjoy doing hair.
2. Yes, because I love doing hair.
3. I think she chose me because I put effort into what I'm doing, I do all my jobs, and I pay attention in class.

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

Manuel Luna was selected by his EI teacher Mr. Vega because

"he does everything he is supposed to do plus more. He leads the class in practical work, he's very motivated, cooperative, accepts criticism graciously, and is always willing to help others."



1. I chose this major because I like doing practical work with tools.
2. Yeah, because this career pays.
3. I think he chose me because I completed the most practical work and I surpassed the rest of my classmates.

Leonardo Espinal was selected by his EI teacher Mr. Abreu because "he's a hard worker, self-motivated, a leader, and intelligent. He is one of many students who deserve this award."



1. I chose it because it's a good trade to learn.
2. Yes, because it brings a lot of money.
3. I think my teacher chose me because I know how to do the jobs, I work hard, and I know my stuff.

ELECTRONICS

Botao Yu was selected by his Electronics teacher Mr. Ali

because "he does very well in my class, gets good grades, does all his labs, and is highly motivated. He also has extremely good discipline."



1. I chose this major because it's related to computers and technology and when I was in exploratory, things were fun in this class. This major will also better plan out my future in technology.
2. Yes, because it's a high paying major in which I have interest and I like electronics technology.
3. I think he chose me because I do his work, I'm eager to help out other students and the teacher, and I basically do what a student is supposed to do.

Dianely Disla was selected by her Keyboarding teacher Ms. Siegel because "she is very bright, her work is always up-to-date, her homework is never late, she is very helpful, and she is polite."



1. I chose Business because I work well with numbers and I am very good at managing money.
2. I'm planning to make Business a career because I enjoy the course and I'm very

good at what I do. I feel that I have a full understanding of the course and I have a great chance in becoming successful in it.

3. I think my teacher chose me as the most outstanding student because I have a good understanding of the class and I am always interested and eager to learn new things in order to develop my skills.

Mrs. Grenz, the Business Accounting teacher, chose not to select an outstanding student because, she said, "every student is outstanding in his or her own way." Instead of choosing one outstanding student in her class, she would like to think that she can give each of her students a chance to become outstanding in his or her own way.

MOVIE REVIEWS

by Carlos Ojeda

Daredevil

Starring: Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner, Colin Farrell, and Michael Clarke Duncan
Directed by Mark Steven Johnson
Rated PG-13
Running time: 102 minutes

By day, *Daredevil* is Matt Murdock, an idealistic lawyer who defends the helpless. By night, Murdock transforms himself into Daredevil to take justice into his own hands. Blinded as a young boy, his other senses have grown stronger and with them he tries to make a difference in his own little hellhole.

Jennifer Garner plays Elektra, whose ambition is to kill Daredevil because she thinks Daredevil killed her father. Garner does not have the evil look to be taken seriously as a villain. Ben Affleck lacks Charisma and toughness; he does not make an outstanding superhero.

Daredevil is one of those films in which the obvious questions pop into your head as you leave the theater. For example, if he's only a poor lawyer, where did Murdock get the money to get all the cool gadgets he has in his apartment? And how can he afford an apartment? In New York City no less.

Daredevil does entertain. The stunt work in the fight sequences are first class, the film shows humor and, for the most part, at least, the character remains true to the original comic book. People can appreciate the work – the stunts and special effects – that went into transforming Daredevil from the comic book to the screen. It's not, however, a movie you are going to

remember for years to come.

**

Old School

Starring: Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell, Vince Vaughn, and Ellen Pompeo
Directed by Todd Phillips
Rated R
Running Time: 91 minutes

"*Old School*" is more a series of *Saturday Night Live* sketches than a movie, but it has some gifted comic actors such as Vince Vaughn not playing his *Psycho*-type movies (he played Norman Bates in the movie *Psycho*, get it?), Will Ferrell as the guy who needs a break, and Luke Wilson as the broken-hearted man. The story starts when lawyer Mitch Martin (Luke Wilson) purchases a home in the heart of a college campus. His married friend, Zany Beanie (Vince Vaughn), leads Mitch to live the college days he wished he had. Mitch, together with his pal Frank (Will Ferrell), throws a house-warming party complete with rappers and a flock of gorgeous women. Beanie thinks, "Who needs college? I run a successful chain of electronics stores and I can barely read."

Bad news arrives as the dean of the college tries to evict them. This means they have to move away from the college campus. The fellas get around the rules, by forming a

fraternity to keep their house. They get a bunch of people, including one 89-year old to pledge their "fraternity."

