

Vocational Voice

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

Summer, 2000



by Johanna Arteaga

Once in a Lifetime



"Once in a lifetime," was the most anticipated senior event of the year. The prom took place at Bruno's on the Boulevard on May 26. As the clock struck eight, seniors began to enter the ballroom with elegance and glamour. About 170 people including chaperones attended the special night.

Prom tickets sold out during early May at \$35 each, but because of high demand, Mr. Reichig was able to get a few more seats from Bruno's. "Our prom tickets are cheaper than other high schools because we don't try to make a profit out of the occasion. In fact we supplement the cost of the prom with money from the school's fund raising money," said Mr. Reichig, prom coordinator. Every year students have the choice of paying or fundraising by selling candy for their tickets.

Students enjoyed a buffet dinner that consisted of beef and broccoli,



Seniors look their best at their one and only prom

Caribbean rice and peas, lasagna, rissole potatoes, seafood Creole, salad, chicken parmigiana, and baked ziti. As the happy prom-goers finished their food, Mr. Reichig announced that the time to select the prom king and queen had arrived. After a little suspense, Jose Rodriguez was selected as prom

king and Mabel Marte as prom queen. Without much delay, the king and queen were coronated and asked to dance the traditional solo prom king and queen dance of the year.

Next came the merengue and salsa contest. There was a higher participation in the merengue

contest than the salsa contest. The first place trophy winners were Cindy Peralta and her guest for merengue, and Henny Fernandez and Yadira Vintimilla for salsa. The second best dancers were Hipolito Burgos and Raquel Tejada for merengue, Kaleena Guzman and Juan Carlos for the salsa contest. Mr. Reichig said that "This year the reggae contest was banned by the principal because some seniors danced inappropriately at the senior luncheon."

As the fun and excitement continued, a group picture of all the seniors in attendance was taken by Jaziniowski Studios to remember "the once in a lifetime event." Jaziniowski Studios worked hard all night taking pictures of seniors and their guests, for different priced packages ranging from \$18-\$114.

As one of the most special nights for the students from Queens Voc ended they received a memorable wine glass that read "Once in a Lifetime."

Now Boarding: QV's Brightest

by Leydy Avila

Dancing, enjoying a great buffet, and cruising around New York Harbor is what the honor roll and leadership students did on May 11, 2000. Honor roll and leadership students went on a luncheon cruise, on the Spirit Cruise Line, around Manhattan.

The honor roll students had to achieve an 85% or better average on their previous term report card to be eligible to go on the trip. All together 61 students went on the trip, including both honor roll and leadership. Mr. Reichig invited along five chaperones; Mr. Serber, Ms. Abrams, Ms. Mazzara, and two school aides, Ms. Yvette Reyes and Ms. Rose Kamitsis.

The students and chaperones enjoyed a buffet that consisted of chicken, beef stew, potato salad, pasta salad, and wild rice, just to mention a few. Students also got to enjoy a show, which was performed by the ship's crew. The show consisted of some of the ship's crew singing songs such as *Let's Get Loud*, *Turn the Beat Around*, and the



Honor Roll achievers enjoying their time on the cruise



crew also invited some students who were on board to sing with them. After the show ended, students got to dance. But besides having fun and being entertained, they were also given a running account of all the historic sights of New York Harbor. Some of the sights that were seen were the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Battery Park, and the World Trade Center.

First-timer, sophomore Jasmine Peralta, said, "It was nice, I had fun and I really liked the performance." Senior Hugo Cruz thought that the trip was entertaining and fun, and he liked the view of the city as well as

Previous trips have been to the Baseball Hall of Fame, Rockefeller Center, WestPoint, Philadelphia, and Howe Caverns. Angela Cassallas stated, "The trips are really fun because of the places."

Mr. Reichig said, "I would like every student to achieve an 85% or better on their end term report cards so they can attend our next trip." the performance by the crew. For others, this experience was great because they got to see places such as Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, Chandanee Harripersaud, who said, "I liked the trip because I saw places that I had never seen."

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and more

Good enough is the enemy of
it can be better.

Absentees, Not Here

by Jose Rodriguez

We all want to become successful, but success is achieved through our efforts and our willingness to be responsible. Some students have demonstrated success and responsibility by maintaining an excellent attendance. Excellent attendance for some students might mean nothing, but for others it means a whole lot. Many Queens Vocational students have managed to establish an excellent attendance.

Even though they might have had days that they just didn't feel like getting up, they still did what ever they could to come to school. For these students, there were no headaches, stomachaches, or sickness that kept them from coming to school. "Students with excellent attendance will be very successful in life," said Mr. Serber. "I think students with excellent attendance are wonderful," he added.

Term:

Alexis Jason
Almanzar Miguel A
Anderson James
Animas Monica
Arguelles Elba
Arroyo Mixelinas
Arteaga Jessica A
Arteaga Johanna A
Burgos Hipolito
Chinatombly Carl A
Choi Eugene
Correa Tania
Cruz Lorenzo A
Diaz Oscar
Diaz Rodin
Echavarias Diana
Edwards Christopher
Everett Allan D
Floyd Justin
Franklin Robert J
Giraldo Shirley
Gonzalez Joseph G
Gonzalez Nomar
Gordillo Gioconda
Green Kevin E
Guzman Kelvin M
Harripersaud Chandan
Harris Kirkland O
Jean Jesthe
Jucha Marcin
Lamiser Sylvio R
Lema Oscar
Lopez David
Lukasik Monika
Luo Jan Phen
Malec Arkadiusz
Malloy Andrew
Manzanares Andres A
Marcillo Edwin R
Mejia Kenny

Mendoza Andrea
Moreaux Kevin
Ng Jennifer
Nunez Adriel
Ortiz Jonathan
Patel Shirin
Pena Yoskaira
Perez Roselis
Pulla Charles
Pulla Jimmy X
Qu Hai Dong
Reno Joseph
Reyes Sharon J
Rivas Leonel A
Rodriguez Willy
Rosario Johnny M
Rosenburg Stephen J
Ruiz Pedro A
Sandoval Glenda
Slapinska Katarzyna
Stephenson Anthony S
Tavarez Christopher
Tavarez Kimberly D
Tineo Denny
Tlatelpa Domingo
Toribio Luis L
Torres Lucia A
Urena Giovanni
Urena Rudy
Uruchima John C
Vargas Luis
Velastegui Lady C
Velez Miguel
Williams Nadine

Year:

Burgos Hipolito
Chinatombly Carl A
Choi Eugene
Floyd Justin
Gordillo Gioconda
Green Kevin E
Harripersaud Chandan
Lema Oscar
Lopez David
Lukasik Monika
Luo Jan Phen
Mendoza Andrea
Ng Jennifer
Nunez Adriel
Patel Shirin
Pena Yoskaira
Perez Roselis
Reyes Sharon J
Rodriguez Willy
Rosario Johnny M
Rosenburg Stephen J
Tlatelpa Domingo
Toribio Luis L
Urena Giovanni
Velastegui Lady C

A+



OSDN team didn't win, but learned some big lessons

Disappointing End

by Mona Abdelghany

On May 17, Queens Voc OSDN team was waiting to hear the OSDN contest's results. This was the first time for Queens Voc to enter such a contest, but probably won't be its last. Queens Vocational didn't win the contest this time, the OSDN team didn't win the laptops nor the Palm Pilots, but as Parik Suri, one of the team members, pointed out, "I've gained more than I've lost. I've gained a lot of experience and skills."

The Online Student Designed Newspaper or OSDN, is a competition between high schools in New York City. The aim behind this competition is to get students from different schools to show their best and create a school web page that represent their school newspaper.

The company that organized the contest is MOUSE (Making opportunities for Up grading Schools and Education), a non-profit volunteer organization that provides New York City Public schools with technology resources, expertise, access and support. And one of the sponsors of OSDN is the New York Times. After writing a proposal, seventeen high schools including Queens Voc were selected as finalists. Each school was assigned two mentors, Queens Voc's mentors were Kiara Coen from IXL and Ben Kaplan from Small World.com. Mr. Schimenz in his role as a Journalism advisor was the coordinator of the OSDN team. Team members were Fernando Castro, Adriana Henriquez, and Parik Suri.

