

Vocational Voice

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

Winter, 2006



Grupo Qv back once more.

Hispanic Heritage On Stage at Queens Voc

by Jenneth Grullon

The third annual performance by Grupo QV took place this year. On Friday, November 4, in the Queens Voc auditorium, one hundred and eleven students and twenty-one teachers enjoyed live Spanish music and dancing.

Mr. Vega, the coordinator of school activities, hosted the performance. The Grupo QV performance was supposed to start at 4:30pm and end at 6:30pm, but actually began at 5pm and ended at 6:45. The event started when Mr. Vega, Ms. Vittor, and Mr. Vela made opening remarks. Ms. Baez Medina, Queens Voc parent coordinator, read a poem called "Ode to a DiaspoRican," written by Mariposa. The Group played five songs, and then took a brief intermission. After that, they played six more songs. As they played, dozens of students, as well as some teachers in attendance, danced in the pit area in front of the stage.

The members of Grupo QV are Anthony Abreu, who took care of the technical aspects of music, Jesse Collado, who played the drums, Rene Cruz, who played the bass guitar, Junior Perez and Mr. Rodriguez, who took turns playing the Guira and singing, and Leonel Taveras, who played lead guitar and also sang.

Rene and Junior currently attend Queens Voc, both are juniors. Jesse attends Franklin K. Lane, Mr. Rodriguez is a C-Tech teacher, and Anthony and Leonel are former Queens Voc students.

Junior Perez has been in Grupo QV since its inception. He plays in an other group as well and had prior performing experience before joining Grupo QV. Junior looked into playing the Guira because he said it "caught his eye." He said that one day when he was in the Dominican Republic, he saw someone in a tipico group playing the Guira.

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It's College Everyday at Queens Voc

by Katiria Rodriguez

The transition from high school to college is a step for which a student can never be fully prepared. The recent change to college-style schedules can help Queens Voc students adjust to the college environment.

With college-style schedules, students attend classes every other day. Students are given the same classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Then, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the students attend their other classes.

The new schedules also include three different length periods, unlike the usual 45 minutes. The Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes are an hour long. The Tuesday-Thursday classes are an hour and a half long.

"The purpose of the change is to allow students to take different components from CTE and academic requirements while being in smaller learning communities with advisories and extra help for those who need it..." said Ms. Vittor.

Holes in students' schedules are now study hall. Yet students don't appreciate the chance they have to do their homework, or to go to the library to research. Although there is time to study, many ask "how is it a study hall with such large amount of students being in one regular classroom?" Ms. Vittor asserted that the students are already separated into different sections.

"Did I expect these things to happen? No," Ms. Vittor said, speaking about the schedule difficulty the school was facing. Ms. Vittor acknowledges that more planning would have improved the situation. She thinks that maybe having a program committee would help out a lot. She'd like to see a few people working on what might be best for the school and students, and to allow teachers to make more of the decisions.

Ms. Vittor confirmed that Queens Voc would not go back. College-style schedules "...will go on for the rest of the school year to see the results."



Mayor Bloomberg getting a taste of our school lunch.

Bloomberg & Klein: Their Promise Becomes Reality

by Diomedes Gonzalez

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Chancellor Joel Klein visited Queens Voc in June of 2003 and promised to build an addition that would include a cafeteria, gymnasium, library, new shop rooms and additional classrooms. A little more than two years later, on September 8, 2005, the first day of the school year, Mayor Bloomberg and Chancellor Klein again visited Queens Voc to view the completed project.

Mayor Bloomberg and Chancellor Klein and an entourage of officials and reporters arrived at Queens Voc about 11am. They were greeted by Ms. Vittor, the school's principal, Mr. Vela, assistant principal, and some staff

members. As the mayor and chancellor made their way to the cafeteria, the visitors saw firsthand the results of their project. "The new addition to the school will be good because you will have a lot less overcrowding," Mayor Bloomberg told Ms. Vittor.

The plan was for the mayor and chancellor to eat with the students, but because the process of eating in the cafeteria was new to the students, they entered and sat at tables rather than line up to get their lunch. Ms. Vittor and some staff members walked around telling students that they should get on line. Previously, Queens Voc students ate their lunch in the nicknamed "the cafetorium."

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Regents Schedule For January 2006

compiled by Yodaryl Moronta

January 24 Tuesday	January 25 Wednesday	January 26 Thursday	January 27 Friday
9:15 am	9:15 am	9:15 am	9:15 am
RCT Writing	RCT U.S. History & Government	RCT Reading	RCT Global Studies
Regents Global History & Geography	Regents Phys. Setting/Earth Science	RCT U.S. History & Government	Regents Living Environment
1:15 pm	1:15 pm	1:15 pm	1:15 pm
RCT Mathematics	RCT Science	Regents Mathematics A	Good Luck!
Regents Comprehensive English: Session One	Regents Comprehensive English: Session Two		

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Students dancing to the music played by Grupo QV.

Hispanic Heritage On Stage at Queens Voc

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"The way the guy in the group didn't get tired, his endurance was crazy. That's what I found interesting," said Junior.

Unlike Junior, Mr. Rodriguez has never played in another band before. "Grupo QV was the only performance I have ever done," said Mr. Rodriguez. He said that the person who came up with the idea for a live band was Karlos Amaro, who graduated from Queens Voc in June 2004. "When the group first got together, they needed someone to play Guira for them. They asked me and I agreed," said Mr. Rodriguez. He said that he thinks "this year's performance was better than last year, based on the audience ratings."



Junior feeling the music.

Many students who attended thought the performance was great. "The group played pretty well. They played so good that even Mr. Vega and Ms. Vittor were dancing," said Carla Rodriguez. She also said she "liked that the performance was dedicated to the Latinos." David Ramirez agreed with

Carla. "I think they were very impressive because they only had a short time to practice, but in the end they played like professionals," he said.

"The performance was very captivating," said Jessica Rios. "The music provoked you to dance, and what I liked about the show is how Junior and Leonel hyped up the crowd." John Carlo Rodriguez said, "They played wonderful for a group that just gathered up classmates from school, and it was nice how Leonel came back to play even though he doesn't go to the school anymore. I also liked how near the end of the show, the group members gave each other shout outs." Hilda Corniell agreed. "They played well for being a school group and I enjoyed the show," she said.

The band members decided to perform live Spanish music in order to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month. The band practiced in the Queens Voc auditorium after school, at least twice a week. For the actual performance, they played different types of genres such as Bachata, and Merengue Tipicos.

The show impressed many people on how the members played. David said, "I believe that Junior has a lot of potential and will make it big in life." Mr. Rodriguez said, "I am very proud to have spent the time with the members of Grupo QV. I think that the members of Grupo QV are very talented and I hope they pursue their talent even further so in the future they can be successful in their talent."

entry, and working with the custodians, depending on the student's majors. Students earn minimum wage, which is \$6/hr. Students get paid every 2 weeks.

To get into the LEARN program, students should contact Mrs. Basirico, the coordinator of the program and a senior cosmetology teacher, in room 143. Students have to show their programs to determine what time they can work. Students also have to have good attendance to qualify for the program. Once Mrs. Basirico checks availability for working hours, she then notifies the teachers and assistant principals who the students will work for.

There are advantages to being in the LEARN program. Students receive a report card grade and one credit for an entire year of service in the program. The LEARN program "helps the students bring the ethics of work closer to reality" said Mrs. Basirico.

Students in the LEARN program also gain work experience. LEARN "gives me business and secretarial skills that I can use in the work field," said Jaleesa Taylor, a senior business major who works for Ms. Newman. "The program is a very good experience because it prepares me for the real world and gives me diverse skills to succeed in life," said Alex Compere, a senior electronics major who works for Mr. Daniel.

The jobs that the LEARN program provides are not only at Queens Voc, but also at P.S. 85, 126, 150, I.S. 149, and Frank Sintra High School. Business students work at Queens Voc.

Students Who Participate in LEARN are:

Brian Able
Ruben Centeno
Min Xin Chen
Alex Compere
Jacqueline Concepcion
Karla Devouse
Daniel Edouard
Naoual Elidriss
Johnny Guzman
Malik Kashif
Joseph Long
Richard Masgrea
William Medina
Daniel Medina
Alyssa Montes
Viviana Morocho
Jonathan Perrier, Jr.
Kevin Santana
Jaleesa Taylor
Kamil Uminski
Christian Zuniga

Students who
want to
join the
Learn Program
should see
Ms. Basirico

Responsibility Now), students are employed by the Department of Education.

Students in business, plumbing, and electronics are eligible to participate in this program. Job tasks include filing, making copies, computer

Promise Becomes Reality

continued from front page

The mayor and the chancellor entered the new cafeteria and headed to the serving area. They were greeted by the students, many of whom hadn't realized that their first day of school would include lunch with the New York City mayor. Students began to notice the visitors and started to crowd around them. The Mayor stepped onto the lunch line. He set a good example for the high school students and got a salad plate. Mayor Bloomberg said he chose the salad because "I try to stay healthy. I wake up at 5:30am daily to go out for a jog and when I return I eat a balanced breakfast."

The mayor sat at a table with some students. Reporters,

photographers, cameramen, faculty and a large crowd of students surrounded his table as he ate and chatted with the students.

Many students, teachers, and administrators wanted to shake the mayor's hand, speak to him, get an autograph, or even have a picture taken with him. "I love the way the new cafeteria looks," said the mayor. While the mayor ate, Chancellor Klein stood close by and answered questions by reporters and students.

After his lunch session the mayor and chancellor both exited the building and had a pleasing look on their faces while still being hassled by some reporters.



Principal Vittor and Chancellor Klein happy about annex.

Co-Op the Real World

by Alan Casallas

for students from grades 10 and up."

Imagine having a well-paying job using shop skills before graduation. By means of the Queens Voc Co-Op program, this can become a reality.

Co-Op allows students to work for businesses outside the school. New York State now requires any students who graduate with a certification in their shop class to have 60 hours of work experience. Since students in Queens Voc must graduate with a certification in their field, every student must obtain these 60 hours. Those in the Co-Op program receive these hours by means of working in businesses outside the school. "Co-Op has let me use my business skills in a job," said Jessica Rios, a senior in the program.

To enroll in the program, working papers are required. Then, students should see Ms. Spallone, the Co-Op coordinator. "They don't have to be seniors to join," said Ms. Spallone, "it's really a program

Students who participate in Co-Op are Sandra Cernuda, Raven Harris, Carmen Herrera, Eric Lopez, Allison McCarthy, Tiffany Meran, Danalyn Nguyen, Marjorie Ortiz, Krystal Perez, and Vanessa Reyna.

Ms. Spallone calls potential employers who might offer work experience that a student can use to help earn shop certification. "Some companies and owners really cooperate with us," she said. Employers interview the students for available positions. As would be the case if any person were interviewed by an employer, the student may not always be accepted.

Students who are hired can only work after school and on weekends. Jobs should not interfere with school performance. "I monitor the report cards of students who are in this program," said Ms. Spallone. "If we see their school activity is going down, we take them out of the program. School comes first."

Need a Job? Go Learn

by Tasia Jenkins

LEARN is a program in which students at Queens Vocational and Technical High School can get jobs associated with their majors. Through LEARN (Link Employment and

Mouse Attack

by Patsy Sanchez

Be careful, there is a big MOUSE squad in the building. But don't be afraid, they won't bite, they're actually kind of helpful.

"The MOUSE squad is a group of technologically inclined students at Queens Vocational and Technical High School," said Mr. Rodriguez. Students in the MOUSE squad are trained to fix computers.

MOUSE stands for *Making Opportunities for Upgrading School Education*. Mr. Rodriguez, a computer technology teacher, is in charge of the squad.

In the beginning of November, Mr. Rodriguez gave applications to students who wanted to become members of the MOUSE squad. He selected 8 students.

Two students selected were in MOUSE squad before, senior Melvin Peña and junior Kacy James. The new members are seniors Rajendra Bharath and Kashif Malik, junior John Pimiento, sophomore Jonny Dilonex, and freshmen Tony Vu and Peter Benintai.

Students in MOUSE squad gain experiences that will be very beneficial to students even after high school. "The MOUSE squad provides students with real hands-on experience as it pertains to computer repair. They will take these skills with them after graduating from high school," said Mr. Rodriguez. Students in MOUSE squad say that they have gained experience that has helped them fix their own computers. Melvin Peña said that they not only gain hands-on experience, but "we also learn to cooperate and work in groups."

MOUSE Squad is not only beneficial to students but it is also benefits the school. "The MOUSE Squad provides a help desk for computer technical support, which nowadays has become an indispensable service," said Mr. Rodriguez. "MOUSE squad has opened its doors to faculty, staff, and

students.

Mr. Rodriguez teaches his MOUSE squad students by first making them research the problems the computer might have based on its symptoms. After the students have discovered the problem, Mr. Rodriguez shows them how to fix it.

Each student interested in joining MOUSE squad goes through a rigorous interview process. During the interview, Mr. Rodriguez also checks the student's character. Impressions are important, he said. Grades are also reviewed carefully. "The hiring of Mouse Squad members is not limited to grades and character. But I believe that grades and character are revealing characteristics of a person," said Mr. Rodriguez. Students are required to have at least an 80 average in the prior semester, basic computer skills, good attendance, and demonstrate an eagerness to learn about technology.

"To get in the MOUSE squad I had to fill a job application, meet the requirements, and then go through an interview," said Rajendra Bharath. During the interview Mr. Rodriguez "asked me what does MOUSE stands for, how would I handle certain situations when fixing computers, and what was more important to me, quality or prompt service," said Kashif Malik.

"The MOUSE squad meets everyday after school in room 217" said Melvin Peña. Room 217, formerly Mr. Vega's office, is now the office for MOUSE squad and Mr. Rodriguez.

MOUSE squad services are now also open to students at Queens Voc. Students who have problems and need help in troubleshooting or repairing their computer can bring their computer to the MOUSE squad. Which will fix the computer but there will be a small charge for their service.



Students at Wolman Rink on a sunny but cold day.

High Achievers On-a-Roll

Students who achieved an 85 or higher average on their June 2005 report cards were invited to attend the recent Honor Roll trip. On Tuesday, December 13, about 75 students were escorted by Mr. Vega and other chaperones to Wolman Rink and the Hard Rock Café, as a reward for their hard work.

The following students were eligible to attend the trip:

Bristy Ahmed
Rasel Ahmed
Syeda Ali
Andrew Arvelo
Yolanis Barros
Bartosz Baszynski
Andrew Bator
Erika Bernal
Rajendra Bharath
Gabriela Cabreja
Jakeline Calle
Wade Cameron
Jonathan Carsten
Alan Casallas
Chia Hsien Chang
Michal Ciach
Nachelle Colin
Lizbeth Colon
Valentina Colon
Jacqueline Concepcion
Jaqueline Corona
Juan Dela Cruz
Adrienne Diaz
Gail Diaz
Yara Diaz
Jade Duncan
Edward Duran
Britney Dutes
Naoual Elidrissi
Melissa Encarnacion
Nandy Fernandez
Stephanie Fernandez
Lemeshia Foster
Angel Fung
Bruno Gallego
Estefania Garcia
Catherine Gomez
Jenneth Grullon
Carlos Guerra
Tatiana Hidalgo
Mohammed Hossain
Gaochao Huang
William Huazhco
Raiza Izquierdo
Kacy James
Dayana Jaramillo
Kendra Jones
Salman Khan
Sorang Kim
Jose Lopez
Jeremy Lorenzi

Renato Lulaj
Oscar Mendez
Sophia Mian
Lizbeth Modesto
Jonathan Molina
Alyssa Montes
Venessa Morales
Jennifer Moy
Richard Ortiz
Melvin Pena
Yessenia Pena
Albi Perez
Jose Perez
Yessenia Perez
Steve Pinnel
Alfredo Poveda
Arielle Rios
Jessica Rios
Stephanie Rabalino
Arisleida Rodriguez
Diana Rodriguez
Jaqueline Rodriguez
Katiria Rodriguez
Andrea Ramero
Denise Rosa
Waleed Samar
Patsy Sanchez
Chansok Seng
Leidy Sierra
Kelvin Smartt
Patrick Soodeen
Volodymyr Sulyk
Joel Tabares
Christophe Tavaréz
Guillermo Taveras
Angel Tejada
Alexander Tenf
Lewis Urena
Janine Uribe
Stephanie Valerio
Angel Vasquez
Juan Vasquez
Anna Kay Vaz
Ruthie Vegas
Heriberto Velazquez
Daisy Vivar
Rayvan Walker

Congratulations!