This is a laugh-out-loud movie that makes you think college is cool. After watching a lot of vulgarity (which is always fun to look at), like an intoxicated "Frank the Tank" streaking down the campus road, *Old School* has no interesting plot, but who cares? This movie is so hilariously good that it does not need a plot. This movie gives "fraternity" a new definition.

The Life of David Gale

Starring: Kevin Spacey, Kate Winslet, Laura Linney, Gabriel Mann, Matt Craven, Rhona Mitra, Leon Rippey, Jim Beaver, and Elizabeth Gast
Directed by Alan Parker
Rated R
Running Time: 130 minutes

The life of David Gale is an unconvincing political message that takes a stand against capital punishment, but does its cause more harm than good by coming up with such a silly story line and a twisted ending. The film has a tacky dialogue because it has a murder mystery that was doomed from the start. Kevin Spacey is just bloody awful in this role, while Kate Winslet is almost as bad in her role as a crusading reporter.

This tale is about Dr. David

Gale (Spacey), a professor at the University of Texas who is an activist for Deathwatch, an organization against the death penalty. He's in a Texas prison on death row and has four days to live, as he was convicted of raping and killing his best friend and co-leader of Deathwatch. Since he is going to die, Bitsey Bloom (Winslet) decides to interview him. Over the course of three days, Gale tells her his story and it becomes obvious to her that he's innocent. Gale believes opponents of the death penalty group framed him. The reporter races to find the evidence to stop the execution and clear him.

That is all you need to know to at least stay awake throughout the movie. The movie has good actors but it's not worth your time and money. Don't watch this movie, please.

*

Rating Key

- * Awful
- ** Ok
- *** Good
- **** Excellent

Support
the upcoming
Spirit Week

Websites of Interest

Internet Sites for Students and Teachers

by Diana Casallas

Surfing the net is one of the favorite pastimes of many high school students. We research, shop, and we chat. There are billions of websites and sometimes we do not know where we can find the information we need. We have come up with a list that is sure to help you out in some way.

WEBSITE NAME	WEBSITE ADDRESS
College Resources	
NYS Financial Aid Administration Association	www.nysfaaa.org
Free application for student aid	www.fafsa.ed.gov
College Scholarships	www.fastweb.com
Thomson Peterson's College Search	www.peterson.com
SAT/PSAT registration/College information	www.collegeboard.org
City University of New York	www.cuny.edu
State University of New York	www.suny.edu
Rate My Teacher	www.ratemyteacher.com
Educational	
The Teacher's Network- library of lesson plans	www.teachersnetwork.org/lessonplans
Teacher's First-instructional resources	www.teachersfirst.com
Discovery Channel	www.school.discovery.com
Forensic Science	
Young Forensic Scientists Forum	www.aafs.org/yfst/index.htm
American Academy of Forensic Science	www.aafs.org
Business	
Business Plans	www.bplans.com
National Business Education Association	www.nbea.org
Future Business Leaders of America	www.fbld-pbl.org
The Vocational Industrial Clubs of America	www.skillsusa.org
Art	
The Metropolitan Museum of Art	www.metmuseum.org/home.asp
Museo Del Prado	www.mcu.es/prado/index_eng.html
Music	
International Association for Jazz Education	www.iaje.org/iaje99/default.asp
The Metropolitan Opera	www.metopera.org/metopera.html
Search Engines	
Google	www.google.com
Yahoo	www.yahoo.com
Lycos	www.lycos.com
Dog Pile	www.dogpile.com
BlueWeb'n-educational	www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/blucwebn
Entertainment	
Moviefone-movie theater info	www.moviefone.com
LAUNCH-music videos, internet radio and more	www.launch.com
Games	Shockwave.com
Inspire- World's Most Popular Quotations	www.inspirelist.com
Sports	
Public Schools Athletic League(School Teams)	www.psal.org
CNN Sports Illustrated	www.cnni.com
National Basketball Association	www.nba.com
Major Baseball League	www.majorleaguebaseball.com
National Football League	www.nfl.com
ESPN	www.espn.com

Senior Prom Prep

by Jennifer Buitrago

Most seniors view the prom as an unforgettable night. It can also be unforgettably expensive.

Begin by calculating how much Prom Night will cost you. The cost for attending a prom can range from \$150 to \$1500, depending on extras like limo and after-party. Remember for some of you, your night doesn't end when the prom ends. You and your friends should decide if you want to party on a cruise boat, eat at a nice restaurant, go to a club, spend a romantic night with your date, or just ride around the city taking pictures.

