

Vocational Voice

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

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Ms. Hulak's proud of her Students of the Month

Students of the Month Selected

By Cathy Carbonell

If it were so easy, every student would be a Student of the Month. It isn't easy, as the selected students will be quick to admit—it takes a lot of hard work for students to earn the admiration of their teachers. But when they do, Ms. Hulak, coordinator of Houseplans, sees to it that the students are recognized for their efforts. Ms. Hulak started Houseplans and the Student of the Month program when she began teaching at Queens Voc eight years ago. (Continued on page 2)

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

Spirit Week Schedule

By Noemi Diaz

Knock Knock! Who's there? Spirit. Spirit who? Spirit Week. That's right, it's that time again to show your school spirit by participating in Queens Voc Spirit Week.

Spirit Week will be held next week, April 19 through April 23.

The Schedule

Monday 19 - Hat Day. Select the hat that characterizes your personality and taste.

Tuesday 20 - Pajama Day. Be ready for a pajama party, as students show what they wear to bed.

Wednesday 21 - Sports Day. Come with the jersey of your favorite team or if you're on the school team wear your Tigers uniform.

Thursday 22 - Twin Day. Bring your real twin or make one up. Get a friend and dress alike.

Friday 23 - Mix & Un-Match Day. Be a tooty-fruity and just don't match your clothes.

A Story to Tell . . .

By Andre Little

Wendy Vallejo, a sophomore at Queens Voc, is representing our school in a citywide storytelling contest. Wendy is telling the Greek myth, "Arachne."

In the contest, students from different schools compete by reading myths and folktales. The contest has been held for 22 years, but this will be only the second year Queens Voc has entered the contest. Already though, Queens Voc has earned a fine reputation, according to English teacher and storytelling coach Ms. Himmel.

Last year Nashira Wiggins, now a Queens Voc junior, participated and she too won the Queens competition and participated in the citywide finals.

This year, Wendy was selected at the audition to represent Queens Voc. After being chosen, she said, "I feel good about representing the school because I feel I give the school a good name."

On February 23, she won her first competition among 9th and 10th graders, in a Queens High Schools District competition held at John Bown High School. Other schools that participated were Cardozo, Townsend Harris, Franklin



Wendy: QV's storytelling Queen

K. Lane, Beach Channel, and L.I.C.

After the victory, Wendy went on to win the Queens borough competition on March 8th, held at Central Library in Jamaica Queens. Ms. Himmel is very pleased that Wendy has done so well and looks forward to the citywide final competition, on May 14th. In the finals, Wendy will compete against the winners from the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Staten Island.

Wendy has already won many prizes from the contest such as journals, certificates, and books. If Wendy wins the city finals, she will be inducted into the Storytelling Hall of Fame.

Wendy is quick to share the credit for her success. With the help of Ms. Himmel said, "I'm able to tell the story in the best way possible."

All participating students get a free subscription to the New York Times for six weeks. Regional winners also receive an all-expense paid trip to Albany to compete in the finals. At the conclusion, an award ceremony sponsored by The New York Times, State Bar Association and the Board of Ed., is held for the new state champions.

This is a special year for Mock Trial coach Mr. Davidson. He will receive an award for his 15 years of service and dedication to the Mock Trial competition. When asked what has motivated him throughout all these years, he replied, "It's a lot of fun and the students learn so much about the law. It's a pleasure to watch them perform."

Mr. Davidson is also very pleased with this year's team. On March 3, the Mock Trial Team both prosecuted and defended successfully their client; he was found not guilty.

Order in the Court

By Noemi Diaz

Queens Voc was recently in court. The Queens Supreme Court that is. Parik Suri, Cathy Carbonell, Adriana Henriquez, Tamar Walters, Fernando Castro, Bernice Wren, and Adriana Vieco (the legal advisor) were all part of the Queens Voc Mock Trial Team, led by Mr. Davidson.

The statewide contest, arranged by NYS Bar Association, is open to students from public and private schools. The competition starts with over 600 schools statewide and narrows down to 6 regional winners that go to the final round. In May, the regional winners compete in Albany in the New York Court of Appeals.

Names in the News

(Continued from front page)

Each month during the school year, Ms. Hulak asks five teachers to nominate six to eight students from their classes. Students might be selected as Students of the Month because of their scholastic ability, enthusiasm in class, a contribution they made for the class, or based on their improvement as students. After compiling the list of Students of the Month, Ms. Hulak conducts an awards ceremony. In March, the ceremony took place at the Globe Center. The students had their pictures taken, and each received a certificate, a book, and a "magical" pen. Ms. Hulak then uttered the "magic words," "This is the pen to get 90s with. Bibity, Bobity, Bu, only a 90, a 90 will do."

Student of the Month, Adysti Hasani said, "In order to become a Student of the Month, you have to put in a lot of effort and show your teacher that you are capable of doing the work." Adriana Henriquez, a junior who was selected as a student of the month in the ninth grade said, "If you want to be chosen, remember that school comes first and don't let any distraction stand in the way of your success."

Students of the Month for March were:

Sabrina Aziz
Alicia Berry
Yinet Bodden
Charleen Cameron
Cathy Carbonell
Phillip Carrion
Jason Estrella
Juan C. Gonzalez
Leslie Guadalupe
Jagdish Harripersaud
Adysti Hasani
Arkadiusz Malec
Derick Mancham
Diana Marmol
Crystal Morales
Kevin Moreaux
Jose Muñiz
Darienzo Peña
Gloria Pineda
William Rosado
Giovanni Rugel
Kelly Serrano
Angelica Sierra
Diane Sierra
Gerardo Silveira
Erica Smith
Elvin Tejada
Jose Trinidad
Tara Webb
Erin L. Wiggins



Giovanni, one proud Honor Student

At Queens Voc, They're Tops

By Kimberly Duda

Imagine cruising around Manhattan on a boat and enjoying a catered luncheon in your honor. That is what awaits last term's Honor Roll students.

On May 5th, the Honor Roll students will take a school-sponsored cruise as a reward for their achievement of an average of 85% or better.

The students will head to the Chelsea Piers to Spirit Cruises. The trip around Manhattan Island includes a buffet, music, and dancing. "This same trip has been done in the past and since so many students enjoyed it, we decided to do it again," said Sabrina Mack, Student Organization president.

Four years ago, the Student Organization realized that nothing was being done to reward the students who worked hard to achieve the Honor Roll. The student organization looked upon Mr. Reichig and Mr. Serber for help. Initially, the school rewarded the students with a school hat. After that first semester, the students were presented with a school sweatshirt. For the past three years, the school has conducted a luncheon cruise around Manhattan.

About the attendance on the popular trip, Mr. Serber said, "There should be many more people on it."

The following students attained an 85 or higher average in last term:

Abdelghany, Mona	11	301
Ali, Nafeeza	11	301
Arteaga, Johanna	11	303
Avila, Leydy	11	302
Beltran, Wendy	11	301
Cano, Jennifer	9	107
Cassalas, Angela	10	202
Cordero, Melvin	9	107
Diaz, Harold	9	116
Diaz, Lizbell	10	206
Fernandez, Jorge	10	204
Giraldo, Shirley	10	205
Harripersaud, Chandan	10	202
Henao, Maria	10	201
Henriquez, Adrianna	11	301
Islam, Quazi	9	102
Kagan, Aleksandr	11	301
Lacy, Nicole	10	202
Lam, Pang Wai	9	101
Law, William	11	302
Lema, Oscar	10	201
Lipatov, Taras	12	401
Lojan, Javier	12	373
Luo, Jaffe	9	103
Machuca, Maybelline	12	402
Nawaz, Mohammad	10	206
Negron, Jillian	9	104
Nunez, Liana	9	105
O'Neill, Brian	12	402
Pineda, Gloria	9	107
Puello, Jennette	12	401
Pulla, Charles	10	206
Rivera, Vanessa	9	107
Rojas, Mayra	9	106
Rosario, Stephanie	10	206
Rugel, Giovanni	9	107
Shin, Il	10	204
Slapinska, Katarazyna	10	207
Solis, Rocio	11	301
Soto, Diane	10	208
Suri, Parik	11	302
Tucker, Eric	9	117
Ventura, Erica	10	201
Yagual, Evelin	12	371
Zheng, Hui	10	204
Zhou, Letian	10	202



Students of the Month beam with pride

FBLA Wins Big

By Cynthia Stanojlovic

"We did it, again!" was the reaction from some Future Business Leaders of America members after the February FBLA competition. The competition, held on Friday, February 5th, at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, was particularly successful for Queens Vocational students as many members came back with trophies and certificates won at the competition.

