

Vocational Voice

Vol. LXVI No. 1

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

Fall, 2000

Feeling at Home in School

by Kathy Slapinska

Planting flowers, putting on talent shows, and showing a lot of school spirit is what Houseplans is all about.

Houseplans is a school club where students get a chance to demonstrate their talents and show school spirit. Ms. Hulak is the brains behind this operation. For almost seven years, she has planned and coordinated the program. Houseplans is a voluntary program created to make students feel at home while in school, and students at all grade levels are welcome to join.

Ms. Hulak and her students plan events during their lunch periods or when they have extra time. Every year Ms. Hulak and her Houseplans members conduct special activities such as talent shows, Teen Jeopardy, and Read 2000. On Wednesday October 18, Read 2000 was held. Throughout the building, students, teachers, and other staff stopped what they were doing during third period to read for 2000 seconds. Some participants of Houseplans also write poems for Queens Voc's *Emeralds*, a literary magazine in which students show their writing and art skills.

On Friday October 20, Houseplans' members gathered outside in front of the school by the flagpole to plant flowers. The planting symbolized peace and a new beginning. Those who attended wrote wishes on paper, which was then planted with the flowers. Each

student was asked to write two wishes. One wish for the world, and another for themselves. As the flower blossoms, so does the wish.

That same Friday, a talent show was held in Ms. Hulak's room during fourth period. Singers, comedians, poets, and a ballerina went "on stage" in 103 to "strut their stuff" in front of an audience of students and school faculty, who cheered them on. Some of the performers included Earth Science teacher Ms. Kaplan-Vila, Didy Diaz, Kenny Mejia, Derek Manchan, Mario Morales, Yessenia Reyes, Carlos Ojeda, Viktor Hristov, and Gary Voskoboynik.

Around Thanksgiving, students organize a food drive. During the Christmas season, they collect gifts for less fortunate children. After they collect the presents they distribute the gifts to various churches. These charitable activities teach the students to work together and to give back to their school, society, and community. Ms. Hulak is most proud of the lessons students learn from these charitable acts.

Students of the Month is another Houseplans activity. At the end of each marking period Ms. Hulak picks teachers from different departments to nominate students for special recognition. Students nominated for this award receive a certificate, book, folder, and a "magic pen" as a reward.

"I think all the schools should have this," Quazi Islam, an eleventh grader stated. He joined Houseplans in his freshman year. Quazi said getting comfortable with a new school was a much better experience thanks to Houseplans. Chandanee Harripersaud, a senior, has also been a member since the ninth grade. Chandanee says that she enjoys Houseplans because it gives her the satisfaction to know that she has helped someone.

"I think Houseplans is extremely valuable," said Ms. Hulak. The support she receives from Mr. Serber and Ms. Bertolami helps motivate her to help the students. "While students are learning, I hope Houseplans brings magic and fun to the school day," Ms. Hulak concluded



Garden planted by Houseplans



Honor students beam up to Mars 2112

Students Make the Grade

Students who achieved an 85 or above average on their June 2000 report cards were eligible to attend the Honor Roll trip on November 2nd. These students were:

Arroyo, Mixelines
Buitrago, Jennifer N
Cano, Jennifer
Carpio, Veronica
Casallas, Angela C
Casallas, Diana P
Falcon, Cassandra
Fork, George
Giraldo, Shirley
Gonzalez, Juan C
Gordillo, Gioconda
Harrinandan, Christopher
Harrispersaud, Chandanee
Hu, Qiyi
Islam, Quazi
Jucha, Marcin
Lam Pang Wai
Lamisere, Sylvio R

Li Junior, Weiqiang
Luo, Jaffe
Martinez, Raven
Moreno, Anayancy
Nawaz, Mohammad M
Ng, Jennifer
Parada, Natalie
Peralta, Jasmine
Pichardo, Leonela
Pineda, Gloria
Qu Hai Dong
Rodriguez, Jennifer
Rosario, Stephanie
Safuto, Brian
Safuto, Micheal
Silvera, Gerardo D
Slapinska, Katarzyna
Tlatelpa, Domingo
Uruchima, John C
Velasategui, Lady C
Wong, Suen Suen
Zheng, Hui
Zhou, Letian J
Zuniga, Rolando

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



TOPPP Students gather to discuss important issues

Not Me, Not Now

by Charles Pulla

The teenage years for many students are a tough time. Some teens feel pressured to do drugs or have sex and it can be hard for them to say "yes" or "no". The Teen Outreach Pregnancy Prevention Program, better known as TOPPP, helps students make good decisions. Ms. Abrams has been the TOPPP advisor for the last four years.

The main focus of the program is pregnancy prevention, but topics such as drugs and stress are also discussed. The group members discuss and learn ways to protect themselves from pregnancy and STDs. The benefits of practicing safe sex and abstinence are a major focus of TOPPP. Students learn how to avoid dangerous situations and how to say "no" when being pressured to have sex. Frequently, guest speakers scheduled by Ms. Abrams attend TOPPP meetings to talk about STDs and sexual protection.

The students in this program learn how to say "no" to sex through role-playing. In the role play one teen pressures the other to have sex and the other says "no". Club members learn how to say "no"

without hurting the other person's feelings.

The atmosphere at these meetings is very friendly and relaxed. "It makes you feel more comfortable talking about topics that sometimes you don't understand or are afraid to talk about," said Ringo Fernandez. A very mature attitude is important so the students can express themselves, with confidence that others won't laugh at them or mock them.

An incentive for many students to attend the club is the trip at the end of the school year. The students go upstate for a weekend, where they meet with TOPPP students from other schools. Members attend educational workshops at the trip, after that they're free to go have fun. They can play sports, go swimming, and participate in scavenger hunts. "It's a fun-filled weekend," said Ms. Abrams.

Students really like the program and the attendance at the club meetings demonstrates this. The attendance has increased and the students are "very enthusiastic in being together in a club," said Ms. Abrams. TOPPP meets every Tuesday 10th period in room 103.

Act Now, Before it's too Late!

College Prep: Not Just For Seniors

by Stephanie Rosario

College, the beginning of a new journey. College is an adventurous quest that will prepare a person for a new life. Do most high school students think this way? If not, they should, and it is time to get started. To many high school students, college may seem an eternity away, but it is closer than they think. Students should start preparing for college now, whether they are freshmen or seniors, because starting early is the key to finding a great college.

Students should start preparing for college in their freshman year. When schools look at grade patterns, they want to see improvement. "Students should put a lot of effort into preparing for college," said Mr. Schimenz. "It can greatly impact their future and their potential earnings." Mr. Schimenz frequently discusses the college process in his classes, and he has worked closely with some of his baseball players to get them into college.

Colleges look to see if a student took challenging courses offered by their high school. Students shouldn't take the easy way out, they should take advantage of honors and college prep classes offered in school.

During their junior year, students should take the PSAT, a preliminary, or practice SAT, and they should take the SAT in the spring. Seniors should take the SAT in the fall. To help students prepare for these exams, PSAT/SAT prep courses are available. There are also many books and computer programs that help in preparing for

these exams.

Ms. Abrams, college guidance counselor and career advisor, said, "Students have to do a lot of research on their own." When it comes to choosing a college, students should think about majors that interest them and look for colleges that offer their desired major. Juniors and seniors should the school library. The guide has a lot of information on colleges and majors. The bulletin boards opposite the auditorium and the display case in the lobby have important college and career news. Scholarship information is posted next to the display case in the lobby. Websites can also be of help when looking for financial aid or scholarship information. Website addresses are posted outside the Guidance Office, and inside the there is a table full of college information. [Ed note: See the website listings in this issue for websites of interest.]

Leydy Avila, a Queens Vocational graduate, is available Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help students fill out college applications. Ms. Abrams can help students to outline the steps needed to prepare for college.

Being undecided about college is normal. With a warm smile, Ms. Abrams suggested that "It's normal to be undecided. Relax and don't worry." Jason Alexis, a senior at Queens Voc, was relieved to discover that being undecided about college is common. Although it is not unheard of to be undecided, Mr. Schimenz cautioned that students should prepare for college each day and not procrastinate. The sooner students get started, the better.