"The cost of tickets for the prom is \$65 for the first 100 tickets and fundraising events such as the food festival will possibly lower the prom tickets to \$60. The money raised from the breakfast sales was also used to lower the cost of tickets," said Mr. Vega, COSA and senior advisor. "Seniors can lower their own price by selling candy. Each box is worth \$52 but half goes towards your prom ticket, reducing it by \$26 for each box you sell," said Jessica Lopez, senior class president.

This year's prom will be held in Giando on the Water, located in Brooklyn, from 8pm to 1am on Friday, May 30. "It can be an expensive event, but it's worth spending the money on something you can look back to years from now," said Jessica.

By now, prom tickets should have been bought, limousines should have been booked, reservations for after-parties should have been made, and ladies should already have their dream dress and gentlemen should have their tuxedos. If you're behind schedule, don't panic, you still have about 5 weeks to get everything together.

During the next couple of

weeks, guys and especially girls should make alterations to their attire. Hair, eyebrow, manicure and pedicure appointments should be scheduled, and shopping for shoes is a must. The following is a list of Do's and Don'ts that will help make your night perfect:

Ladies:

- Don't expect the date to pay for everything.
- Do wear a wrap or shawl over a strapless dress.
- Don't wear any rings over your gloves; a bracelet is acceptable.
- Don't eat with your gloves on.
- Do make all entrances with your date and make sure you don't walk in front or behind him.
- Don't O.D. on the body glitter (especially on your face). A little shimmer works fine.
- Drink plenty of water so that you can get rid of any bloating.
- Do make sure you pick a date that is willing to pull your chair out at dinner.
- Don't refresh your makeup at the dinner table, use the bathroom.
- Do tell your date how handsome he looks.
- Do go to prom even if you don't have a date; you don't need a date to have fun.
- Don't only dance with your date, but make sure you don't leave him alone too long.
- Do be on time.
- Do get your date a boutonniere, just like he will be getting you a corsage.
- Do wear your favorite perfume but don't O.D. on it.
- Do try on all clothing at least one day in advance.
- Do buy clear deodorant;

involved with him before you should be comfortable talking to him. You should let him know exactly what you're feeling. Don't send mixed signals, tell him straight up what you're feeling, but do it with a smile. Don't make him feel like it's an obligation, find out if he's willing to give you the attention you want. If he's not willing to give up some of his time for you, then you are just wasting your time stressing yourself out over this.

Sincerely,

Monkey and the Cuban

Dear Monkey and the Cuban,

There is this boy that I really like. But there's this one problem, I'm too shy to tell him or ask him out. Can you please help me?

-Anonymous

and use it.

- Do wear make-up to match your dress.
- Do break in your shoes by wearing before prom.
- Do try waxing rather than shaving and make sure you wax two or three days before so that you can eliminate any bumps.
- Put your dress in a safe dry, place; your chandelier is not one of them.

Gentlemen:

- Do pull out a lady's chair.
 - Don't be late.
 - Don't be stingy, but don't spend a fortune that will leave you in debt for the rest of the year.
 - Practice your dance moves if they are rusty.
 - Do escort your lady whenever appropriate making sure you're never in front or behind her.
 - Don't forget to tell her how beautiful she looks.
 - Don't forget the corsage.
 - Do wear your favorite cologne but don't O.D. on it.
 - Don't forget to ask your date what color her dress so you can find the matching corsage.
 - Do read the ladies do's and don'ts, for some of them even apply to you.
- Planning ahead and making wise choices will be the key to a great night. "Make sure you feel comfortable in what you are wearing," said Denise Rodriguez, a senior attending the prom. "Schedule your time wisely to avoid conflicts and money loss at the end," said Henry Hernandez, a senior also attending the prom. Diana Echavarria, another senior who will attend the prom, advised, "always remember to be natural, original, and confident."

**See Mr. Vega
For Prom
Tickets**

Dear Anonymous,

If you really like him, you're going to have to tell him, whether you're shy or not. If you don't know him too well, try to talk to him as a friend; don't rush into a relationship too quickly. Once you get to know him you'll start to feel comfortable around him, and if he really is the type of guy that you're looking for, then you should express your feelings towards him.

Sincerely,

Monkey and the Cuban

Readers are urged to write us at the *Vocational Voice*. Your letters can be deposited in the box on the counter in the main office or you can write us at VocVoice@aol.com. All letters will be kept confidential.

Inquiring Photographer

by Jessica Kenniff

Since the beginning of its time, rap music has caused much controversy. Some people think rap music is too violent and causes its listeners to reenact what it says. Some people think rap music is just a form of expression and should get as much respect as any other genre of music.