Kimberly Duda, president of FBLA, was proud of her organization for bringing back trophies and certificates from the competition.

The victorious students were:

Angela Cooper- 1st Place Trophy for Word Processing, 3rd Place Trophy for Accounting 2

Sabrina Mack- 3rd Place Trophy Parliamentary Procedures, 5th Place Certificate for Impromptu Speaking

Vigdis Ortiz- 1st Place Trophy for Basic Decision Making, 4th Place Trophy Public Speaking

Kimberly Duda- 4th Place Certificate for Business Law, 4th Place Trophy for Business Procedures

Shaktie Jailall- 1st Place Trophy for Job Interviewing

Johanna Arteaga- 5th Place Certificate for Business Calculations

FBLA members worked hard to prepare. They studied for the tests they each would take, borrowed textbooks from the Business Department, and reviewed tests from previous competitions.

"It doesn't matter if they win but that they learn how to present themselves. . ." said Ms. Sweet

Angela Cooper, commenting on her success at the competition, said that winning is "great, especially it being the second year and the second win in the accounting."

About new members who have

contributed to FBLA's fine showing, Kimberly said, "Two of our newest members, Vigdis Ortiz and Johanna Arteaga, brought back trophies; all our members worked best to their abilities."

Ms. Sweet, FBLA Advisor, was thrilled with the latest success of FBLA. Her main goal isn't winning, it is the lesson the members learn. "It doesn't matter if they [FBLA members] win, but that they learn how to present themselves and how to behave in the business world, and being part of a huge business organization."

The next competition, which is statewide, will be held April 14-16, in Rochester, NY. The winners of that competition will go to the national finals in Chicago, Illinois.



Cosmo kids: they're heads up!

READY, SET, COMB!!!!!!

By Vigdis Ortiz & Xavier Peña

On Thursday, March 25, and Friday, March 26, the Second Annual 10th Grade Cosmetology Competition took place. Coordinating the competition were Ms. Spallone, Ms. Lingstuy, and Ms. Drucker.

Teachers and parents were encouraged to stop in and vote for the best hairstyles. The judges were asked to rate the hairstyles on three criteria: creativity, professional work, and smoothness.

The participants were told to create a "stylish doo" using roller sets.

After dozens of judges had reviewed the 16 mannequins, the winners were announced: Sofia Caraballo won 1st place, Aleikah Scott took 2nd place, and Nicole Lacy and Tishima Peck shared 3rd place. In a demonstration of dedication, "Sophia stayed at school until 5PM the day before the contest working on her mannequin's hairstyle," said Suzette Cabello.

The contestants were challenged to be unique. "We came out being creative," said Justine Wilson, a participant in the Cosmo Contest.

Justine added that the Cosmo Contest was a good experience for her because she liked "the pressure of coming up with a hairstyle."

"It was good for us to be in a contest," said Nicole. "There was a whole lot of competition but I think everybody did well."

The contest participants were:

Suzette Cabello
Sofia Caraballo
Dominique Cepeda
Melissa Digangi
Erica Espinal
Sarita Espinal
Nicole Lacy
Nancy Mercado
Marcia Michael
Tishima Peck
Jonique Price
Mayra Reyes
Aleikah Scott
Tiffany Pineda
Alexandra Tolbert
Justine Wilson

Ring - Ring

By Marcia Cabrera

Attention all students: Gold was found in Basement A. Gold graduation rings that is.

The Ring Ceremony was held on March 17, at 8am. The ceremony celebrated the memories and friends the seniors made at Queens Vocational during the three or four years they have spent here. A breakfast consisting of orange juice, bagels, and donuts was provided by the ring company, Herff Jones, to thank the students for purchasing rings.

All seniors who purchased graduation rings were invited to the ceremony. Mr. Serber, Mr. Rivera, and sales representative Mr. Marine, spoke. With a smile, Mr. Rivera said, "Don't let senioritis get to you, it's a very contagious disease that jeopardizes what you worked so much for." Mr. Marine wished the students "good luck" in their future

endeavors.

Students were called up individually and given their rings in a ring box that resembled a graduation cap. "The turning tradition of the ring is easy," said Mr. Marine. "Since the graduation year is '99 the students have their rings turned toward the pinky 98 times. The 99th time, the ring is turned toward the heart, the person turning it should be a most special person."

The seniors received a signature sheet with the ring so they could remember those they counted among their closest friends.

As the ceremony came to an end, the students were very busy turning rings and signing cards. Elizabeth Almonte, senior class vice-president, commented, "It was very nice of Herff Jones to have a ceremony for the distribution of our rings." "The bagels were delicious and it was a good time to share with our friends," said Melissa Salcedo, a senior who received her ring at the ceremony.

Scared Straight

By Xavier Peña

Some Queens Voc students were recently escorted home from Riker's Island by Mr. Niederberger. But that's only because he escorted them there to begin with. Nothing to worry about, it's just another of Mr. Niederberger's class trips. The last trip was to the Museum of Natural History. This time he took his students to the Riker's Island correctional facility.

Corrections Officers Whitecomb, Shannon, and Ruiz visited Mr. Niederberger's 4th and 7th period classes on March 23, to prepare the students for their upcoming trip to Riker's Island.

The Corrections Officers discussed inmate jail life, various crimes that earned the inmates their sentences, and how crime affects the community.

Some facts presented to the inquisitive students were:

- 70,000 inmates are located in Riker's Island
- 85% inmates are from NYC
- 57% are African American
- 35% are Latinos
- 8% are European, Asian, and other races
- Inmates earn 10 cents an hour for work performed in jail
- There are separate jail cells for men, women, and juveniles

Riker's Island, the largest jail system in the United States, covers 400 acres and is officially located in East Elmhurst. Included among the inmate population are some teenagers who are involved in gangs, drugs, or sexually-related crimes.

In preparation for the trip, Officer Ruiz told the girls not to wear loose clothing because of comments they would likely hear as they toured the prison grounds. The Corrections Officer also suggested that students not wear any gang related clothing. Walkmen, cellular phones, and beepers were pro-

hibited, as the students would be passing through the prison's metal detectors.

"No gum chewing" at Riker's Island, the students were told. The reason however, is very sound. Gum, left behind by tourists, can be used by inmates to block the jail cell keyholes. Corrections officers would thus be prevented from entering a cell to stop a fight.

The students were shown graphic pictures of inmates who were assaulted by other inmates. "Everybody in the school should see this presentation," said Tyrone Fredrick, one of the students in attendance.

Was the visit effective? "Very effective," said Jennifer Jackson, who found the presentation both enlightening and scary. "It taught us to do good in school so we won't live as criminals."

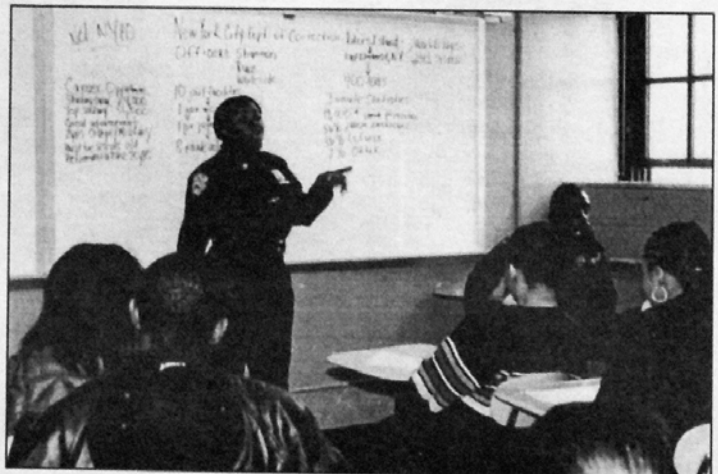
The actual trip was conducted over two days, March 30, and March 31. The students were chaperoned by Mr. Niederberger and Ms. Suarez.

The Queens Voc students observed many juvenile inmates at New York's largest jail. The touring students were subjected to many derogatory comments, and some were visibly shaken by the inmates' taunts.

At one point in the trip, Mr. Niederberger's students experienced prison life closer than they might have liked when they were "locked up" in a jail cell. Many of the students thought this was a great experience, especially that they were allowed to go home at the end of the trip. "For the inmates, the trip lasts a lot longer," said Tyrone.

Some of the older and wiser inmates offered the Queens Voc students some very sound advice: "Don't end up here."