Devotion, time usage and creativity were not the only factors needed in this contest, but also teamwork and cooperation, as Parik said, "And that's what we lacked." "Parik worked hard, we should have provided him with more support." Said Mr. Schimenz. Parik pointed out that the judges had to judge several categories, which newspaper had the best article selection, of the best-written articles. Which

Newspaper had the best structure and style. And also which had the best graphics. The OSDN team used articles from the third edition of the Vocational Voice written by this year's seniors in the Journalism class. The format used in creating the web page was HTML and JavaScript. The online newspaper, which is viewed by www.ixl.com/mouse/osdn/osdnii, divided into sections such as events, clubs, academics, sports, and an opinion section that includes feedback, editorials and commentaries. There is a "link in this site" that includes a mission statement, which has a description of the goals and vision of the newspaper; a project plan, which include steps taken to accomplish and complete the project; a project overview, which includes an overall experience gained by the team, and a site map.

To prepare for this contest and to create the first Queens Vocational web page online, the OSDN team had to attend workshops. The team along with their mentors had to meet on Saturday, March 4 and March 18 to learn more about HTML and Photo Shop.

The Workshops were conducted at Washington Irving High school from 10 am to 3 pm. These Workshops helped OSDN students to learn new experiences and enhance their skills to create an online newspaper representing Queens Voc for the first time.

Parik Suri was very "disappointed" with the results, but "There were other benefits from

participating, even if we didn't win the laptops." Parik emphasized that the project involved learning HTML, computer design skills and organization skills. "It's really a good experience, I got to use my computer and journalistic skills to formulate an online Vocational Voice." Parik Suri has looked at other schools' web pages, and noticed that other schools spent a lot of time on the design of their web pages.

Honoring QV's Best



Honor Roll induction was well attended

by Madiha Naseem

"An Evening With Our Best Students," were the exact words on the cover page of the program of the Honor Society ceremony, which was held on May 17. The Honor Society inducted all students with an overall average of 85 or better.

Ms. Abrams and Ms. Hulak are the faculty advisors who review records and invite students to the orientation, rehearsal, and induction. "Although it is a lot of hard work, it thrills me to celebrate the success of so many students with family and friends and Queens Voc staff members," said Ms. Abrams.

A buffet was served for the students and their families and friends at 5:30pm in the lobby. At 6:30pm the students marched into the auditorium.

Leydy Avila welcomed the students, parents, and teachers and served as host for the evening. Some of the inductees, including Chandanee Harripersaud, Jasmine Peralta, Parik Suri, and Sylvio Lamisere introduced keynote speakers. Johanna Arteaga recited the poem, "Keep Swimming." Chandanee Harripersaud recited a Shakespearean soliloquy. Angelica Sierra, the borough wide finalist for the story telling contest, recited "Demeter and Persephone," a Greek myth. Jennifer Buitrago recited "Success" and "With Every Rising Of The Sun," two poems that had a special meaning to her. Bernice

Wrenn, a graduating senior, sang "Lean On Me," by Bill Withers.

Then came the Keys to Success, introduced by Mona Abdelghany. This segment of the program, inductees spoke about what lead them to success. Speakers included Nafeeza Ali, Adriana Henriquez, Diana Casallas, Chandanee Harripersaud, Jose Johnson, and Rolando Zuniga.

Following Keys to Success The audience and candidates recited the Ephebic Oath, a pledge for good citizenship, lead by Ms. Hulak. "It reaffirms our goals to be good citizens of our country, city, state, and world," said English teacher and Houseplans coordinator. In her speech that evening, Ms. Hulak stated "In this world technology we need to have a sense of humanity. In a world of violence we need to keep working for peace. In an age of indifference we need to think about others." That's the importance of the Ephebic Oath, which teaches us to reach out to others.

The highlight of the evening was when the students lined up on stage and lit the candles, which represents the eternal light of knowledge. As the ceremony ended the students marched out as the song "God Bless America" was playing.

Sylvio Lamisere, a freshman inductee of the Honor Society said, "I felt very proud to be rewarded for my accomplishments. It was a good feeling."

The following is a list of Honor Society inductees:

12th Grade

Mona Abdelghany
Nafeeza Ali
Johanna Arteaga
Leydy Avila
Wendy Beltran
Adriana Henriquez
Aleksandr Kagan
William Law

11th Grade

Rocio Solis
Parik Suri
Angela Casallas
Chandanee Harripersaud
Oscar Lema
Mohammad Nawaz
Charles Pulla
Stephanie Rosario
Katarzyna Slapinska
Isaris Sosa
Erica Ventura
Hui Zheng
Letian Zhou

10th Grade

Jennifer Cano
Veronica Carpio
Diane Cooper
Melvin Cordero
Kelvin Guzman
Qiyi Hu
Quazi Islam

Pang Wai Lam

Junior Weiqiang Li
Jan Phen Luo
Naznin Matubbar
Jasmine Peralta
Gloria Pineda
Diana Salcedo

9th Grade

Mixelines Arroyo
Alexis Benitez
Nishon Brown
Jennifer Buitrago
Diana Casallas
Alex Chico
Richard Dossantos
Cassandra Falcon
Natasha Gibson
Gioconda Gordillo
Christopher Harrinandan
Jose Johnson
Sylvio Lamisere
Anayancy Moreno
Yoskaira Pena
Sharon Reyes
Jennifer Rodriguez
Domingo Tlatelpa
Lady Velastegui
Suen Suen Wong
Lu Yip
Rolando Zuniga

A Trip To Remember



Weather helped make the senior trip fun for all

by Leydy Avila

Sunshine. Fun. Laughter. These are the perfect adjectives to describe the Senior Trip. The Senior Trip took place on Wednesday, June 7. About 55 seniors headed to Nevele Grande, which according to Mr. Reichig was a "very luxurious country club," they parted at 7am, and returned around 10am.

This year the Senior Officer's decided upon Nevele Grande for the senior trip. According to senior class president Julissa Fernandez, "The senior class officers came to an agreement to go to Nevele Grande because we didn't want to go to a dude ranch or Mount Airy Lodge. We were also limited to our choices because of past trips, which had accustomed students to country clubs. Thus this place was affordable, and it offered many different activities." In previous

years, trips have included dude ranches, which the seniors stopped going to because not all students like horseback riding. Then came the trips to Mount Airy Lodge, which students liked because there were activities such as boating and indoor pools.

"The kids acted responsibly," said Mr. Reichig, who feels that, "we have never had a problem with the students at Queens Voc because they know how to act mature and they're nice young adults." He also felt that it was one of the best trips ever because the place was very luxurious. Mr. Reichig also mentioned that the trip was important because "it is one of the last social events that our seniors will have together."

Students were able to participate in activities such as boating, golfing, swimming, tennis, steam rooms, Jacuzzis, just to mention a few.

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2000

JUNE 15 THURSDAY	JUNE 16 FRIDAY	JUNE 17 MONDAY	JUNE 20 TUESDAY	JUNE 21 WEDNESDAY	JUNE 22 THURSDAY
9:15 a.m.	9:15 a.m.	9:15 a.m.	9:15 a.m.	9:15 a.m.	9:15 a.m.
Comp. English- Session one	Comp. English- Session two	Introduction to Occupations	RCT in Global Studies	RCT in Science	RCT in US History & Government
Earth Science (RE)		Business Analysis/ Business Computer Applications	RE in US History & Government	Physics (RE)	Chemistry (RE)
1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	
RE in Global History and Geography	RCT in Writing		RCT in Reading	RCT Math	
	Living Environment		Seq. Mathematics, course I	Seq. Mathematics, course II	
				Seq. Mathematics, course III	

More and More Writing



Mr. Williams, we'll miss you!
by Nafeeza Ali

Once each week in the Electronics, Cosmetology, Plumbing, and Computer Technology classes, the students participate in a weekly writing assignment. This writing assignment is given to help students enrich their Language Arts ability and help them meet the standards for the English Regents.

The writing program is funded by Civic Strategies, an educational consulting firm. The writing program is supervised by Mr. Serber, Dr. Bacigalupo, Ms Bertolami, and Mr. Garrison. The administrators give specific instructions to the teachers as to what should be taught in the 40-minute class. Every day, once a week, a different group of five students meets and is given a written assignment that deals with the particular topic they are learning in their shop class. Students must creatively and informatively take that topic and develop a well-written essay.

The instructors who work with this program are Ms. LaPointe, Mr.

Williams, Mr. Grochala, and Ms. Spallone. According to Mr. Williams, who teaches Mr. Ali's twelfth grade Electronics class, and Ms. Thompson's eleventh grade Computer Technology class, the results has varied. He states that the "eleventh graders are more willing and receptive and are willing to do the work." While on the other hand, "the twelfth graders are more resistant and unwilling to do the work," but he still works with them.

The teachers started phasing this program into the vocational curriculum on February 15, and each week a written evaluation is done with the teacher's critiquing the students writing ability and technique. "I think it's a wonderful program and we have already seen improvement in our students writing skills," said Ms. Bertolami, Assistant Principal of Business and Cosmetology.