From Wrinkles to Beauty Cream

Cosmo Seniors Make over Senior Citizens on Trip to Sunnyside Senior Center

by William Romero

On November 1, the Senior Cosmetology students volunteered their services at the Sunnyside Community Center. The Queens Voc seniors performed facials, haircuts and styling, manicures. The high school seniors offered their services free of charge to the senior citizens in the Community Center.

"Everyone was anxious to go, the students enjoyed it, and they look forward to going again," said Mr. Grochala. Mr. Grochala is the teacher in charge of this program. Every student that volunteered received extra credit. This was also good to put on the students' resumes.

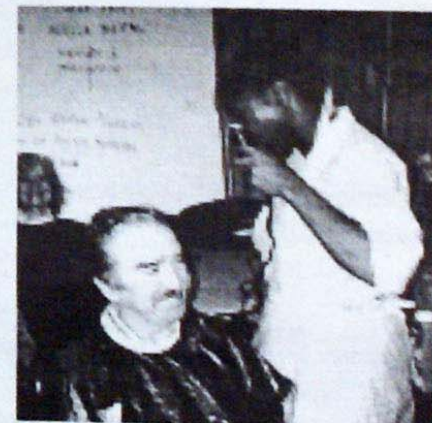
The seniors improved their communication skills and gained valuable experience during the trip. "This is the first time I volunteered

and it was an excellent experience," said Maria Perez. People in the Community Center were very grateful with the job the students did. At the end of the volunteer work the senior citizens gave the Queens Voc students a standing ovation. They all raved about how great of a job the students did, and they hope to see them back real soon.

The Cosmetology class does a very good job every year and thanks

Sunnyside Center receives free makeovers

to Mr. Grochala's great teaching techniques, the program is a success. The program lasted three hours and it accomplished a lot for the people in the Center that wouldn't normally be able to receive one of these services. The students received more than tips and experience, they received the gratefulness of the seniors in the Center. The students will return to the Center next month for another enjoyable day.



News From Around the School

Making the Grade at QV

The Secrets of Honor Roll Success

by Lizbell Diaz

Why do so few students achieve Honor Roll? Many students go through high school missing out on "small details" that will help them achieve Honor Roll. Some of these small details that students seem to miss are attending class regularly, completing homework, and studying. In the long run, missing these small details prohibits students from reaching Honor Roll and separates students who do well from students who do poorly.

There is a ceremony and a trip for these students who attain an 85 or above average on their report cards at the end of each semester. Ms. Hulak coordinates the ceremony and Mr. Reichig coordinates the trip. "Most of the money the school receives is spent on students who don't do the right thing, so we have set up a day to make students who do the right thing feel special," said Mr. Serber about the ever-popular trip.

To achieve Honor Roll,

Stephanie Rosario. According to Mr. Reichig, students have gone to several different places, including tours of Boston, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia. This year, like last fall, the trip is to Rockefeller ice skating rink and lunch at Mars 2112. "Students do get to decide where they want to go, the SO President and Cabinet make the decision," said Mr. Reichig. There is no cost to the Honor Roll students; SO fund-raising sales pay for the trip.

According to Ms. Abrams the senior guidance counselor, the best way for a student to achieve Honor Roll is to be successful academically: attend school, study daily, do homework every night, get tutored if they need help, and complete extra credit projects if available. Being on Honor Roll also helps students who apply to college. "Colleges always ask if students have any special achievements, and they are impressed by high academic achievements," said Ms. Abrams.

Attend school, study daily, do homework every night, said Ms. Abrams

according to Stephanie Rosario, a senior who has been on Honor Roll since the ninth grade, she had to study hard, complete all of her homework, and when she needed help in any subject she went to a tutor. "I do all my work and I try not be absent so that I won't miss any work," said Chandanee Harrisersaud. She too, has been on Honor Roll since her freshmen year, and has attended both the trip and the ceremony.

On the other hand, there are students who have always worked hard to achieve Honor Roll but can't seem to reach that goal. "Honor Roll is my goal," said Jose Nieves. But he's still not there. "The trip and ceremony do encourage students to do better," said Mr. Serber. "I have had students come into my office begging me to change their 84 average to 85, but they need an 85 average on their report cards to be on Honor Roll, so I don't change the grade," he said.

The Honor Roll trip to Rockefeller Center ice skating rink and Mars 2112 was "fun but I prefer going to an amusement park," said



Skating in NYC

Spirit Week Schedule

The following schedule is for the upcoming Spirit Week activities:

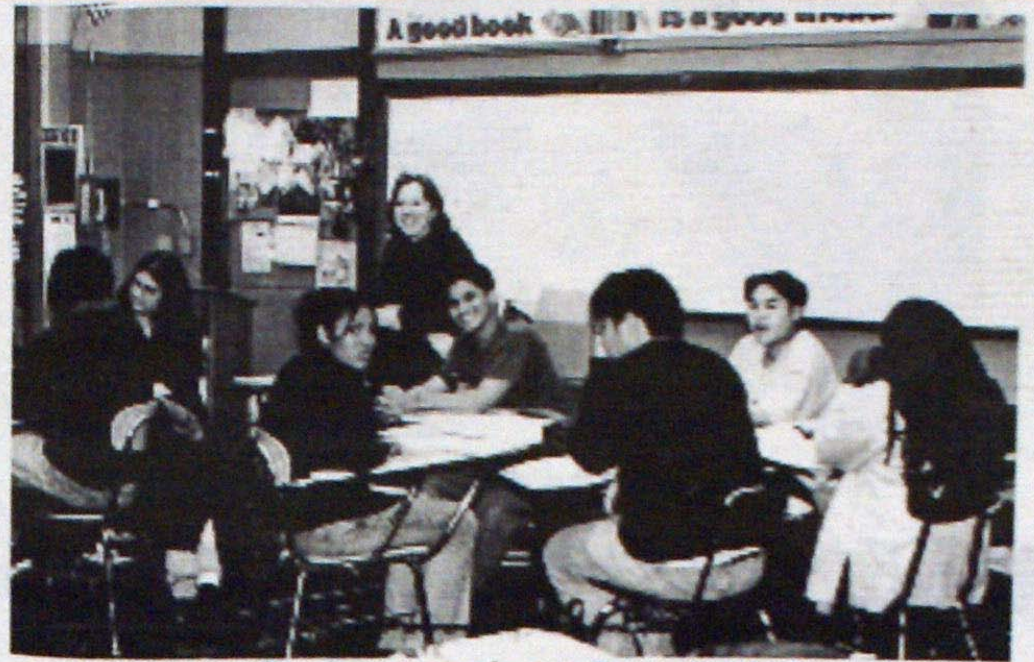
Monday – Twin Day

Tuesday – Overall Day

Wednesday – Teddy Bear Day

Thursday – Mets / Yankees Day

Friday – Crazy Hair Day



Students earning college credits

GOING TO COLLEGE, WHEN ?

by Angela Casallas

College NOW! Take college classes for free while in high school! This is an opportunity for juniors and seniors at Queens Voc to take college classes while still in high school.

College NOW is an after-school program at Queens Voc, in which students in the 11th and 12th grade take college-level classes. This is the third year the program has been running. This year, Mr. Serber received additional funds from the Queens High School Superintendent and La Guardia Community College to allow the school to hire an after-school safety officer. As a result, College Now is being held at Queens Voc rather than at Aviation High School, as in the past. The classes offered over the past three years are Basic Mathematics and Basic Writing, to help students improve their skills, and Expository Writing, an advanced class. Teachers who have been involved in this program during its existence are Ms. Giorgi, Ms. Erkins, Ms. Radovich, and Ms. Florio.

Ms. Abrams coordinates College NOW, and visits the 10th and 11th grade English classes to inform students of the program, and conducts an informational assembly for interested students. In the past, students who wanted to participate were required to take the CUNY Skills Assessment Test at La Guardia Community College, to see which class they qualified for. However the test is no longer used, and no new method has been established to assign students to the classes. The scores on the English Regents and teachers' recommendations are some of the possibilities, but the decision has not yet been made.

Queens Voc students have responded enthusiastically to College NOW. "Our students are

very eager for new challenges and to obtain college credits," said Ms. Abrams. "I like the opportunity of getting college credits for free," said Jorge Barrameda, a senior, currently taking Ms. Radovich's Basic Writing class. The response has been so great that there are enough students from Queens Voc to conduct the classes without any other students from Aviation.