Scholarship & College Info

by Denise Rosa

Think you can't afford to go to college? Think again. Nowadays, there are many ways students receive financial help from the government, banks, or colleges. There are three main types of financial aid available: scholarships, loans, and work-study.

Scholarships are given to students and do not have to be paid back. Mr. Holder, guidance counselor for the School of

Entrepreneurial Studies, said that "Some scholarships require students to write an essay, have high academic grades, or show financial need."

Fastweb.com has numerous scholarship applications," said Mr. Holder. If students would like to apply by mail, Mr. Holder has scholarship applications in his office. "Specific colleges also give scholarships but the students have to attend that college to receive the scholarship," he said.

According to Stafford loan.com, a loan is money that students borrow from a federal or private organization. Many banks and credit unions offer student loans. After the student finishes or leaves the college, the money must be paid back.

Work-study gives jobs to students with financial need to help them pay for college. Students are usually employed through their college and they work for 10 to 15 hours a week.

Students planning to go to college should fill out a FAFSA application at FAFSA.com. FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Their website helps students apply for scholarships, work-study, and loans. Students can apply for FAFSA online, through the mail, or over the phone. Applying is very time consuming because students need to submit a lot of information about their parents' income. According to FAFSA.com, it is much easier to apply over the phone because it only takes about 20 minutes. Before students call, certain information should be gathered, such as the Social Security numbers, the dates of birth of students and parents, a valid credit card, their college choices, and their parents' estimated total income which comes from their federal tax forms. It is best to have a hard copy of the FAFSA filled out when calling in.

Students are eligible for FAFSA if they are U.S. citizens or non-citizens with a valid passport or a valid resident card. Students must also have a Social Security number. FAFSA calculates aid based on tuition costs and how much the student's family can pay for college.

Students who have questions concerning college should see the college advisor, Ms. Klemperer, on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 1 to 3pm in room 151C. Websites available for information on financial aid:

- <http://www.scholarships.com>
- <http://www.studentaid.ed.gov>
- <http://www.finaid.org>
- <http://www.thecollegeloan.com>
- <http://www.collegeboard.com>
- <http://www.staffordloan.com>
- <http://www.FAFSA.com>



MOUSE Squad members provide technical services.

Graduation Requirements

by Michal Ciach

Unlike students in other schools, Queens Vocational and Technical High School students are required to complete the full academic graduation requirements and also a minimum of 14 credits in their major.

To receive a local diploma, students must pass five Regents exams with a 55 or higher. The required Regents are Math A, English Language Arts, Global History & Geography, U.S. History & Government, and any one of the four science Regents. To receive a Regents diploma, three additional Regents are needed. The additional Regents would be two more science Regents, and the Math B Regents. A score of 65 or higher on each Regent is required for a Regents diploma.

As a substitute for music and foreign language classes, a written project is required for each. Mr. Mendez and Mr. Cintron are in charge of the language project, which can be picked up Tuesday or Thursday from both teachers. Period 3, room 307 for Mr. Cintron with students last names from A-L. Students with last names M-Z from Mr. Mendez period 4, room 406. The music project can be picked up Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from Mr. Ryan period 2 room 111.

Seniors should be aware of where they are when it comes to credits and Regents. The guidance office is the place to find out information concerning the graduation requirements. The guidance counselor will notify students with missing credits and lacking Regents exams. But students should review their own transcripts to see what they still need. The school provides tutoring and counseling for students with missing credits and Regents.

Required credits for each subject:

Subject	Credits	Term
Major	14	8
Social Studies	8	8
English	8	8
Physical Education	7	8
Math	6	6
Science	6	6
Art	1	1
Music	1	1
Foreign Language	1	1
Health	1	1



C-Tech students preparing for certification.

A+ Certification = Better Job Opportunities

by Andrew Bator

Technology is leading the future, more jobs are opening up and certain requirements need to be fulfilled to acquire these high paying jobs, such as certifications and licenses. C-Tech students have the choice to take part in the A+ Certification program at Queens Voc.

A+ certification is a CompTIA sponsored program that certifies the ability of entry-level computer service technicians. "I chose to take the A+ course because computer repair is a very interesting and growing field where there is a future," explained Lucas Rodriguez.

An A+ certified technician has better opportunities in the computer technology field. "I feel that I can pass the A+ certification and it will be useful in life for a job involving computer repair," said Rajendra Bharath, a student taking part in the course. The program is backed by major computer hardware and software vendors, distributors, resellers, and publications. A+ certification signifies that the individual possesses the knowledge and skills essential for a successful entry-level computer service technician, as defined by experts from companies across the industry.

Mr. Cintron, Mr. Rodriguez, and Mr. Stigliano had to be A+ certified in order to teach the material. They take the C-Tech students inside the computer for a practical exposure to PC components. Students learn to deal with the most common technical problems associated with a PC, gain the skills to build, configure, and troubleshoot PC hardware, and gain an understanding of system software.

At the conclusion of the course, C-Tech students will be able to recognize every major PC component, understand what it does, and identify how the components work together. In Queens Voc, selected individuals are picked by the C-Tech teachers to take the A+

certification exam. Next year, the whole senior C-Tech class will be expected to take the exam.

The A+ test is made up of situational, traditional, and identification types of questions, all of which are multiple choice. The test covers a broad range of hardware and software technologies.

The A+ exam is targeted for entry-level computer service technicians with at least 6 months on-the-job experience. Because the course is offered at Queens Voc, the time in the class is counted in lieu of the experience. No specific requirements are necessary, except for a payment of the testing fee which is \$300 (150\$ core part + \$150 software part). The two parts can be taken separately, but in order to get certified both must be passed within 90 days of each others.



Working towards an A+.

The A+ test is also available thought out the world in Spanish, French, German, and Japanese. Currently, over 260,000 people have obtained the A+ certification worldwide.

"The A+ exam has changed over the years and now requires test takers to demonstrate good test taking techniques, such as pacing oneself and eliminating the wrong answers. These skills are critical and are a factor in the failing rate of test takers," said Mr. Rodriguez.

Last year, no students in Queens Voc passed the test, it was a new opportunity for the students and the seniors didn't have the time needed to prepare for the test. Mr. Rodriguez

thinks that this year the turnout will be different. He feels that many students from C-Tech will be capable to fulfill the requirements and pass the exam.

College Now Classes Offered

by Jennifer Moy

Knowledge is power. And why not gain knowledge through college courses and get ahead of others for free?

Business students are required to take at least one college course in their senior year. The most popular business courses to choose from are Accounting and Web Design. These courses can be taken in Queens Voc or at LaGuardia. Other business courses at Baruch College and Monroe College are offered through Virtual Enterprise, a new simulated business class. The courses include Introduction to Business, Consumer Economics, Spreadsheet Applications, and Web Design Technology.

College courses are not limited to business. Computer technology students can take Networking. Other courses offered to juniors and seniors include Elementary Statistics and AP Statistics taught by Ms. Erkins. Basic Writing is taught by Mr. Schimenz, but does not earn college credit. Those not accepted for college credit courses get Basic Writing.

Students are taking advantage of many courses that earn free college credit. Andrew Spooner, a student in Web Design at LaGuardia, agrees that the courses are challenging, "but if it wasn't challenging, you wouldn't learn anything." This course "can help me create websites and in the future become a lucrative job."

Johnny Lata, a senior taking Accounting, struggles "because the vocabulary is hard." At the same time, he finds the course "interesting since I like to work with numbers."

Sherell Murray, however, takes the same course finds sitting in the classroom for three hours tedious, but the outcome of that is "it can teach me how to do my own financial statements."

Mr. Grenz teaches the accounting students. He believes that teaching college courses in high school is a "good idea and will give students an opportunity to learn what they would learn in college. This allows students to determine if they want to go to college and make the extra effort. College Now program is a wonderful tool for students to prepare for college."

Watch Out The Bird Flu's Coming!

by Andrew Bator

Watch out when you eat that chicken, you might get the bird flu! Just kidding, for now. But the bird flu is expected to become deadly to humans in years to come.

Bird flu is an infection caused by the avian influenza viruses. Wild birds worldwide carry the viruses in their intestines, but usually do not get sick from them. Bird flu, however, is very contagious among birds and can make some domesticated birds, such as chickens, ducks, and turkeys, very sick and kill them.

Bird flu viruses did not usually infect humans, but more than 100 confirmed cases (mostly in Asia) of human infection with bird flu viruses have occurred since 1997 and the number of incidents is increasing rapidly. The risk from bird flu is generally low in most people because the viruses occur mainly among birds and do not usually infect humans, but as the virus mutates, it is



Pining for the Fjords?

starting to have effects on humans.

During an outbreak of bird flu among poultry, there is a possible risk to people who have contact with infected birds. The current outbreak of avian influenza A among poultry in Asia and Europe is an example of a bird flu outbreak that has caused human infections and deaths.

Symptoms of bird flu in humans consists of a typical fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, eye infections, pneumonia, severe respiratory diseases, and other severe and possibly life-threatening complications.

There currently is no commercially available vaccine to protect humans against the virus that is being seen in Asia and Europe, but research studies to develop and test a vaccine to protect humans against the virus began in April 2005, and a series of clinical trials is underway.

New Advisory Classes for Students

by Jacqueline Corona

The Advisory class that's been appearing on many every student's schedules seems to have a mysterious veil over it. Some people say "the credit is needed," while others say "you don't really have to pass."

Ms. Vittor, the principal of Queens Vocational and Technical High School, stated that Advisory allows students to: "talk about issues that aren't talked about in class; issues that deal with careers, college, guidance, and decision-making." Ms. Vittor said, "the Advisory teacher becomes the advisor and the advocate. They help you get what you need, like changes to your program, for example."

Mr. Papadopol, one of the recently appointed Advisory teachers, said that Advisory is a class that has existed for over 100 years in other countries. He believes that "if it is successful, it's one of the most important classes." He stated that the class is "about teaching the students some life skills; what you need to get employed and keep the job, how to get and maintain good credit, what else you need in life to be successful besides academics, how to present and sell yourself, and how to be better prepared for the competitive life ahead."

Ms. Mohan, another Advisory teacher, added that Advisory is about "counseling the kids on their careers, moral values...addressing their problems, [and] answering questions." She also believes that Advisory has the potential to be very beneficial to the students.

According to Mr. Papadopol, there aren't any required lesson plans that teachers must follow. The school provides lessons but they serve only as outlines. He said it's mainly up to the individual teacher to decide what/how to teach. However, most teachers focus on college and business related issues that will affect them in the future.

But, what do the students think? Vanessa Morales dislikes the class. She feels that it is "boring and seems useless." Another Advisory student, Lucas Rodriguez, added that "there's no point to that class. We just sit there and talk about stuff we already know. It's just a huge waste of time. I'd be better off at home."

Although many students agreed with Vanessa and Lucas, there were also other studentwho thought Advisory class was actually beneficial.

Chris Butera, for example, said, "I think Advisory is can be really helpful. My Advisory teacher was the one who helped me out when I was missing classes from my schedule. And I think it can help juniors and seniors a lot. The teachers talk about college and careers, which is going to affect us soon."

So why do the students continue showing up to this class if they can't find any use for it? It has to do with one of the biggest questions of all: is Advisory class a requirement to graduate? None of the students seem to know the answer to this. Most of them have been informed by their teachers that it is. Even some of the guidance counselors weren't certain about the requirements of Advisory and how it relates to graduating. Mr. Rubin, the guidance counselor for the School of Computer and Electronics Engineering Technology (SCEET), stated "I honestly don't know whether it's an actual graduation requirement. I doubt it though. I think if a student went to the Department of Education and showed them that they had all the state requirements, they can't be denied their diploma. But it's just not worth testing the system. One hour a week isn't that bad. Besides, Advisory is good for the students. It was created to help them."

...Advisory is about "counseling the kids on their careers, moral values...and answering questions."

After wondering why students wouldn't want to attend Advisory, Ms. Vittor stated, "Advisory is not a state requirement, but it is a Queens Vocational requirement. A student can graduate without it, but their grades will be affected. It simply isn't worth not showing up." She also stated that Advisory is a requirement for the Federal Smaller Learning Community, which Queens Voc is a part of.



VE Diverse City Wear Employees.

Virtual Enterprise Opens for Business

by Alyssa Montes

With the hype about the new addition to Queens Vocational and Technical High School, it seems that everybody forgot about Queens Voc's new corporate offices. Not for faculty or staff, but for business students. Located on the fourth floor, in place of the old plumbing room is a brand new state-of-the-art office space for Virtual Enterprise employees.

VE is a new elective for Queens Voc business students. This class allows the students to use their skills to run a simulated business.

The chief executive officer, Geraldine Gomez, and the executive vice president, Jerry Chang, were chosen by Ms.

!Exciting SO News!

by Janine Uribe

Queens Voc student government is changing from school-wide SO officers to SLC SO representatives.

Each smaller learning community now has a representative in the reformulated SO. For the school of building trade Kevin Handy was unopposed. In a four-way race, Angelique Bland defeated Jacqueline Concepcion, Estefania Garcia, and Tecomblah Siedro in SES. Andy Vasquez is the representative for SED. Britney Dutes defeated Kashif Malik in SCEET. In the Advanced program Rickema Holloway was unopposed.

Prior to the SO elections, the senior officers began planning activities so that . They have planned spirit week, SO trip, & school dance. The senior officers for this school year are: Jessica Rios; president, Jacqueline Rodriguez; vice president; Leslye Peña; secretary, and Stephanie Fernandez; treasurer.

This year Spirit Week was December 5-9. December 5 was Pajama Day, December 6 was

Newman, director of School of Entrepreneurial studies, and Mr. Mugan, the VE coordinator, because they showed interest in the program and were up to the task of running a company.

Each student in this class went through the same process as when applying to a real job. They handed in applications and resumes to be interviewed. Once this was done all employees were placed in one of the six departments which are Human Resources, Sales and Marketing, Design, Accounting, and Research and Development.

As a first task for a company, the employees had to decide on what they would be selling and come up with a company name, product and logo. The name is Triplet Day, December 7 was Singles/Taken Day, singles have to wear white and taken have to wear red, December 8 was Jersey Day and Friday.

The SO trip took place on December 14. The NY Knicks played the Orlando Magic in Madison Square Garden at 7:30. Students who wanted to attend this trip needed to be an SO member and have no suspensions. The limit was 45 students. The price was \$25 that included admission, food coupon, and a John Starks replica jersey. A paper had to be filled out stating that the student will attend school the next day if not, you weren't allowed to attend any SO trips.

The first school dance in Queens Voc history will take place on Friday, February 10, in the school cafeteria. Only the first 300 students to submit a permission slip will be allowed to attend, with a cost of \$3. Drinks and snacks will be available in the party. According to Ms. Vittor only SO members are allowed to attend. "Students should be part of SO, which is a gateway for opportunities and events." Only people who attend Queens Voc will be allowed to enter. "There has been trouble in other schools when outsiders come in because no one knows

Diverse City Wear and the product is clothing and accessories. They carry four categories of clothing that are Urban, Classy, Casual, and Alternative. Their second task was to create a business plan. The CEO created two committees, one to create the actual business plan and the second to present the plan via a Power Point presentation. The business plan and the Power Point presentation were submitted for the Virtual Enterprise Queens Business Plan Competition, held at The Academy of Finance & Enterprise HS on Thursday, November 17. Fourteen Queens high schools competed. The winners went on to a second round, a competition between all five NYC boroughs. Diverse City Wear came in fourth place. Arts and Business High Schools' Filmcom Technology, Inc took third place, Hillcrest High Schools' Have You Heard? took second place, and Bryant High Schools' Torque Enterprise won first place.

Upcoming events would include another, more detailed, business plan competition, web site competition, and best booth for the Annual International Trade Fair for VE companies. A fundraising committee is planning special events for the future. So be on the look out for those great deals on personalized stationery and business cards. who they really are," said Ms. Vittor. Leslye Peña believes that people should be able to come from outside of school, "but we will see how everything goes since it's the first dance." Kevin "Eggroll" Muñoz, a junior thinks a dance is "a very good idea because we haven't been able to do that since we never had a place to have the dance in and now that we do we should take advantage of it." "People are going to see that the new school brings better changes," said Natalie Vargas a sophomore.