For those students who have already taken the English Regents, this new writing assignment is seen as an intrusion. "I think it's a waste of time because it takes away from our other work and it's not worth it," said senior Angel Avalos. But according to Ms. Bertolami, the results from the program show an improvement in the students writing skills and they find the extra help beneficial. "I find the writing assignment to be helpful because it has helped me to improve my writing skills for future twelfth grade and college writing assignments," commented junior James Anderson. Mr. Serber advises to all students that "just because they receive one 40-minute period of English, the understanding and writing of English doesn't stop there. It also continues throughout the day in their other classes including their vocational class."

QV on TV



by Tiffany Franco &
Adriana Henriquez



All expectations for this year's venture have been surpassed. What venture? The Drama Club, of course. What started out as a once-a-week meeting has grown into a complete movie production.

"When we started out, I had no expectations. As things progressed, knowing that I was contributing to the making of a serious movie, the club gained a personal significance to me," stated junior Kaleena Guzman. A serious movie, indeed. Touching subjects such as family and peer relationships, school pressures, and teen pregnancy, this movie is sure to have some impact. Fernando Castro explained the subjects of the movie, "We didn't want to make a typical heartbreak movie. We wanted to explore issues that affect today's teenagers. I think we accomplished that."

The Drama Club was created to teach students simple drama techniques. It was only a matter of time before members began to share ideas on subjects, developing characters, and writing a script. Production costs and teacher time were paid through to a grant given to Queens Voc by the Superintendent of Queens High Schools. Drama Coordinator, Ms. Radovich, and faculty consultants, Ms. Florio, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Williams, are all surprised at the growth of the club.

Drama club members speak of their collaboration as going beyond creating a film. "With the Drama Club, I got to do something new and at the same time work with people that otherwise I would have never

interacted with, like Luke and Rick and some other drama members," said Darienzo "Chacho" Pena, a sophomore. Luke Crane is a freelance cameraman/ director/ editor. Rick Brown is a freelance editor/ producer/ director. The contributions made by these professionals will definitely be seen in the movie. Darienzo added, "I got to work with equipment that I had never seen before."

"Acting is not easy. Dedication was the main part of this project. Many people came in and out of meetings, but those of us who stayed have worked very hard to enjoy this progress," mentioned graduating senior, Mark Colas. Shooting the scenes on location has required a lot of dedication from the members. They have all invested numerous hours to the making of this film. Andrea Mendoza commented, "The entire staff that was involved, both students and faculty, have worked very hard as a team."

"Acting is not easy..."

The Drama Club brought together people who usually would not have come together. There is an even representation of sophomores, juniors and seniors. All members agree that all the time shared together has created a huge bond. Senior Aldo Nunez stated, "Although, we focused on writing the script, we got to share part of ourselves with each other. We have come to see each other as a family. We still have spats, but that's what families do." Mark shared this feeling, "it started out as people in a circle throwing out ideas. But as time passed, the bond we created went beyond that found in a simple club."

ROBOTICS: CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY AT QUEENS VOC

by Parik Suri

Nearly every aspect of life today is affected by technology. One of the biggest factors contributing to this change is robotics. Robotics is the use of machinery to perform repetitive tasks. Robotics has arrived at Queens Voc.

Computer tech senior and freshman students, get to work with this technological phenomenon. Students learn to program robotic arms to do specific tasks. Such as moving blocks, programming the arm so it can think whether to do a task or not. Also, program the robotic arm to open a box, place small objects in the box and close it

again. In the real world, robotic arms can perform the same task as the arms in computer tech. However, industry arms do the tasks faster and are able to do anything possible thinkable.

"This course can help to prepare a student spark interest in robotics technology and to enter the robotics technology field," said Ms. Thompson, computer technology teacher.

At the end of the program, the students are challenged to work in teams and race against each other. The class is divided into two teams, with four robots in each team. The goal is to move four jars across the table. "The programming of robots

was hard, since each group had four robots," said Carlos Rodriguez, a senior computer tech student. "The robots would make outrageous moves, they would crash with each other due to programming issues," added Antonio Castro a computer tech student. "The course is easy however, we have to do a lot of work," said Alex Kagan a computer tech student.

Both computer tech classes get different experiences, the twelfth graders get a month long course, while the ninth graders get a weeklong introduction. Rocio Solis said, "I really liked this course since it involved a lot of machinery and electronics."



Robotics in action

Most Memorable

by Fernando Castro

The year is almost over and the class of 2000 will be graduating soon. Many seniors will be going to college, others will work or travel. The future of every one of these seniors will be unique in many ways. But, one thing all these seniors will always have in common, the memories made in Queens Voc.



"I know I'm going to miss waking up every morning and knowing I'm not going to come to Queens Voc and seeing all my friends. I'll miss everybody," said Salena Vargas.



"I'll miss all my friends, and I'll miss doing my hair in the cosmo clinic every Friday morning. My friends have played an important role in my high school years, they were there for me through thick and thin," said Ivette Ramirez.



"I'll miss all my friends because without them the years that I was in Queens Voc would not be the same," said Bernice Wrenn.



Rocío Solis stated, "I'll miss all my friends and teachers at Queens Voc. The relationships I've made with them have impacted my life in many ways. Ways that will always stay with me."



"I'll miss the school and my friends. The school has been like a second home to me, here I made friends who will probably and hope to keep for life. I also met the teachers that have taught me lessons that will help me throughout life," said Karen De Jesus.



Fernando Infante said, "through all my years in high school I can only say that I'll miss one thing, that is all my friends and walking through the crowded halls everyday. The impact that my friends and this school have made in my life is tremendous."

**Good-Bye
*Seniors***



Next Stop: College

by Bernice Wrenn



Students Name	College(s) Accepted To	College They Will Attend
Mona Abdelghany	Hunter	Hunter
Nafeeza Ali	Hunter, LaGuardia, York College	Hunter
Johanna Artega	Hunter, Long Island University, Pace, Stony Brook	Stony Brook
Angel Avalos	City Tech	City Tech
Leydy Avila	Hunter	Hunter
Hamaidan Bacchus	Kingsborough	Kingsborough
Christina Bal	Queensborough	Queensborough
Wendy Beltran	Baruch, John Jay, Queens College	John Jay
Monica Bielicka	LaGuardia	LaGuardia
James Brunder	Berkley	Berkley
Hipólito Burgos	Anna Maria, Cazenovia, City Tech, SUNY Cobleskill, Fisher Neumann, St. Leo, SUNY Morrisville	Cazenovia
Teresa Caraballo	Borough of Manhattan, City Tech	Borough of Manhattan
Fernando Castro	City College, Nyack	City College
Mark Colas	City Tech	City Tech
Rudy Correa	Borough of Manhattan	Borough of Manhattan
Christopher Coury	LaGuardia	LaGuardia
Hugo Cruz	City Tech	City Tech
Angelica Diaz	Katherine Gibbs	Katherine Gibbs
Karen De Jesus	Queens College	Queens College
Jennifer Denson	City Tech	City Tech
Jeffrey Durand	City Tech	City Tech
Chris Fernandez	City Tech	City Tech
Henny Fernandez	Hunter	Hunter
Julissa Fernandez	Hunter, Purchase	Purchase
Monique Fowler	City Tech	City Tech
Christian Ghigliotti	City Tech	City Tech
Jagdish Harripersaud	City Tech	City Tech
Jamilah Henegan	Borough of Manhattan	Borough of Manhattan
Adriana Henriquez	Baruch, Poly Tech, Stony Brook, University at Buffalo	Poly Tech
Barbarita Henriquez	John Jay	John Jay
Danny Hernandez	Berkley	Berkley
Nicholas Hollingsworth	City College	City College
Diana Labady	Hunter	Hunter
Haroula Lambetos	York College	York College
William Law	City Tech, Poly Tech	Poly Tech
Ejivima Liriano	Borough of Manhattan	Borough of Manhattan
Cesar Lopez	City Tech	City Tech
Mateusz Marczak	John Jay	John Jay
Marcos Martinez	City Tech	City Tech
Jacqueline Marrero	LaGuardia	LaGuardia
Craig Mason	Queensborough	Queensborough
Angelica Muller	Katherine Gibbs	Katherine Gibbs
Diana Nanan	John Jay	John Jay
Adriel Nunez	City Tech	City Tech
Deep Patel	Delhi, SUNY Morrisville, Penn State, U. Mich @ Flint	Penn State
Kelvin Perez	City Tech	City Tech
Dilenis Pichardo	Queensborough	Queensborough
Denise Polanco	Queens College	Queens College
Ivette Ramirez	City Tech	City Tech
Lady Rincon	City Tech	City Tech
Carlos Rodriguez	Borough of Manhattan	Borough of Manhattan
Jose Rodriguez	Queens College	Queens College
Anna Rozwalko	The College of Staten Island	The College of Staten Island
Sammy Sanchez	The Chubb Institute of Technology	The Chubb Institute of Technology
Glenda Sandoval	Borough of Manhattan, Hunter	Borough of Manhattan
Sukhdeep Singh	City College	City College
Rocio Solis	City Tech	City Tech
Jeremy Sosa	Queensborough	Queensborough
Parik Suri	City Tech, Poly Tech	Poly Tech
Raquel Tejada	Hunter	Hunter
Trevon Temple	City Tech	City Tech
Philp Tovar	City Tech	City Tech
Salena Vargas	Baruch	Baruch
Lenin Vega	City Tech	City Tech
Juan Velez	City Tech	City Tech
Yadira Vintimilla	Wood-Tobe	Wood-Tobe
Sophan Vitayavanich	City College, LaGuardia, Hunter	Hunter
Tamar Walters	University of Tampa	University of Tampa
Tanisha White	Borough of Manhattan	Borough of Manhattan
Bernice Wrenn	Hunter, Long Island University	Hunter