College NOW classes require a lot of work and effort. "I definitely recommend it to others, but only for those who are willing to work hard," said Kathy Slapinska, a senior who took Ms. Radovich's Expository Writing class last year. She said that her writing skills had definitely improved after taking the class and it had also helped her get an idea of what to expect from college classes. "Students who take the class seriously show progress at the end of the term," said Ms. Radovich, who has been teaching in College NOW for two years. It is definitely a class that prepares the students for college, "if students are willing to work for it," she added.

Queens Voc students in College NOW can earn college credits. The Basic Writing class offers one high school English credit, but none for college because it is a remedial college class. Students in the Expository Writing class can earn three college credits along with one high school English credit. All CUNY and SUNY schools accept these credits, and most private schools do too, but if there is any doubt, Ms. Abrams says, "students should check directly with the college."

Currently there is only one class in session, the Basic Writing class, but there are plans for expansion of the program. "We hope to add a psychology and reading class," said Ms. Abrams. The classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 3 to 5pm, during the fall and spring terms.



"Look! I'm getting my hair done."

CALLING DR. COSMO

by Isaris Sosa

The Cosmetology Clinic is back in session. The clinic is open to students and teachers, Thursdays and Fridays, from 7:30am to 10am, in room 321.

The seniors in the Cosmetology class gain experience in the field through the Cosmetology Clinic. Mr. Grochala trains the senior cosmetology class in the different hairstyles and techniques that are used. Over the last couple of years, major changes have been made to the Cosmetology Clinic. New equipment and new closets have been installed, the students learn more advanced hairstyles and coloring, and get better prepared for the State Board Exam.

In order to work in the Cosmetology Clinic, students must first go through safety training, and pass a safety test. Before getting the chance to work on clients, the students first have to complete forty to fifty jobs for practice and experience. All seniors in Cosmetology participate in the clinic. Mr. Grochala knows his seniors are up to the challenge. "All my students are very talented," he said.

In the Cosmetology Clinic, interpersonal skills are practiced everyday. "We can use the skills to help the clients needs," mentioned Maria Perez. Students benefit from the experience by interacting with other people and presenting themselves in a professional manner.

They also learn to adapt to changing fashions. The senior Cosmetology class does more than hairstyles. Manicures and nail tips are two of the other services provided. The following is a price list for the Cosmetology Clinic:

Price List	Price
Blow-dry style	\$2
(long hair)	\$3
(extra-long hair)	\$4
Haircut (plain)	\$3
(special design)	\$4
Braids	\$2+up
Flat Twists (1/2 head)	\$2+up
Wrap	\$2
Frenchroll (short hair)	\$2
(long hair)	\$3
Hair Weaves (Individual Estimates)	
Facials	\$2.50
Eyebrow Shaping	\$2
Wax	\$3
Nail tips (acrylic, wrap, etc)	\$10+up
Fill-in Manicures	
(Individual estimates)	
French Manicure	\$3
Manicure	\$2
(Purchase of nail kit required w/first visit)	\$.50
Paraffin Wax w/ Manicure	\$5
Paraffin (alone)	\$4
Haircoloring	
(Single process)	\$6
(Double process)	\$10
Frosting	\$10
Permanent Wave	\$10
Chemical Relaxers	\$10
Fingerwave/Pincurl Style	\$3
Roller Set	\$2
Up-Do's	(Personal Estimates)

GONE WITH THE WIND!

by Jessica Rodriguez

Cutting at Queens Voc is a bad habit that some students have. Last year, the school newspaper published an article about cutting, and how it appeared to be accepted in the auditorium and the schoolyard. The administration responded with diligent enforcement in the auditorium. Unlike before, students are not allowed in the auditorium without having their programs

checked by a lunch aide.

The program check has not been much of an obstacle for all students who cut, as the schoolyard remains unmonitored. Until he was discharged from the school, Angel Parra said he cut because he found amusement outside playing softball all day. "Classes are very boring and I come to school to be with my friends," said Angel.

Let's All Get Along

Negotiating Our Way to Happiness

by Alicia Billini

The Negotiation program in Queens Voc is offered to students to help them from punching someone's lights out. The program teaches students to cope with stressful moments that can lead to violence.

Ms. Hulak, who has been teaching the Negotiation class for the last five years, admits that she enjoys teaching the class and helping students cope with their stress, and it is apparently successful. At the end of the program, Ms. Hulak said, "students often tell me 'oh yes! I tried this technique and it worked, I didn't think it would work but it did. I tried it on my mother and my teacher and they really listened to me.'" Ms. Hulak truly believes this course is necessary, valuable, and useful; a course students use to handle

everyday confrontations.

The program offers students alternative methods for resolving their problems in a non-violent way, to reach a mutual agreement. Maritza Flores remembers the class well. "At that time, I did volunteer work at a church and negotiating helped me out a lot with the people who came there." She still uses the technique today.

"In today's world we need to learn to negotiate with people rather than act upon our anger." Ms. Hulak said she hopes her students will learn to use the Negotiation program to solve their problems.

The technique students use in tense situations is a direct approach. "When you..., I feel..." The technique is used to let the other party know what they did that was wrong, bothersome, or inappropriate and how you feel about it.



Ms. Hulak and her Negotiation students

Although there are a lot of students who cut, there are many who do not and wish that their fellow classmates wouldn't cut either. Jessica Torres, a senior, advises those students who cut to get an education today because they never know what will happen tomorrow. Students who cut class usually don't realize how much damage they do to themselves. Most of these students realize that they should be in class getting an education, but would rather be outside hanging out and wasting time. "I see no reason for cutting, it is pointless," said Vanessa Tejada, senior class president. If all students would think like Vanessa, maybe there would be more students graduating on time rather than being left back once, twice, or even three times.

Should teachers feel they are bad teachers if a lot of kids cut their class? "I don't think cutting is a reflection on the teacher," said Mr. DiBetta, a math teacher. He believes that students cut because they want to and that they are destroying their future because by constantly cutting

they are going to fail. "Sacrifice now and get an education so that in the future you'll be rewarded," Mr. DiBetta concluded.

Initially, most of these students who cut don't really care about their grades dropping or whether or not they will graduate on time. But as time goes by and the years pass, these students start to regret that they will not graduate on time, with their friends, like they were supposed to. Dianelis Perez for example, is supposed to be a senior this year, but because she used to cut, she is still in a freshmen homeroom. "At first I didn't care that I was messing up in school, but now that I see that all my friends are graduating and I am not. I do care and so I have decided to start going to all my classes and to do better in school," said Dianelis.

Students who want to do well in school and graduate on time should simply not cut. Perhaps sometime in the future cutting will be something that all students see as a waste of time. But for now, these students are taking school for granted instead of taking advantage of it.

Inquiring Photographer

by Erica Ventura

One thousand students trek to Queens Voc each school day. That's evidence that the school is okay. But there are frequent complaints about the school. So we asked students, "How would you make Queens Voc a better school?"



Giselle Urena, sophomore

"Queens Voc needs cleaner rooms. In the summer, the school should get air conditioner to put in the rooms when it is too hot. Also, we need to get better food instead of the heated food they serve us."



Luis Vargas, senior

"What Queens Voc needs is better funds for after school activities. It doesn't really bother me that we don't have a lunchroom or a gym. It's not like we are going to get it anyway."



Salvador Melendez, junior

"Queens Voc will be better if we would just get better qualified teachers and tougher security."



Angel Torres, junior

"I would make Queens Voc better by building a gym and getting a cafeteria. Queens Voc also lacks equipment for every sport."



Martha Heredia, freshman

"This school lacks boys. I would put more boys in it. Also, the school needs to get itself a cafeteria, a gym, and some other school activities such as soccer. Not to mention more free time to be outside and play."



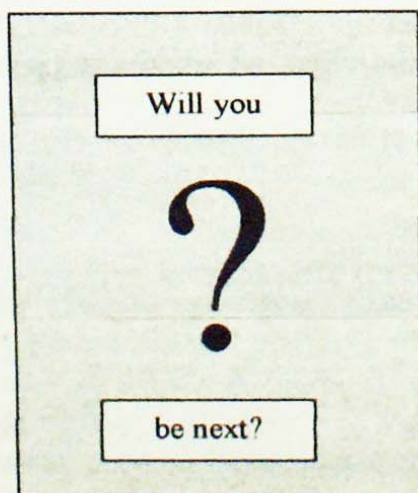
Denise Salce, senior

"Queens Voc can be better if we would just use our school spirit. By adding more activities, such as dances and trips, maybe the students would have more interest in the school and would enjoy coming to school."