"Stay in school, avoid the wrong crowd, and stay out of jail." That was the lesson Jennifer Jackson and the other students took home from Riker's Island.



Corrections Officers explaining Career Opportunities

News From Around the School

FBLA Marches On

By Jennette Puello

"All dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them."

-Walt Disney

"Get up and walk for a good cause." That's what our Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) are urging other Queens Voc students to do on April 25. The March of Dimes Walkathon through Central Park is an annual event that helps fund research for babies with birth defects.

The March of Dimes got its name in 1938, when President Franklin Roosevelt, a victim of polio, made a plea for Americans to send in dimes to be used for research to help discover a polio vaccine. When a vaccine for polio was invented, the March of Dimes changed its mission from curing polio to improving the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality.

This year, the 29th Anniversary of the March of Dimes Walkathon, every member of FBLA, as well as other students will represent Queens Voc. Each year, FBLA members pick an organization they want to help; this becomes their district project assigned by the state. The FBLA members have been assigned the task of getting other students and staff involved in the Walkathon.

On Thursday, February 25, FBLA members and Mr. Reichig, Coordinator of Student Activities, attended a luncheon at the Villa Bianca on Northern Boulevard. While at the luncheon, students

learned how to involve students in the Walkathon.

A film was shown at the luncheon about four babies, each born under five pounds, who were able to survive because of the money raised by the March of Dimes. The babies were helped through March of Dimes funding of Neonatal Intensive Care Units. The students were also informed of a 1970's Skateathon, sponsored by the March of Dimes, and a similar event to be held later this spring.

FBLA members Sabrina Mack, Kimberly Duda, Angela Cooper, Vigdis Ortiz, and Ana Diaz, have posted signs and sought sponsors for the Walkathon. "FBLA members have made good efforts to raise a lot of money for the babies," said Shaktie Jailall, a FBLA member. FBLA sold symbolic paper cutout sneakers for a dollar to each sponsor, and each member already has a total of twenty sponsors. The dedicated FBLA members are trying to raise as much money, and get as many people involved, as possible. FBLA's goal is to raise \$1,000. Cynthia Stanjolic and Sabrina Mack said that it is important to get people involved "because it helps the babies."

Registration forms can be found in Mr. Reichig's office in room 217, and registration will still be held at Lincoln Center on April 25, the day of the Walkathon, at 8am. Opening ceremonies will begin at 9. The participants in the 2.5-hour event will walk 10 miles from Lincoln Center through Central Park and back.



Artist autographing his work

By Jennette Puello

Picasso, Da Vinci, Simpson... Wait a minute. Who is Simpson? Queens Vocational's Rory Simpson, an up-and-coming artist has been attending a free Art and Architecture Program for New York City public high school students.

Rory takes classes in Manhattan every Saturday from 10am to 5pm. The program began in October and runs through April.

Rory, an aspiring artist, presented a piece of his artwork to Ms. Ehrlich, who entered it into an art contest. Ms. Ehrlich then told Rory about the free classes and gave him an application for the Saturday program. Rory is the only Queens Vocational student taking the Saturday class.

Rory says he likes the program because "it gives me something to do on Saturdays." He doesn't mind the commute from Hollis, Queens to the Cooper Union School of Art in Manhattan every Saturday.

The program provides sculpting, drawing, graffiti, painting, and drawing live models. The program has some tough rules. The rule that stands out for Rory is that students are dismissed from the program after three unexcused absences.

For students who are interested in pursuing a career in art, Rory says that this free program is "pretty good." He went on to say, "you spend a lot of hours there and they teach you a lot of interesting things that help you in art."

WHO ARE YOU?

By Ydhelca A. Pérez

Picture this: Edwin Pérez, a junior at Queens Voc, is going to take his SAT exam. While in line to get into the test site, he hears the person in charge say, "If you do not have an ID, please wait until everyone with an ID gets in, and we will take care of the rest of you as soon as possible."

While this account is purely fictional, the possibility is not. This has been one complaint the students in Queens Voc have brought up to the principal, Mr. Serber. "Students have recently started to complain that they need school ID for various reasons," says Mr. Serber. The principal figured it was time to take action.

Mr. Serber, along with seven other school principals in Queens, decided to provide ID cards. They are working to have the cards ready for this spring. The camera and other necessary equipment will be purchased from a company called Data Card, and will cost the school about \$6,000. The laminated identification cards will be ready 2 to 3 weeks after the school receives the equipment. During that 2 to 3 week period, pictures of all students will be taken. Students will be issued one free ID card; replacement cards will be issued, but students will be charged \$1.00 for each time they need a replacement card.

Many students support the distribution of ID cards. Jennifer Liz, a 10th grader, said, "I think it would be a great idea for us to get ID cards, 'cause it will prevent students [who don't belong in this school] from coming into the school. Wendy Agramonte, a 9th grader, added that it would be good to have ID cards because "to take the SAT test an ID is required." "You also need ID to cash your checks when you work," Neiyedy Bodden added.

Spring Tutoring Schedule

By Rich Medina

Subject	Teacher	Loc.	Period / Times	Days
Math:	Dibetta	206	Pd.9	Mon-Fri.
	Wecker	206	Pd.3	Mon-Fri.
Science:	Gogna	206	Pd.8	Mon-Fri.
	Goody	206	Pd.9	Mon.-Fri.
	Mohan	206	Pd.6	Mon-Fri.
	Radding	206	Pd.3	Mon-Fri.
English:	LaPointe	301	Pd.4	Mon-Thurs.
	LaPointe	301	Pd. 10	By Appt
Social Studies:	Price	By Appt.	Pd.2	Mon-Fri.
	Price	Library	Pd.5	Mon,Wed,Fri.
	Salih	103	Pd.9	Tues,Wed,Thur
	Giorgi	By Appt.	7:00-7:30	Mon-Thurs.
	Giorgi	By Appt.	2:15-3:05	Friday (Global)
	Giorgi	By Appt.	3:10-4:00	Friday (U.S.)
Business:	Malette	Library	Pd.2	Mon-Fri.
	Siegal	404	Pd.8	Mon-Fri.

Say it with a

Voice Gram

Appearing in our final edition of the school year will be *Voice Grams*. All members of the Queens Voc community can participate. Send an end-of-school message to friends, students, teachers, and staff. Listen to the morning announcements for further details.

Inquiring Photographer

By Vigdis Ortiz

Teachers can play a huge role in the lives of their students. They can open our eyes to new and exciting things that we might never have experienced by ourselves. The way a teacher goes about teaching might make all the difference in our difficult journey to adulthood. Just by the way a teacher might speak, teach a lesson, or even give that extra little bit of personal attention, may completely change a high school teenager's outlook on education.



Leslie Guadalupe, a senior, chose Dr. Bacigalupo, head of the Academics Department.

"Dr. Bacigalupo really took an interest in my opinion on Piri Thomas's work—work that really inspired me. She actually took the time out to contact him and to get him to visit our school. She made it possible for me and many other students to meet the person behind the words of a book that we actually read."



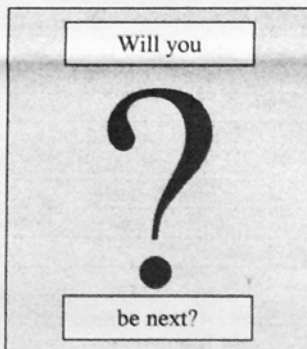
Jessica Arroyave, a freshman, picked Ms. Hulak, a well-known teacher at Queens Voc.

"I had Negotiations classes with Ms. Hulak. She helped me out when I was having problems just by letting me talk to her about them. As an English teacher, she would take time out of her lunch period to help me succeed in her class. She really showed me that she cares about her students."



Rodolfo Correa, a junior, selected Mr. Schimenz.

"Schimenz really knows how to teach a lesson. He is a good person, as far as people go. He knows the value of a second chance. He also makes learning fun for his students. These are the qualities of a very good teacher."



If you have an inspiring story about any Queens Voc staff member, contact the Vocational Voice c/o Mr. Schimenz's mailbox or email us at VocVoice@aol.com and look for your story in the next edition's Inquiring Photographer section.

PMSchool

By Hilda Guzman

Finally, there is good news for all the students who are missing credits! A chance to make-up some of those classes and bring high school graduation requirements up to date—PM school has begun at Queens Vocational and Technical High School.

This program gives students the opportunity to make up the classes

they have failed. "It is a very good way to make-up credits," said Mr. Serber, our school principal. PM school is held only three days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday), during 10th period for 15 weeks.