EDITORIALS & COMMENTARIES

It's Time to Lead

The school's Leadership Team. Most students and faculty are unaware of the team's existence and the importance of it. They are unaware that this team affects their future in the school.

School Leadership Teams are required by the New York City Board of Education. The purpose of the team is to discuss issues that pertain to the school, including the school's goals and objectives, and how they can be achieved.

The team is composed of representatives of all the constituencies within the school's community. Administrators, teachers, parents, and students are included. A major focus of the teams is discussion, as decisions of the team must be reached by consensus. The team also works with a budget, which can be used to fund any activity, event, or program in the school.

Most of the Queens Voc community members are not yet aware of our Leadership Team, which is virtually unheard of because it has not yet accomplished anything substantial. But this year, its first, the team has accomplished its goals. It developed its by-laws and Comprehensive Educational Plan (CEP). But, it has done little more.

We hope that next year, the team's efforts will result in some real benefits for the Queens Voc Community.

What's All the Fuss?

We've been debating the reality of lost labs. And it's an honest debate. But we wonder, what's the point of labs? We understand that the state requires these labs. But is the state concerned with the QUALITY of the labs or just the QUANTITY?

Our labs are little more than copying data from photocopied "labs." We engage in no real lab experiments.

Let's try to work together to use our newly remodeled lab rooms in the way they were intended to be used. This truly would be a worthy goal.

Popularity's Too Popular @ QV

Not another popularity contest! It has happened before—previous SO elections, Senior Mosts, dance contests, and virtually everything else that goes on at Queens Voc—virtually everything except the selection of the prom king and queen.

Every prom night, two students' names are chosen from a hat to decide who will be our prom royalty. Some students want this to be just another popularity contest. We could opine that the whole issue of a prom king and queen is a meaningless ritual. But we won't. Instead, we compliment our administration for their stance.

Congratulations to Jose Rodriguez and Mabel Marte on their selection and brief reign as prom king and queen!



Vocational Voice

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

Feedback

by Chris Fernandez

This year the *Vocational Voice* was very successful, so said many of our readers. The staff of the *Vocational Voice* was happy to receive so many letters from our fellow students and teachers.

Julissa Fernandez article on "Top Students Recognized" is very encouraging because you explained the advantages of being in the Honor Roll," said Lady Velastegui. Jennifer Ng said, "It gives the students a chance to feel good about accomplishing something."

Natalie Porada liked Rudy Correa's article on tutoring. "It was a great article and it's nice to know that students can get help," she said.

Leonela Pichardo said, "I liked the article 'Luncheon Showdown Big Success,' by Diana Nanan. Jennifer Ng agreed with Tamar Walters's article, 'TV Teen Portrayal.'"

Adriana Henriquez's received comments on both of her articles, "Saturday + Math = A Wonderful Experience," Jennifer Libreros suggested that more students should take math on Saturdays to help them understand complicated math concepts. Lady Velastegui agreed, suggesting that there are good ways few students to spend time part of their weekend.

Natalie Porada thought that a cosmo contest is great. "To be creative is wonderful," she concluded.

Leonela Pichardo wrote to Glenda Sandoval that her article should "make taggers realize how stupid a tag looks. 'What a waste of time', she concludes, 'Why don't taggers look for something more products to do?' Jennifer Libreros suggested that graffiti, is more than ugly, it a disrespect to our school."

Jessica Kenniff agreed with Fernando Castro's commentary about morning announcements "My third period class is very noisy and my teacher doesn't do enough to keep us quiet," she said.

Finally, as an example of the numerous letters we received in support of our editorial about lost labs and the need for a better tracking system, Christopher Harrinandan suggested that lab receipts would help teachers and students. "It's a good idea," he said, and it should be given a chance."

The staff of the *Vocational Voice* would like to thank the students and faculty who wrote to us throughout the year. Particular thanks to Ms. Hulak, who had her students write to us each edition. Thanks for your support.

Lost Labs or Lost Going to Lab?

To the editor:

As an Assistant Principal, I have many responsibilities. Among them is the onerous task of maintaining diligent records; records such as inventories, grades, and programs. Perhaps the most important of these is the list of student lab progress.

Last edition of Vocational Voice claims that, during an interview, I informed them that one per cent of student labs are lost by teachers. For the record, I said that I imagine far less than one per cent of labs have been lost. Department-wide, if 1,000 students each completed 30 labs, 1% would amount to 300 lost labs. It is impossible to presume that the lab staff has lost 3 labs much less 300.

Is it possible that labs have been lost? Certainly. The odds of misplacing a lab increase when lab reports are turned into a teacher late, in the hallway, during a different lab section, or to his mailbox.

During the interview I explained, as I will now again, the main cause of student failure in the Science Lab. Ask yourselves, honestly, how many lab classes have you attended? How many labs have you completed? How many of them were satisfactory? How many of them did you actually submit, on time, to your teacher? The problem is not the teacher, but the student.

Since October, there has been a running tally of lab reports posted on the bulletin board outside room 213. If you take the time to scrutinize this list, you may notice the number of students who have not demonstrated regular progress in lab. By the end of the 5th marking period, when 80% of the labs should have been completed, 50% of the students had yet to complete 50% of their labs.

With statistics like these, teachers cannot be blamed. If you are looking for someone upon whom to place the blame for lab failure, look to yourselves or your classmates first.

In the editorial, The Vocational Voice suggests a solution to issue of lost labs. Allow me the courtesy of offering a counter-solution, one perhaps more viable. Attend lab classes every week; write your labs as directed; submit them in a timely fashion; and take advantage of the opportunities to make up labs at home and after school. When students begin to share in the responsibility for lab performance, the Science department will consider a receipt, voucher, or signature system for accountability.

Our goals as Science educators is to assure that students meet their obligation and complete a minimum of 30 labs, thereby making themselves eligible for taking the Science Regents exam. Your goal as students should be to satisfactorily complete your labs, study for and pass your regents exam, graduate so you may follow your dreams...and ours.

Mrs. R. Battersby, Assistant Principal: Supervision
Science, Mathematics, Health & Physical Education

Popularity Contests Should Remain Popular!

by Raquel Tejada

Prom night is one of the biggest events that many seniors look forward to. It's a special night to get together with many of your friends and dance the night away. One of the most awaited moments of the night is the selection and announcement of the prom King and Queen.

At Queens Voc, it has been a tradition to choose the King and Queen out of hat, supposedly because it's fair. It gives everyone at the prom the chance of winning, even if it's the oddest individuals. Some students agree with this method, while others, like me, disagree.

The prom King and Queen should be chosen by votes. A few months ago, senior personalities were selected by votes, and there was no problem in doing that. In the

second edition of the *Vocational Voice*, there was an article saying how everyone wanted to be voted for in the Senior Personalities and how it's all a popularity contest. No matter what, people talk and they will always say it's a popularity contest, but that's the whole point. I don't understand why it was turned into a problem when many students from the council tried to change the policy and Mr. Reichig and Mr. Serber said no that it couldn't be done. Mr. Reichig and Mr. Serber said that when they tried to conduct it years before, it didn't work out because many students voted for themselves. Another reason that they don't do it by votes is because it would become a popularity contest. But isn't that the whole point of having a prom King and Queen, that the most popular couple wins?