Students interested in becoming SO member can go to room 143, Government & Clubs, on Thursday's during their lunch period. Students had a chance everyday to join SO for 2 months and now many people are deciding to join because of the benefits that the SO membership has. SO membership is just \$7 and it includes, a locker (required for student athletes and club members), reduced cost for S.O trip throughout the year, entry to school for home games, support of our teams and clubs, eligibility for graduating seniors scholarships, school t-shirt, school keychain, SO membership card, and entry to school events.



Seniors work together for a successful food festival.

Senior News & Activities

by Janine Uribe

This school year started out differently from others. In previous years, by the end of September, the election of senior officers was held. But at the end of the last school year, juniors signed up to become senior officers. Only one person ran for each position except for treasurer last year. Stephanie Fernandez and Alyssa Montes both submitted a petition to run for treasurer last school year. Stephanie Fernandez won the election in October.

The senior officers for this school year are: Jessica Rios; president, Jacqueline Rodriguez; vice president; Leslye Peña; secretary, and Stephanie Fernandez; treasurer.

"I would like for everyone to cooperate with senior dues, and senior trips, by meeting all deadlines, & for everyone to join in senior activities" said President Jessica Rios. Treasurer Stephanie Fernandez was happy because she won, but was not pleased that the senior didn't participate much; not even half of the seniors voted. "I plan to get seniors motivated in all senior activities so that we can have a fun year," she said. "My plan for this year is to try to get everything organized so the seniors will be able to have an eventful year," said secretary Leslye Peña.

The senior class held a fundraising food festival on Tuesday, November 22, to lower the prices of upcoming events. The food festival was held in room 143 Government & Clubs from periods 4-7. For two entrees, and two sides it was \$4, drinks were \$1. \$1,236.75 was raised which is the highest amount ever raised in a food festival according to Stephanie Fernandez.

A representative from Herff Jones, the ring company, came on Friday, November 18, to take ring orders. Seniors interested in purchasing rings had to submit a deposit of \$75. Ring costs ranged from \$179.95 to \$489.95. Only 4 or 5 seniors ordered rings. Students still will have the chance to order rings and it is possible for the ring company to

come one more time. "Last year close to 30 seniors ordered their seniors rings," said Jose Marine, the ring company representative. "Invitations will be mailed to the seniors who ordered a ring to attend a ring ceremony, and they can invite their family," said Jose. Jose pointed out a sheet titled "Top 10 Things to Know for the Class Of 2006," which said, "Your class ring is a memento that represent a very special time in your life. It will remind you of your school, all the friends you have made, all the memories and all the hard work you have put in throughout your high school years. It represents a time in your life that you will look back on and remember forever. It's a symbol of achievement."

Continental Studios came to Queens Voc on October 31 and November 1, to take pictures of seniors who didn't have their pictures taken in the summer. In previous years, students had to go to Continental Studios. 84 seniors took pictures within these two days.

Senior class photos were taken on Friday, October 28. Seniors formed the shape "06" in the lawn in front of the old building. Teams & club photos were also taken. Seniors interested in having their baby pictures in the yearbook had the chance to drop them off in two locations, room 143 or room 301. Friday, November 18 was the last day.

Mr. Vega met with seniors to distribute a senior newsletter on Tuesday, October 11. The newsletter provided seniors with information about their senior dues and other events. The \$125 senior dues consists of: a full colored yearbook, \$70; senior t-shirt, \$10; diploma cover, \$6; cap and gown, \$16; graduation expense, \$23. Graduation expenses include flowers, balloons, and other decorations for the graduation ceremony at LaGuardia Community College. A deposit towards senior dues was due on Friday, November 18, but seniors still have to pay the full balance on Friday, December 16.

The senior trip will be held

in Kutshers Resort in Monticello New York. The trip is going to be for 3 days from Friday to Sunday on March 3-5. The first deposit is \$100 per person and is due by Monday, January 23. The total cost of the trip is \$225. For more information go to room 143 and see Mr. Vega.

To raise money for trip, prom and other activities seniors can fund raise. For more information see Mr Vega in room 143.

Many seniors hope that their last year in Queens Voc will be a memorable and eventful year. "This year I want to have fun, pass all my classes, and try to get along with everyone and get to know new people so that at the end of the year I will have wonderful memories to look back at," said senior Jennifer Guzman.

FBLA Back In Action

by Syeda Ali

Future Business Leaders of America is a non-profit education association of students preparing for careers in business and business related fields. The FBLA mission is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs. Ms. Sweet is the advisor of FBLA.

"Business students skills are sharpened in FBLA" said Ms. Sweet. Students learn how to engage in activities such as running a board meeting with parliamentary procedure. FBLA participants learn how to communicate with other students effectively with others. They learn how to give impromptu speeches and

"FBLA is fun, you get to travel and meet different people"

presentations. "FBLA prepares students for college and the world of work. Students learn to network with other students and are introduced into business,

web designing, business projects, accounting, and marketing" said Ms. Sweet.

"FBLA is run by the students," said Ms. Sweet, who simply "advises the students." FBLA students engage in various fundraisers and charity events. Such as March of Dimes, UNCIEF, and the Hurricane Katrina Relief program, in which students are collecting book bags and school supplies for victims. In the past FBLA students have participated in activities dealing with juvenile diseases and breast cancer. This year FBLA participants are focusing on sickle cell anemia, which affects many people of color. FBLA participants will be putting up posters to make the students aware of the disease.

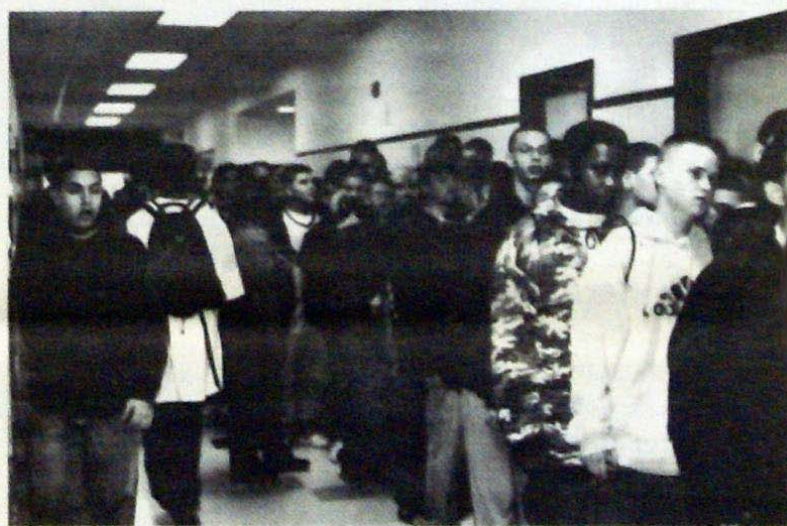
FBLA students also attend workshops and competitions. "It's fun, you get to travel and meet different people," said

Geraldine Gomez, a new FBLA member. The workshops and competitions take place in areas such as Monticello, New York and Baltimore, Maryland. Students usually stay in luxurious hotels and are served delicious food. FBLA students in the past had the opportunity to stay in hotels such as the Plaza and Renaissance hotels.

FBLA members receive service organization credit and are also eligible for scholarships funded by Johnson & Wales University, ranging from \$5,000 to \$7,500.

The FBLA is still recruiting members but membership is limited to business and C-Tech majors. Members must pay a \$20 fee includes national, state and local dues. Final dues will be collected on January, 15. Students interested should see Ms. Sweet in Room 143 or Ms. Ngumen in Room 413.

Commentary: Traffic Jams at Lunch



Students stand eagerly while waiting to be feed.

by Albi Perez

They usually say "first come, first served" but what happens when the first served aren't the first ones to come? This seems to be the case during our lunch periods. Hectic lines and no order create a sense of chaos.

This is a complaint by many students. Christian Zuniga, upset by the lack of organization, said, "It's not fair. I rush to lunch to get to the front of the line and then tons of people cut and now I'm at the back." This is the case for many people attempting to get their lunches. They are swarmed by tons of people in the hall and many people who feel they shouldn't have to wait at the back at the back of the line. "It's outrageous, no one likes to stay in line so all the big kids just cut the little kids in order to get lunch first," said Christopher Hyland.

The hallway at lunch is never a pretty sight. No one listens to the orders barked out. How can anyone back up if there's no place to go? It doesn't seem logical. The lines are always messy and unorganized. Maybe if they came up with a better way

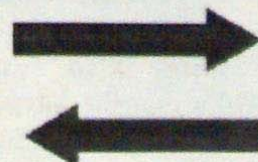
to keep order. How about making sure the line doesn't become like that in the first place?

The lunchroom may have a great menu and new feeling, but it's still lacking order. Until the end of November, the lunchroom only had one CAASS system for scanning IDs, which led to serious congestion in the halls. Since the addition of another CAASS system, entering the cafeteria is somewhat quicker.

The cafeteria is great, a very nice addition for a school. But that doesn't change the fact that without order, the cafeteria is nothing more than a chaotic pigpen.

The school needs to provide a better sense of safety and order when it comes to entering the cafeteria and getting food. This will not only help with lines and the crowded halls, but also with the attitude of the students.

Detour This Way



Why Freshmen Picked Queens Voc

by Yesenia Pena

Students not only come to Queens Vocational & Technical High School to get an education but also to attain skills in a desired trade. While newcomers are attracted to Queens Voc for distinctive motives, they are all given the chance to achieve career training to improve various opportunities in life.

The Questions

1. Why did Queens Voc catch your attention?
2. What major do you plan on acquiring? If undecided, what majors are you interested in? Why?
3. What goals do you plan on fulfilling while attending Queens Voc?



Lorena Bonilla

1. It caught my attention because I like working with computers and I noticed Queens Voc has a C-Tech field.
2. Computer Tech, because my brother inspired me to take it. He works with computers as well.
3. I plan on receiving my diploma and becoming valedictorian.



Jessica De La Rosa

1. The cosmetology program interested me and motivated me to pick this school.
2. Cosmetology, because I like doing hair, nails, and everything else that involves cosmetics.
3. My goals are to pass all my classes and attain a high school diploma.



Jubair Hossain

1. I was interested because of the girls and it was better than my zoned high school.
2. I am trying to pursue a career in electrical installation because I like working with voltages and currents.
3. My goal is to pass my classes and receive a scholarship. I would also like to make it to the basketball team and have a beautiful girlfriend.



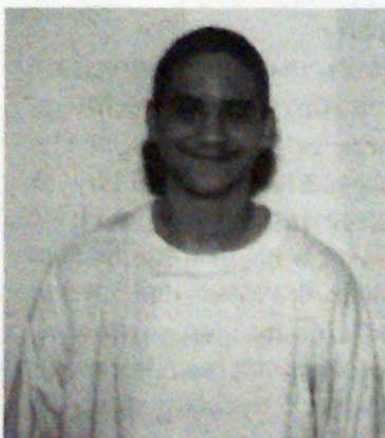
Elizabeth Lara Lopez

1. Queens Voc got my attention because I like experimenting with hair and this school has a cosmetology program.
2. I plan on taking Cosmo because I would like to become a professional hairstylist.
3. My goals that I would like to achieve in this school are to get my diploma and obtain a cosmetology license.



Nicholas Garratt

1. I was interested because you can study what you want and go right into your suggested profession after high school.
2. Right now I am undecided but I am interested in plumbing and electrical installation. If I have any electrical or plumbing difficulties at home, I would like to know how to fix them.
3. My plans are to pass all of my classes and get a job in my future field.



Joel Pena

1. I was interested in the creation of the new school and how it would turn out. I heard from past students that it was small and didn't have a gym or cafeteria, but it was being transformed into a more spacious vocational school. I also liked the career fields and how you can obtain skills in your desired shop.
2. Business, because it's very competitive out there and this school brings me a step closer to the real world.
3. My goals are to graduate with my high school diploma and receive a business endorsement.



Mr. Davidson's students standing up for their rights.

by Yodaryl Moronta

Early on the morning of Saturday, January 7, Mr. Davidson and most of his American History & Government class trekked into Manhattan to Pace University to participate in the citywide "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition.

"I was very pleased with the turnout," said Mr. Davidson.

Teams of students participated in a mock congressional hearing about the freedoms enshrined in the Bill of Rights. The six major topics covered were: the philosophical and historical foundations of the American political system, the framers' process in creating the Constitution, and how the values and principles embodied in the Constitution shape American institutions and practices, how the protections of the Bill of Rights have been developed and expanded, what rights are protected by the Bill of Rights, and what are the roles of citizens in American democracy.

Students representing Queens Voc formed groups that were to research one major topic, thus becoming "experts" for the congressional hearing.

The groups presented their topics to teams of independent judges. Among the contest judges were actual judges, lawyers, and retired social studies teachers.

As of the date the newspaper went to the printers, Mr. Davidson had not yet received the results.

Students who participated in the competition were

Taslina Begum
Chia Hsic Chang
Jacqueline Concepcion
Angel Fung
Estefania Garcia
Diomedes Gonzalez
Tatiana Hidalgo
Gaochao Huang
Raiza Izquierdo
Kacy James
Sandy Manjarrez
Kevin Munoz
Junior Perez
Alfredo Poveda
Andrea Romero
Jacqueline Sepulveda
Kelvin Smartt
Aurelio Stirling
Volodymyr Sulyk
Joel Tabares
Alexander Tenf
Stephanie Valerio
Jose Vargas
Heriberto Velazquez
Terel Watson



First Girls' Basketball Team

In the history of Queens Vocs sports, a girls basketball team has been developed. The girls had a chance to give it their all and shot some hoops at their first few practices with their coach, Mr. Devaux. "Our practices were hard but fun; from the start of our practices, we have followed the motto, go hard or go home," Naoual Elidrissi commented. Since the

start of the girls basketball team, they have managed to win a total of 3 games during this developmental season. The teams roster is as follows: Angelique Bland, Lia Cespedes, Melissa De Jesus, Jade Duncan, Naoual Elidrissi, Karolina Gorna, Christi Hernandez, Samantha Mendez, Ivana Nuñez, Arielle Rios, Magdaline Rodriguez, and Jaleesa Taylor.

Study for your Regents and RCT exams. Make sure you bring your exam invitation with you.

The New Building: Take A Written Tour

by Melissa Encarnacion

There is a great feeling of excitement when one enters Queens Vocational and Technical High School for the first time. The new addition is spacious, clean, and modern. Now, finally, the school contains amenities that schools should have such as a cafeteria and a gymnasium. Throughout the entire addition there are new classrooms and lecture rooms.

As you enter the building through the main entrance on 38th street side, you see the new school safety desk with video monitors connected to cameras strategically located throughout the new addition. There are 3 new classrooms on this floor, the rest are offices. The new government and clubs office, room 143, contains 4 offices; 2 are used by Mr. Vega for his coordinator of Student Activities responsibilities. Ms. Sweet has an office for FBLA, and an office is shared by Mr. Grochala for peer mediation and Mrs. Basirico for the LEARN program. Next to this suite of



offices is room 147, a staff work room, with 2 computers, a printer, and photocopier for teacher use. There is also a round table and 3 leather chairs. Next door, room 149 is the SBST office. SBST stands for School Based Support Team for Students in the Instructional Support Services department. There are 3 offices, for the social worker, psychologist, and for the department's clerical help. Each office has a computer and there is a printer and a copy machine near the offices. Down the hall, in room 151, is the guidance office, used by Ms. Dattner, Mrs. Gurka, Mr. Holder, Mr. Ruben, and Mrs. Klemperer, the new college advisor. There is an outer waiting area with 3 seats. Next door, is room 153, where Mrs. Carafagno takes care of student records and transcripts. Mr. Rivera, the assistant principal, has an office next door, in room 155. His office has a table for conferences and a desk with a computer and a printer.

Step into one of the new elevators and head to the second floor to see 12 new classrooms and one office. Mr. Gorman, assistant principal for science and math, occupies the office. You can also see the new

cafeteria and the teachers' lunchroom. The student cafeteria contains booths along the walls and tables in the interior area of the room, enough seats for all students who have lunch. There are also improved lunches that we don't acquire from Aviation, a transportation window for metrocards, and a snack store. The teachers' lunchroom has tables and chairs for teachers, and better meals including a salad bar.