Since rap is often the topic of conversation amongst teenagers, we decided to see what students had to say on this issue.

Some people say rap is not music and does not deserve any respect. Others say rap is a new art form and deserves to be taken seriously. Where do you stand on this, and why?

Joseph Gonzalez, Senior Business

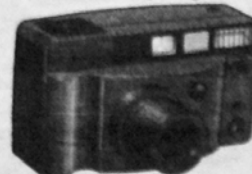


"Rap is music and if it is not taken seriously then why should any other music be taken seriously? People are artists no matter what they perform. It is not easy writing lyrics for rap or any other music and it's not the only music with curses in it."

Catherine Reichling, Senior Cosmetology



"I don't like rap at all, it all sounds the same. I think 80s rap is better because they had something to say. I have no respect for rap and I think the rappers sound ignorant. They have no talent, all they do is talk; they don't play any instruments or anything."



Kevin Hamilton, Junior Plumbing



"Rap is a form of art and music, and deserves to be taken seriously. Rap is a form of expression of how people feel, and that's how they let it out. People think negative things about rap because they don't understand it."

Steven Eighmey, Sophomore Electrical Installation



"I believe rap is one of the greatest ways to express your self when using music. I listen to rap, and it explains the life and background of these artists."

Kyron Rogers, Sophomore Electrical Installation



"Rap started a new revolution out there, it brought new themes. It started out in urban cities, as people from the hood rappin' or whatever, and then spread throughout the world. It is one of the most popular art forms right now, and I know it's gonna be hot for a long time 'cause I'm comin' out!"

Monkey & the Cuban

An Advice Column

Dear Monkey and the Cuban:

There's this kid that every time I see him I want to hug him and kiss him, but I'm scared because I don't think he would like me to do so. But I have to say that I like this kid a lot and we've been involved, but the reason that it was broken off is another story. What should I do?

Please help,
Wants a kiss

Dear Wants a kiss,

We think that if you've been

Will you



be next?

Jen's Word Search

Seek and ye shall find

by Jennifer Buitrago

Shop and Business Terms

Remember that words go up, down, diagonal, and backwards.

ACCOUNTING	BATTERIES	CHEMICALS
CHIP	CONDUCTOR	DYE
FINANCE	FLOPPY	HAIRSPRAY
INSULATOR	MANICURE	MOTHERBOARD
MOUSE	OIL	PIPES
PLUNGER	RESUME	SOLDERING
SPEAKERS	TYPEWRITER	WIRES

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



by Carlos Ojeda

Music Reviews



50 Cent: Get rich or die tryin'

He's been stabbed, he's been shot, and he's even been arrested. Born into a troubled life, 50 Cent is a "thug." Other artists try to play it off as though they are, but 50 Cent is one of the few that really is, which is what makes Get Rich or Die Tryin' stand out from other gangster albums; it's honest, not hype.

50 Cent's lyrics are more creative than most about his subject matter: crime, women, and money. However, at times his delivery becomes lazy, almost as though it's an effort to get the words out. This is 50's style, and he does keep things understandable.

In it's genre, gangster rap, 50 Cent is definitely "the one to beat." Just when people thought gangster rap as a mainstream music was dead, Get Rich or Die Tryin' is sure to inspire some competition, giving gangster rap a revival of sorts. *** 1/2

The All-American Rejects:

The All-American Rejects
 Tyson Ritter (vocals, bass)
 Nick Wheeler (guitar, drums, keyboards)
 Mike Kennerty (guitar)
 Chris Gaylor (drums)

The All American Rejects consists of twelve songs about everything that could go wrong in a relationship. It's led by their first radio single, "Swing, Swing." Ritter's emotional

vocals tell the tale of a young man having to deal with his ex-girlfriend dating other guys. Wheeler adds strength to the track with a gloomy organ introduction.

"Your Star" is led by an electronic beat, as well as clean guitar tones. And "Don't Leave Me" strikes like a club dance track. With its powerful guitar riff, "One More Sad Song" reflects a punk influence, while "Drive Away" is a straight out rock guitar track. Ritter and Wheeler have clearly had a lot of problems with the opposite sex. It's reflected in all the tracks, and Ritter's whiney vocals express the "end of the world" feelings that young boys go through when they're dumped (and can't figure out why). Trust me, I can relate.