Principal's Message

QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
Steve Serber, Principal

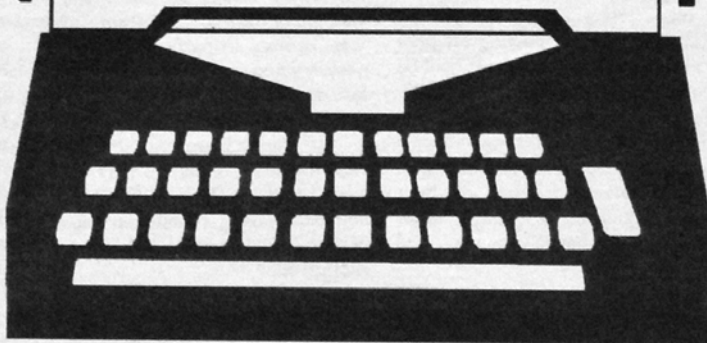
With summer approaching everyone should ask themselves, "How should I best spend my time?" For some of you the answer is easy, summer school. This year, summer school is being offered to all students whose promotion is in doubt. Most of you will attend Bryant High School in Astoria. If you have doubts as to whether you have to go to summer school or not, you will be notified by your guidance counselor. You will also receive your summer school programs here at Queens Vocational and Technical High School with your report card. Make sure that if you need to attend, you go to ensure your promotion in September.

For those of you who do not have to go to summer school, whatever you do, whether it's travel or work, make sure that you continue to read, go to cultural and educational points of interest, attend various programs of interest throughout the city, and maybe ever look at some college campuses to help you make the decision when you are ready for college.

I hope all of you enjoy your summer vacation and for those who come back in the Fall, come back well-rested and happy, and ready to work. Remember, with the addition of new standards in the high schools, you must constantly work to improve your skills. I wish you all an enjoyable and educational summer.

Good Luck
Sincerely,

Steve Serber



9th Annual Topp Retreat was attended by (top row): Ringo Fernandez, Maritza Flores, Kenneth Nunez, William Romero, (bottom row) Wendy Beltran, Ms. Abrams, Jessica Arteaga, and Johanna Arteaga

TALENT IN THE HOUSE

by William Law

Have you every heard of Houseplans? Houseplans focuses on learning how to express one's emotion and thought clearly to others. This program helps participants learn how to work in teams.

Usually Ms. Hulak initiates Houseplans activities, but student suggestions are accepted and reviewed. Such was the case with the recent talent show. Kenny Mejia and Derek Mancham developed the idea and approached Ms. Hulak. "All my friends say that I'm very talented," said Derek,



Houseplans' talent show participants: Let's do this again !!!

Houseplans allows any student to participate in activities that are educational and challenging, but focuses particularly on ninth graders to enable them to feel more at home in their school. Students learn how to work together and are encouraged to excel in their studies. Ms. Hulak believes that Houseplans participants can learn how to flex their creative muscle by utilizing their linguistic skills.

Recently, Houseplans conducted a small talent show, sparked by student interest in showing off their skills. The Talent show was held on Thursday, May 18, in room 103. Ms. Hulak and Ms. Florio's classes attended. The talent show allowed student participants to demonstrate a specific talent in front of their fellow students. The show incorporated music, dance, and poetry.

"So I thought of Ms. Hulak, because I thought she is a teacher who would help make a talent show." Inspiration came from Kenny Mejia observing other students talents. Kenny read four self-written poems. Carlos Ojeda played the song 'Blind' by Korn, on his guitar. Derek recited a self-written poem, and sang.

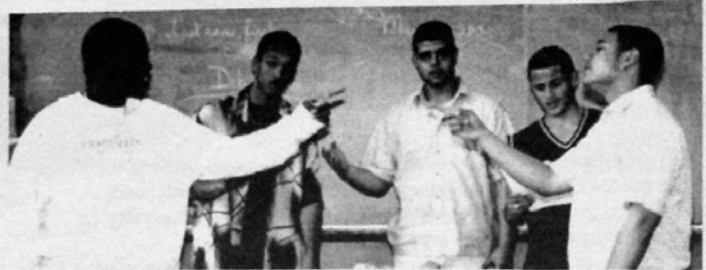
The talent show was inspired, coordinated, and hosted by Kenny and Derek. Kenny and Derek said it was really hard to find people who were willing to participate. Some people who joined backed out in the last minute, but Ms. Hulak believes that it was a total success.

"If students are still interested with the talent show we may do it again" said Ms. Hulak. Derek said he would most definitely participate in the next talent show if there were another one.

Did You Know?

by Madiha Naseem

- There are more collect calls on Father's Day than on any other day of the year.
- The world's youngest parents were 8 and 9 years old and lived in China in 1910.
- Your nose and ears never stop growing.
- Jupiter is bigger than all the other planets combined.
- An average person laughs about 15 times a day.
- A sneeze zooms out of your nose at over 600 m.p.h.
- 98% of American drivers think they drive above average.
- Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.
- There are approximately 3000 languages spoken on the planet Earth, and only 78 of them have written literature.
- Women's hearts beat faster than men's.
- Even if you cut off a cockroach's head, it can live for several weeks.
- About 70% of Americans who go to college do it just to make money. (The rest of us are avoiding reality for 4 more years)
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, and purple.
- Sir Isaac Newton was an ordained priest in the Church of England.
- Money isn't made out of paper; it's made out of linen.
- Every time you lick a stamp, you're consuming 1/10 of a calorie.



Ms. Himmel's students debate free speech

Free Speech Wins Out

by Mona Abdelghany

An in-class debate displayed a great success. Should there be rallies censorship? This was the question. And the first Amendment was the answer.

The debate took place in room 404 during period 8 on May 22 and 23. The central theme of the debate was censorship. The argument was whether there should be censorship of hate rallies or not. The debate was an out growth of the in class study of the novel Fahrenheit 451 by the students with Ms. Himmel, an English teacher who supervised the debate. After reading the novel, the students were very interested in the topic and in the discussion of censorship, therefore Ms. Himmel formulated the idea into an in-class debate between her students.

"From begging to end, the activity was very worthwhile for the students and myself." Said Ms. Himmel, adding, "Watching them learn the debate process has been very gratifying." There were two opposing teams in the debate, the Affirmative team was pro the censorship of rallies, and the Negative, and also the winning team, was against the censorship of rallies. The winning team used the first Amendment as their weapon in the debate, emphasizing the freedom of speech and petition. Each team included three debaters. The whole class however, was involved in the debate, there were supporters, log keepers and coaches for each team, and there were ten judges for the whole debate.

The debate involved more than class discussions and arguing, as James Brunder, Captain and a debater in the winning team said, "We actually had to research the

topic, the research involved reading different materials, searching the web, and looking for articles dealing with censorship." The students were preparing for this debate for more than three weeks from researching in the library and books to in-class assignments and follow up discussions.

James pointed out that it was very exciting experience for him. And indeed it was exciting for the other team as well, as Adriel Nunez, an Affirmative team debater, said "I really liked working with Danny and Marcos, all three of us worked as a team." Adriel also pointed out that "Working together as a team can accomplish a lot in less time." Marcos Martinez, a debater and a captain of the Affirmative team said, "It was a very good experience for both teams."

The winning team- (Negative)

James Brunder- Debater and Captain
Cindy Peralta- Debater
Kelvin Perez- Debater
Grzegorz Gula- Coach
Naveeda Naeem- Brief
Felix Perez- Log Keeper
Denise Polanco- Log Keeper
Kenya Rodriguez- Log Keeper
Susan Velez- Coach
Tanisha White- Brief
(Affirmative team)
Marcos Martinez- Debater and Captain
Danny Hernandez- Debater
Adriel Nunez- Debater
Karen Dousa- Brief
Jessica Garcia- CO-Log Keeper
Alex Kagan- Brief
Luis Marrero- Coach
Carlos Rodriguez- Log Keeper
Roberto Urena- Coach
Lenin Vega- Coach

Do you have an opinion on any of the articles in this issue of the Vocational Voice? Write to us and tell us! Be sure to sign your letter and put it in Mr. Schimenz's mailbox.



Mr. Schimenz's Mailbox

Wheel of Friends

by Glenda Sandoval

As the school year comes to a near end, so does one of the most important ceremonies of the senior year at Queens Voc. The Senior Ring Ceremony took place in basement A on April 11.

Their senior class ring isn't just an ordinary ring. It symbolizes four years of memories, laughter, knowledge, and friends. As they stood up one by one, with smiles on their faces they realize that this is just one step closer to graduation. Seniors were anxious to finally get the ring that means so much to them. "When I stood up to get my ring, I realized that these past four years have passed by so quickly," said Aldo Nuñez. Many students had the same opinion. It seems as if this ring is a wake up call for many seniors. This ring is telling them that one chapter of their lives is over and they are starting a new one.