If you walk up one flight of steps up to the 3rd floor, you will encounter the new cosmetology salon, room 336. This new room is packed with 10 sink stations, 28 hydraulic chairs, and two elaborate facial beds where customers lay down to receive a facial service. A pedicure chair and a tub is also available, along with the manicure tables on each side of the salon. This is just one of the new shops within the new addition, furnished with new equipment. Senior Beverly Marte claims that, "the extra space and new furniture allows us to work better and creates the environment of a real salon." There is a lecture room next door to the cosmetology salon, room 344, which is shared by the cosmo students, and the electronics and the robotics students.

The electronics and robotics lab, next to the shared lecture room, contains equipment that is extremely complex and modern. Ender De La Rosa and Eric Sanchez agree that, "the equipment is more innovative, so we are lucky to be the first high school in the city to have the lab room layout and program." In the new lab the students will be certified in copper and fiber optics networking. Students in the school pay no fee. Outside of the school, the fee for the copper networking course is \$500 and the fiber optics course is \$1200.

The lab has 3 rows of long wooden workbenches equipped with cabinets and drawers for

materials, and 15 computer desks used as work stations. On each computer desk there is a trainer used by juniors, a robotic arm used by seniors, and an oscilloscope. Students program the robotic arms with the accompanying computer. The oscilloscopes display patterns of electrical signals and measures waves and volts. In the back of the room are two work stations that contain a computer, computer integrated manufacturing equipment, a robotic arm, a mill, and a lathe. The lathe cuts blocks of wood and the mill can carve letters, symbols, pictures, or drawings onto the blocks. Programming by computers is a major part of this shop and one of their most recent jobs is to program different types of robots to complete tasks such as obstacle courses. The robots maneuver around the obstacle course smoothly.

Room 325, the old electrical installation room, has been converted into an art room. This room has big art tables, chairs, and both a white board and a chalk board. There are 3 new sinks at the back, 4 long cabinets and 6 small cube cabinets. "There are plenty of art supplies for the students to create still life, drawings from observation, and abstract pictures," said Mr. Garcia, Queens Voc's new art teacher.

If you walk up to the top floor, right above the cosmetology salon, you will see the new plumbing shop, room 434. The shop contains 6 tables which are used for work stations. Each of these work stations contains four vises to hold up pipes that students use their work stations. There are 5 threading machines to cut, thread, and ream pipes. Three of the threading machines are new. There are 6 foldable and portable tri-stand vises on the right side of the room along with the water fountain and 2 hot water heaters. "These hot water heaters will be used for a tub and a sink above a set of steps in the back of the room that is going to be installed by seniors," said Mr.

McCarthy, one of the plumbing teachers. The seniors will also install and uninstall a kitchen, and then other students will install it again. One of the water heaters will supply hot water for the bathroom, and the other will supply hot water for the kitchen. This project will not begin until the plumbing shop is completed. Mr. McCarthy stated that it is missing benches with steel tops. Once the shop is completed, the seniors will build a wall, rough in all the piping work, and then install the fixtures.

Down the hall from the plumbing shop is one of the electrical installation shops, room 446. When you step inside the EI room, you feel as if you are in a maze with all wooden square cubicles inside the room. Each student has a cubicle that contains a 220-volt power panel and a motor. Every EI student has a locker; these lockers cover the entire left wall of the classroom. There is also a conduit pipe threader at the back of the classroom. This shop has all the equipment the EI students need to successfully complete their jobs. Senior Danny Lopez said that "the new shop improves my skill because it's like working on a real job site due to all this new equipment." There is an identical EI shop across the hall, room 447, where the juniors work.

At the end of the hall, in the room 454, there are 24 computers for business classes and for the other classes that want to complete any work research. When not in use by businesses, teachers may bring their classes there providing the teacher has booked the room with Ms. Newman, the director of the School of Entrepreneurial Studies. Classes with more than 24 students double-up on the computers. Students can also use the computers in room 455, the new library.

The library has approximately 17,000 books of all different genres. There are 9 tables in the center with chairs where people can sit and read. There are 4 computers in the main part of the library that can be used by students and teachers. When teachers have a free period, they can research in the Technology Center, located within the library. This room contains 10 computers and 2 printers.

If you walk toward the old side of the building, you will find that the old plumbing room has been transformed. In its place are multiple small offices with desks and a conference room with a smart board for the business students in Virtual

Enterprise. Virtual Enterprise is a class set up as a company that buys wholesale clothing and resells the clothing customers. Virtual Enterprise, led by student Geraldine Vargas, the CEO is divided into five departments: human resources, sales and marketing, design accounting, and research and development. Each of these departments has designated tasks to make this virtual business firm have a realistic feel of an established business managed by students.

The human resources department hires new employees, develops attendance policies, and processes



employee payroll. Marianne Bencosme, the assistant vice president of human resources says it is a "very good experience that demonstrates how a real business operates and prepares me for the real world." The sales and marketing department markets their products, determines the prices of products, and writes product descriptions. The design department makes the company website, designs the company logo, creates order forms so customers can order clothes, assigns prices, and uploads product pictures. The research and development department designs the clothes, submits ideas for the design logo, and develops their clothing store.

The last stop is the basement. The basement includes the gymnasium, a weight room, locker rooms for boys and girls, an office for the physical education teachers, and an equipment room. Home basketball games are held in the new gymnasium. Coach Maloney finally has a home gym! Bleachers in the gym can hold approximately 70 people per bleacher, allowing Queens Voc students and staff to watch their basketball teams play. There are locker rooms and showers just off the gym for home and visiting teams.

The new addition has proven to be extremely impressive.

Now, the biggest challenge is the upkeep of the new addition. Queens Voc students should think about how much work it took to make the addition, and refrain from wrecking it with acts of vandalism. Queens Voc is a school to be proud of!



College-Style Schedules What are your opinions?

by Stephanie Fernandez

Q=question, A=answer

Q1- How do you feel about having college-style schedules while still attending high school?



Victor Varela, 9th grade

A- "College-style schedules during high school are not bad to have because it helps you prepare for the college life and you have a better chance to experience how college programs work."



Diana Lemache, 11th grade

A- "In one way, I feel the college-style schedules are good because they help us experience what college will be like in the future. In another way, I feel the college-style schedules are bad because it messed up students programs at the beginning of the year and some students missed the work done in their academic classes."



Naoual Elidrisi, 12th grade

A- "I feel this is a ridiculous way to operate a high school. Why should it be college-style schedules when we're only in high school? I feel that it's an unorganized style."

Q4- Do you like the college-style schedules or the old schedules from last year?



Jason DeMilt, 10 grade

A- "I like the old schedules because you didn't have classes for an hour or an hour and a half, instead you had each class everyday for 45 minutes. But with the new schedules, you have different students in all of your classes."



Jennifer Cabrera, 11 grade

A- "I like the college-style schedules better than the old routine schedules because when it comes to homework, you have time to plan it out. On the other hand, I don't like the college-style schedules because every day it's a different time schedule, as well as different classes. You tend to get confused and forget your assignments."



Suzy Cernuda, 10 grade

A- "In my opinion, I prefer the college-style schedules because I get out from school at different periods."



Q2- How are the program changes affecting your schedule as a student?



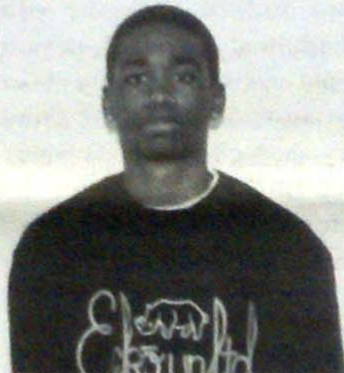
Gabriel Ortiz, 11th grade

A- "To start with, in the beginning of the year, for about two months, I had no major, and I feel it's ridiculous because we are suffering for the school's mistakes. I came to this school to study electrical installation and I was initially cheated out of the class."



Maggie Rodriguez, 9th grade

A- "The program changes aren't really affecting me because the holes in the schedule [now, study hall] give me time to catch up with my classes. Instead of the holes being useless, I have the opportunity to take advantage of them and do my school work."



Michael Beltre, 12th grade

A- "There are a lot of students with holes in their programs that have now become study hall periods. Some students might use these periods for extra time to complete school work or they might just think this is a waste of time in their day."

ROOTS: A Work in Progress

by Alan Casallas

In February, Queens Voc will host its greatly anticipated play, "Roots," being held to highlight our celebration of Black History Month.

The play is being produced and directed by Ms. Himmel, with assistance from Ms. Lewis and Ms. Gaskin. "Basically, this is an adaptation of the TV mini-series based on the historical novel *Roots* by Alex Haley," said Ms. Himmel. The play tells the story of an African family who struggles to succeed in America while retaining their African heritage.

All the cast members are Queens Voc students. "We began rehearsals in October of 2005 in the library," said Ms. Himmel, "and have moved into the auditorium." Currently, rehearsals are held on Wednesdays and Fridays at 3:30 p.m.

"Although the main focus of the story is about African Americans, it is really an important American story. This is why I wanted a multi-racial cast," said Ms. Himmel.

Last year, a talent show and a series of monologues were held in celebration of Black History Month. This year's presentation is the first play ever that will be held in Queens Voc to commemorate Black History Month.

"Everyone is working hard to make this year's production an even bigger success than last year's," said Ms. Himmel.

**Coming Soon
to
Queens Voc
ROOTS**

**February 16, 2006
4:30pm-6:00pm
In the Auditorium**

**For more
information contact
Ms. Himmel**



Michelle Cotrina, 9th grade

A- "I feel as if the new student program is a good idea because we don't have the same boring schedule each day. They aren't treating us like little kids but more like mature adults."



Loraine Alba, 11th grade

A- "I'm not really comfortable with the new programs because it's messing up my academic classes that are necessary for graduation."



Leslye Peña, 12th grade

A- "I don't feel comfortable because the school took a while to give the students all the academic classes that we need. We have to be on top of the counselors to give us all our classes instead of receiving the right classes in the beginning of the year."

Changes to Schedules have been Disruptive

by Britney Dutes

Changes! That song was written in 1972 by David Bowie. Queens Voc reminds me of this song ever since the first day of classes.

On Friday, September 9, the very first day of this school year, programs were given out. When students saw their programs, jaws dropped and tempers flared as students saw that fifteen periods existed. When the programs were explained to students that periods were a half hour each, cheers rose to the ceiling of the auditorium, except for those who got out last period. Quickly, however, the programs began to change.

A new schedule with a different length periods was developed and, at some delays, all students received new schedules on Friday, September 23, but some students were still missing classes such as English, math, science, or their shop classes.

Now the programs are different. It's called college-style scheduling. Most classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays are an hour long. Most classes on Tuesday and Thursdays are an hour and a half, without a second period. And some classes are thirty-eight minutes long everyday. This new schedule initially had everyone confused; even teachers were unsure how to develop lessons that were supposed to be taught for three different time intervals. Besides how could teachers teach when students were being transferred in and transferred out of their classes? During the next month, some students were still

receiving changes, sometimes without notification of these changes. They sometimes find out about these changes when they go into the program office or go to the guidance counselor's office to get a reprinted schedule because they've lost theirs, or because a teacher will say "hey, why aren't you coming to my class?" Now does that seem organized as far as changes?

To make matters worse, free periods are spent in our new "study hall" in an overcrowded room 109. And we are not able to talk to our guidance counselors to discuss our programs. Constant excuses are given to students. They are told to go back to their scheduled classes and to see the guidance counselor during a free period or that a meeting is

...free periods are spent in our new "study hall" in room 109, where it's overcrowded.

being held. When did a meeting become a valuable excuse? Talking to the guidance counselors about our classes and credits required to graduate shouldn't be a problem. It all goes back to the programs. Changes! And not enough benefits from those changes.

We don't question that the changes were meant to help us succeed; we're just not sure they are helping.

More planning and organization is needed when dealing with education and with the courses we take to better ourselves.

Queens Voc, College Style

by Alan Casallas

The new college-styled programs have been irritating hundreds of students. Over the summer, Queens Voc adopted a new style of student class programs. In years prior, Queens Voc students received all their classes each day for periods 45 minutes long. Now, most classes are held for 90 minutes two days a week or for 60 minutes three days a week.

The decision to implement this new style was made by the Focus Team, a group of teachers, directors, parents, and students. The Focus Team also decided to create two new types of classes in Queens Voc. The first one is Study Hall, where "free periods" are given to students so they can research material, do homework, or receive tutoring. Advisory, a class where a student's practical needs can be discussed, was also added. However, if these new classes were lodged into the old schedule styles, each period would end up being only about half-an-hour long. To avoid very short class periods where very little can be done, the school day may have been extended in order to fit Advisory and Study Hall. By arranging certain classes for only two or three days at a time, the new schedules allow students to receive Study Hall and Advisory while staying away from very short class periods or longer school days.

The idea to create college-styled schedules in came from other high schools. "We looked at schools in Miami, Chicago, and Fort Lauderdale," said Ms. Vittor. "We took some ideas from each high school and incorporated them together."

College-styled schedules have many advantages. "Longer blocks of class time are more productive," said Mr. Davidson, who programs Queens Voc schedules. With some classes being 90 minutes long, students have a chance to understand lessons more clearly. Assignments can be more educational and extensive. "How many times has the bell not rung and a teacher is in the middle of an assignment? You see, with extended periods, this problem does not occur so often," he said.

There was another advantage the Focus Team considered. Extended periods offer more time available to do actual class work. In any class, teachers must take attendance while

students take out their materials for class and pack them up at the end of the period. Although these activities are important, there is not much teaching done during this time. By having classes two or three times a week, taking attendance and packing up materials is done only twice or three times weekly, instead of five.

The Focus Team obviously had good intentions when they instituted the new college-styled schedules. There are, however, many weaknesses to these schedules.

Students and teachers who don't like the new college-styled schedules should give it a chance to work

The worst disadvantage is that a lot of class-time is lost. In the traditional schedules, each period was forty-five minutes long. That computed to 225 minutes of weekly class time, or 135 hours of class time in a 180-day school year. With the new schedules, classes are an hour, an hour-and-a-half, or 38 minutes long. That computes to from 180-190 minutes of class time weekly and as little as 108 hours of class time in a school year. The new college-styled schedules cause students to lose as much as 27 hours of academic and shop class time.

Another disadvantage is how ineffective Study Hall and Advisory classes have been. Although these may seem like good ideas, they have been badly implemented. Many students use the Study Hall time to socialize and cause trouble in the hallways. Advisory classes, for their part, have not been solving students' problems or issues. Activities theoretically set for Study Hall can be done after school or at home. As for the idea that students were going to blurt out their emotions in Advisory classes, teens have preferred to let their friends or guidance counselors give them advice. Valuable school time that is now set aside for Study Hall and Advisory has not been

productive, but rather could be dedicated to academic and shop classes.

Having different classes each day also causes some confusion. George Castrillon, a junior, said, "Because we don't have [classes] consecutively, it is harder to remember stuff." A lot of students feel like George, preferring to have each class every school day of the week. This way, students are not forced to remember class material for two or three days at a time.

Lastly, the new college-styled schedules worsen the effects of an absence. A student who is absent on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, misses one third of the material his hour-long classes covered that week. A student absent on a Tuesday or Thursday, misses half—yes, half—of the class work covered that week because of one mere absence. Thus, the new college-styled schedules have made each individual absence far worse than it would be with the traditionally-styled schedules.

College-styled schedules may provide room for Advisory and Study Hall as well as create more productive class periods, but these strengths are weak in contrast to the problems caused by the new schedules. Study Hall needs to become more than just a roomful of students socializing. As for Advisory classes, teachers should be given a solid curriculum and specific activities they can do in these classes.

Despite the inconveniences, students and teachers who don't like the new college-styled schedules should give it a chance to work. "We don't see the end result of this experiment yet...our job is to perfect the system," said Ms. Vittor.

Queens Voc can observe the effects of the new schedules for this year. Then, the schedules can be adjusted or abandoned, depending on the results.

If the results of the new schedules aren't as expected, the Focus Team should not be afraid to convert back to the traditional style of high school schedules. The future of the students in Queens Voc may depend on it.

What do you think about the new college-style schedules?

Write us at VocVoice@aol.com



Students wait while their attendance is being taking.