Nereyda Bourdier, sophomore

"I would add a lunchroom to the school, more bathrooms, air-conditioned rooms, and an inner gym to make Queens Voc a better school and a more comfortable one, too."



NEW BLOOD!

INTRODUCING SOME OF QV'S NEWEST TEACHERS

by Randy Solomon

Have you ever walked into your classroom and your teacher was gone? The first thing that popped into your mind was probably, "Yeah! She's out." For a whole week your teacher is gone, a week of freedom from mandatory assignments. The week becomes a time when you are so happy you start to think that your teacher is gone for good. You finally get a new, permanent teacher. You rush to class so you can be early, and sit in your chair nervously wondering if the teacher is nice or mean.

As time goes by, teachers come and go, but leave their legacy behind. A teacher can be remembered as good or bad or simply not be remembered at all. When a teacher leaves the school, a part of that teacher stays behind: a teacher's spirit lives on in the students they taught. Maybe one day while walking down a silent hall, you may hear the echo of a teacher who once taught you.

Not only do students wonder about their teachers, but their new teachers also wonder about their new students and their new school. New teachers can either be brand new teachers or transfers from another school. In either case, they frequently do not know what to expect from the school's staff or students. Commonly, students compare their new teacher to the previous ones. If a previous teacher was not liked or respected, filling the empty spot was easy. On the other hand, if the previous teacher was liked or respected, the new teacher might find it difficult to fill the predecessor's shoes.

This year at Queens Voc, we have a plethora of new teachers. The new teachers are Mr. Abreu, Ms. Cacanando, Ms. Carson, Mr. Chiodi, Ms. Dattner, Ms. Kaplan-Vila, Ms. Katz, Ms. Lo Bosco, Mr. Rokowski, Ms. Rath, Ms. Walcher, and Ms. Walsh, Ms. Wei.

Here is a closer look of four of our new teachers.

Ms. Cacanando an authoritative speaker, teaches English and Global Studies to freshmen and sophomores. She is a veteran teacher with nine years of experience who has taught in Queens and Nassau County. Ms. Cacanando received her Bachelor's and Master's degree at Queens College. She became a teacher because "I love working with kids." Ms. Cacanando believes that "Everyone has the ability to learn as long as the individual wants to

learn." She likes to get her students interested by doing role-plays, research, poems, raps, and scenes from a book, and using newspapers and magazines. She hasn't stopped trying new activities. "I'm still coming up with ideas to make learning fun," she said.

Another new teacher, Ms. Walcher, is an Earth Science teacher who has a BA in English, Biology, and Religion. Ms. Walcher a native of Austria, grew up always helping other kids as a teen. Always helping her brother especially, she became fixated on being a teacher. Ms. Walcher said, "I want to teach students what they can use later in life." I want to teach the basics. Everyone should know the basics and have basic knowledge of common things when leaving high school. Ms. Walcher tries to make students participate more and work harder. She says "Sometimes it doesn't work out, sometimes it's hard to get students motivated."

Ms. Lo Bosco is a new Queens Voc English teacher who had worked in publishing for 20 years. Ms. Lo Bosco was formerly a journalist and editor of trade journals and a business magazine. She also wrote some curriculum guides for teachers. After receiving an MA from Colombia University, she became an accomplished journalist. Ms. Lo Bosco became a teacher "Because I wanted to work with young people and as an older person with a lot of experience I feel that I have a lot to offer. Her goal is to "Get the most out of every student that I can, to teach them to appreciate the different worlds that are available to them in books." Ms. Lo Bosco says "writing is like everything else you do", Ms. Lo Bosco said, "practice makes you better."



Ms. Vila a new teacher participates in talent show

EDITORIALS & COMMENTARIES

Running Amuck?

by Shirley Giraldo

The Physical Education running test requirement, the gym laps, has become a matter of discussion. Every term, students taking Physical Education are required to take this running test, but the rules are different for boys and girls. While girls only have to run three laps, boys must run five laps. This is where the problem comes in. The boys in Queens Voc claim they are being treated unequally because they have to run more. This, some say, is wrong. Further, they believe girls can get away with more.

Physical Education teachers, Ms. Bloom, Mr. Lerro and Mr. Boyle and Ms. Battersby, assistant principal, set up this policy. According to Ms. Bloom, it should not be considered an inequality to the boys. "Most of the boys are physically fit when they come into the school. Boys have a better breathing capacity than girls. It makes a lot of sense for them to be able to run five laps."

Some students think otherwise. Ringo Fernandez, a senior said, "Girls are being offended. Some of them might feel as if they weren't treated as equal, or as capable as boys are." Other students are either unaware of the unequal running requirements or just don't care. "I think it's a fair rule we must follow. Boys have more capacity to run than girls do because they are supposed to be more physically fit to run those five laps," said Tasha Lee, a junior at Queens Voc.

What about the distance in which the girls run? The boys claim that the girls are allowed to "cheat" their way through the running test, instead of running a complete lap, girls take a shortcut by simply walking across to the finish line. Another form of cheating is that they just walk through the course. On the other hand, the boys think they are not given the same leeway and are carefully watched by the gym teachers.

There are no plans to change the regulations, according to Ms. Bloom. "Though it might seem as if the gym teachers are unaware of who is running their assigned laps or not, the truth is they are actually witnessing the students' actions and performances. One way or another, those who cheat, whether it be boys or girls, get a low grade on their report cards for gym class."

The Newest Plan to Make Queens Voc a Real School

Has the childish whining of Queens Voc students finally been heard? "This school is whack, we don't have a gym or a lunchroom!" We hear these words incessantly from our fellow students. Well, whine no more. There are now plans to build a four-story extension that will include a gym and a lunchroom. The new facilities will replace our current "gym facilities." The plan is there, the money is supposedly there, but with New York City, we shouldn't hold our breaths. The history of proposed improvements suggests that it might not happen.

In the past, changes were planned but never implemented. In 1968, the "cafetorium" was to be made into a combination lunch room-playing area. The floor was to be leveled and folding tables were going to be used during lunch periods. Basketball hoops were going to hang on the sides for recreation after eating.

About five years ago, the building across the street was supposed to become an annex for new science labs, but as we can all see, it never happened.

The "new" Long Island City High School was supposed to be our new school. Thanks to Claire Schulman, Queens Borough President, and Peter Valone, City Council President, we still have to eat in crowded aisles and have physical education outside in freezing weather.

The proposed extension will contain a gym, cafeteria, four new shop rooms, and about a dozen classrooms and offices. Many changes will occur if the extension is built. The school would house 400 extra students, and 16 to 17 new teachers will be added. The teachers' parking lot will be transformed into a schoolyard.

During the construction period of about 2 years, Physical Education classes will have to be cancelled because the current schoolyard will be off limits.

Apparently, this change wasn't a number one priority. But finally, we count. What we need now is enough support to prevent the politicians from interfering with these plans. That Queens Voc is not a community school works against us. There is no community to be outraged each time they alter or cancel proposed improvements. But we *are* a community: the Queens Voc community. And we should all be vigilant and see to it that no one cancels the plans this time.

Wasted Talent Graces Our Halls

What's up with the graffiti around the school, is it artistic expression or plain old vandalism?

Taggers look at themselves as "artists" because their work is a way of expressing themselves. Some people don't regard taggers as "artists" because their art is destructive. Taggers tag to gain respect from friends and strangers and to show their talent. It is a shame that their "masterpieces" come at a big price: vandalism.

Typically tags are written or drawn in permanent marker or spray paint on surfaces such as walls, sides of buildings, train stations, stairways, and furniture.

As good as these "masterpieces" might be, graffiti at Queens Voc is out of control. Writing on the walls, desks, and other surfaces add to the school's questionable reputation. We know what you're thinking: "What are they talking about? This school is whack!" But if this school has so many problems, why are our fellow students, the taggers, adding to the list? Some problems with this school are caused by students. Students have to learn that it's a two way street and we all have to do our part to stop the vandalism. If you have to tag, do it on a sketchpad or on a poster so your teacher can hang it up.