Although all students are eligible to attend PM school, priority is given in grade order, beginning with seniors. This year, Mrs. Bertolami is the supervisor for PM school. She helped students register, organized the program and selected the teachers and classes.

In the past, Queens Vocational High School had offered six to seven classes as well as library



Having their cake at the Senior Luncheon

What was spiked at the Senior Luncheon?

By Marcia Cabrera

Spiked hair, ripped jeans, Adidas and Puma outfits were seen at the senior luncheon held on March 19, in Bruno's on the Boulevard. The senior luncheon's theme was "The Rappers' Delight '80s."

Students who attended were encouraged to dress in '80s-style clothing. One highlight of the luncheon was a costume contest. There were two winners selected, one male, one female. Winners were selected by crowd applause. Each winner received a trophy and a free prom ticket. Anthony Calderon, with his punk-look, was chosen for the best male costume. Dressed in black boots, tight blue jeans, a flannel shirt tied around his waist, a Metallica t-shirt, and a black leather jacket, Anthony's costume stood out as the most unique. To "top it all off" he spiked his hair, using "a lot of gel and mousse," he said. Giuseppina Calisti won best costume for the girls. She was dressed in white high heels and a white puffy dress resembling Madonna's "Like a Virgin" video. After the crowd applauded to select the winners, and Mr. Reichig handed the winners their trophies, the crowd cheered for a slow dance from the winners. To please their admiring fans, Anthony and Giuseppina slow-danced in celebration of their victory.

Following the costume contest, there were three dance contests to go: the merengue, swing, and breakdancing contest. Trophies were given to the first and second place winners. Luis Pineda and Renee Colón took the first place breakdancing trophies home, and the second place trophies went to Winston O'Conner and Leslie Guadalupe. For swing dancing, the first place trophies were presented

to Ana Diaz and Rueben Tucker, and the second place trophies went to Jennette Puella and Melissa Valdez. The merengue trophies were awarded to Antonia Rivas and Oscar Abreu for first place, and the second place trophies were given to Melissa Salcedo and Luis Pineda. The winners were chosen on how well the couples danced as determined by the students' applause.

Then came buffet time; students were able to enjoy lunch with their friends and some of their teachers. There were a couple of hot plates to choose from such as Chicken Parmagiana, Paella (seafood with rice), Penne a la Vodka (pasta cooked in vodka), Baked Ziti, and Rissolo Potatoes.

At the luncheon, students had an opportunity to share one of their last good times and memories together before they graduate. Mariana Cooper commented, "It was aight, although the DJ wasn't, but that didn't stop anyone from having fun."

At the end of the luncheon, Mr. Reichig said, "This was the best luncheon yet, because as soon as the students walked in the dancing began, where in previous luncheons students wouldn't begin dancing until some brave soul broke the ice."



Anthony sports the punk look

services for students. This year because of budget cuts, only three classes were offered: United States History, English, and Science; there are no library services. "Students are very upset because there are not enough classes available," said Ms. Linda Eglefeld, 10th grade guidance counselor, as she looked through the schedule for PM school. This term, students can only take one class. James Pina, a junior, said, "I am

very disappointed. I wanted to take more than just one class but because of overcrowding, I wasn't able to get my choice."

"I advise all the students who need to make up credits to attend PM school. Although students earn only one credit, it is better to make up that one credit now than to wait and make it up in summer school," said Maribel Luna a senior attending PM school.

EDITORIALS & COMMENTARIES

QUEENS VOC IS GOOD . . .

Queens Voc is a good school, although many of us rarely seem to notice. So many activities occur at Queens Voc that should be trumpeted as reminders to us that this is a pretty good place after all!

We've had success in the Storytelling Contest and VICA and FBIA competitions. Our Debate Team and Mock Trial Team have been successful as well.

Houseplans' Jeopardy competitions and Student of the Month ceremonies boost our school spirit, and we have an Honor Roll trip to reward the most diligent students among us. We have Cosmo contests that spark enthusiasm among students, parents and staff. The enjoyable Spirit Week provides other spirit-generating events.

We have famous authors and newspaper journalists coming to speak to us about life outside school—and life within our schools. And we have a promise from the Chancellor to visit us at Queens Voc.

And as good as things are, there have been many improvements in recent years.

This year, new science labs were constructed for our students. Students majoring in Business now have another room full of top-of-the-line computers on which to learn. In the grants department, a donation of four 486-computers went the journalism program and more recently, two grants were awarded to Queens Voc for students to build and operate a ham radio station.

The boys' baseball team improved. The Tigers made the playoffs the past two years, and last year finished second place in their division. The girls' softball team has won some games already this year, surpassing their achievements of the past several years.

The Vocational Voice has improved. We have doubled the number of editions and increased the paper from a four-page paper in the November to a twelve-page paper in January and April, with one final edition already in the planning stages.

We should all participate in accentuating the positive at Queens Voc, because there is so much positive to talk about!

. . . BUT IT CAN BE BETTER

We adopted the motto "Good Enough" is the enemy of "it can be better" for the *Vocational Voice* at the beginning of the school year because we came to believe that settling for "good enough" guarantees mediocre results. The phrase, "It can be better," has motivated us to strive to improve our school newspaper.

The Queens Voc community would benefit by adopting this motto. Perhaps we should take this motto as our own, and endeavor to improve every aspect of our school. This is not to say that Queens Voc is a bad place; it's not. But, as the saying goes, it can be better.

We students can work harder in our studies and in our school-related organizations and teams. Instead of students just doing something, they should do it better.

Our teachers can work harder to ensure we succeed in the face of tougher standards set by the NYS Board of Regents. Indeed, Mr. Serber has instituted a committee for school change to do just that.

And our administrators can do better by helping our teachers be the best they can be.

How do we begin to improve?

Show initiative; take it upon yourself to do something extra around the school. Participate more in school activities. Those of us already involved in organizations and teams should become better participants, and together with advisors, strive to improve each activity in which we are involved.

These are the three paths we can take:

- We can sit around and complain about what we don't have. It won't help, but many people see this as the only available option.
- We can continue to perform our daily routine by doing just enough to get by. Nothing improves and mediocrity reigns supreme.
- Or we can begin to improve the many facets of our high school and our lives!

We suggest the last option is the best. At the least, it is the only option that can bring about any positive change. And that sure beats complaining!

Vocational Voice

Queens Vocational & Technical
High School
37-02 47th Avenue
L.I.C., NY 11101

Tel 718.937.3010
Fax 718.392.8397

<http://home.con2.com/queenv>

Email: VocVoice@aol.com

Mr. Steve Serber
Principal

Ms. Marie Bacigalupo
AP, Academics

Mr. Rob Schimenz
Advisor

Xavier Peña
Editor-in-Chief

Contributors
Leydy Avila
Marcia Cabrera
Anthony Calderon
Cathy Carbonell
Angela Cooper
Madelyn Cuello
Noemi Diaz
Kimberly Duda
Talina Espinal
Anca Filip
Hilda Guzman
Pablo Huerta
Shaktie Jailall
Andre Little
Sabrina Mack
Richard Medina
Jeffrey Muñoz
Andrew Niño
Brian O'Neill
Vigdis Ortiz
Xavier Peña
Ydhelca Pérez
Jennette Puello
Carlos Solis
Cythnia Stanojlovic
Melissa Valdez
Brian Velikic
Paul Wojtowicz

those teenagers who got pregnant when I was 14 years old, I wanted to have an abortion because the first thing I did was think about my parents. But I decided to have it [the baby]; now that I'm 16 years old, my son is a year old and I'm very happy. This article is an example for all teenagers," commented Sandy Rodriguez. Jillian Negron wrote that it was good Noemi mentioned where the pregnant teenagers can get help.

Richard Medina also received many letters regarding his article, "New Graduation Requirements." The students were not too happy about these new requirements. Randy Robles and Michael Safuto thought the requirements should be changed. Randy "completely hated" the idea. There were a few students, however, who looked at the bright side of the changes. Hai Dong Qu, a freshman and ESL student, said, "this would be hard, but Ms. Packer is a very good teacher" and will help him pass the Regents. Walter Harmens thought the changes were unfair, but still had something positive to say. "We get to learn more and we get prepared for other things in life," wrote Walter.

Many students thought that "www.QueensVoc.com" by Talina Espinal, was very informative. Most of them didn't even know Queens Voc had a web page. Mildred Hernandez wrote that the web page was a great idea because this gives other students a chance to log on and get information about the school.