COMMENTARY

A Call to Students: Keep Our School Clean!

by Dennis Mansour

Queens Voc students waited two long years for the new extension to open. The building allows students to eat in a cafeteria, enjoy a real gymnasium and study in brand new class rooms. Now, we need to take care of our new school and keep it clean. Nobody wants to work in a polluted, dirty environment. Students should not throw paper towels, papers, food or any snack wrappers onto the floors. Graffiti is absolutely unacceptable but can be the easiest action to make our school dingy. Students should know that graffiti will not be tolerated by school officials. Ms. Vittor, our principal, has proven that offending students will be tracked down and suffer the consequences.

Teachers and staff members can help keep the rooms clean by making sure students don't throw garbage on the floor. Trying to make the room look as clean as possible so the next class is a thoughtful way to help maintain our school and moral.

Teachers should lock the door as they leave a classroom to help prevent vandalism. The custodians sweep and mop up the classrooms, auditorium, hallways and cafeteria every day. Sure the custodians have their part, but students must also help out in the clean-up cycle.

In the cafeteria students may enjoy lunch while eating have a spare moment to talk to friends or listen to music, anything in the student's interest at the time. As the period comes to an end, very little of the food taken to the table is thrown out. When that bell rings, students storm the exit doors. But what is left behind is disgusting. There are trays with food sitting on the table, milk spilled on seats and floor, garbage under the table or

around the seating areas. Then, as the next period students who desire a nice meal enter the cafeteria, they lose their appetite after what they witness. Who feel comfortable sitting and eating next to a pig's pen? One big concern are the vending machines which distributes beverages and refreshments. Would any body like if a person came into their house, ate their food in the kitchen and left the rest laying there, or even throwing it under the table?

"It's become a huge problem, it is very disgusting what I witness in the computer-tech class at times" said Mr. Rodriguez. As a result of the problem in which students ignore the simple instructions, Mr. Rodriguez has set rules for every student entering room 416. Students cannot bring in any beverage or any snack refreshment. If a student does and is caught, there will be consequences ranging from a warning, to a call home, to being banned from the room.

In the new gym, students are not allowed to chew gum, eat food or drink beverages. Students caught with gum in gym will have points deducted from their grade. "Before you step into the gymnasium make sure you clear out your mouth or your grade will suffer for it" says Ms. Bloom.

Maintaining the cleanliness of the Queens Voc is really up to the students. Don't litter. And if you see garbage on the floor, do the right thing and pick it up. Our custodial staff will do its part, teachers should make sure that rooms are left as clean as they are found in the morning, and we students should consider our school as our home, and keep it clean. We all need to be determined to keep the school clean, and to preserve it as we found it when we first arrived.

From the Advisor:

For the past seven years, our first edition was distributed by Thanksgiving and this edition would have been our second. But there were many factors led to the delays associated with this, our first edition.

Yet the publication of this edition, for all its tribulations, is a point of pride for me. The list of those who have helped includes current students and Queens Voc graduates. These graduates brought with them their expertise in editing and in the software program we began

to use last year. Everyone who put in an earnest effort did so because of their dedication to their school.

While our paper has not been without controversies, we have endeavored to provide the students not only with school news but also a voice. I am thankful for the support I have received from our principal and our staff, and I am grateful for the outpouring of support from students past and present.

Rob Schimenz

Vocational Voice

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

Principal's Message



QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH
SCHOOL
Denise Vittor, Principal

Once again the time for finals and Regents exams is upon us. Now is the time to gear up to do your best since these assessments are crucial to your success at Queens Vocational & Technical High School and more importantly, your graduation. Much has been said about these "high stakes" tests, but we cannot get into the debate. Our job is to prepare you with the curriculum and skills needed to demonstrate proficiency on these exams. Your task is to practice, study, and do your best to demonstrate all that you have learned. Many of you have asked me questions concerning Regent's exams, and graduation requirements. Here are a few descriptions that may help you figure out where you stand regarding Regents exams:

1. It is important that you realize these tests are the only way the state can measure and compare your progress to the standards they have set for all students.
2. Therefore, students who achieve a minimum grade of 65 or higher pass the Regents exams.
3. Scores of 65 on Regents exams enable you to get a Regents diploma and enter college without taking remedial courses.
4. Students who achieve a grade between 55-64 did not pass the exam, and are not counted as passing by New York State.
5. These students only receive credit for a local diploma, which is considered the most basic diploma.
6. All students who received a grade lower than 65 on any Regents should take it again to achieve the best score possible.
7. Your highest score counts! Take every opportunity to improve your performance; the better your scores, the more rewarding your senior year will be. You can spend your senior year in internships, advanced placement, and dual credit college courses rather than night school, additional Regents prep courses, and PM school.

Denise Vittor
Principal

**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
Main Office



Inquiring Photographer



by Diana Rodriguez

We all have heard people saying "Nobody is perfect," and that is true! Sometimes we want to change things about ourselves; sometimes, we would like to change most things about us. If you could change something about your personality, what would it be? Why?



Katherine Pena

Grade 12, Cosmetology

If I could change something about my personality it would be to stop being too nice sometimes, because people tend to take advantage of it. Also try not to be soft-hearted and be more on the cold-hearted side.



Evelyn Santana

Grade 12, Cosmetology

"If I could change something about my personality it would be to stop getting mad over the littlest things. I will change that because sometimes people say things playing around and I take it too seriously."



Jennifer Guzman

Grade 12, Cosmetology

"I would change my laziness. I been lazy lately and I know I can do my work. I can achieve my goals, but my laziness has to stop!"



Gabriel Polanco

Grade 9, Exploratory

If I had the opportunity to change something about my personality it would be my hyper-ness. Sometimes it is too much and some people don't like that. Some others they even get mad because they think that I'm annoying.

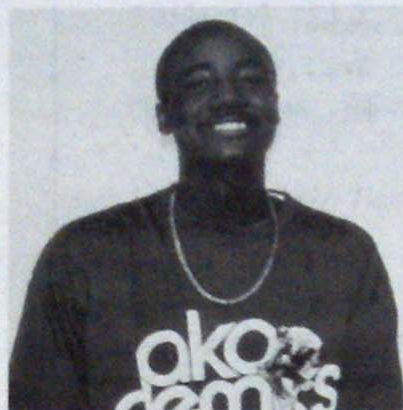


Alejandra Lopez

Grade 11, Cosmetology

I will change my attitude because I'd like to be more friendly. I would like to know

more people and have a lot of friends.



Daishon Jones

Grade 10, Plumbing

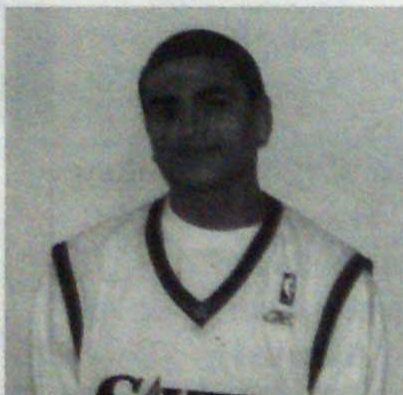
If I could change something about me it would be my temper. I don't like it because I get in trouble most of the time.



Emmanuel Polihronidis

Grade 10, Plumbing

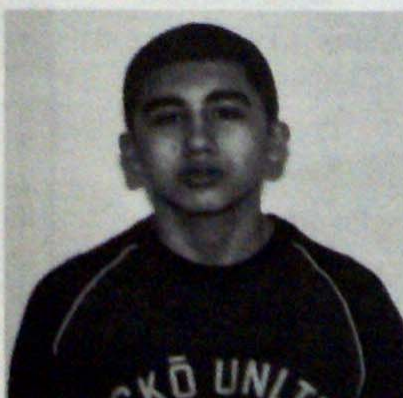
I would change the fact that I don't speak up. I would like to speak up more because people talk a lot of garbage!



Paul Carino

Grade 10, Plumbing

I would like to change my attitude. Most of the time people get the wrong impression of how I am only because of my attitude.



Andy Vasquez

Grade 9, Exploratory

I would like to change my aggravation. I always get angry and I start to do stupid things.

Step-Up For College

by Tasia Jenkins

Students who start to prepare for college earlier in high school would make their senior year less stressful, but most students wait until senior year. Students who are planning to go to college should know that there are important steps to take into college preparation process.

Step 1: Reach out to college advisor and guidance counselor

Ms. Judith Klemperer is the new college advisor. The college advisor and guidance counselors can help students get advice and helpful information about different colleges. Guidance counselors are available for each student at Queens Voc. Mrs. Gurka is responsible for plumbing and electronics students, Mr. Holder, cosmetology and business, Mr. Rubin, computer tech and advance programs, and Ms. Dattner is the 9th grade counselor.

- Create a plan of classes and exams to ensure that you graduate on time.
- Search for careers you would like to pursue (search for majors, online by college name and college directory).

Step 2: Prepare early for standardized tests

- Take the PSAT as sophomores and juniors. Take the SAT in spring of junior year and fall of senior year. Upcoming SAT dates are January 28, April 1, May 6, and June 3.

Step 3: Get to know your teachers and principal

This allows you to ask for recommendation letters and information they might have about colleges.

Step 4: Requirements for graduation

- Four years of English and social studies
- Three years of science and math
- One semester each of art and music. In Queens Voc, students have to complete a project in music and art. Mr. Ryan is handling the music projects in room 343 and Mr. Garcia is handling the art projects in room 325. Mr. Garcia is the school's new art teacher. Student's passing art will not be required to complete an art project
- Three and a half years of physical education and half year of health
- One year of foreign language. Students in Queens Voc earn one credit for doing a Spanish project, if a foreign language wasn't taken prior. Mr. Mendez and Mr. Cintron are both handling the Spanish projects. See them either room 406 or 307.

Step 5: Regents Exams

- In addition to taking the right classes, work with your teachers and guidance counselor to figure out when you need to take and pass each of the following Regents exams: Comprehensive English, global history, U.S. history, any one mathematic Regents (Math A or Math B), and any one science Regents, such as chemistry, physics, earth science, or living environment.

Step 6: Get Involved

- Colleges are interested in students who are involved in sports or school clubs, or participate in church or local community organizations.

Step 7: College Prep and Tutoring Programs

- Queens Voc can also prepare for college by taking college course classes sponsored by LaGuardia Community College, which are basic college classes that you can earn college credits after or during school, such as College Now!
- SAT prep courses are also available to help students improve their SAT scores.

Step 8: Application Process

Attend college fairs to learn about colleges and visit campuses that may be of interest. Also visit large and small college campuses, and out of state and local campuses to see which type of colleges you prefer.

- Narrow your college application list to three or four "dream," "probable," and "safety" choices.
- Give yourself plenty of time to write and edit your college essays (if applicable).
- Make copies of your applications and organize them in separate folders.

- Ask a teacher or guidance counselor for a recommendation letter.

- Have your guidance counselor review your applications.

Step 9: Who's Responsible for What

- A. Student's Responsibility
 - Complete the application
 - Write an essay if required
 - Request letters of recommendation if required
 - Follow up with each college to make sure your application is complete
- B. Queens Voc Responsibility
 - Official transcript

Step 10: Actions to take this year

- A. Set goals, work hard, take yourself seriously
- B. Pay attention to details and deadlines
- C. Get involved in rewarding activities

For additional information visit <http://www.newvisions.org/collegebound/>

Horoscopes

by Yesenia Pena

Scorpio:

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Life isn't going the way you planned. Don't be so hard on yourself because life takes unexpected turns. Stop trying to live up to expectations and simply live the way you want. You will see the difference.

Sagittarius:

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Friends and family love your positive energy and make you feel better about your future. In the next couple of months, love will bring you to a higher level than you have ever experienced. All the answers you have been seeking will be revealed.

Capricorn:

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Happy Birthday! Never mind the opinions of others—it's important to be sure of yourself. However, good advice should be taken into consideration when it differs from your thoughts. Going out and socializing will recharge your mind.

Aquarius:

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

New people or places take a while to get accustomed to. You may feel a bit overwhelmed with work or responsibilities. But remember, you are capable of doing anything that is needed. Your intensity will inspire a loved one.

Pisces:

(Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

If you go and experience the world through the eyes of another, you will get a better evaluation of a current situation. Romance is soaring this weekend. Honest communication is the key to a long and healthy relationship.

Aries:

(March 21-April 19)

No one is shocked when you get really obsessed with a new hobby—just be careful that this time, you don't go and blow off those closest to you. A romantic possibility could turn into reality if you decide to commit.

Taurus:

(April 20-May 20)

You are feeling great about yourself both inside and out. Your confidence is making everyone want to be a part of your entourage now. Consistency in everything you do at school will keep you focused. Romance will bloom if you allow it to flow naturally.

Gemini:

(May 21-June 21)

You're facing a problem that is not your fault. Instead of ignoring it, working through it will be more worthwhile in the long run. Once you remove these obstacles that have been blocking your way for quite some time, go out and have fun.

Cancer:

(June 21-July 22)

Listening to what special people in your life have to say will get you a lot further in romance. A true bond can be created now without much effort if you are willing. Your caring heart keeps loved ones close.

Leo:

(July 23-Aug. 22)

Your compassionate side is influencing you to make the world a better place. Start getting involved and volunteer to improve your school and community. Keep busy and you will attract many new and exciting opportunities.

Virgo:

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your friends and family will be extra demanding for your time. You are going to want your space and independence but you should take some comfort in knowing how much they need you. They will be testing your loyalty, so stay on guard for who and what you can believe.

Libra:

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Your heart will tell you everything you need to know—even if it's not something you want to hear. Try to deal with it the best you can and don't freak out with everything that's going on in your head. It's nothing that a little patience won't cure.



Video Game Review



by Sorang Kim

Ninja Gaiden Black

Genre: Fantasy Action Adventure
Platform: Xbox
USRB: Mature (M)
Cost: \$29.99

Sick and tired of games that are ridiculously quick and easy? For those gamers, Team Ninja and Tecmo developers combined their ideas and created one of the best games available for Xbox.

Remarkable enough, the best just got better with Ninja Gaiden Black an updated version of last year's best action game Ninja Gaiden. With magnificently well-drawn graphics with one of the best gameplays available, this masterpiece also challenges gamers with high-level difficulties of Artificial Intelligence (AI) enemies and intensifies them with astonishing battles and weapons.

Even though it is very remarkable game, it contains some flaws. One such flaw is that for gamers who played the previous version, Ninja Gaiden, the surprises that show during the game are already noticeable. Also, the game can

be frustrating because of its difficulty and repetitive combat between identical ninjas over a thousand times. Other than that, the game is a lot of fun. It is the one of the best games that can be bought for only \$30.

Gameplay: 10/10
Graphics: 10/10
Sound: 8/10
Fun Factor: 10/10
Overall Rating: 9.5/10



Burnout: Revenge

Genre: Racing
Platform: Xbox, PS2
USRB: Everyone 10+ (E 10+)
Cost: \$49.99

Burnout 3: Takedown, last year's greatest hit and biggest selling game by Electronic Arts, came up with another racing game this year named Burnout: Revenge. Gamers who looked forward to seeing the upgrade version of Burnout 3: Takedown will be impressed.

Burnout: Revenge became better than Burnout 3: Takedown by portraying great drawing aspects of high-speed racing and combination of

complex racing tactics. This game stands out from racing games because gamers can win the race not by just going faster but also by knocking out other racing opponents by using innocent bystanders as weapons.

With realistic drawings and crashing interaction graphics combined with mind-blowing sound effects, the gamers can't resist playing the game. The developers did an amazing job drawing out the car crash effects, and the sound effects of the car crashes are remarkable. Tight control over the vehicles, unmatched sense of speed, and great online play through Xbox-Live are another great aspect of this game.

Even though it is a great game, it contains some minor flaws. During the gameplay, the gamers will experience the same tracks in races. Also the slow sound track songs of the game don't seem to fit when there is intense battle going on between the cars. Aside from those flaws, the game is spectacular and is one of the games that can't be missed.

Gameplays: 9/10
Graphics: 9/10
Sounds: 9/10
Fun Factor: 9/10
Overall Rating: 9/10

Basketball Word Search

by Yodaryl Moronta

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

Eastern Conference

Boston
Nets
Knicks
Toronto
Philadelphia
Atlanta
Charlotte
Miami
Orlando
Washington

Milwaukee

Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indiana
Western Conference
Dallas
Houston
Memphis
New Orleans
San Antonio

Denver

Minnesota
Portland
Seattle
Utah
Golden State
LA Clippers
LA Lakers
Phoenix

http://www.websites of interest.com

compiled by Syeda Ali

Surfing the Internet is one of the favorite pastimes of many of our readers. Whether the net is used to research, shop, chat, or simply for entertainment purposes, it is useful to visit websites to stay informed. The *Vocational Voice* has compiled a list of websites that can help keep our readers busy and entertained this holiday season.