The themes of the songs are repetitive, but the music is very radio-friendly. The electronic elements help The All-American Rejects stand out from the punk scene, but Ritter's vocals may be hard to tell apart from other singers on the radio. ** 1/2

Evanescence: Fallen

Amy Lee (Vocals)
 Ben Moody (Lead guitar)
 John LeCompt (Guitar)
 Rocky Gray (Drums)

One evening, I went to see *Daredevil*. It was mostly for the Ben Affleck doing a blind guy scene, but the real special treat was the two songs by newcomers, Evanescence. The quartet comes from Little Rock,

Arkansas and has just released their debut album with Wind-up Records. Their first shot at stardom came with the addition of their songs on the *Daredevil* soundtrack.

Amy's voice is uncommon in today's radio—a strong female presence backed by dramatic lyrics. It's a combination of Goth lyrics, rock, and a strong woman singing about suffering. Ticked off with uncontrolled anger, Amy kicks off the album with the first track, "Going Under." The lyrics are deep in thought, self-doubting, and confusing. The guitarists did a fantastic work during the various bridges from verse to chorus. "Imaginary" is much more melodic than the other songs. You can hear Amy sing much better in the verses as the guitars, drums, and keyboards are toned down; that is until they get to the chorus and they're jacked up again. "My Last Breath" starts off differently with synthesizers that have a club feel to them. But before you get used to them, the crunching guitars come in and remind you who really belongs here.

This is a really good album while you're re-examining your entire life. ****

Rating

- * Awful
- ** Ok
- *** Good
- **** Excellent

Senior Sports Profiles

Anayancy Moreno



Age: 18
 Years on Team: 3
 Position: Outfield

"Anayancy is very devoted to the sport. She always shows up to practice and you never have to ask her twice to do something."

- Cassandra Toole

"Anayancy has been a dedicated player. She always comes to practice and has improved over the years. She understands the idiosyncrasies of softball."

- Coach Boyle

Giselle Ureña



Age: 18
 Years on Team: 2
 Position: Infield

"Giselle is always willing to practice hard and improve her skills. She encourages the rest of the team to do their best and help with improvements."

- Jessica Kenniff

"She has a very good baseball mind. She understands the game more than anybody on the team."

- Coach Boyle

Randy Portes



Age: 17
 Years on Team: 1
 Position: Power Forward

"It's too bad Randy is leaving. He came through when we needed him. He always had a lot of confidence."

- Jason Brunder

"Randy provided solid rebounding, started the fast breaks for us, and was effective for scoring. He led in rebounds and fast breaks. Defensively, he held his own."

- Coach Maloney

Tania Correa



Age: 17
 Years on Team: 3
 Position: Catcher

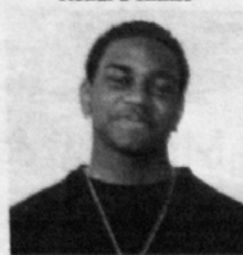
"Tania is a very aggressive and devoted player."

- Elvia Collado

"Last year she was really what you wanted in a catcher. Aggressive, good defense, good batting, and understands the game. We hope she has an injury free season because she is a team leader and a good thinker."

- Coach Boyle

Renard Inniss



Age: 17
 Years on Team: 2
 Position: Center

"He had the potential to be the best player on the team. I wish he could have helped us more to overcome the other teams we had trouble with."

- Matthew Bermudez

"He had the most potential of the big men on the team but seemed distracted by his after school life. I wish the team could have given him more touches—he should have been our 'go to' guy."

- Coach Maloney

Girls Good to Go

Continued from back page

April 4	Renaissance	Bush Field #1
April 7	Franklin K. Lane	Bush Field #1
April 9	Long Island City	Long Island City HS Field
April 14	Forest Hills	Flushing Meadow Park #15
April 28	Grover Cleveland	Bush Field #1
April 30	Renaissance	Flushing Meadow Park #15
May 2	Franklin K. Lane	Franklin K. Lane HS Field
May 5	Long Island City	Bush Field #1
May 9	Forest Hills	Bush Field #1
May 12	Renaissance	Bush Field #1
May 13	Grover Cleveland	Grover Cleveland HS Field

Basketball Recap

by Jessica Kenniff

"It was an honor to play with you all," said Co-Captain Alexis Peña, to his fellow team members at the conclusion of the basketball season. Alexis, a senior, has played for the Tigers the past two seasons. The team ended in fifth place in its division, with six wins and twelve losses.

This year's team consisted of 14 players. The players on the team included: seniors Alexis Peña, Vincent Calderon, Renard Innis, and Randy Portes; junior Nomar Gonzalez; sophomores Matthew Bermudez, Jason Brunder, Juan Flores, Luis Flores, Alexis Ramirez, Robert Richards, and Harpreet Singh; and freshmen George Fervil.