Some letters were written to commend us on our work. For example, Tiffany Duff loves what we have done with the school newspaper. She found it to be very interesting and informative and would even like to be a contributor to the Vocational Voice.

All Queens Voc students are encouraged to speak their minds or even to let us know what they would like to see in our next and final edition of the *Vocational Voice*. Letters to the *Vocational Voice* can be placed in Mr. Schimenz's mailbox in the Main Office.

Feedback

By Melissa Valdez

The *Vocational Voice* received many letters and comments from students concerning the articles that appeared in the January issue. The students congratulated the journalists on their fine work and offered some suggestions and comments.

"Babies Having Babies," by Noemi Diaz, really stirred things up. Noemi received the most letters from the students. "I was one of



Principal's Message



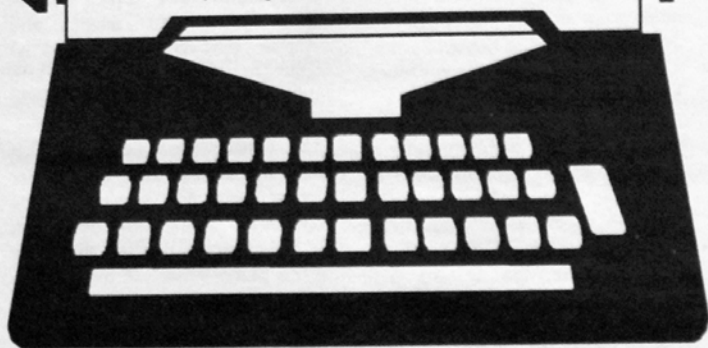
QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL Steve Serber, Principal

New York State has set new standards for high school diplomas. Many students and parents are asking, "How can we possibly meet these new standards and pass all these regents examinations?" The answer is really simple. Here is my prescription for success.

1. Students must understand from the 1st Grade on that they must learn to read and practice constantly. You can never read too many books!
2. Students must realize what is expected of them and do all they can to improve their basic skills.
3. Ninth graders from "day one" in high school must work in all their classes. They must study each night, attend extra tutorial sessions, and work to their maximum.
4. Students who fail examinations must go to summer school or evening school so that they do not fall further behind.
5. Students who fail have only themselves to blame.
6. Parents must do whatever they possibly can do to help their children succeed, including sitting with them while they do their homework and checking on their progress throughout the school year.

Meeting the new standards is a job we must all take responsibility to complete. The students, parents, and school must be partners in this project and there will be no success unless we all try our best. Remember school is your most important job, and success takes work.

Sincerely,
Steve Serber, Principal



Dr. Crew, Where Are You?

By Reuben Tucker

On March 9th, I attended a press conference featuring NYC's Schools Chancellor, Rudy Crew. During this conference, students had an opportunity to ask Dr. Crew one question. Many chose questions about vouchers and what he was doing about the problems in their schools.

I didn't ask him any questions. I simply told him what being a Queens Vocational Tiger means. It means having a basketball team that has to take the train to practice and how we've never had a home game. It also means having a baseball team has more than one goal every time they approach a public "home field" two miles away from the school. They not only have to concentrate on their adversaries, they also have to maintain the field and make sure the field is suitable for play.

I also told him about how we've been bombarded with problems such as unlicensed teachers, hazardous Physical Education surroundings and overcrowded classes. Last semester, I had to rush to class so that I could obtain a seat or I would have to stand and use the windowsill as a desk.

Dr. Crew agreed with me when I said it is essential for people to be spiritually involved in their inquiries in order to be successful. Then I told him that this is a major problem at Queens Voc. I said, "My peers and I have no sense of school spirit." Other schools have homecoming dances and home games period. We don't even have a gymnasium. Plus most students meet and socialize in the cafeteria. That's hard to do when you're eating in the auditorium. Excuse me... the "Cafetorium." Meanwhile, nearby Long Island City High School received a brand new school with a beautiful football/baseball field when their previous school was far better than ours.

After explaining all of this to Dr. Crew, he responded, "Son, you've just earned your school a visit." After the conference he shook my hand and told me that I had done a great job. Two days later, I was cut from the television broadcast of the conference. I was very disappointed. The Board of Education knows about our problems. They just don't want anyone else to know. They would rather avoid us and pretend that we don't exist.

Well at least Dr. Crew agreed to visit our school. Perhaps he will come with answers to our problems. I don't know about you guys, but I'm tired of being thought of as "The school next to Aviation." All I want is for my peers and I to have a path toward success that is equitable to everyone else's. That way we will all have a fair shot at excellence!



Queens Voc's Supreme Court

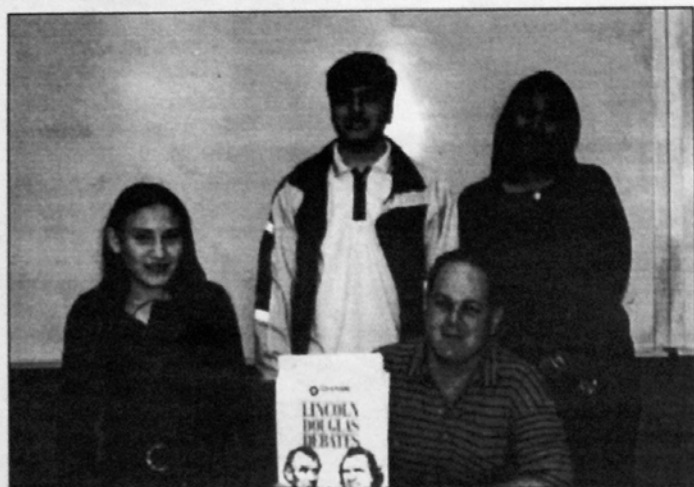
Queens Voc Censures Clinton

The snow was falling hard that cold January morning and the streets of Long Island City were empty. The calmness of the outdoor surroundings contrasted sharply with the excitement indoors, where the assembled spectators and participants eagerly awaited the entrance of the court. The Sergeant-at-arms called out, "All rise for the Supreme Court, Chief Justice William Rehnquist presiding."

One by one the Justices entered the room and the Chief Justice announced, "Trial of the President, the People versus William Jefferson Clinton. You may be seated." Justice Rehnquist struck the gavel on the table as he called the proceedings to order. The eight Associate Justices sat on either side of the Chief Justice, four to his left, four to his right.

On January 14, 1999, the "real" Mr. Clinton was in Washington, D.C., awaiting trial, but at Queens Voc, the trial was already underway. Ms. Giorgi's Honors American Government class was enacting their own version of the "Trial of the President," coordinated by Ydhelca Pérez, Sabrina Mack, and Xavier Peña.

The Senators of class H7H voted unanimously to censure Mr. Clinton, in contrast to the "real" Senate in Washington, which found the President not guilty, on February 12.



QV Debate Team article appearing in next edition

CAN'T WE TALK THIS OUT?

By Madelyn Cuello

Violence never solves anything, but Ms. Hulak's Negotiations Class does. Like most people, there are times when you may disagree with someone. Sometimes meaningless disagreements can turn violent. We've probably all seen fights break out in school one time or another. That's why the New York City Board of Education has instituted Negotiations Classes in every high school.

At Queens Voc, Negotiations class is held first period in Room 103. The course is designed to train students in the art of negotiations in order to resolve conflicts between students. They learn to discuss and deal with conflict in a manner in which both parties win. Ms Hulak, the Negotiations teacher, describes it as a "win-win situation." Besides training, the students role play and

talk about handling diversity. The participants read a lot of literature that teaches lessons on proper behavior. Currently, the class is reading William Bennett's *Book of Virtues*.

In April, the trained negotiators will visit different classes and discuss what they've learned. Each student who has taken the course gets a certificate at the end of the year as a "Trained Peer Negotiator." All students are eligible and can join at any time, as long as they have first period free.

One participant, senior Jennifer Martinez, says "This class is good because it's better to talk things out, rather than to act on impulse. This is why it is so important to listen and to communicate effectively."

Students who have first period free, and are interested in joining the class, can see Ms. Hulak to joining her team of negotiators.



Spring cleaning in Cosmo

Cosmo Clean-up

By Madelyn Cuello

"A clean room is a happy room." That old saying was recently put

into action in Room 321, a cosmetology room.

Ms. Spallone's 11th grade students worked hard to clean their workplace. The students cleaned the mirrors, hydraulic chairs, stations, and swept and cleaned the dryers. They washed walls and floors. When they had finished, they declared their room "spotless."