WEBSITE NAME & INFO	WEBSITE ADDRESS
Sports	
Public Schools Athletic	www.psal.org
NBC Sports	www.nbc.com
MLB	www.mlb.com
NBA	www.nba.com
NASCAR	www.nascar.com
NFL	www.nfl.com
Educational	
Ask Jeeves	www.ask.com
Google	www.google.com
Information Please	www.infoplease.com
Dictionary	www.dictionary.com
Atlapedia Online	www.atlapedia.com
Encarta Online	www.encarta.com
Queens Vocational & Tech.	www.qvths.org
Career Builder Resources	www.careerbuilder.com
Education World	www.education-world.com
Teacher Use	www.imateacher.com
Entertainment	
Billboard Music Charts	www.billboard.com
Launch music videos & much more	www.launch.com
AZ Lyrics	www.azlyrics.com
Internet Movie Database	www.imdb.com
Movies	www.movies.com
Source Magazine	www.thesource.com
Your Magazine	www.ym.com
Games	www.shockwave.com
	www.uproar.com
Free Arcade	www.javaarcade.com
Links to fun sites	www.bored.com
Horoscopes	www.horoscopes.com
Shopping	
Forever21	www.forever21.com
Rocawear	www.rocawear.com
Dr. Jays	www.drjays.com
Urban Outfitter	www.urbanoutfitter.com
Rampage	www.rampage.com
Avon	www.avon.com
Foot Locker	www.footlocker.com
Nine West	www.ninewest.com
Steve Madden	www.stevemadden.com
Target	www.target.com
DKNY	www.dkny.com
J&R Music and Computer World	www.jr.com
Bags & Accessories	www.ebags.com
Macy's	www.macys.com
Bloomindales	www.bloomingdales.com
Burlington	www.burlingtoncoatfactory.com
JCPenny	www.jcpenny.com
MSN shopping	www.msnshopping.com
GAP	www.gap.com
BestBuy	www.bestbuy.com
Polo	www.polo.com

If you have any websites that you would to see included in the next edition of the school newspaper, email them to VocVoice@aol.com

Advice Column

Ask B. Poetic

by Britney Dutes

Dear B. Poetic,

I have a friend who is making not so smart decisions. She believes that suicide or running away from home is her only way out. How am I supposed to help her without telling anyone, because she won't trust me if I do?
-Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

It seems to me that your friend has problems that have become overbearing in her household. To address the first issue, suicide is never the answer to any problem. Once the act is done, there's no turning back. Suicide is seen as an easy route that makes people think that they can gain some sort of dignity, or honor. If your friend even considers this as a way to bypass her problems, then it's obvious that this is more than an emotional problem, it's a mental health issue as well. Try to turn her away from the idea of suicide by pointing out the positives about living life, instead the negatives that we all face in a daily struggle. Life is a test that goes on through trials and errors. If we don't overcome those trials, how can we better ourselves?

As her friend, you should not respect her decision by keeping quiet. Imagine what the effects of keeping quiet can be. If she decides to kill herself, you will feel guilt because you didn't succeed in helping her. Do you honestly want to feel responsible for a situation that could have probably helped solve days, weeks, or months prior? Tell someone who can help her with these issues, that's your responsibility as her friend. If she runs away from home, where is she going to go? If she has a trust issue already, whom can she honestly trust after she leaves her house? It's better that the feelings are exposed, than having a guilty conscience if she chooses to run away from home or take her own life.

B. Poetic



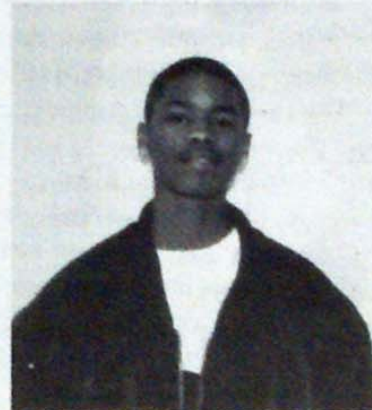
Sophomores' Major Choice, But Why?

by Jacqueline Rodriguez

- 1) Why did you pick this major?
- 2) Do you like it so far? Why?
- 3) Do you plan to pursue this profession after high school? Why or why not?

Carlos Mason

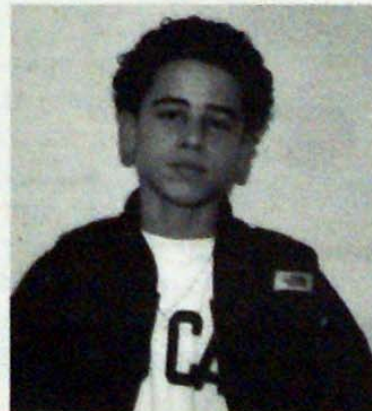
Business Official Class 223



- 1) I picked it because it will help me for future references. It will help me to apply for a job because when they see that I took that course in high school they will be more interested.
- 2) Yes, because I have learned a lot and it's not too hard. In the future, I would like to become a business man and I know this will improve my skills.
- 3) Yes, because I would like to have my own business or, if not, at least manage one.

Joel Plasencia

EI Official Class 202



- 1) I chose EI because I like to work with my hands and I also heard that there is a lot of money in this field nowadays.
- 2) Yes, I do. It's fun because you get to experience new things. It also expands my knowledge in this career.
- 3) No, because my real dream is to be a baseball player. Basically, EI is just my back-up profession.

Eva Jimenez

Cosmetology
Official Class 221



- 1) I chose it because I like to do hair and nails. I also like to style hair to make people feel good about themselves.
- 2) Yes, I do because it will give me the skills I need so that in the future I could use them on the side. I am interested in it and I would like to use it as my back-up plan.
- 3) No, because what I would really like to be is a pediatrician. I love to take care of and work with children.

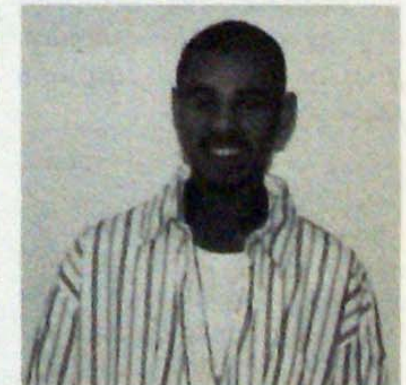
Yara Diaz

Cosmetology
Official Class 222



- 1) I had been interested in it and I like everything that has to do with it such as doing hair and doing facials.
- 2) Yes, because it's fun working with people. I am also discovering that I am really good in this field.
- 3) Even though I am good in this field, I don't want to pursue it as a career. The profession that I really want to do is be an interior designer. I enjoy decorating and expressing my creativity at the same time.

Christopher Martinez
EI Official Class 201



- 1) I chose it due to the fact that most of my family works in Local 3, a union, and they told me it's a good profession.
- 2) Yes, because it's something that I'm into and the skills that I'm going to obtain will help me in the future.
- 3) Yes, because as I said before, I could work with my family in Local 3. Once you enter Local 3, they send you straight to the field where I could use all the skills that I gain.

Music Reviews

by Andres Gallo

Switchfoot: *Nothing is Sound*
[Sony XCP content/copy protected CD]

Switchfoot is back and with a great new album. *Nothing is Sound* is filled with the same formula of their 2003 album, *A Beautiful Letdown*; that is, explosive melodic guitars and lyrical art. This time, however, the pace of the songs is more varied, yet maintaining Switchfoot's original musical style.

"Stars," this album's hit song, is likely to get the band even more fans. The real ear-catching song on the album, however, is the fourth track, "A Shadow Proves the Sunshine." With a softer and more melodic sound, combined with great lyrics, this song is the best performance of the album.

Nothing is Sound's only major downside is software. Unlike most music albums, to play *Nothing is Sound* on a computer, software needs to be installed. The installation appears to install an inoffensive media player, but it was recently found that rootkit software is also installed. Rootkit software allows files to be hidden from the user making it nearly impossible for the user to remove the software. Hiding files from the user and from security software, this rootkit can also be used by malicious hackers to place viruses on your computer. This rootkit software hides any files beginning with "\$sys\$" which means that viruses like the recently discovered "Backdoor.Rycos" virus can harm your computer, yet go undetected. The "Backdoor.Rycos" virus copies itself to the computer hard drive under the filename "\$sys\$drv.exe."

The included media player, which must be used to play the album on a computer, is likely to cause frustration. It limits the user to making up to three copies of the CD and does not allow the user to rip the album's songs into any format other than DRM (Digital Rights Management) protected WMA. With the popularity of the iPod, such limitations are likely to anger many users as the iPod can't play WMA files in any form.

Overall, the album's songs rate from good to outstanding, but in comparison to other albums, it seems that some connection is lacking from song to song. That lack of connection is the album's only weakness, musically. If not for the

contained software, this album deserves a spot on everybody's rock collection.



The All American Rejects: *Move Along*

Following the style with which they became known in their platinum debut album, *The All American Rejects* continue adding to a collection of great songs. Their new album, *Move Along*, features 12 new songs with the same energetic sound they are known to deliver.

Once again with a mix of pop and punk, *The All American Rejects* managed to compose some of the catchiest songs I have ever heard. Every song on the album has at least one line that will be stuck in your head. After listening to the whole album a couple of times, you may find yourselves singing "Move along, move along, just to make it true" in your heads.

The album is very energetic, with a sound similar to that of other famous bands such as Blink 182 and Simpleplan. While this may be strength, it is also a weakness. As good as the songs may be, there is an obvious lack of originality to their songs. The music is very similar to a lot of songs that are usually played on the radio.

Despite the lack of originality, with songs like "Dirty Little Secret," "Move Along," "Night Drive," and "Top of the World," I am sure lots of people will love this album. Go move along to get it, listen to it, and enjoy it.



Aphasia: *Fact or Fiction*

There is a new band on the block, ready to add to collections of great rock. They are the guys from Aphasia, who just released their debut album produced by the vocalist and guitarist of the band Trapt, Chris Brown. Not ironically, the music they play reminds me a lot of Trapt's music, but with a pace that is slightly more relaxed, without losing that heavy feeling. Aphasia's *Fact or Fiction* simply sounds heavy, energetic, and melodic all at once.

The first time I listened to this album, I was impressed upon listening to the first track, "Flatline." I became even more impressed listening to successive tracks. All eleven songs are good if not outstanding. Transitions from soft rhythms to

heavy riffs are perfectly placed throughout the songs, to keep the music from becoming repetitive. These transitions give their sound extra originality, making *Fact or Fiction* a clear winner.

Fact or Fiction was a joy to listen to. The album's original, melodic, yet heavy songs make one of the best modern rock albums out there.



The Like: *Are You Thinking What I'm Thinking?*

With a sound reminiscent to that of bands such as U2, *The Like's* debut album *Are you Thinking What I'm Thinking* deserves some attention. Delivering a mellow sound, followed by beautiful and expressive vocals, *The Like* has created a great album that is both musically and emotionally engaging.

As a whole, this album has a good sequential connection from its first song to its last song; with the music slowly building up, and slowly changing in mood in the same way a good story seamlessly changes, and builds up, creating a better experience all the way until the ending. This gives the album integrity.

Another of the album's strengths is the variety and quality of its songs. Every song on the album is good, but some stand out such as "June Gloom," "What I Say and What I Mean," "Waiting," "Bridge to Nowhere," and "Under the Paving Stones."

With enough variety to cater to listeners of different music styles, this is easily a recommendable album. Getting lost in this album's music was a delight. I am sure many will like *The Like*.



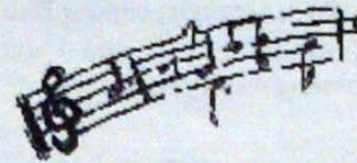
Click Five: *Greetings from Imrie House*

Known for touring with Ashley Simpson and *The Backstreet Boys*, the guys from *Click Five* have quickly gained renown in the world of pop. With their debut album *Greetings from Imrie House* they deliver a sound that is fun and catchy, but also repetitive.

Greetings from Imrie House features 11 songs with guitar riffs that help differentiate the *Click Five* from other pop groups such as *The Backstreet Boys*. The guitar rhythms in this album create a sound that is much catchier and fun to listen to in comparison with other pop albums, yet the group maintains a sound that is reminiscent of today's pop. Something unique to their sound is the addition of

guitar solos. The solos on the first track "Good Day" and on the track "Angel to You (Devil to Me)," are something I thought did not exist in the pop genre.

Greetings from Imrie House is not perfect. It suffers from weak lyrics and a sound that becomes repetitive when listening to successive tracks. Overall, this is a decent pop album, but perhaps too "poppy" for most listeners.



Movie Reviews

by Michal Ciach

Get Rich or Die Tryin'

Rapper Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson makes his acting debut playing Marcus Grier in *Get Rich or Die Tryin'* released on November 9. The character of a tough, street-smart youngster who deals with the dramas of the South Bronx. This movie tells the story of an orphan played by 50 Cent who rejects his life of street crime and turns to music, becoming a smash success.

Get Rich or Die Tryin' has a plot of standard summer network TV shows, where the sex, violence and language are all too predictable. With their basic knowledge of 50 Cent, the audience will know what happens throughout the movie: first, his drug-dealing mother getting brutally murdered, then getting shot nine times himself, and the struggles he goes through becoming a rapper. Don't call *Get Rich or Die Tryin'* "8 Mile," because in that movie a struggling rapper had to overcome adversity and violence. There is at least some rapping here, but not until the bitter end of this movie.



Saw II

by Michal Ciach

Jigsaw is at work again, but instead of two people locked in a room with only one unthinkable way out, there are eight. Eight strangers unaware of their connection to each other are forced to play a game that challenges their wits and puts their lives in jeopardy. They are locked in a booby trapped shelter and they must find a way out before they inhale too much of a lethal nerve gas and die. They must watch out, for the death traps Jigsaw has set in the shelter.

Saw II follows on the heels of *Saw*, as another tough, tense thriller. A great thriller/shocker/horror movie with the numerous

Rating System:

An outstanding musical masterpiece completely worth the money



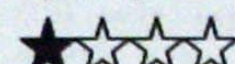
Great, with some minor cons, but still worth the money



Listenable, but overall not worth the money



Painful to listen to, hardly worth any money



twists and turns identifies *Saw II* as one of the better members of its genre. This is not a movie where people walk backwards into dark rooms or pull sheets off bodies. That is all too predictable for *Saw II*. Instead, throughout the film, about nowhere you can say that you got it figured out. The creative horrifying deaths will leave you in a state of shock.



A Place to Visit

by Jennifer Moy

South Street Seaport Museum
(212) 748-8600
(212) 748-8786
207 Front Street
New York, NY 10038

Neighborhood: Lower Manhattan

Admission Fees: \$8 for adults, \$6 for students and seniors with ID, \$4 for children 5-12

Cross Street: between Fulton and Beakman Streets.

Hours: Open Mon-Wed, Fri-Sun 10am-6pm; Thurs 10am-8pm

Walk the stone streets down to the piers where the museum's fleet of historic ships is docked. Attractions:

- Collection of ship models
- Vintage posters
- Passenger vessels that sailed into Manhattan
- There's also an authentic 19th-century print shop offering free demonstrations
- A boat-building program allows volunteers to actually restore old ships.

Freshmen's First Impressions

by Yodaryl Moronta

Freshman year is the beginning of most students' high school life. For this edition of *Vocational Voice*, we interviewed some freshmen about their first impressions of high school.

The Questions:

1. What was your first impression of Queens Vocational & Technical High School?
2. How did you feel the first day of school?
3. What are you planning to major in? Why?
4. What do you think about the teachers?
5. What do you think about the university model schedules?
6. Do you think you will regret coming to Queens Voc?

3. "I am not really sure. On one hand, I want to majoring in business because I like computers, on the other hand, cosmetology, because I like working on hair."
4. "The teachers are nice and helpful."
5. "I don't like because it makes it harder to learn."
6. "I will not regret coming here because I like it and I am planning on staying."