The Tigers started their season winning their first three games, but that was the only winning streak they would see. On January 2, the Tigers began a six game losing streak. They ended the losing streak on January 16, with a 62-52 win over Renaissance High School. But the season was not over yet. The Tigers still had high hopes and three games left. But the Tigers ended their season with an upsetting 71-50 loss against Richmond Hill High School, a

76-65 loss to Academy of American Studies, and 70-44 loss against Robert F. Wagner High School.

Losing was not the worst aspect of the season. According to Alexis Peña, if he could change one aspect of this past season, it would be the players' dedication to the team. "Losing didn't bother me, it was the fact that some members of the team thought the games didn't mean anything."

"We were in a slump for a while. We needed to stop arguing with each other and play more aggressively. We were so much stronger when we worked together, when we argued we were weak," said rookie Robert Richards.

The Tigers had speed and the ability to hit 3 pointers, but they needed help with team work and communication. "Off the court we were like a family, on the court some players tried to show off," said Robert. "We had a lot of talent at every position, but we never combined that talent long enough to play together and win," said Co-Captain Vincent Calderon.

Coach Maloney constantly reminded the team to play together. "They needed to play fundamental basketball as a

team, and the numbers would have turned around," said the coach.

"It was a frustrating season and I was a disappointed in our overall attitude and commitment," said Coach Maloney. But the coach has plans to turn the situation around next season. He would like to hold open competitive tryouts next year, with veteran players and new players and encourage them to come down and showcase their ability. "By showing their ability to play, players will also have to understand they are committing themselves to a team. It takes hard work and dedication to put a good basketball team together. We are going to be more strict next year. If players don't show up to practice, they will not play in the game. It is hard to be so strict with such a small school, but it has to be done," said Coach Maloney.

Basketball takes dedication and determination no matter how many seconds are left on the clock, but it should also be fun. "It was a fun and challenging season, said Renard Inniss. "We had our wins and our losses, but we all made the best out of it. If I had a chance to do it again, I would with no hesitation," he said.

Softball Intramurals

by Anayancy Moreno

This year's softball intramurals will be coordinated by Mr. Boyle and Mr. Garofano. The teams will be determined by grade and major. The boys' tournament will be first, followed by the girls' tournament. A meeting for team captains will be held prior to the upcoming vacation and the games will begin once school resumes.

LeBron James & his Future

Should he or shouldn't he go to college?

by Martin Galeano

The lights dim, the crowd's on its feet screaming his name, and camera flashes are blinding. Some call him "the boy wonder," and scouts stare in amazement. All players at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron, Ohio are waiting for their All-American forward's name to be announced. The name: LeBron James. His status: the #1 high school basketball player in the nation.

Standing at an astonishing 6 feet 8 inches, and weighing 240 pounds, this 18 year old phenomenon is the reason the NBA will do anything to sign him to a team. With the NBA willing to give him a contract, magazines have been haunting him for articles and his opinion and what he will be doing. He has even been on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* and *ESPN The Magazine*.

But even with all the publicity and the confidence scouts have in his ability to perform well in the NBA, is he ready for the NBA? Should high school athletes skip college and head to the pros?

With millions of dollars are at his fingertips, with Nike and Adidas are fighting over who will sponsor him in the future. Before Michael Jordan returned to the NBA last season he invited LeBron to private scrimmages. This is the life of an atypical 18-year-old high school senior. He has achieved superstardom before he can even get into a bar. With the media asking him if he would

be entering the NBA Draft this up coming summer, scouts are speculating that LeBron will be drafted first. That is a lot of pressure for a kid who just likes to play ball.

James is not the first high school player to be in a position to play professionally. Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers and Kevin Garnett of the Minnesota Timberwolves both made the transition from high school ball to the big leagues.

Of 13 high school players who have entered the NBA draft since 1995, 9 have made it successfully. Taj MacDavid and Ellis Richardson are high school ball players who were never drafted. But collegiate rules state any high school player who enters the NBA draft is prohibited from ever playing college ball regardless of whether they're selected.

With all this in mind, is the leap worth it? Even if LeBron James averaged 25.2 points, 7.2 rebounds, 5.8 assists and 3.8 steals per game last season, is skipping college the right choice? Some say it is. Why go to college, and expose himself to a career-ending injury and ruin his chance at getting to the pros? Go pro instead. Make millions of dollars and ensure the financial future of his family and himself, while he has the chance.

Which ever way you look at his situation, it takes more than skills to be successful in the NBA or in life, it takes experience, something LeBron James will lack if he skips college and heads to the pros.