Senior rings: memories of times past

As Mr. José Marine, the ring distributor, called the students to get their ring, they were given the option of either keeping the ring in the box or taking the ring out and wearing it. The seniors who received their rings also received the "Wheel of Friends." This was a cardboard circle with the numbers listed from 1 through 100 for their dear friends to sign their names.

Throughout the entire week, seniors were making it a goal to get the wheel of friends filled out by the end of the week. Julissa Trinidad stated, "As soon as I finished getting my wheel of friends signed, I realized that I needed another one. I am going to miss all my friends and this wheel will always remind me of how special they really are to me."

Mr. Serber couldn't have put it better, "The ring ceremony was a joyous occasion. Students received their school rings which will be wonderful keepsakes, keeping their memories of Queens Voc alive for many years to come."



Beauty show was a worthwhile trip for our Cosmo students

Cosmo Students Attend Beauty Show

by Diana Nanan

Cosmetology students from all over poured into the Jacob Javitz Convention Center on March 14, to witness the glitz and glamour of the International Beauty Show. The hair show provided spectators with a wide variety of the latest hair styles and new products being introduced into the fashion industry.

The International Beauty Show provides students with an opportunity to meet professional hair stylists and allows them to see how the fashion industry operates. Jonique Price, one of the cosmetology students who attended the show said, "The hair show gives students an outlook on the newest techniques, products, and tools being used by professionals today. For example, Framest, a new product line, launched a shampoo that was introduced at the hair show." The hair show displays the newest tools and techniques being used, which also keeps the public updated on what is happening in the fashion and

beauty industry today.

Although students focus on hair and nails at Queens Voc, the International Beauty Show provided them with a chance to see the many different fields of beauty like make up and fashion. Mrs. Donofrio, a cosmetology teacher stated, "This experience provided students with a little more knowledge of the variety of fields in the beauty industry."

At the hair show, professionals demonstrated a step by step process of how to perform the latest haircuts and styles using different techniques. They also introduced many different products from around the world, which they either gave away free or sold at bargain prices. Another attendee from Queens Voc, junior Jessica Garcia said, "It was a great learning experience which can help us decide whether or not to continue working in the cosmetology field." From the insight that they gained at the hair show, students came back excited and more interested in entering the beauty and fashion industry.



Beauty show attendees try their hand at a new look

Spirit Week

by Danitza Parrales

Ever want to come to school in pajamas or do something crazy with your hair, but couldn't because of what others may say or think? Ever wonder what it would be like to have a twin or triplet? If you answered yes, chances are that you were part of the Queens Voc tradition known as Spirit Week. It is the week that students show their school spirit by participating in a fun-filled series of theme days.

This term, Spirit Week was held during the week of April 10th to April 14th. Monday was pajama day. Students were allowed to come to school in their pajamas. Tuesday was twin day; students dressed up like twins. Wednesday was teddy bear day, when participants brought in a favorite teddy bear. Thursday was sports day, when students wore sports apparel representing their



Teresa shows spirit!

favorite team. Friday was crazy hair day. All students and teachers were encouraged to do something extreme or crazy with his or her hair.

Many students and teachers were happy to be part of this school activity. It was obvious that student participants were higher than usual this term. "I think it was mainly because they had better ideas this year," said Shirley Giraldo, a junior who participated throughout Spirit Week. For crazy hair day, students and teachers had red, green, and orange dyed hair. Messy hair and pigtails were also seen throughout the day. Mr. Williams had 5 pigtails, while Mr. Schimenz had colorful hair, courtesy of Trixie. For teddy bear day, well known characters such as Mickey Mouse, Taz, and Tweety were seen around the building. Dayquan Stevenson and Allan Everett decided to be twins and dressed alike during twin day.

Based in a survey of 100 students, the following figures represent the percentage of students who participated each day:

Pajama Day: 14%
Twin Day: 24%
Teddy Bear Day: 40%
Sports Day: 30%
Crazy Hair Day: 57%
Didn't participate at all: 12%

QUEENS VOC FEATURES

Looking @ Looks

by Julissa Fernandez

Is it physical attraction that attracts you to that special person? Or maybe is the way he knows all the answers to the questions in Math class. There is no specific age when it comes to love. But there are special qualities we look for in that special someone. Everyone dreams about having that perfect partner.

It is said that first impression counts when one encounters the opposite sex. But what does that really mean? Is it the way we physically look, or the way we carry our selves, that is taking in consideration. This is an issue one can consider offensive. Because it can determine many situations in life. For example, your love life, getting a job, or even making friends. Students at Queens Vocational were asked the following question. Does physical appearance play more of an important role than personality?



Fernando Castro 12th

"Sincerely, looks are important but not as important as personality. If a person lacks intellect and etiquette then, what good are simply looks? Personality defines a person's character and integrity, looks don't. We all age and looks go away, but personality always defines a person."



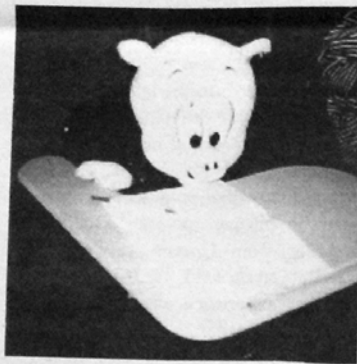
Allan Everett 11th

"It depends on how long you know the person. Looks come first before words are even said."



Vivian Isaza 11th

"First impression is important, but then it is more to be with someone who has a nice personality then how he looks."



Porky Pig

"Some people think that looks are most important. I don't. Some very good looking people have very little class. On the other hand, look at me. Do you know what some people call me? Sure you do. But I have a big heart. So I can honestly say that beauty is only skin deep. And this I know from experience."

Stay
Côôl
in the
Sun



SO Candidates agree to work together on behalf of Queens Voc

A Change of Government

by Johanna Arteaga &
Adriana Henriquez

Please excuse the following interruption. The winners of Student Organization elections are...

The S.O. officers for the year 2000-2001 have been announced. Gloria Pineda (President), Jessica Torres (Vice-President), Jason Alexis (Treasurer), and Vanessa Rivera (Secretary), have all been elected and are preparing to take on the responsibilities that come with their respective title. Chandanee Harripersaud commented, "We (all candidates) wanted to keep ourselves as friends, so we could work efficiently together to bring about positive changes." Every year the student organization holds office elections for president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary.

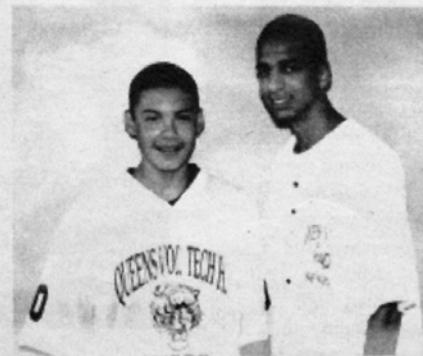
Students based their decisions on various aspects of the candidates. The candidates used poster campaigns and word-of-mouth techniques. Philippe Guerrier, a junior said, "I voted on the candidates based on how much I know the people. Since I know them I can determine if they'll do a good job or not."

This year, three courageous candidates ran for the presidency.

Oscar Lema, Maria Pena, and Gloria Pineda. Unlike last year's numerous candidates for the vice-presidency, this year's candidates are Annabel Mueller, Chandanee Harripersaud, and Jessica Torres. A guy took the treasurer office for the second year in a row. Jason Alexis and Jasmine Peralta were the candidates for S.O treasurer; Jason Alexis won. Last but not least, Vanessa Rivera and Lesly Esquea were the candidates for Secretary, Vanessa Rivera was the elected officer.

All candidates needed to have at least a 75% average, approval of their principal, guidance counselor, all teachers and 25 students to be eligible to run. "The candidates must have good attendance. They are solid citizens, mature, responsible, and reliable students who are looking to benefit the school to keep it at its best," said Mr. Reichig, Coordinator of Student Affairs.

Each person elected holds a different responsibility; their combined efforts make up a successful school year. The officers along with leadership members fundraise money for Honor Roll trips, new electronic equipment, and charity organizations such as, Common Cents and the American Cancer Society.



David and Chris sport the Queens Voc sports shirts

by Sammy Sanchez

Journalists Complete Memorable & Productive Year

For the past two years, Mr. Schimenz has been responsible for the school newspaper and the Journalism class. The newspaper, the *Vocational Voice*, reports on many events at Queens Voc. This year, just as last year, the class published four editions of the high school newspaper.

"As soon as we finished one edition, we started right in on another," said Adriana Henriquez, one of the layout editors.