Jeslenny Grollon

Graduated from: I.S. 73

1. "Compared to other schools, this was the best one. The students I met this year are unique in their own ways."
2. "It felt like any other day in the school year."
3. "Business, because I would like to own a business in the future."
4. "Most of the teachers are nice and friendly."
5. "I don't like it. I feel it was easier to memorize the schedules the old way."
6. "No, because I have heard from many people this is a very good school, and I want to graduate with a business endorsed diploma."



Danny Fernandez

Graduated from: I.S. 73

1. "It's a good school but it's not organized. The students are easy to get along with."
2. "It felt as if it was a normal day; nothing different."
3. "Business. It interests me, and I would like to own a business one day."
4. "The teachers are likeable and nice."
5. "They are not good. They should change the program."
6. "No, because there are worse schools."



Jossie Vaca

Graduated from: I.S. 145

1. "I thought the school was nice and very small, and the students are conceited."
2. "I felt nervous, but very excited to meet new students."



Laura Gonzalez

Graduated from: I.S. 145

1. "The school is ok. The students are nice."
2. "I was excited to meet new people."
3. "EI, because I like to work with my hands."
4. "Boring and not easy to get along with."
5. "The schedules are hectic and not easy to follow."
6. "No, because it would lead me to a good career."



Jinet Collado

Graduate from: I.S. 125

1. "It wasn't like other schools. It was small, had really nice people, and cute guys."
2. "Nothing, it felt as if it was an ordinary day."
3. "I am planning on majoring in cosmetology because I like work with hair and nails."
4. "The teachers are easy to get along with."
5. "I don't like the new schedules because the periods are too long."
6. "No, because I like it here and I am meeting new people."



Erwin Gonzalez

Graduate from: I.S. 125

1. "The school is big, and the students are nice and very friendly."
2. "I felt lost and very confused because I didn't know where I was going."

3. "I plan on majoring in plumbing because it makes good money."
4. "The teachers are nice, friendly, and easy to talk to."
5. "Good, I like it we get to move around."
6. "I will not regret coming to Queens Voc because is fun and I like the students."



Erick Uceta

Graduate from: I.S. 5

1. "When I first saw the school I thought 'WOW four years of high school.' The student are cool, easy to talk to, and easy to get along with."
2. "Nervous, because I didn't know any one in the school."
3. "I am planning to majoring in EI because I would like to learn how create circuits."
4. "The teachers are polite and easy to get along with."
5. "The members of the staff should change it or at lease make it organized."
6. "No, because I can have a good future after I graduate."



Joti Mondal

Graduated from: I.S. 73

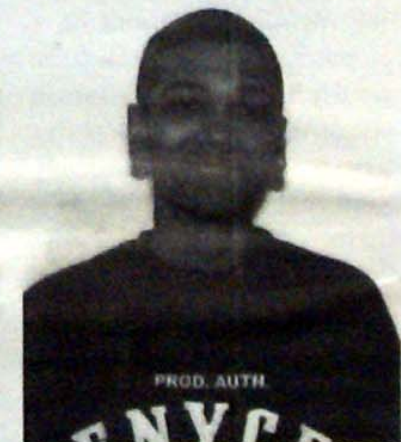
1. "I didn't expect a large building. The students are polite, cooperative, and have a sense of humor."
2. "Nervous, because didn't have any friends."
3. "C-tech, because I enjoy making mistakes and learning from them."
4. "The teachers have a good sense of humor."
5. "The schedules are good but confusing."
6. "No, because I am going to be major in a subject I will enjoy."



George Serna

Graduated from: I.S. 141

1. "It was like any other school, I got used to it quickly. The students seemed nice."
2. "Nervous, it's my first time in high school."
3. "Electronics, because I have a background."
4. "The teachers are nice, easy to get along with."
5. "The periods are confusing because some are long others are short."
6. "I will not regret coming to this school because I like the school."



Vincent Persaud

Graduated from: I.S. 10

1. "The school is all ok. The students are cool, down to earth."
2. "Not as scared as others."
3. "I am planning on majoring in business because it will be a good job for me in my future."
4. "The teachers are good, easy to get along with."
5. "I hate the university model schedule because of many long periods."
6. "No, because this school can help me for my future."

9th Grade:
Do It
Once
Do It
Right

Funny, Weird, and Interesting Facts

by Stephanie Fernandez

Funny Facts:

- > In West Virginia, only babies can ride in a baby carriage.
- > Did you know a turtle can breathe through its butt?
- > A giraffe's tongue can reach up to 3 feet long.
- > Elephants use their trunk as a snorkel when in the water.
- > It is impossible to lick your elbow but over 75% of people who read this will try.
- > You never know what real happiness is until you get married, and then it is too late.
- > Marriage is a very expensive way to get your laundry done.
- > On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily!
- > Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.



- > Fewer than half of the 16,200 major league baseball players have never hit a homerun.
- > A snail can sleep for three years.
- > Pearls melt in vinegar.
- > Walt Disney was afraid of mice.
- > You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.
- > Male and female rats may have sex twenty times a day.

Weird Facts:

- > It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
- > Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people.
- > Every year more than 2500 left-handed people are killed from using right-handed products.
- > The electric chair was invented by a dentist.
- > Every person has a unique eye and tongue print.
- > Money isn't made out of paper, it's made out of cotton.
- > 315 entries in Webster's 1996 dictionary were misspelled.
- > Chocolate kills dogs. Chocolate affects a dog's heart and nervous system. A few ounces are enough to kill a small dog.

- > Ketchup was sold in the 1830s as medicine.
- > Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.
- > There are no clocks in Las Vegas gambling casinos.
- > There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange, purple and silver.

Interesting Facts:

- > The Titanic was running at 22 knots when she hit the iceberg. (In mph 22 knots=25.3mph)
- > A shrimp's heart is in its head.
- > The only river that flows both north and south of the equator is the Congo. It crosses the equator twice.
- > The largest jellyfish in the world has a belly that can reach 8 feet across and tentacles that extend over half the length of a football field.
- > Honey is the only food that does not spoil.
- > Orangutans can weigh up to 220 pounds.
- > The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.
- > The average person speaks 5,000 words a day.
- > The rattlesnake is born without a rattle.
- > Only female bees sting.
- > Bats can walk, run, and jump.
- > Bones are 75% water.
- > Penguins can jump as high as 6 feet.
- > A jellyfish is 95% water
- > Lemon sharks grow a new set of teeth every two weeks.
- > Antarctica is the only continent that does not have snakes.
- > A queen bee will lay up to 3000 eggs a day.
- > A loin's roar can be heard up to 5 miles away.
- > The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows.
- > Despite its hump, a camel has a straight spine.
- > Despite its great strength, the octopus tires easily.

If you would like to obtain further information on funny, weird, and interesting fact visit: www.roughout.com/humor/factsindex.htm and www.surf wiz.com.

S.O.

VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE

February 10th

6pm- 10pm

\$3 per ticket

FOR MORE INFO GO TO ROOM 143

?Interesting Questions?

by Stephanie Fernandez

Questions to think about:

- Ø Can you make a candle out of your earwax?
- Ø When French people swear do they say pardon my English?
- Ø Aren't the "good things that come to those who wait" just the leftovers from the people who got there first?
- Ø If the swat team breaks down your door do they have to replace it later?
- Ø Can a fire truck park in the fire lane?
- Ø Can it be cloudy and foggy at the same time?
- Ø Is the phrase "Cute as a button" supposed to be a

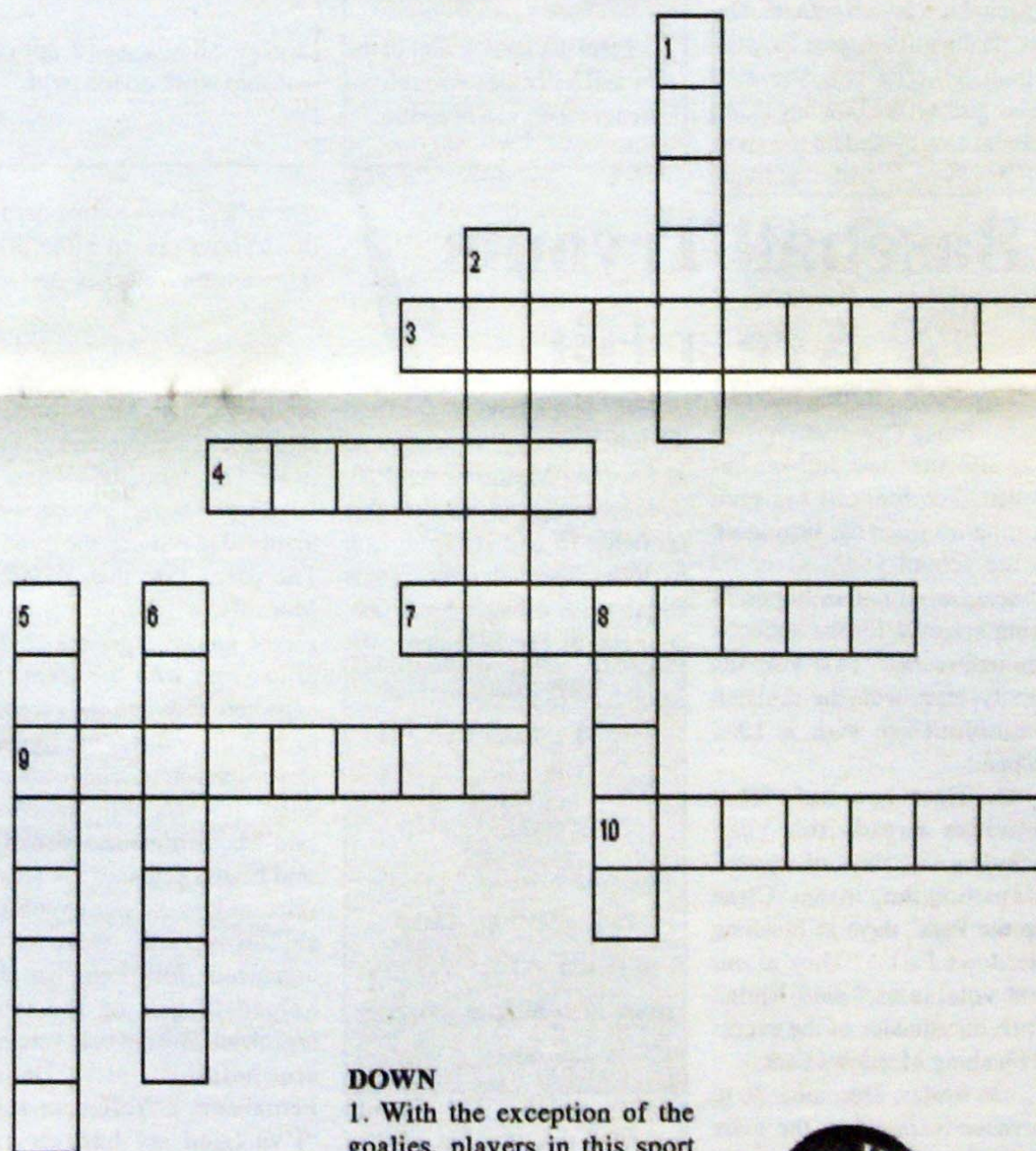
compliment? Since when are buttons cute?

- Ø Can you breathe out your nose and mouth at the same time?
- Ø Are marbles made of marble?
- Ø Why does the last piece of ice always stick to the bottom of the cup?
- Ø If you pay for a vacation and your plane crashes on the way there, do you get you money back? (Granted you live.)
- Ø Why did Yankee Doodle name the feather in his hat Macaroni?
- Ø Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, "I think I'll squeeze these dangly things here and

- Ø drink what comes out?"
- Ø Why do we wash behind our ears? Who really looks there?
- Ø Why don't the hairs on your arms get split ends?
- Ø If an atheist has to go to court, do they make him swear on the Bible?
- Ø Why is it illegal to park in a handicapped parking space but ok to use a handicapped toilet?
- Ø In that song, she'll be coming around the mountain, who is she?
- Ø How come we say "It's colder than hell outside" when isn't it realistically always colder than hell since hell is supposed to be fire and brimstone?
- Ø Why is it that if something says, "do not eat" on the packaging, it becomes extra tempting to eat?

Sports Crossword Puzzle

by Alan Casallas



Can you name the sport being described?

ACROSS

- 3. A rebound, foul, and 3-point field goal are all vocabulary of this sport
- 4. A puck instead of a ball is used in this ice sport
- 7. In this popular Canadian sport, a netted stick is used catch and throw a ball into a goal
- 9. The ultimate American championship for this sport is called the Super Bowl
- 10. A perfect game in this sport consists of scoring 300 points

DOWN

- 1. With the exception of the goalies, players in this sport cannot touch the ball with their hands or forearms
- 2. A point in this sport is awarded when a player successfully makes their way around four bases
- 5. This sport is similar to baseball, although the ball used is normally 6 inches in diameter
- 6. Players use mallets to drive wooden balls through hoops called wickets in this popular British sport
- 8. This sport, similar to American Football, consists of teams with 15 players who do not wear helmets or much protection





Senior Sports Profiles



Naoual Elidrissi



Age: 17
Team: Girls' Bowling
Position: B Team
Years on team: 1

"Naoual is a great motivator for the team. Even though it's her first year, she made it phenomenal for the coach and team."
-Stephanie Fernandez

"Naoual has an advantage. She was on the softball team last year which benefits her, she also knew girls on the bowling team. Naoual also picked up the sport quickly."
-Mr. Garafano

Emanuel Dunkley



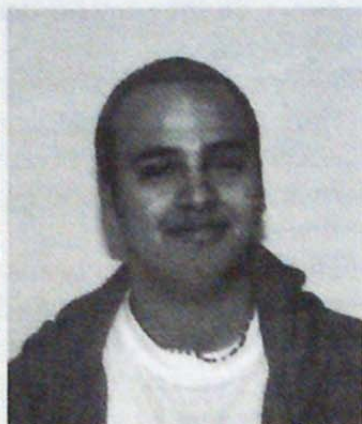
Age: 17
Team: Boys' Bowling
Position: A Team
Years on team: 2

"We count on him to win the game; he completes the team and has the highest average."
-Christopher Hyland

"Emanuel is a quiet leader of the team and he comes through for the team when you need him."
-Mr. Devaux

by Alyssa Montes

Bryan Llorente

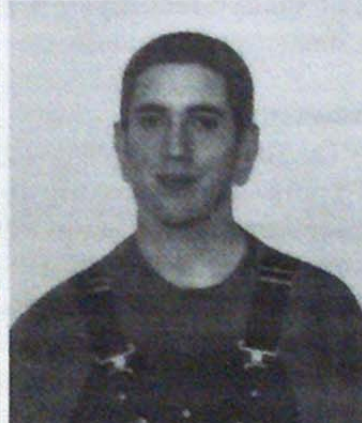


Age: 17
Team: Varsity Soccer
Position: Defensive
Years on team: 3

"Bryan is a good captain and a good team player."
-Jovany Gonzalez

"Bryan shows good sportsmanship when on the field."
-Mr. Ali

Peter Capo



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Bowling
Position: A Team
Years on team: 4

"Peter is a good person, good friend, and a major part of the team."
-Gabriel Ortiz

"Peter is a four year veteran who is one of the most consistent bowlers and team leaders."
-Mr. Devaux

Jaleesa Taylor



Age: 17
Team: Girls' Bowling
Position: A Team
Years on team: 1

"Jaleesa's first year has been a tremendous asset to our team. She keeps our spirits high and her good competitive skills have brought us to the playoffs."
-Naoual Elidrissi

"Jaleesa is the most talented bowler I ever coached."
-Mr. Garafano

Baseball Tryouts Are a Hit

by Katiria Rodriguez

It's just December, but Queens Voc baseball has been gearing up since the beginning of the school year. Over 60 students tried-out in hopes of being selected for the school's baseball teams. Last year the varsity team won the division championship with a 13-3 record.

The Tigers have had a lot of activities already this year, including five days of tryouts, and participating in two "Clean Up the Park" days at Flushing Meadows Park. "They're our best volunteers," said Vivian Cruz, coordinator of the events at Flushing Meadows Park.

On Friday, December 9, to increase team spirit, the team had a baseball bowl-a-thon. Former players, veterans, and rookies went to the 34 Avenue AMF Lanes for three games of bowling. About 25 people attended. Also in December the team had a tee shirt sale. The team sold 100 of these newly designed shirts, 56 of which were purchased by Queens Voc staff. The rest were purchased by former and present baseball players.