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Steve Serber, Principal

The State Commissioner of Education and the New York City Schools Chancellor are in the process of implementing the New Standards for high school students and we must prepare ourselves. Your teachers are working on new curriculum and are anxious to help you. The school staff, however, is only one ingredient in the formula for success.

Your parents have to watch you closely and do whatever they can to assist you in your preparation. They should check your homework, help you study, provide you with a quiet place to work, and help you buy whatever you need (review books, notebooks, etc.) to succeed. The third ingredient for success, however, is the most important. It is you! It was never easy to succeed in school unless you were willing to work hard, improve your basic skills, read a lot, write whenever you can, learn to listen to others, feel confident about your abilities, and most of all be willing to learn from others. But today, with the new standards, it will be impossible to pass the Regents examinations if you do not work and learn.

Teachers cannot teach unless you are willing to learn; parents cannot help you if you refuse to accept that help; friends cannot support you unless you let them. In summary, you are the main ingredient in the learning process and you must make up your mind to do the best you can.

So as we enter the second half of the Fall term, commit yourself to doing better. Do not be satisfied with a passing grade, strive for a better grade. It is all about attitude. If your attitude is good, you will have nothing but success.

There is no substitute for hard work!"

Sincerely,

Steve Serber

SHOULD STUDENTS BE ASSIGNED PROJECTS DURING VACATIONS?

by Andrea Mendoza

Should students be assigned projects to complete during vacations? Are these projects beneficial in anyway? Do they really help students learn, or are they just a waste of time? These are questions that many teachers and students ask themselves.

Projects during vacations should allow us to be creative, and we should be allowed to choose topics that interest us. Of course, projects should be relevant to topics being studied in class. If a subject is interesting, it is easier to learn about it. Ms. Radovich, an English teacher, said, "I do give projects during vacation, but I give projects that make students reflect on themselves. The advantage is that it encourages students to look at themselves more critically. For example, over the last Christmas vacation, I assigned a mirror journal project. The students had to look at themselves for five minutes everyday for ten days, and write a daily journal of the issues that arrive. Then write a paper at the end in which the students discuss in depth what they learned, with a focus on one particular issue." Vivian Isaza, one of the students who was assigned Ms. Radovich's project, said of the project, "It was something I had never done before. As each day passed, I noticed more and more things. At first, it was things like how my hair looked, then it started of how I was feeling that day, what I thought, and how I can fix it."

Projects during vacations can also teach students the responsibility of completing assignments. In college, reports will be assigned, and these reports will require hard work and research. Projects we receive now can give us a better understanding of what college may require. As Mr. Burke, an English teacher, stated "Once students get to college, they have to do longer projects, and will have to manage their own time."

David Brown had to conduct research for a project. "The topic of the project I researched for Global Studies was overpopulation. I had to find out if the world's population could fit into Texas, and if so, how much room each person had? It sounded interesting, so I did it. My project required research where I had to speak with many people that knew about the subject. I also had to look into books and some computer references."

Projects during vacation however, should not be so time consuming that students do not have some time to relax. As Michal Kopacz, a senior, said, "Vacation is time to relax. They are holidays and you want to spend time with family and friends, without having to worry about a project due."

The Brains Behind SO Activities

by Allan Everett

From cake sales to Spirit Week, the Student Organization (SO) works to provide students with interesting and fun activities. Spirit Week, which has been very successful in the past, will take place November 13-17. This year's spirit week provides activities like Twin Day, Overall Day, Teddy bear Day, Mets/Yankees Day, and Crazy hair Day.

This year, the SO officers are: President Gloria Pineda, Vice President Jessica Torres, Secretary Vanessa Rivera, and Treasurer Jason Alexis. Together, they predict that activities this year will be better than before. "We want students to interact more with each other in school activities," said Gloria.

The Halloween cake sale, held October 26, was just the beginning. Throughout the year the SO will conduct other cake sales to help reduce expenses for the senior prom,

senior trip, and other senior activities.

The SO also raises funds for organizations such as The March of Dimes, City Harvest, and Penny Harvest. The "Battle of the Shops" during the Penny Harvest last year was very successful. The senior Cosmo class won, bringing in well over one hundred pounds of pennies. The total amount raised was \$12,000 and the school received a \$2,000 reward, which was donated to the March of Dimes and American Red Cross. The Penny Harvest started November 1st and will end November 28.

Peer tutoring is a new SO activity. SO Officer Jason Alexis will tutor students in Math 5th period in room 217. Other students who would like to tutor should speak with Jason or Mr. Reichig.

"We expect to have a good year with all of our activities. The SO officers seems to be dedicated and reliable," said Mr. Reichig.

Winter Tutoring Schedule

Math:

Mr. Dibetta	206	Pd. 8	Mon-Thurs
Ms. Walsh	111	Pd. 3	Mon-Thurs
Mr. Wecker	111	Pd. 8	Mon-Thurs

Science:

Ms. Vila	206	Pd. 7	Mon-Thurs
Mr. Mohan	206	Pd. 4	Mon-Thurs
Mr. Radding	206	Pd. 4	Mon-Thurs
Ms. Rath	206	Pd. 3	Mon-Thurs
Ms. Walcher	206	Pd. 8	Mon-Thurs

English

Ms. Carson	301	Pd. 8	Mon-Thurs
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Social Studies

Ms. Salih	301	Pd. 3	Mon-Thurs
Mr. Price	301	Pd. 5	Mon-Thurs

Business:

Ms. Katz	411	Pd. 5	Mon-Thurs
Mr. Mallette	407	Pd. 8	Mon-Thurs

Students Show Off Their Style



by Anuradha Bhagga

Tattoos and piercings "are a way to express yourself," said Raven Martinez, a senior at Queens Voc who has several piercings on her ears, one on her tongue, one on her belly button and a desire to get a tattoo in the near future.

Mr. Abreu, electronics shop teacher said, "Piercings can go away, but as for tattoos, they are permanent. You'll have to go through a hassle to get it removed if you don't like it after a while," he said. "I may get a tattoo," said Marcin Jucha, a senior at Queens Voc, "because they look good. (Some of them.) If you have a few, they look okay. But if you have too many, it looks bad."

Senior Justine Wilson designed her own tattoo. "I wanted to do something different, not just to follow the trend. I had to lie about my age in order to get the tattoo done since most stores don't do tattoos for minors," said Justine. "I think that people shouldn't get tattoos or piercings just to follow the crowd or because it's the thing (trend). People should have a reason for getting tattoos because they're

permanent," she added.

Elba Arguelles said that the only reason that she has piercings was because she had gotten them several weeks after she was born. She doesn't intend to get any more in the future because "they hurt and I like myself so much that I wouldn't hurt it." Yasmin Julien, a senior at Queens Voc who has four piercings, got them because "they were cool and I wanted to do something different." "I want to get a piercing on my belly button and a tattoo on my back because it is cool," she continued. Kathy Slapinska, a senior at Queens Voc, has five piercings.

Kathy said, "People shouldn't get tattoos or piercings because of the hype or because it's cool. People should get tattoos and piercings done only if they know for sure that this is what they really want and that they will be satisfied with the results later on."

Some people think that tattoos and piercings are a sign of mutilation. Others think that they're a sign of expression and those that think that they are just a trend. "It's a style," said Raven. "Some people like it and some people don't."



What's Playing at a Theater Near You?

by Nicole Lacy

Get Carter

Action, comedy, drama, and suspense are what a moviegoer will find in "Get Carter."

Carter (played by Sylvester Stallone) had a brother who died. Carter believes his brother's death was really a murder that was staged to look like a car accident. Carter tries to find out who killed his brother and why. At the same time, the killers try to find Carter before he uncovers the truth and finds them.

The camera work in the beginning of the movie is great. It takes scenes from different, unusual, and seldom-used angles. Toward the end of the movie, the camera went at a dizzying pace to keep up with the action. In some scenes it was bit too much.

This movie is not for those who are impatient and have short attention spans. The plot works its way backward from the end of the story. Everything comes together at the end of the movie. It does not start to unfold until the end of the movie, and the audience was left wondering what was going on for about a half-hour.