Ms. Spallone said, "... at first the students were a bit reluctant to do this job." But after she spoke with them, they realized this was what was expected of them in the beauty industry. On February 4th, Ms. Spallone's juniors participated in the cleanup and were very anxious to keep the room clean afterwards. They even asked other students to follow-up with maintenance.

The students who participated in the cleanup will receive certificates signed by Mr. Serber, Ms. Bertolami, and Ms. Spallone congratulating them for recognizing the importance of cleanliness in cosmetology.



Negotiation kids receive their diplomas

Between Heaven & Hell

By Andre Little

Night school. Is it a privilege or a punishment? Or is it both?

Night school is provided by the New York City Board of Education so that seniors who have failed a required class can make it up and graduate on time. "Night school may have some pros, but it also has a lot of cons," explained Javier Lojan, a senior attending night school, "that's why I refer to it as heaven and hell."

Night school is beneficial because it allows students to make up classes owed. Students can also make up more than one class, giving them a better chance to graduate.

But "the cons of night school over-power the pros of night school," said Mike Piazza, a senior currently attending school during the day and at night. He added that

the classes are overcrowded and long—1.5 hours long. Depending on how many classes students have, they might get out at 7:30pm or 9:00pm. Further, the Board of Ed does not issue transportation passes for night school, so travel costs come directly out of the students' pockets.

Javier Lojan stated, "you don't really learn the material because night school teachers don't really want to teach." Javier suggested that students "avoid night school, and stay on track in regular school because night school isn't worth it."

Each year, night school begins in February and ends in June. Students can take up to two classes. The first class starts at 5:55pm and ends at 7:25pm. The second class starts at 7:30pm and ends at 9:00pm. Night school is held at Washington Irving, Jamaica High School, and Flushing High School. Students are allowed to attend night school two days a week, either Monday and Wednesday, or Tuesday and Thursday.

NY Times Writer Visits

By Xavier Peña

"There is no such thing as writing, only rewriting," said Kirk Johnson, journalist for *The New York Times*, as he spoke to the Queens Vocational Journalism class. Mr. Johnson was the lead writer of a 3-day series on New York City High School sports. The now-famous series was entitled "Dropping the Ball: The Decline of School Sports," and led with a segment on Queens Vocational.

Mr. Johnson had been investigating the declining state of school sports for months when he visited Dr. Howard Levy, a sports medicine specialist at Beth Israel Medical Center. Coincidentally, Mr. Schimenz, the Queens Voc baseball coach, had taken Hipolito Burgos, his baseball catcher and soon-to-be team captain, to Dr. Levy for a follow-up visit, after arthroscopic shoulder surgery during the summer.

"The Queens Voc story was just what was needed to pique reader interest," said Mr. Johnson.

It was in Dr. Levy's office that the *Times*-Queens Voc connection was made. Mr. Johnson interviewed both Hipolito and Mr. Schimenz. As coach and player left the doctor's office, they invited the *Times* writer to the baseball team's final tryout.

As the deadline approached, Mr. Johnson called the coach to confirm some information for his article.

Mr. Schimenz invited him to visit Queens Voc to speak with his Journalism class. On January 19, soon after the first section of "Dropping the Ball" was published, Mr. Johnson visited the school. The *Times* writer discussed how students can improve as writers, explained the purpose of the acclaimed "Dropping the Ball" series, and the efforts required to research and compile the data for such an expansive article. Mr. Johnson also told the class why he chose Queens Voc to be the lead of the series. "The Queens Voc story was just what was needed to pique reader interest," said Mr. Johnson. "The story of a baseball player and coach so dedicated to playing that they would pump water off the field in order to play was moving," he added.

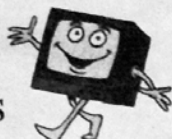
In addition to the Journalism students, Dr. Bacigalupo, Assistant Principal of Academics, and Hipolito Burgos, the lead to Mr. Johnson's article, were on-hand to hear the writer speak.

Mr. Johnson's article brought Queens Voc a lot of attention. Almost a week after the *Times* series was published, Queens Voc and Mr. Schimenz were mentioned again in Bob Herbert's "Giuliani's Stadium Fever." In Mr. Herbert's op-ed piece, Queens Voc was compared with the New York Yankees. More recently, Mr. Serber, Queens Voc Principal, received a phone call from a woman who read the *New York Times* and donated \$100 to the school.

[Editor's note: See Reuben Tucker's commentary for more on this issue]

That's Entertainment

TV Reviews



By Sabrina Mack

King of Queens

"King of Queens" is a new sitcom that premiered this season. It airs Mondays at 8:30pm on channel 2. This show is about a married couple that just moved to Queens and is trying to fit in. The episode I watched was an okay episode. Doug, one of the main characters of the show, who works for UPS gets a promotion on his job but he thinks his friend should get the promotion instead because his friend has been on the job longer and is more qualified. His friend feels he did not get the promotion because he is black. Doug gets really upset about this and judges the good and bad of his situation. Eventually, Doug gives up the job and his friend takes it. This show has comedy but it also deals with real issues. I give this show three hearts. ♥♥♥

Moesha

The second show is "Moesha." It is on Tuesdays at 8:00pm on channel 9. This show stars R&B singer Brandy as Moesha. The episode I saw was practical for every teenager; it was about making the choice to engage in sex. Moesha thinks she is ready to give up her virginity to her boyfriend. She goes to the hospital to get birth control pills and condoms just to be safe. But after she finds out her boyfriend was not a virgin and has had many sexual partners, she decides not to have sex with him because she realized she doesn't really know him well enough after all. She also sees there can be bad consequences to her losing her virginity, such as contracting a sexually transmitted disease from her partner. I give this show two hearts ♥♥ because it is not always interesting. It's not a show you have to run home and watch.

Smart Guy

"Smart Guy" airs on Sundays at 8:30pm on channel 11. This show is about a genius kid who is 11 years old and in the 11th grade. T.J. is above his class. He learns very fast and he is a good student, in other words he is a nerd. The episode that I saw had T.J. with a crush on his science teacher. When his father meets the woman, T.J. gets jealous because father and teacher hit it off. In the end, T.J. realizes that his teacher is too old for him and accepts his father's newly found friendship with his teacher. I give

this show three hearts ♥♥♥. While humorous, it still teaches its viewers an important lesson. In this episode, the lesson was that a crush is sometimes just a crush; it can't go any further.

The Wayans Brothers

The next show is "The Wayans Brothers." The show comes on Thursdays at 8pm on channel 11. The Wayans Brothers have many issues that they deal with living in New York City. In the episode I watched, Shawn and Marlyn Wayans (who are brothers in real life) try to stop their Dad's restaurant from being knocked down by a construction agency that wants to build a mini-mall on the land. The agency relents after the Wayans have the restaurant declared a landmark. Throughout the whole show, the Wayans had me laughing with their jokes and funny comedy skits. I give this must-see-show four hearts. ♥♥♥♥

Steve Harvey Show

The "Steve Harvey Show" comes on Thursdays at 9pm on channel 11. Steve Harvey teaches music in a public high school. Many of his students see music as the greatest subject in the world so he tries to make them see it as good. In this episode, he gives the students a project to research a famous black music star. Bullethead and Romeo, two characters on the show, don't do their project. So Mr. Harvey punishes them by making them complete the report after school. The school's janitor helps the boys with their project and they start doing well in class. But the teacher senses that the boys are not doing the work themselves. He waits after school and catches Bullethead and Romeo listening to the janitor discuss music with them. It's amusing as Steve Harvey tries to hide from them while he tries to eaves drop on their conversation. It turns out that the janitor is a famous old-time star who went broke. In the end they all learn their lesson, which is that they should do their work on time and do it themselves, rather than take the easy way out. Because this show relates to teenagers, talks about subjects that occur in high school, and is funny, it deserves four hearts. ♥♥♥♥

Rating Chart

- ♥ Don't watch
- ♥♥ Watch if nothing else is on
- ♥♥♥ Good laughter
- ♥♥♥♥ Don't dare miss an episode

What do you think of our TV reviews? Write to the Vocational Voice c/o Mr. Schimenz's mailbox in the Main Office and tell us.

Teacher Hunt

By Melissa Valdez

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

BERTOLAMI	DONOFRIO	KOSS	PACKER	SUAREZ
BLOOM	ERKINS	LAPORTE	REICHIG	SWEET
BURKE	GOODY	LERRO	SCHIMENZ	THOMPSON
DAVIDSON	GRENZ	MALLETTE	SERBER	TURMAN
DECRISTOFORO	HUNTER	MALONEY	SIEGEL	VEGA
				WOLIN

Music Reviews

By Paul Wojtowicz
DMX

I was listening to my favorite station the other day when a peculiar song caught my attention. One of the hottest rappers around was hitting the airwaves rapping furiously to some beats I hadn't heard before. To my surprise, the rapper on hand was the loud and gifted DMX.