The Tigers' adventure was supposed to start September 29 at Flushing Meadows Park, but their plans were washed out by rain, so they went to the Astoria batting cages instead.

Fifty-seven boys hit the field the following day, September 30 at Flushing Meadows field 10. Tryouts continued that Saturday on fields 15 and 16, from 8am to 3pm. The Saturday tryouts began with a bagel breakfast, courtesy of Mr. Schimenz, the

To the coach, the ideal player is "a kid who is always there and who always helps, who recognizes that school comes first and the team comes second..."

varsity coach. The turnout indicated that there is a lot of competition to make the team. Christian Vaca, a freshman,

noted, "the players tried hard at the tryouts" in an attempt to impress the veterans and the coach.

The players not selected for varsity might be eligible for junior varsity; Mr. Schimenz said he will recommend players to Mr. Garofano, the JV coach.

Some veteran players were involved in running the tryouts. The coach said that Yodaryl Moronta, a four-year varsity player, gained experience in his prior years with the team. "I expected Yoda and the veterans to step up and run the tryouts, just as the veterans have always done. It's part of the process," said Mr. Schimenz. Yodaryl said he worked with his fellow veterans to make sure tryouts ran smoothly and were well organized. Joey Long has also helped in getting the team organized. But not only veterans are helping out. Danny Fernandez, a freshman, said, "I've tried my hardest and spelled checked the new baseball manual."



Players all smiles after an exhausting tryout.



Baseball team having fun at AMF Lanes.

Mr. Schimenz said he believes that this will be a rebuilding year and that the team will not be as successful as last year because of the large amount of rookies that will be on the team. Yet he is confident that the team will play well and be very competitive. But first, he said, the new players must get use to working as a team. "We can be successful because something we have that we don't see in opponents is that early on we develop cohesiveness and we work together well," said the coach. "There are going to be a lot of new faces, we will make them part of the family, of the baseball team family," Yodaryl said.

This year, there are at most seven returning veterans, two of whom are seniors. The returning veterans may include Rene Cruz, Elbel Estrella, Radell Fernandez, Diomedes Gonzalez, Joey Long, Danny Medina, and Yodaryl Moronta.

For the rookies who are just entering the team, the ideal characteristics of a good team player are "a kid who is always

there and who always helps, who recognizes that school comes first and the team comes second, and who is able to deal with me," said the coach. "I have high expectations for my players," he added.

When it comes to academic requirements, the players must pass shop and physical education, but can fail two to three classes, according to PSAL rules.

Toward the end of the term, the coach will meet with his team leaders and decide who they believe will make the team stronger. This will be a tough decision for the coach and the team leaders. "They were so many good players," said Diomedes Gonzalez, a third-year player. "Then JV should have a stronger team too," he added.

In making varsity selections, the coach has to make sure the team will have a good season. "When things are going well, the team is doing a great job, when things are not going well the coach is screwing up," he said.

Soccer Team Kicks Its Way to Second Round



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"This team was so successful because the players played as a team, rather than certain players trying to show their individual skills," the coach said. One of the biggest advantages that Mr. Ali had over the other coaches is that he had a large pool of

players to pick his starters.

Coach Ali chose Edwin Osorno as captain this year "because he is positive, and never settles for good enough. Also, his soccer skills helped the team, and he showed leadership."



Boys' Basketball Keeps Shootin'

by Albi Perez

The boy's varsity basketball team started off the season with a bang, winning its first two home games versus Queens High School of Teaching and Frank Sinatra. As of January 12 their record was 4-4.

The team, led by Coach Richard Maloney, has fifteen players: Keon Badger, David Bermudez, Paul Carino, Emanuel Dunkley, Andrew Ferguson, Leonel Garcia, Jerrell Hampton, Edwin Hill, Lamar Jenkins, Mingmar Lama, Carlos Mason, Nikolas Nissirios, Reid Samedi, George Serna, and Jeffrey Troung. Reid Samedi, the team captain, and David Bermudez are the only returning players from last year.

Many students showed up to support the team at both opening games in the new gymnasium. The seats on the right side of the gym were completely full. Music was played in the gymnasium to hype the team and the crowd. "The team was fast and energetic. They seemed feed off the roar of the crowd, however, the ball was turned over way too much and against some teams the outcomes could have been different. At times the team lost focus, players weren't running back to

defense. They became spectators instead of participants in the game," said Coach Maloney. Maloney believes the team is doing great and will continue to get better, and with the help of a new gym the team can now have serious practices.

Home games allow faculty and students to cheer on their home team. "The basketball court symbolizes a higher level of play. The crowd really benefits the team and having home court advantage means better performance from our players," said Coach Maloney.

Reid Samedi said he believed "The team's performance in the first two games was great, but we need better competition to see what we're really made of." In both starting games, Queens Voc. ripped through the opposition in the first two games, however, in the following three games found themselves a little short. In two of the three games they lost by only four points to Robert F. Kennedy and Information Technology HS.

Tryouts took place at the end of October and ran through the end of November. About forty-five kids tried out.



Spacious enviroment.

So Long to The Gymlettes!

by Patsy Sanchez

Queens Voc finally has a new gym big enough to fit more than fifty people and still have room to actually move around.

Many people were excited to get back to school to see the new gym. Students were tired of the two small, known to Queens Voc student as "gymlettes". "They were such a nightmare. Those rooms were too tight to do any activity," said Jakeline Calle, a senior.

"Fifty students can fit in each half of the new gym" said Mrs. Bloom, a veteran physical Education teacher. "With fifty students in each half of the gym they still have room to work out without constantly bumping into each other," she said.

The new gym is not only but "is also being used by sport teams after school for practice" said Mrs. Bloom.

"Many people were excited to get back to school to see the new gym."

Physical education classes in high school are different from physical education from junior high. Physical education classes at Queens Voc are coed and are not separated by sex like in junior high school. But boys and girls have separate locker rooms.

Now that the school has a gym students will be required to wear uniforms for physical education class. The uniform costs \$16 and includes a shirt and a short.

In physical education class, there are many activities for students. Students may choose to participate in basketball, football, ping-pong (table tennis), and handball outside in the school handball court. "It is great that there are many options. We can enjoy this class without being forced into an activity we [students] don't like to so," said Chansok Seng.

Boys Bowlers Make Playoffs

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According to Mr. Devaux, the best player on the team this year was Emanuel Dunkley, with a 168.0 average. He came in sixth place in the division this year. Emanuel is a senior who was on the team for two years. "Emanuel is the MVP and the quiet leader of the team this year," said Mr. Devaux.

"The reason I'm so good at bowling is because I've been bowling since I was five years old. I like bowling, it's fun," Emanuel stated. Emanuel bowled his highest game ever this year. "This year has been my best year because I bowled my highest game of a 214 when I played LIC."

Queens Voc faced some tough competitors this year. "The school that has been the greatest challenge to play is Bryant because they are undefeated," explained Emanuel. Christopher Hyland, who has been on the team for three years and has a 139.38 average, agrees with Emanuel. "Bryant was the hardest team to beat but Aviation was a lousy loss for us because we knew we could have beat them and we lost to them twice," said Christopher.

The other school teams weren't the only people who were a challenge to the boys. Of Emanuel's teammates, he said that he admires Christopher because "he challenges me at times."

Christopher thinks that the guys on the team got along great. "We joked around and made silly comments about each other. We got pretty close," he said. Peter Capo, who has a 135.67 average, thinks so too. He said, "Me and the guys on the team got along pretty well and we all ended up like brothers."

Sophomore Brandon Drakeford had a successful first year on the team, according to Mr. Devaux. Brandon, he said is "pretty good for a rookie" with a 111.38 average. As the season went on, Brandon improved. "The turning point for my self

confidence was at practice when I bowled a 148," said Brandon.

Brandon as well as his teammates improved this year. Brandon said that he admires Jose Perez, a senior rookie on the team with a 127.69 average, "because he is a good bowler." The team members gain from Mr. Devaux's tips on how to improve their bowling skills. "Mr. Devaux gave me a tip that helped me perform well. In order to bowl more strikes, you must go for the pocket," said Brandon.

"We joked around and made silly comments about each other. We got pretty close."

This method of bowling helped Emanuel Dunkley and Peter Capo to qualify for the Individuals this year. Since they had the top two averages on the team, Mr. Devaux chose them to participate in the competition this year. It took place on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 in Cozy Lanes in Ozone Park. Each player bowled three games each and then their averages were totaled. The top seven bowlers with the highest totals go to the City Individual finals. Neither Emanuel nor Peter made it on the top seven, but Mr. Devaux said, "Both Peter and Emanuel bowled around their usual averages in the three games of the individuals but they weren't high enough to place in the top seven."

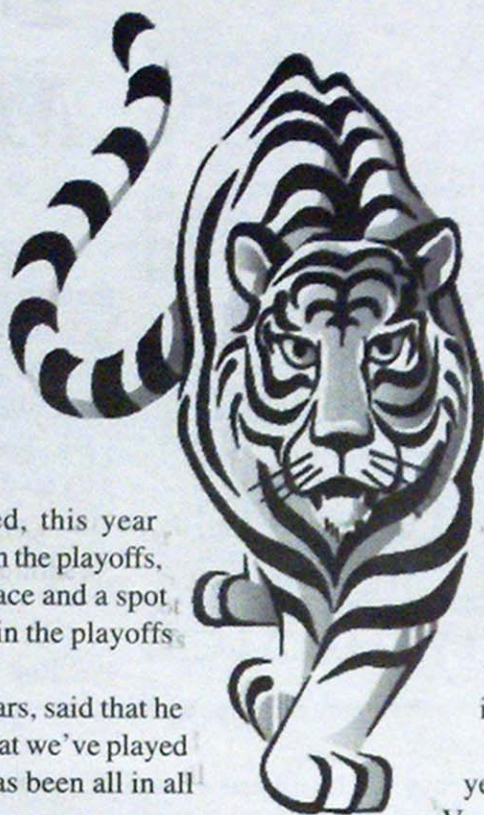
The boys' and girls' bowling teams start in mid September, and are the first after school sport to start. Students interested in joining the boys' bowling team should see Mr. Devaux. Brandon's advice to students interested in joining the team next year, is advice to "stay focused."





Girls Strike a Great Season

by Melissa Encarnacion



The Queens Voc girls' varsity bowling team improved, this year becoming division champions and winning their first game in the playoffs, their 10 wins and 2 losses this season earned them first place and a spot in the playoffs. The last time the girls' bowling team was in the playoffs was 3 years ago.

Mr. Garofano, who has been coaching the team for 5 years, said that he is "extremely happy with the outcome this year. The way that we've played this season, especially in the first round of the playoffs, has been all in all a successful season due to hard work."

Most of the matches and practices took place at AMF 34th Avenue Lanes in Woodside. The team practiced Monday through Thursday except when they had games.

There are 13 players on the team ranging from freshmen to seniors. The girls' team is divided between the A team and the B team by their skill. Only two of the thirteen players are veterans: Stephanie Fernandez and Loraine Alba. The rookie players are Jakeline Calle, Naoual Elidrisi, Tania Artiles, Lorena Bonilla, Gabriela Cabreja, Jenneth Grullon, Magdaline Rodriguez, Danalyn Nguyen, Jelissa Pena, Katherine Punina, and Jalessa Taylor.



Preparing for a strike.

As a rookie, senior Jalessa Taylor achieved an overall average of 144.56 and her highest-bowled game was a 207. With her bowling score she acquired the number one spot among the Queens Division top players and is ranked amongst the top 50 players in New York City, out of 249 players. It is Jalessa's first year on the team and she feels, "honored and special about being a top player and this being my first year on the team. I hope I make it to the top individuals where I can go to Jib Lane's,

a bowling alley in Flushing, and bowl against other top players in Queens. This sport has given me a great opportunity to win a scholarship and a trophy." The trophies will be handed out by the coach at the sports dinner.

Not far behind is Stephanie Fernandez, with an average of 137.80 and a highest-bowled game of 166. Stephanie has been on the team for 2 years and will be graduating this year along with Tania Artiles, Gabriela Cabreja, Jakelin Calle, Naoual Elidrisi, Jenneth Grullon, Jalessa Taylor, and Danalyn Nguyen.

There was fierce competition in their division this year, with the toughest teams being Grover Cleveland, Bryant, and Petrides high schools, the teams that defeated the Queens Voc girls. The girls lost to Grover Cleveland their first game, Bryant after a 9-game winning streak, and Petrides high school in round 2 of the playoffs.

"This year," Mr. Garofano stated, "has been great because there are a lot of talented bowlers who are extremely motivated." Two of the players in the team who had the highest averages were Stephanie Fernandez and Jalessa Taylor. Due to their outstanding achievement in their bowling season they were picked by Mr. Garofano to attend the Bowling Individuals. This year it took place in Jib Lanes on November 15, 2005. They bowled 3 games and if their average was high enough and they were amongst the top 10 they could qualify for a medal or they could attend the City Individuals finals. Mr. Garofano said that, "Both of them bowled pretty well but neither one of them qualified for the medals."

Jalessa suggests that future bowlers "Be dedicated to the sport and most importantly have fun."



Practice Pays Off Boys' Bowling Make Playoffs

by Jenneth Grullon

This has been a good season for the Queens Voc boys' bowling team as they made it to the playoffs. The boys' bowling team came in third place in the division this year with 6 wins and 6 losses. "I knew we were going to make the playoffs this year due to the new playoff format, which is that any team that has .500 record or better makes the playoffs instead of just first and second place teams," said Mr. Devaux.

Mr. Devaux, who has coached the boys' bowling team for three years, led the team to second place tie with Aviation last year. Queens Voc had 7 wins and 4 losses.

The first team the boys met in the playoffs was Manhattan Center for Math and Science. At their home alley, the AMF 34th Avenue Bowl, the boys won 2 to 0. In the second round, the team faced James Madison HS at Shell Lanes in Brooklyn. They lost this game 2 to 0. "The first game in the playoffs was easier than expected but the second game showed us what the playoffs were really about," said Peter Capo, a senior who has been on the team for four years.

During the regular season, matches and practices usually took place at AMF 34th Avenue Bowl. When there were no games, the team practiced Monday through Thursday.

There were five returning players and five rookie players on the team this year. Returning players were Peter Capo, Emanuel Dunkley, Christopher Hyland, Jonathan Perrier, and Marios Savva. Rookie players were David Bermudez, Brandon Drakeford, Carlos Guerra, Gabriel Ortiz, and Jose Perez. Of those ten bowlers, five will graduate in June: Peter Capo, Emanuel Dunkley, Christopher Hyland, Jose Perez, and Jonathan Perrier.

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Soccer Team Kicks its Way to Second Round

by Yodaryl Moronta

Once again the soccer team had a fantastic season. Mr. Ali's varsity team obtained a record of 7 wins 2 loses and 2 ties, and went to the second round of playoffs for the second year in a row.

"Our team made it to the playoffs by our teamwork, our defense kept the game close while our offense did their job. We all had experience in playoff games so we were prepared," said Bryan Llorente.

"Kenneth Marin always kept the team motivated on and off the field, always telling the other players what had to be done," said Jovany Mejia.

The first playoff game was November 2 at Flushing Meadows Park against Murry Bergtraum High School. The Tigers won 3-0. The second playoff game was in Central Park November 4 against Louis Brandeis High School. The Tigers lost 3-1. "The team out played us but it was a good game after all," said Coach Ali.

The 18 members included of 4 seniors: Nedzad Hodzic, William Huazhco, Bryan Llorente, and Jovany Mejia; 7 juniors Andres Arcila, Wilmer Barona, Jovanny Gonzalez, Christian Jadan, David Lawrence, Kenneth Marin, and Edwin Osorno; 3 sophomore Jose Flor, Piotr Gumieniak, Alex Penaloza; and 4 freshmen Karol Gumieniak, Diego Marin, Andres Restrepo, and Hector Roche.

Coach Ali chose Edwin Osorno as captain this year because he is positive, and never settles for good enough. Also, his soccer skills helped the team, and he showed leadership."

The Tigers practice and play their home games at Flushing Meadows Park. The team had two tryouts last May to get the team together. Once the season began, they practiced 3 to 4 days a week. Fourteen players attended tryouts and the four freshmen who joined in September. "I rarely cut anyone that tries out because I think everyone can be useful during the season. Some players might get injured, other players may fail off the team," said Coach Ali.

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TIGERS SPORTS CONTINUED INSIDE