I give this movie 2 1/2 stars because it had some unnecessary gun play. The movie would have gotten less if Sylvester Stallone had not played the lead role. I paid three dollars to see this movie and that is about all it was worth. ★★1/2

Lost Souls

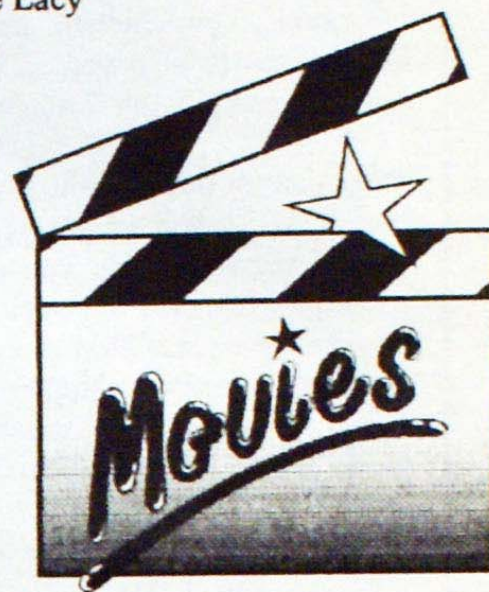
Scary and weird is all that can be said for "Lost Souls."

The movie, which featured Winona Rider was about how Satan was coming back to earth to be the Anti-Christ. He was going to take the body of a man the way Jesus did. Satan was then going to control the world. Winona Rider was out to stop him.

The movie had a lot of religious references, therefore the moviegoer would have to know biblical information in order to fully comprehend the movie.

The music in the movie was great. It got you scared way before anything really happened.

The movie gets 4 stars only because it has everything in it. Action, drama, suspense, spookiness and a great ending are contained in this movie. I don't recommend this movie to those who are scared easily or do not like movies that contain demonistic scenes. ★★★★★



Under Suspicion

If you like surprise endings, then this is the movie for you! Packed with intrigue, suspense, and cliffhangers, "Under Suspicion" has the makings of a classic!

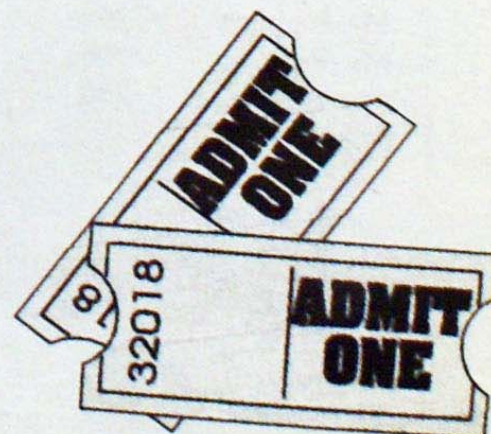
The movie boasts two superstars, Morgan Freeman and Gene Hackman. Together they make a great team. If you've never seen these two in action, you'll love them after seeing them in this movie.

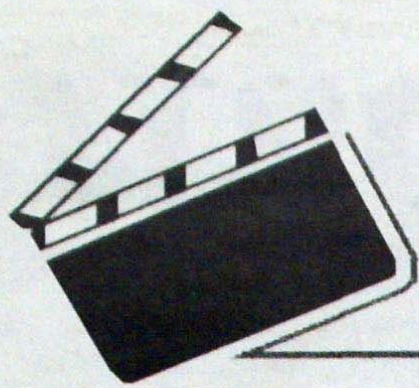
Morgan Freeman plays the investigator and Gene Hackman plays the man who is accused. Even though they are both over 50, they run and jump as if they are young bucks!

Morgan Freeman played his part skillfully, shifting his character from good cop to bad cop, once again proving his acting skills. He kept the audience guessing by changing his mood, disposition, and countenance constantly.

Gene Hackman, with his humor and wide array of emotions he displays, makes it obvious why he's well known in Hollywood. He kept the audience on the edge of their seats and they were never sure if he were guilty or innocent.

This movie gets 3 1/2 stars. I highly recommend this movie to anyone who likes suspense and drama. The only drawback is that most of the movie takes place in one room. The action comes in spurts. It's a great movie to see with family or a significant other. ★★1/2





Entertainment



New Tunes Make the Cut

by Nathalie Alonso

"Mikaila: So In Love With Two"- Mikaila

In today's musical world of teen-divas and pop princesses, a new, young female singer is not much news. Diva aspirant Mikaila, however, following in the steps of pioneers like Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears, hopes that her single "So In Love With Two" will break that trend. The song combines a soulful drumbeat and a jazzy keyboard to emphasize the idea that girls just can't make up their minds. Although it does have a good beat, the choice of words to express this idea is not the best. She also adds songs like "Perfect World" and "Straight to My Face," which give her album a touch of girl attitude, plus a few ballads that she co-wrote. Look for "Mikaila: So In Love With Two" in stores January 2001.



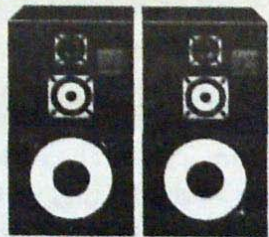
"Black and Blue"- Backstreet Boys

The Backstreet Boys have done it again! Their new album, "Black and Blue" promises to sell like hot cakes once it hits stores. The first two singles "It's True" and "Shape of My Heart" were hits. "It's True" combines heart-warming melodies and superb lyrics to convey the emotions of lovers asking for a second chance. "Shape of My Heart" has a similar message, but from the point of view of someone who is asking for understanding. If the other tracks are up to par with their first two singles, Nick, Kevin, Brian, Howie, and AJ are on their way to another ascension of the ladder of success. This album is a must have for any music collection. Look for "Black and Blue" from the Backstreet Boys in stores beginning November 21.

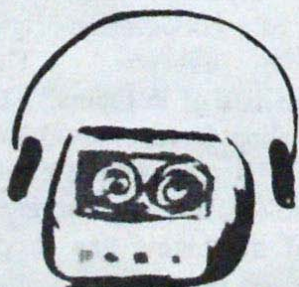


"Now You See Inside"- SR-71

SR-71... what does that mean? Slippery Road-71? School Rule #71? Not really, although it is the name of the fastest airplane ever built SR-71 serves as a title for a quartet of guys from Baltimore with more than just a musical instinct. With Mitch Allan singing the lead and writing songs, Jeff Reid singing the bass, Dan Garvin behind the drums, and Mark Beauchemin striking his guitar, SR-71 is taking it's music to a whole other level. Their RCA debut album, "Now You See Inside" starts listeners off with



"Politically Correct," a song written by Mitch, which focuses on his own "dullness." But this band is far from dull. Their debut single, "Right Now" found on this album, was one of the most listened to songs on modern rock radio. Although their talent is obvious, these young musicians have plenty of room for improvement. With less than eye-catching song titles, and mediocre lyrics, they have a great deal of work to do. If you are a die-hard rock fan, however, look for "Now You See Inside" in music stores everywhere.



Students From Another Angle

by Letian Zhou

Students spend a lot of time in school. But once school is out, what do they do? Some students work, some have extracurricular and interscholastic activities, others help out their community by volunteering.

A lot of students work after school. Senior Lorenzo Cruz works at a bar/restaurant. He helps prepare meals by cutting vegetables, meat, fish, and making sauces. "You can learn a lot of different abilities and skills for your future and yourself," said Lorenzo. He also recommends the job to everyone who has the skills, is willing to learn, and is willing to give up a lot of time.

Shakir Miah's uncle got him a job at the Park Ave Elevator Company. He works with elevator engineers. Shakir's job is to take measurement of elevators and then help draw up blueprints for them. "There are a lot of calculations involved in this job," Shakir said, "but it's good money. I get \$50 a print just for me."

Luis Toribio has a full schedule outside of school. He is on the baseball team, works in Modell's, and goes to night school. He balances his time carefully so he can keep up with all of his activities.