Classmates have learned that to be successful, dedication, time management, and relentlessly trying to improve are necessary traits. Mr. Schimenz frequently reminds his students: "Good enough is the enemy of it can be better." Many of them learned that lesson well, said Mr. Schimenz, who added that he was "proud of their efforts to produce the finest high school newspaper in Queens."

Since taking over, the Journalism teacher has pushed to maximize the use student names in the school newspaper. Errors in names, however, are "intolerable" and journalists are penalized for them.

The Journalism class also worked to cover all types of school clubs, such as FBLA, VICA, SO, Leadership, and school sports teams. Furthermore, many of the shop classes have been given special attention during events like intramural competitions in softball, football, and volleyball.

Mr. Schimenz constantly reminds his class, "Good questions will result in good answers and will help make your articles great."

Journalist Salena Vargas, one of the students of the class, said, "This English class has helped enrich my writing skills and vocabulary more than any other. Among other things, I have learned to conduct interviews, meet deadlines, and present my assignments to the best of my ability."



A lengthy debate on the sports page layout worked out in the end



The guys have some fun during an otherwise grueling weekend

The assets that students learn can be helpful in college. In preparing an edition, Mr. Schimenz requires students to write with clarity, to proofread, and to make their articles informative and appealing. This can only be accomplished if all the students refuse to settle for "It's good enough."

Many of the students have made some type of improvement in their writing, grammar, and speech.

Nafeeza Ali, another Journalism student, said, "From the start of the school year, the Journalism class has helped prepare me for college and the English courses I will be taking next year. Interviewing students and teachers has been one of my favorite experiences as a journalist."

Were the journalists to settle for "good enough," the *Vocational Voice* would not be as successful as it is. It has been important for the students to learn to take constructive

criticism. "As a class, they have learned to take constructive criticism. At first they were resistant but they learned the value of it. Some criticism leveled at them has been unfair, yet they took it well, knowing that sometimes people get criticized even for being right," said Mr. Schimenz.

Journalist Leydy Avila said, "The Journalism class and Mr. Schimenz really motivated me to do the best and to give my best in everything. Also, this class has shown me to be the bigger person in conflicts concerning my articles."

Leaving a "legacy" was a pitch the Journalism advisor used on the journalists for the final edition. Last year, with a "shop special," the final edition of the paper was expanded to 16 pages. This year, the final edition is again 16 pages, and has a wide range of articles and pictures. Parik Suri, managing editor, suggested, "we achieved a legacy—this edition will be the one to beat for the next class."

Although it takes a class of dedicated journalists to produce the new *Vocational Voice*, the extra efforts of some of those students are what made our paper so appealing to students and teachers alike. "Parik Suri who assumed the role of managing editor, helped in all aspects of the paper."

Students involved with the layout were Hipolito Burgos (who worked as a layout editor even before joining Journalism from ESL), Fernando Castro, Chris Fernandez, Adriana Henriquez, and Madiha Naseem. Chris Fernandez, admittedly not the most energetic writer, claimed that "the layout was hard work, but I had fun."

"Without my wonderful layout editors, we never would have been able to produce such a fine newspaper for our school. I'm glad for the help they gave me and how dedicated they were to our school and our newspaper," said Mr. Schimenz.

by Teresa Caraballo

A History of Project Arts

Can you imagine a school or a world without art, music, or even physical education? About five years ago, New York City went through a financial crisis - it spent more money than it had. The city government decided to shutdown the art, music, and physical education departments. With these departments gone, money was saved and was used to reduce the huge debts the city had accumulated.

According to Ms. Ehrlich, there soon became an "outcry from the public." This became a problem since, "New York is the cultural center of the world," Ms. Ehrlich stated. This was such a concern that a movie was even made about

the city's decision to close the art, music, and physical education departments.

That is the beginning of the Project Arts story. Project Arts was



formed to build and restore the world of art and music in the schools. Many parents and concerned citizens established funds

and donated money for these departments. There were many people who didn't want to see children grow up without learning about arts, music, and enjoying themselves during their gym period.

The Project Arts course at Queens Voc consists of various types of art. This includes drawing, painting, sculpting, calligraphy, and three-dimensional arts.

Is art at Queens Voc fun? Yes, two students from Ms. Ehrlich's class agreed with a smile. Jennifer Ng said, "I think this class is fun because I learn how to write calligraphy," and Suen-Suen Wong said, "I like this class. I also think it is fun because I have improved my drawing skills since I have joined this class."

by Salena Vargas

Congrats Journalism Class! These have been excellent newspapers to read! Thanks, Ms. Thompson

To my best friends Jessica, Felix, Henny, Shirley, and Kelvin: Love you guys. Thanks for all the great advice, I'll never forget the great times we have shared. Love Always, Dee

Parik: Your work, dedication, and professionalism would make Xavier proud! Thank you for all you have done for me and for the paper. Rob

Much success and happiness to all our graduates. S.Serber

Congrats to the senior class of 2000! Love, Rose Kamitsis

To all: Thank you for all the memories. Love, Salena

Christian: I don't hate you, I don't even dislike you. You are a really cool person and it's unfortunate that I got to know you so late. I wish you all the best in life. Remember what I said, Shot for the hoop and hope for the best. Once it's in the air you have no control over what happens. Good luck. You know who I am.

Denise Polanco, I really do care for you. Love, Andrew

Schimenz: Thank you for being the greatest teacher I've ever had. Although I won't see you in college, you'll always be around because I'll always carry what you taught me. A true friend comes along once in a lifetime, and I know one day you will find that friend you've always longed for. You will always have my respect. Happy Birthday in advance. Madiha

Mr. Nadler: Sorry about the bear meat idea, had fun in your class. Parik

Larry Williams: It has been great knowing you. I'm sorry you are leaving, as our conversations were always lively! Thanks for your friendship. Goodbye and Good luck. Rob Schimenz

Mr. Nadler: Thanks for expanding my knowledge on a topic that I was clueless in. Wishing you the best, you big bear. Madiha

Dude: I really love you with all my heart. Thanks for the sweet memories that'll last a lifetime. I will never forget you. You are the best thing that ever happened to me and I am really grateful to have met you. I will wait forever...

Voice Grams

Reaching out to tell someone . . .

Parik: Thanks, for your friendship. I wish I had gotten to know you better. Sincerely, Fernando

It has been my pleasure knowing and working with the class of 2000. My best wishes for your success in the future. Len Reichig

OSDN Squad: It's been a long year, remember the good times, forget about bad times, and enjoy. Parik

Congrats Tigers and your Coach on all your hard work! Ms. Thompson

Computer Tech 2000 Grads, Congratulations on a job well-done! Best wishes in all you do! Ms. Thompson

To Efi, Ydelsa, Juan, and Hipolito: Most of my memories with you guys will make me laugh, that's how much fun we've had together throughout the years. Let's always keep in touch. Love, Dee

Fernando: Thanks for the "respect" discussion. I don't know what's worse, losing something I didn't know I had, or feeling like I lost something I might never have had. You are truly one of the classiest guys I know. Rob

Drama Club 2000 and your fearless leader, Congratulations! You all worked very hard! I hope the video comes out great! Ms. Thompson

Rob: What a year, so many ups and downs. Yet we made it to this 16 pager, at the end. Well just remember "COOL STUFF." Parik

QVTHS Grads, Class of 2000, Congratulations! Best Wishes To All! Ms. Thompson

Computer Tech 2001, Congratulations on a great year of sports and learning! Have a wonderful summer! Ms. Thompson

Computer Tech 2002 and 2003, Have a wonderful summer! Ms. Thompson

To Edwin, Calero, Sal, and Elvin: Don't forget the great times we shared together. Never forget that the Black One would never forget you guys. Love always your Bash Brother Best Friend, Hipolito Burgos

To all the layout editors this year: Thanks for making our newspaper great. You have a lot to be proud of. Rob

Aldo: 4 years flew by, we changed a lot but I'll never forget our friendship. Adri.

I Love You Mr. Schimenz! Your Secret Admirer

Yahaira, You mean the world to me. Love, Argelis

HB: We hope you've learned some lessons about honor and respect and character this year. Your fellow Layout Editors

Congratulations to the class of 2000. May God's choicest blessings be upon you always and Good Luck in whatever you do ahead. Remember success comes through hard work. Agent Khaled Hassan, Security at QVTHS

To Glenda: This has been the best year of my life since I met you and I don't want to lose you. Love, Nicky

To Tamar, Karen, and Rocio: You guys are the coolest I love you guys and I love you. Adriana

To the Three Stooges: Stupid Ed, Herbal, and Calero: It has been great knowing you. I love you guys. Salvi

Dude: Hum tum pe marte hai, or hum tum se he shahdi karege. I Love You sooo much, I Like You sooooo much. Never forget that. You know me.