This song caught me off-guard because his previous album, "It's Dark and Hell Is Hot", had only been around for six months. His debut album, which sold over 3 million copies, was played constantly over the airwaves of the popular radio station Hot 97. "It's Dark and Hell Is Hot" was like nothing hip-hop had ever heard before. It was loud, intrusive, yet with a touch of genius in it. DMX made his points come across in a way that had listeners either like or hate the guy—there was no in between. Although the lyrics were second to none, it was the beats and rhythm that put this album over the top.

This is why one can only wonder why he rushed his second album, "Flesh of My Flesh, Blood of My Blood". It sure does answer the question why his new album lacks some of the punch of its

predecessor. It was Fitzgerald who said that there aren't second acts in American lives—DMX better enjoy his success for as long as it last.

I'm not here to belittle DMX's efforts, but he could have waited at least a year and come up with something more profound. Aside from a few songs, most of the lyrics in "Flesh of the Flesh" pale in comparison to the "Hell is Hot" album. Most of the beats are weak, and only DMX's incredible rhyming ability saved this dismal album. Had this been a debut album, I would have let it go and dismissed it as just another rapper polluting the airwaves, but DMX is capable of better. Hardcore DMX fans will eat this one up, others will be leery as to whether this is worth running to the record shop for. Perhaps if he gets a new producer, his next album might just live up to the hype.



MOVIE REVIEWS

By Brian Velikic

Analyze This

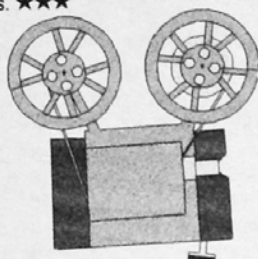
This is one of the funniest movies I have seen in about a year. Robert De Niro is a wonderful actor and should get some kind of meaningless award for his acting! At about an hour and a half, although it seems a lot longer than that. It is a wonderful way to pass the time; it is very enjoyable! Billy Crystal does an entertaining job (being the comedian that he is) that you would expect and is a very humorous character. I laughed a while and then I waited for the comedy to return. This is the kind of movie where you pretty much know what the outcome will be. It would have been nicer if any of the two elderly movie stars would have actually done a stunt or two, instead of just exercising their mouths so much. I give this "fine" movie, three out of five stars. ★★

Saving Private Ryan

By far the best war movie that has ever been made. The level of realism is unlike anything that you have ever seen so far. The raw carnage and the best acting I have seen in only a handful of other movies make this a truly epic film. From beginning to end, you will feel like crying for what the men in the film are going through. Your heart will be put the test after seeing what "really" happened to the men who went to fight for your "freedom". After seeing what man does to his fellow man. It is very sad to see what man is capable of when his mind is bent on evil. This film will tug at your heart and won't let go for about two hours and twenty minutes. Five out of five stars for this masterpiece. Go out and see it immediately if you haven't already seen it. If you've been in WWI or WWII, you better not see it again. ★★★★★

Office Space

I was hoping for a lot more than what I got. Jennifer Aniston gave a nice performance and so did the relatively new actors in this movie. It's about an hour and ten minutes. Most of the movie is funny and so forth but some parts are just a LITTLE bit stupid. Comedy meets young adults who are scared silly of their jackass of a boss who is pointless in his career and yet still manages to retain his job. I give this ok comedic experience three out of five stars. ★★



8mm

What in Satan's name was Nicholas Cage thinking when he took this role. I sat there and watched this God-forsaken movie for a little over two hours. I wanted my money back for being tricked into thinking that this was a good movie. I have lost respect for N.C. due to his being in this bad movie and for his bad acting. The music was going back to the early days of the Arabian world. For about ten or more minutes of the worst music you have ever heard your whole life (unless you are Arabian that is). What's even worse is that you don't even get to see the porn that N.C. is looking at. What a ripoff!!! I give this waste of time zero out of five stars!

What do you think of our movie reviews? Write to the Vocational Voice c/o Mr. Schimenz's mailbox in the Main Office or email us at VocVoice@aol.com to tell us.

VICA

Victorious

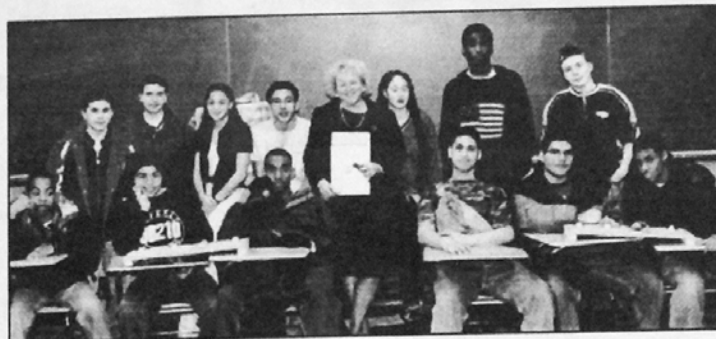
By Rich Medina

"Responsibility, leadership, and hard work, that's what VICA is all about," said Adiena Salter. VICA (Vocational Industrial Club of America) is more than just another club in Queens Voc. VICA helps students learn how to survive and succeed in the career-oriented world in which we live in today.

VICA members prepare themselves to be more successful in the real world by competing to achieve the best in their field of training. Rueben Tucker, a senior at Queens

Voc took second place in the job interviews event at the VICA Skills Competition held at Graphic Arts High School in New York. Another event our VICA members displayed their skills was in the Quiz Bowl Event, where they came in third place through the combined efforts of Althea Gordon, Nicole Lacy, Marcia Michael, Nathan Mingo, and Diana Trujillo. Winston O'Connor, Adeina Salter, and Jon Veresan came away with VICA Participation Awards.

Students representing Queens Voc will be in Syracuse, NY, from April 19 to 21, to compete with schools from around the state. If past performances are any indicator, it will be a successful trip for our VICA participants.



Jeopardy Champions

Houseplans' Popularity Not in Jeopardy!

By Sabrina Mack

"This spring, Houseplans has some events planned to engender a great deal of school spirit," said Ms. Hulak. Ms. Hulak founded Houseplans, an extracurricular activity, 8 years ago.

April 23 is Arbor Day, which is the celebration of the beauty of the environment. Houseplans will have a Shakespearean planting to celebrate this day. Its' members also plan to celebrate Flag Day on June 14. The type of celebration has not been decided yet.

"Anyone can join, Ms. Hulak said. 'Just bring your enthusiasm.'"

A major event that is planned is an articulation component—an effort to have seniors advise the freshmen. The experienced seniors might tell the freshmen the secret to being successful and how the 9th graders can make it through high school in four years instead of being held back.

Houseplans already coordinates Jeopardy for 9th classes, and is now planning to have a Senior Jeopardy. Enthusiastic seniors are needed to come test their knowledge. As soon as seniors have their teams formed,

Ms. Hulak will schedule a date for the much-anticipated event. One senior trying to get a team together is Frank Giron who said, "It would be a great challenge to face off with other students in their knowledge of the world." Ms. Hulak watches Jeopardy, the game show, and gets questions from the show that she feels teenagers should know. She has a binder full of questions to ask the jeopardy participants.

When Jeopardy came to his English class recently, Mr. Burke said, "It is important for students to see what other students know and don't know, this is a good way to do that." Arek Malec, a Houseplans member, said he would like to introduce Jeopardy to his English as a Second Language (ESL) class, "I think it would be fun."

Anyone can join Houseplans. It's not a class and students don't get any high school credit for it, but they do get the satisfaction of helping the school and community. An example of this is Maritza Flores, a 9th grader, who went with Ms. Hulak to a community center during the Christmas season. The impressed 9th grader said she felt her "heart surge" when she was giving the gifts to the needy.

"There are no requirements" to join, Ms. Hulak said, "Just bring your enthusiasm."



VICA students in action

INSIDE TIGER SPORTS

Senior Sports Celebrities

By Melissa Valdez



Looks like a team, played like a team

BASKETBALL RECAP

By Talina Espinal

This season was the beginning of the rebuilding-process for the school basketball team, according to Coach Maloney. At the beginning of the season, the Tigers had three key captains: Andre Little, Eddie Jackson, and Reuben Tucker. By the end, only Andre remained.