David Rodriguez has a lot of hobbies and activities outside of school. David's friend Albert got him started in skateboarding. "When I skate and do new tricks, I just want to keep on going," David said, "You can get hurt a lot, but once you get the hang of it, you really want to keep doing tricks." Breakdancing is also one of his hobbies. "I breakdance for the girls, they really enjoy it. And it feels good listening to the music, getting the rhythm to my feet, and learning

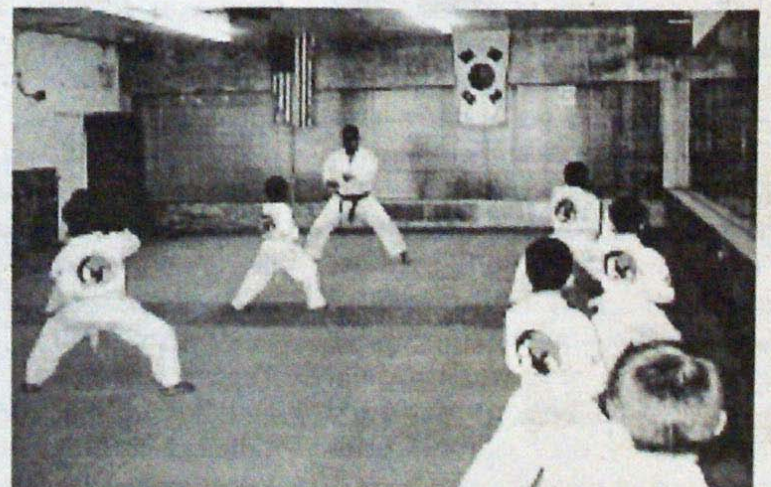


David does his thing

new moves." Besides these hobbies, David has joined the baseball team. "Baseball has gotten me motivated to do well in school," said David, "and Mr. Schimenz really encourages me."

Other students volunteer to help their community in their free time. "Volunteering is fun, I learn new skills and help out others at the same time," said Ringo Fernandez, who volunteers on weekends for the American Red Cross. He educates young children about safety hazard prevention and teaches them self-defense lessons. "When I do something I enjoy and it makes a difference in another person's life, it keeps me coming back to volunteer."

Veronica Carpio volunteers as an assistant to her teacher at the confirmation class for her church. Her faith in God keeps her motivated. "Volunteering in church can be fun too, you get to meet new people and learn more about church services," she said, adding, "you get to go on trips, too."



Ringo teaching martial arts

INSIDE TIGER SPORTS

HOOP DREAMS

by Chandanee Harripersaud



Speaking words of wisdom

playoffs, "the team needs to be more aggressive," said the team's captain, Allan Everett. Allan, a point guard, shooting guard, and small forward, would like to improve his jump shot to help the team. Edwin Martinez, a shooting guard, would also like to improve. "I would like to gain speed and dribble with my left hand," he said. The advice Edwin gives to the new players is: "Try to have fun because it's only a game, but still

take it serious."

Coach Maloney has made the Queens Vocational Tigers a success. Allan Everett said, "The coach is great at motivating us and working us hard so we can perform our best which will get us through the season."

Coach Maloney is relying on the leadership from last years players such as Louis De Maria, Justin Lacy, and Cedric Scott, "who were

responsible for most of the teams scoring." He wants "all players to contribute in scoring because a well balanced effort proves to be more effective in winning."

Mr. Schimenz, known as the Tigers number one fan, tries to make it to every game. "I enjoy going to Queens Voc basketball games a place to practice. "It is very hard to practice without a gym," he said. Last year the guys practiced in Newcomers High School. This year they plan to practice during the week at Aviation High School, and on Saturdays at Aviation. "It's not fair to the team that we don't have a home court," said Coach Maloney.

Coach Maloney is proud of his team. "I would like the team members to try their hardest to improve themselves and the team and build continuity for the basketball program," he said. The first game is scheduled for Thursday, November 30. The team will open at home against American Studies.



Baseball boys: Will they make the cut?

PLAY BALL!

by Chris Garcia

During the course of six days in early October, the smell of wood and leather hit the air. With gloves in hand, more than 35 students exuding optimism and determination attended baseball tryouts.

Although optimism and determination are a good duo for baseball, other aspects of the game should also be taken into consideration. "My first concern is dedication. Second is attitude. No matter how good the student is, will he contribute to the team? Last year we had a lot of disharmony and it can't be blamed only on the seniors who left. It's time for prospective players to get on board...or be replaced," said Coach Schimenz. "The team has to be cooperative and unified. Only then can we work toward another playoff year!"

With this in mind, the students set off to tryout at Flushing Meadows Field #10 and at the

Astoria batting cage. The Coach wanted to see "students in action, check the chemistry between the students, see who encourages his teammates and who ranks on them."

Many players have their own expectations of the team, like returning veteran Usman Hanif. He states, "Hopefully, we will have a strong unit, cooperate with the coach, help each other out, and make it through the season to get to the playoffs!" Many students on the team vow to work hard and make this a winning year. Dan Rosa, another returning veteran, vows to "play well and win," and hopes the players who did well in the tryouts to perform well during the games.

These students in action included returning veterans Isaac Collado, Luis Domenech, Kevin Moreaux, Juan Ortiz, Elvin Tejada, Angel Torres, and others. New prospects included Chris Tavarez, Jaiquan Cole, Kendel Ortiz, and David Rodriguez, who want to make the team and play a great game all year round.

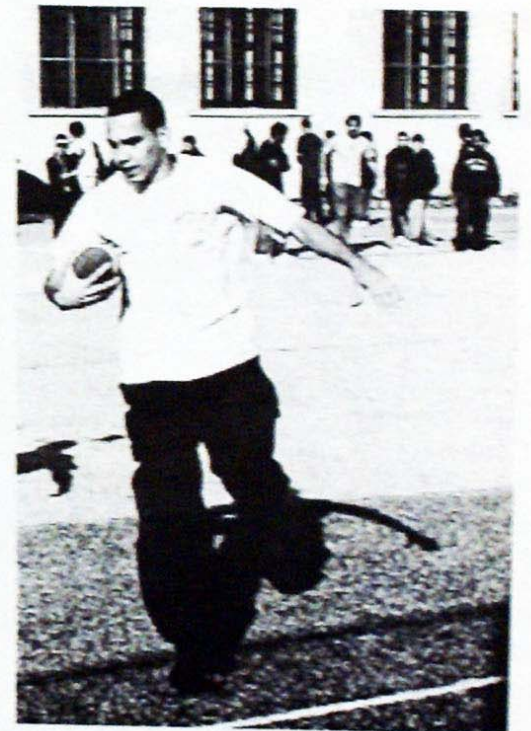
Football Intramurals

by Bryan Warren

Last year, Ms. Thompson's 11th grade Computer Tech class won the football intramurals. They are now 12th graders and looking to take it again. There are new teams who are looking to take the spotlight away from C-Tech.

Ever year in the fall, Queens Voc has football intramurals. To the staff and students here, it is known as the sports edition of the battle of the shops. All shops (Electrical Installation, Electrical Technician, Plumbing, Business, and Computer Technology) have competed in this war in a struggle to represent their shop class. Everyone wants to see their shop be recognize for not only their talents in their trade but their athletic talents.

The football intramurals usually receives participation from all grades. This type of competition takes lots of cooperation and participation by everyone. The intramural consists of 16 teams, 3 to 4 teams per shop have entered the tournament. The games take place throughout the day during periods in which one of the teams has shop. For example, on November 3, the football intra-murals started with a bang as 12 Plumbing beat 12 Computer Tech. During the proceeding weeks, the 16 teams will battle it out in the school yard to see who are the real champs.



Scoring a touchdown

**More
Tiger Sports
on
Pages 11&12**

by Maritza Montoya

Senior Sports Profiles

Maria Pena



Sport: Bowling
Age: 17
Grade: 12
Position: "A team"
Years on team: 1

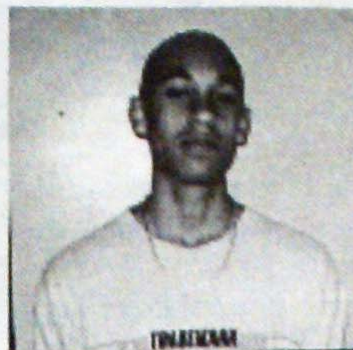
"Maria is very eager, dedicated and she always puts her all into what she's doing. She also shows great improvement."

-Gloria Peneda

"Maria Pena, in her first year of sports, learned to bowl. She is doing great, she wants to do everything in her senior year. She won the election for senior class treasurer. Not only does Maria participate in extra curricular activities she has good grades and holds down an after school job. Maria is mature, reliable, and conscientious."