Baseball Team Starts Big

Continued from back page

April 5	Grover Cleveland	Grover Cleveland HS (10am)
April 7	Transit Tech	City Line Park
April 8	Bryant	St. Michael's
April 10	Bryant	Flushing Meadows Park #10
April 14	Hillcrest	Flushing Meadows Park #10
April 15	Art & Business	Flushing Meadows Park #12
April 17	Springfield Gardens	Springfield Gardens (10am)
April 18	John Bowne	Maurice Field (dbl hdr, 11am)
April 25	Art & Business	TBA
May 3	Far Rockaway	Far Rockaway (dbl hdr, 10am)
May 6	Flushing	Flushing Meadows Park #12
May 7	Robert F. Kennedy	Flushing Meadows Park #10
May 8	Flushing	Levitt Field
May 13	Renaissance	Flushing Meadows Park #10
May 14	Beach Channel	Beach Channel (5pm)
May 15	Renaissance	Flushing Meadows Park #10
May 20	Forest Hills	Elmjack Complex
May 22	Forest Hills	Flushing Meadows Park #10

David Robles



Age: 17
Years on Team: 4
Position: 2B, Pitcher

"David is a good pitcher. He puts a lot of effort into playing when he is on the field." - Jairo Fernandez

"David has demonstrated great baseball skills, and his contribution to the team has helped us win. This year, he is a shining star!" - Coach Schimenz

Isaac Collado



Age: 17
Years on Team: 4
Position: 3B, Outfield

"Isaac is doing good. He is throwing better and is playing with a lot of heart." - Fernando Nunez

"Isaac, a four year player, has been a steady contributor to the team. This is his year." - Coach Schimenz

Veronica Mulligan



Age: 18
Years on Team: 1
Position: Infield

"Veronica has a positive attitude. She puts a lot effort playing softball." - Massiel Estevez

"She is a good player. We have been trying to recruit her on the team and she has been devoted in practice." - Coach Boyle

Queens Voc's First Annual Sports Awards Banquet

Tuesday, June 3, 6pm - 10pm
At Bruno's on the Boulevard

See your coach for details.

TIGERS

SPORTS

Girls Good to Go Softball Team Begins Confidently

by Richard Dos Santos

The 21 girls playing on the Lady Tigers softball team are gearing up for an exciting season. And although they did not win their first league game, the girls know that better days are ahead.

The Lady Tigers had their first league game on Monday, March 24, against Newtown High School, and while the first game against Newtown was a loss for Queens Voc, Mr. Boyle, the coach, is hoping "the team wins more games than last season and possibly makes the playoffs."

Not only the coach is hopeful, but the players are too. "This season there are new players on the team, and they seem to put a lot of effort into the games. More than half of the team members show up to practice and that's an improvement from last year," says Anayancy Moreno, a three year veteran.

The first practice game against Flushing and the second against John Bowne were canceled because of "the rain left the fields in no condition for the softball team to practice on," explained team captain, Jessica Kenniff. "The tough winter caused the team to cancel some of their practices," said Mr. Boyle. The team still has practice games scheduled against Richmond Hill, Frank Sinatra, Van Arsdale, and John Bowne.

The first few days of practice were indoors because of the snow and ice patches in the schoolyard and Bush field, the team's home field. Indoor practices consisted of "stretching and running as well as sometimes having talks with the coach about future games," said team captain, Massiel Estevez. "The team also goes to the batting cage when the weather isn't good," said Mr. Boyle. In mid-march, once the weather got better, the team practiced batting and pitching or catching in the schoolyard for 2-3 hours. "Practices consist of cardio, strength, and skills conditioning," said Mr. Boyle. Team captains, Jessica Kenniff and Sharon Reyes pushed to have practices on Saturdays, which are conducted and organized by the captains. The Saturday practices weren't popular. Saturday, March 15, "was the first time the softball team had practice on a Saturday," said Sharon.

The softball team has had 3 breakfast/bake sales, which raised around \$500. The team is still undecided on what to spend the money on. Each team player was required to sell a box of candy to pay for the turtle necks they received, as well as for trophies. Mr. Boyle and the captains decided the team should sell two boxes instead, and the money raised from the second box would be used to pay for renting batting cages, paying the umpires, and the team's equipment.

The team members also decided to purchase jerseys with their names and numbers sewed on, as the boys' baseball team has done for years. "The team captains thought we should get our own jerseys and the rest of the team agreed," said Sharon Reyes. We bought the jerseys with our own money," she said.