With the skills they had, Andre felt the season should have gone better. "We lost every game besides exhibition games. The reason is that we didn't play as a team, everyone wanted to play on their own."

There were some bright moments in the Tigers season as they defeated Robert Wagner, Robert Kennedy and Renaissance High Schools.

Next year, Coach Maloney expects to build on an already solid base of key basketball players: Cevon Crockwell, Alexis Delacruz, Jeffrey Durand (grass-hopper), Chris Fernandez, Lawrence Leach, David

May, and Cedric Scott.

Mr. Maloney is hopeful that more students will join, particularly if they have the desire, motivation, and commitment to the common goal of helping the basketball team become more competitive and bring back a winning spirit.

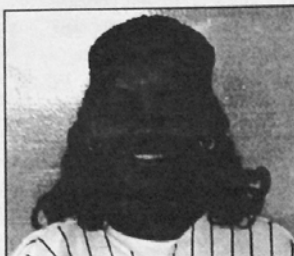
"The hardest situation last year was having a full team at practice. Players have to make better commitments to the team to have overall success. It is hard to establish any type of continuity when there are players missing practice." Responsibility is also expected.

Lawrence Leach a sophomore and shooting guard for the team was the most improved player in the team this season. He's been on the team for two years and plans to play again next year. "It could have gone better," Lawrence said, "we could have played better," but next year, he added, "we'll practice harder and have more drills."



Basketball boys having some fun

Senior Sports Profile Jennette Puello



Age: 18
Grade: 12
Team: Girls Softball Team
Position: shortstop
Years on the Team: 3

"Jennette is one of the team leaders. She sets an example at practice by the way she plays short stop and her work ethic."

-Coach Wolin

"Jennette is a good player. Not only by her moves, but by the way she expresses herself towards her teammates. I think she's a good example for all of us."

-Nancy Garcia

Senior Sports Profile Anthony Calderon



Age: 17
Grade: 12
Team: Boys Baseball Team
Position: Right Field
Years on the team: 2

"Anthony is dedicated and consistent, and has worked to improve. These are the traits of a good sportsman."

-Coach Schimenz

"He was an important part of the team's play-off experience last year. We look forward to more of the same team spirit this year."

-Steve Serber
Principal

Senior Sports Profile Elizabeth Almonte



Age: 17
Grade: 12
Team: Girls Softball Team
Position: 1st Base
Years on the Team: 4

"Elizabeth has worked very hard at practice to try to improve her skills. She's also worked hard at trying to get girls to come down and sign up for the team."

-Coach Wolin

"Elizabeth is very competitive. She has the spirit that makes the other team members go wild during a game."

-James Brunder

Senior Sports Profile Luis Pineda



Age: 17
Grade: 12
Team: Boys Baseball Team
Position: Outfield
Years on the Team: 4

"Luis has the skills to be a great baseball player for our team. This is the year for him to be the best he can be! He needs to, and we need him to!"

-Coach Schimenz

"Luis has enough potential to be captain. He's hardworking and gives good advice to the team because he knows his game."

-Alvino Espinal

Softball Season Starts

By Carlos Solis

Attention softball fans! A new season of girls varsity softball is now well underway with new coach, Mr. Wolin and a new team that consists of Elizabeth Almonte, Anna Aumuller, Anna Diaz, Talina Espinal, Madelyn Fernandez, Anca Filip, Nancy Garcia, Mildred Hernandez, Lo-an Ho, Jennette Puello, Vannesa Rivera, and Melissa Valdez. When asked about the team's future concerning league games, Mr. Wolin stated, "If everyone plays up to their capability, we'll be okay."

Tryouts for the team began on March 1. The 15 girls who made the team have been sharpening their skills with practice games between March 18 and April 12. During the course of the season, the girls will play 2 league games against each of seven high school teams. Home games will be played at either Bush Park or Maurice Park.

In past years, the team hasn't had much success, but some believe it will turn around this year. Melissa Valdez, a senior and 3rd baseman on the team, said, "Since we have more experience now, I think we will do better this year. Mr. Wolin is very serious about practice and he's getting us better prepared."



Jackie goes for the strikes

QVTHS Varsity Softball Team League Schedule 1999

Fri.	4/16	at	LIC	Away
Tues.	4/20	vs	Newtown	Home
Wed.	4/21	vs	Bryant	Home
Fri.	4/23	vs	Flushing	Home
Mon.	4/26	vs	Forest Hills	Home
Tues.	4/27	at	Grover Cleveland	Away
Thurs.	4/29	vs	Townsend Harris	Home
Fri.	4/30	vs	LIC	Home
Tues.	5/4	at	Newtown	Away
Wed.	5/5	at	Bryant	Away
Fri.	5/7	vs	Grover Cleveland	Home
Mon.	5/10	at	Forest Hills	Away
Wed.	5/12	at	Flushing	Away

Handball: They're Off the Wall

By Andrew Niño

The handball team will held its tryouts in early spring. The handball team promises to see some returning players. Seniors, such as, Lawrence Jorge, Oscar Abreu and Paul Wojtowicz will be the backbone of the team, according to Coach Maloney, who stated, "These kids with experience are the key to winning."

Paul said, "Students with the skills are welcome to come and try out for the handball team." In order

to join the team, a student needs passing grades and should not be a cutter. Coach Maloney believes that a student "must achieve scholastically and athletically." The season does not start until mid-spring; students who wish to join must have passed their fall term classes.

"We expect to become one of the top two teams in the division," said Paul. To improve on the team's conditions, Oscar said the team would be more organized with practices and in making certain the players attend the games on time. Lawrence Jorge added, "with more practices this year and with some of our old players returning, the team can definitely go all the way."

Boys Baseball Begins

By Reuben Tucker

Alas! The smell of leather and the crack of a hard-hit ball going deep as the crowd lets out a rambunctious cheer. It's time to play ball. The Queens Vocational Tigers baseball team will make their season debut on April 13, against Townsend Harris. Led by Coach Rob Schimenz and driven by determination and their deep passion for baseball, the Tigers will hit the field for one reason... to have fun!

During the pre-season, the Tigers practiced, improved, and had fun. Whether they won or lost, the goal, according to Coach Schimenz, was to get better as a team.

Luis Pineda, a four-year team member, said that despite the loss of some key seniors, the Tigers look forward to another productive season. Pineda, along with seniors Anthony Calderon and Anthony Vagianos, wants to "leave Queens Voc with a bang."

Instead of using wins to measure their success, they have other tasks to accomplish. Both the coach and team captain Anthony Vagianos believe this year will be "a rebuilding process." Anthony added that his primary objective for this seasons is "to help prepare the rookies for future seasons."

Captains Anthony Vagianos, Hipolito "Burrito" Burgos, and Edwin Pérez are the keys to the team's success because they really do the bulk of the organization and work, "they are indispensable," according to Coach Schimenz.

Anthony believes that "promising newcomers David Espinal, José Muñoz, Carlos Sanchez, and Elvin Tejada will help make the Tigers successful." There are many new players this year, "and each has contributed to the team in a positive way," said the coach, "The new freshmen and sophomores will certainly be the backbone of the team in years to come."

Talent goes a long way, but the one thing that everyone on the team takes pride in is their love for one another. "We are all one big family," says senior Luis Pineda. The team members stick together, they encourage and support each other, and that includes their "coachy," a nickname given by the coach's *amigo*, "Burrito."

If it were necessary to define the coaching style of the second-year varsity coach, it would be "discipline."

"Tough-love," the coach said. Since he is new to high school baseball, he still has a lot to learn, the coach admitted. But a well-disciplined team is essential for players and coach to improve.

Anthony Vagianos said that the team's defense and its pitching could use fine-tuning. Then, the Tigers can unleash their mighty roar upon the rest of the P.S.A.L. and leave paw prints all over any team who steps in front of their path. For now, the Tigers plan to do what baseball was invented for... to have fun.

Off Track

By Javier Lojan

Blood pumping through their veins at 150 beats per minute, sweat trickling down their faces. The thrill of victory, the agony of defeat. These are things that the Queens Vocational girls track team won't be able to experience this coming spring.

Coach Lerro, who started the track team at Queens Vocational last



Anthony takes pitching seriously

year, has canceled the team's season for one year because of the illness of his parents. News of the canceled season saddened returning track runners. Ydhelca Pérez, who was expected to return this season as team captain, stated "I am very disappointed, I was looking forward to having a good season."

Despite the overwhelming turn of events, this is not the end for the track-running Tigers. Coach Lerro said that he will return to his coaching duties next season.