-Coach Reichig

Edgar Rodriquez



Sport: Bowling
Age: 17
Grade: 12
Position: "A team" Co-captain
Years on team: 3

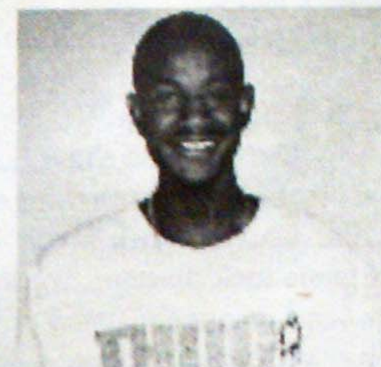
"Edgar is always thinking positive. No matter how bad we are doing, he is there to help us out."

-William Romero

"Edgar has been a quiet leader on the boys bowling team. He has become one of our best players, scoring a 216 in the season clincher. He helped us make the playoffs for the second year in a row. I will really miss Edgar for his great attitude as well as his skill."

-Coach Lerro

Bryan Warren



Sport: Bowling
Age: 17
Grade: 12
Position: "A Team" Co-captain
Years on team: 2

"Bryan is always able to spark everyone up, when they are down. As my fellow Co-captain, he helps a lot. Bryan always helps me talk to the guys."

-Edgar Rodriguez

"Bryan started as a team manager. The next two years as a player he contributed to our 7 & 3 and 8 & 0 record. Bryan's pep talks motivated the guys to come from behind and win during the last three games of the season. I will miss Bryan very much next year."

-Coach Lerro

WATCH IT!

by Maria Henao

Many students play gym outside. Therefore, it should be known about all the activities that are going on outside.

Chris Garcia, a senior, said that he thought that there were too many schoolyard activities going on at once. He said that there were too many balls aiming at his head. He didn't think this was dangerous because he believed it made people more aware of their surroundings. Marissa Ruthkowski, a freshman, said that the idea was fun but dangerous because the ball can hit you.

Sophomore, Jessica Lopez, said that there are way too many activities going on at once. She said that all you see is balls going here and there. "Of course it's dangerous!! You can get hit with a ball or somebody can run into you and knock you over," Jessica replied. Katherine Fajardo, a junior, said that there are more than enough

schoolyard activities going on at once. "It is dangerous because you can get hurt by a ball," said Katherine.

Physical Education teachers don't necessarily agree. Mr. Lerro said that there were not too many activities simultaneously conducted in the yard. "If I observe different sports being played, I move the players to a safer area. If there are too many students in the game, I either remove some students or change the boundaries to make the schoolyard safer. For example, volleyball and football." He said that sometimes it is a problem. "When a student doesn't follow the rules of the game it can be dangerous. An example is when a football player runs onto the volleyball court in order to catch a pass. I will give them one warning and then I stop the game," said Mr. Lerro.

An indoor physical education course will be programmed in the near future, according to Mr. Lerro. The course will consist of weight training, aerobics, and some additional activities. That will accomplish two goals. It is expected to reduce crowding in the

yard and it will allow students to acquire new skills in physical education. "I hope these new classes motivate students who have not previously participated in physical education," Mr. Lerro said.



A busy school yard



Volleyball Champs

TIGERS

Girls Strike Back

by Edgar Rodriguez

Usually when you have three strikes, you're out. But in bowling that's a good thing, and strikes are what this year's girls varsity bowling team wanted and got, compiling a 7-1 record in the regular season. They made it to the playoffs as well, and their first playoff game took place on Wednesday November 8, 2000.

This year's team consisted of fourteen members. Four of them were returning veterans: captain Gloria Pineda, Anna Aumuller, Tinna Laruy, and Nancy Garcia. Ten newcomers rounded out the team: Carmen Lopez, Jamella Carry, Pamela Gonzalez, Maria Pena, Joanne Kromnol, Zyanya Ponte, Elizabeth Marmol, Jessica Quinones, Flordeliz Flores, and Stephanie Arjuna.

Their goal, like every other sports team, was to become champions. "As always, we were looking to be division champions, but more important was learning sportsmanship, cooperation, and dedication," Coach Reichig said. "As usual we have very enthusiastic and dedicated young ladies on our girls varsity bowling team. We expected this season to be as exciting and interesting as last year and it surpassed even my expectations. Our lady Tigers always give their all to the team."

The team captain was happy too. "This year's team stuck together more and everyone was determined. We always helped each other out. The newcomers did well. We wanted to make the playoffs, because last year we didn't," said captain Gloria Pineda. "Now we had a team that was able to make it."

Gloria relished her role as team captain. She had to do her best and always remain high-spirited. She made sure everyone went to practice each day, and she averaged out the scoring, organized the practices, and made up the teams. "It's cool," she said.

"Gloria was a good captain. She always picked us up when we were down or when we weren't doing well, and she explained what we were doing wrong," said returning veteran Anna Aumuller. "Mr. Reichig was a very good coach. He made us laugh, and made us want to show up the next day, and play more and more."

The newcomers, according to Coach Reichig, worked very hard. "We have high hopes for Flordeliz Flores, a sophomore with a 112 average. Maria Pena, a senior who decided to give the bowling team a try in her last year at Queens Voc also did very well." As for the rest of the team he said, "They all have great potential and they gave their all to the team."

The season record of 7 wins and 1 loss earned them a spot in the playoffs, just like they wanted. "I'm happy that we did better than last year, and I want to thank all the girls for doing their best," said Anna.

Mr. Reichig hopes the girls will continue to improve their skills in bowling and learn to love and enjoy the sport for the rest of their lives. "We had a good time and a good season," he said.



Girls smile after a great season



SPORTS

Boys Finish 1st

by Chris Garcia

This year's high school bowling season began and ended with the Queens Voc boys ranked number one in their division. The Tigers played eight games this season and won all of them, the first Queens Voc team in 30 years to achieve a perfect season.

The bowling team is divided into three separate teams, the A-team, B-team, and C-team. The A-team consists of four players: team captain Edgar Rodriguez, Brett Mosley, George Fork, and Brian Warren. The B and C teams include Victor Santiago, David Brown, Chris Tabares, William Romero, Jeston Solano, Ricky Cheung, Sylvio Lamisere, Kawandy Dixon, Tyrece Fuller, Kirel Green, and Manuel Luna.

Coach Lerro practiced with his team after school Monday through Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30, leaving Friday as a rest period, at Hollywood Lanes. Mr. Lerro decided to keep everyone who attended tryouts on the team "as long as the students are passing their classes and set a good example as responsible student athletes."

Team captain Edgar Rodriguez thanked Coach Lerro and the players for such a great season. "The coach helped us a lot on maintaining focus in each game and every single player on the roster came through for the team." Jeston Solano, a senior in his only year on the team, also added "There are a lot of good players on this team, but what's more important is how we all work together. If it weren't for the teamwork and unity, I don't think we would have won a single game."

The focus and unity the boys team had throughout the season, will help them in the playoffs. William Romero acknowledged, "Our team knows that from now on the games won't get easier, instead each game we play will have to be with more determination than the last. These teams are good, but I think we're better." In the playoffs, which started November 8, Queens Voc will start off playing top ranked teams in other bowling divisions.



BOYLE STEPS UP

by Diana Trujillo

There is more changing than just getting new equipment for the softball team; there is a new coach in town. The short-wearing gym teacher, Mr. Boyle was recently appointed as Girls Varsity Softball Coach at Queens Voc. With his prior coaching experience in lacrosse and a championship swimming team, he plans to put the Queens Vocational softball team on the map.

"This season we will be a lot more powerful and we will have a stronger season than last year," he said, and believes that this year the

team is "playoff bound."

Mr. Boyle believes that his coaching style is similar to the previous coach, Mr. Wolin, who transferred to Forest Hills this year. "Individuals play a large role in the success of the team," Mr. Boyle said. He wants the players to be committed to the practices and the games. "Have fun, come to all the practices, and give your best and everything will fall into place," Mr. Boyle said to all the returning veterans and to the potential newcomers to the softball team. He is really looking forward to the season and says, "go girls."

TIGER SPORTS CONTINUED INSIDE