Massiel Estevez, Jessica Kenniff, and Sharon Reyes were appointed by Mr. Boyle captains of this year's softball team. "I appointed them as captains at the end of last year because they showed commitment to the game, to the team, and to the coach during practices and games last season," said Mr. Boyle.

The softball team is in Queens Division IIB. The number of schools assigned to a division depends on the school size, previous results, and their statistics. According to Mr. Boyle, "only the top two teams in our division will make it to the playoffs this year."

Of the 21 girls on the softball team, 13 are rookies and 8 are veterans. The rookies include: Renata Cascante, Elvia Collado, Jassil Diaz, Cassandra Falcon, Stephanie Fernandez, Rosa Garcia, Amber Kaur, Elliana Kim, Ambar Marrero, Veronica Mulligan, Janet Panora, Giselle Urena, and Daisy Valdez. The veterans include: Tania Correa, Massiel Estevez, Sharon Reyes, Anayancy Moreno, Sharon Reyes, Jennifer Rodriguez, Adeline Romero and Cassandra Toole.

The team's remaining games are as follows:

Date	School	Location
April 2	Grover Cleveland	Grover Cleveland HS Field

continued on page 15

Baseball Team Starts Big 29 Players, 1 Reason: They Love the Game

by Hui Jin

Queens Voc's varsity baseball team, the Tigers, is rebuilding. According to the coach, Mr. Schimenz, eight strong veterans graduated last year. But the 15 remaining veterans and 14 new players are hoping to have a good season. "We lost a lot of good players. We've replaced them, but not their experience and expertise," the coach explained.

The Tigers have 29 players, a large number for one team. "We included more players than most NYC teams because we want to allow more students to participate in baseball and because we have no junior varsity team for them to join," said Mr. Schimenz.

To help him with the large team, the coach appointed three captains: Tanvir Toy, a third-year senior, Kendel Ortiz, a third-year junior, and Oscar Alzate, a second-year junior. "Tanvir was a captain last year and really kept the team organized. Oscar and Kendel have leadership skills too. I couldn't expect Tanvir to do all the work, and remember," the coach exclaimed, "he's also the editor of the school newspaper!" The coach added that he expected Oscar and Kendel to develop into strong leaders for next year.

Beginning March 1, the team has had a 6-day-a-week schedule. The coach scheduled 26 practice games in addition to the 16 league games scheduled. The schedule is full and the days are long. "The team members leave after their last class for the practices and games; we try to finish before dark," said Tanvir. When they cannot play outside because the weather is bad, they either workout inside the school or go to the batting cages. They also hold meetings to discuss the different baseball strategies.

The practices and meetings help team members unite, and the players have great expectations for the team. "I really enjoy the teamwork, the team is like a family for me," said Oscar Alzate, who plays first base and is also a captain. "We have a pretty good team, we have talent, and we bring different aspects to the game," said David Bonilla, a sophomore rookie.

The coach has contributed a major part to the team spirit. When Mr. Schimenz took over the team, he focused on discipline instead of winning. "In life, we win and lose. But when we're disciplined, we increase our chances to win and we develop good behavior. When I took over the team, we had a bad reputation - not as bad players, but as unruly and ill-behaved. The best compliment I ever got was my first year, when Dave Cohen, coach of RFK, told me he enjoyed playing us. We've earned a good reputation, and discipline brought that about," he said.

According to the coach, most of the new players have tremendous potential and interest in baseball. The rookies are Asim Bhatti, David Bonilla, Elvis Collado, Alex Cruz, Ender De La Rosa, Adam Evangelista, Ender Gomez, Joseph Long, Danny Lopez, Yodaryl "Yoda" Moronta, Miller Riascos, Sandy Rodriguez, Mohammed Salahuddin, and Miguel Velez.

Some of the rookies play baseball because it's their hobby. "I joined the baseball team because I'm good at it," said David Bonilla. "I love baseball, that's what I like to play," said Mohammed Salahuddin. Elvis Collado agrees. "I love baseball," Elvis said.

The returning veterans are Oscar Alzate, Karlos Amaro, Alberto "Zuzu" Aspiazu, Jaquan Cole, Isaac Collado, Addison Davis, Jairo Fernandez, Fernando Nunez, Kendel Ortiz, Dennis Parache, Talha Pasha, Luis Perez, David Robles, Anthony Santos, and Tanvir Toy.

The remaining baseball schedule is:

Date	School	Location
April 2	Wagner	Flushing Meadows Park #15
April 3	August Martin	August Martin High School
April 4	Jamaica	Jamaica High School

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