To My Shorty, When you're not with me, I realize how special you are to me. Love, Salvi

Adriana: You have the potential to be a real life Dagny Taggart. Don't compromise when you are right, I did and you saw the results. Remember, a potential is not an actual. Reread *Atlas Shrugged* when you feel down, it will remind you of the special purpose we both have. Rob

To Usman #25: We think you are the cutiest sophomore. Too bad we're not sophomores to get with you. From Raquel, Glenda, and Secret Admirer

Happy Belated B-Day to Justin Solano. From your boys Will and Randy, Friends Forever

To all my friends who are closest to my heart, know that I LOVE YOU ALL and I will truly MISS YOU. Love, Bernice

TOPPP students: You're the greatest! Have a wonderful summer. Ms. Abrams

TOPPP seniors: I'll miss you, Johanna, Leydy, Wendy, Elizabeth. Love, Ms. Abrams

Congratulations seniors! I wish you every success for a bright and shining future. Fondly, Ms. Abrams

Goodbye, Lizzy, Tanisha, Bernice, Leydy, and everybody else: Good riddance. From Wendy

To all my best friends, thank you for the wonderful memories. Love you all, Nafeeza

Through the eyes of a poet
Listen carefully...and hear
Open your heart, but don't stop the
tear's as they run down your cheeks.
Shhhh, I kiss you to sleep.
To Mayra Rayes

Ms.Rado and Drama Club: Thanks for the awesome times. Great production. Adriana.

Leydy: thanks for making H.S the best and for being there for me. I hope we will always remain best friends and never forget these "crazy days." Love, Johanna

Seniors, Remember that we are "2000 Times Better" and we must succeed. Love, Johanna

Parik: Aside from all the complications this year. I still consider you a great friend. Adriana.

To David and Chris: Thanks for always making me smile. You guys are really special. Rob

Mr. Lerro, Thank you for your patience and dedication throughout the season. Love, Johanna

I thank all the teachers who helped me get on my road, especially Ms. Baci and Ms. Abrams. Love, Johanna

Nadler: Thanks for an awesome term. Adriana.

Jessica: Even though we have differences, I Love You. "Keep swimming," Don't give up and make me proud. Thanks for being there. Love, Johanna

To Vanessa: I love you, I hope one day me and you could be together. I hope one day you could be my wife. Francisco

Good Luck Graduates: Steer your heart and mind in the right direction and your feel will be sure to follow. Industrial Support Service Dept.

Voice Grams

Reaching out to tell someone . . .

Adriana: I want to thank you for everything and for always being there for me through thick and thin. Hopefully we stay the same forever. Fernando

To all the Stuper Stars Space Ster, Q-Tee, Cripple, Mane, Weedman, Little Jav, Black One, Stupid Ed, Culebra, Booty, Checo, Kev, Toriblo, Fame, El Dogg. Luis

Chris: I was so happy to again have you in class, and happier to have you in two classes. I'll never forget the day you gave me the finger while rubbing your eye in class! That was the beginning of our friendship. Thanks for that finger. And thanks so much for being my friend. Rob

To Mr. Hernandez: Thank you for always being there for me. I wish you the best in Berkley. #1 Rubia

To 7th period: Good luck in everything, can't write anymore... It's lunchtime. Nadler

Cosmo II: Thanks for a great year, I'm proud of you all. C. D'Onofrio

Thanks Darlene for always being a good friend. Diana Labady

Congratulations Cosmo grads. Best of luck. C. D'Onofrio

To Anderson: I don't like you that much but I wish you luck. Johanna

Pa' Anderson: Parece no tengo q'decirte, pero suerte con tu mujer y por favor bañate. Maria (Mona)

Put your trust in God in all you do. Jose Johnson

KS, CA, DK, Thanks for all your help this year.

Congratulations to Mr. Schimenz and the staff of the Vocational Voice. The issues are superb!

Congratulations to all graduating Business and Cosmetology students.

Best Wishes to All Graduating Seniors in their future endeavors. Mr. Price

Mona: I never got to look at cow's eyes but it was a memorable year. Parik

To my Shorty Juan: I wish you the best and I will miss you a lot.

Ms. Baci: thanks for your support during my years at Queens Voc. Rob Schimenz

To my senior friends: Los quiero mucho. Salvi

To Coach Schimenz and the Team: I'll never forget the good times we've shared. These three years were the greatest. Thanks for the memories, Henny

To Yadira: Baby, tu no sabes how much you mean to me. You're my one and only baby. I've liked you since our first dance at the luncheon. Love always, Henny

We shared some good times and we shared some bad times. In the long run, it was time well spent. Diana Nanan

Happy Summer to All and Congratulations to the Class of 2000! Ms. Baci

Dilenis: Go for the cycle!

To Raquel: Good Luck in College and To Dilenis: Good Luck in High School. Always love you two, Good Luck

Julissa F.: I will always remember your looks and I will always cherish your friendship.

To my seniors: Most of you have worked hard this term and you have earned respect my admiration. Good Luck. Rob Schimenz

To all my friends: I will truly miss you all. I love you guys with all my heart. Trixie

Karen, Tamar, Madiha, Lady, Bernice, and all those I missed, thanx for your friendship. Fernando

Mildred: You have been a good friend, who has been there for me always. I want you to know that wherever I am, I'll be there for you too. Love Juan

Be Missed: Dilenis P., Denise P., Glenda, Diana N., Nafeeza, Salena, Raquel, Julissa T., Ivette, Stupid Ed, El Black One, James B., Fernando. Love always, Julissa Fernandez

To all my home girls: Raquel, Julissa, Dilenis, Julissa, Glenda, Salena, Nafeeza, Diana, Ivette, Cindy, Effi, I hope you never forget the black one, Hipolito Burgos and the boys Edwin, Calero, and the team.

Mr. Schimenz: Thank you for everything, I want to say that you have inspired me in many ways. I have learned a lot again. Thank you, Fernando Castro

To Primo and Blanquito: Best wishes in the future. Jose keep on being good, and Blanquito (cuchifrito) I know you've always wanted me and Raquel but keep on trying you might have us. Dilenis

Coach: Thanks for giving me my first chance in baseball. I also want to thank you for your help in school. Francisco

Francisco: Thanks for having class! Coach.

To the graduating seniors of 2000: May all your dreams come true. May all your experiences take you to your individual paths. Success will follow all those who achieve their goals one step at a time. J. LaPointe

Schimenz: You're an inspiration and a great friend. I will always cherish the memories. Tammy

Congratulations to Mr. Grochala's seniors on their successful graduation. Good luck and best wishes in the future. Ms. Basirico

My Mona: I love you sweetie. Insha-Allah we will always be friends and meet in jannah. Please don't be upset at me for my jokes (giraffe). Wish you the best throughout life.

To Madiha: Four years ago we met in class. And for four years you have always shown me that not only are you bright, but also loyal. Thanks for being there when I needed you. Schimenz.

Teresa: I hope I was a good friend to you, cause I know that you were a really good friend to me. You can always talk to me whenever you want. I wish you the best in life and everlasting happiness cause you deserve it. I love you. Madiha

To Nafeeza and Diana: Best of luck throughout life. I will always cherish the times we had together. Hope to stay in touch. Madiha

Rob Schimenz: Thanks for your support for the past years. We've had such great memories and more to come. I will always remember everything you told me. Christian.

Fernando: You have become an essential part of my life and I hope it stays like that. Love, Adriana.

Karen, Baby good luck in college. I'm going to miss you a lot. Love, Chacho

Johanna, Thank you for being the best of the best friends a friend could have. Leydy

To My Love, Mark Te Amo Love, Leydy.

To Chris Hulak, The living Saint with a bundle of energy and positive advice: Thanks so much for all your help and kindness. Rob Schimenz.

To All My teachers & friends: Thank you for always having your doors open to me and for all your encouragement. Leydy

Good Luck to All My Friends and may all your dreams come true. Monique Fowler

To all my friends: Wish you the best Love Always, Denise Polanco

To All the Seniors: I wish you the best of luck in you future endeavors. Attendance Office

Dear Schimenz, Thanks for allowing me to become part of your life. My respect goes out to you forever. Love, Adriana.

To Mrs. D'Onofrio, Thank you for your concerns and kindness. I will always remember you. Love, Madiha.

To my princess: You're the first true love that has ever walked into my life. I will always remember and cherish every little thing we've done. I will always love you. Vanilla Pudding.

To Juan, Marcos, Teresa, and Ydelsa: I wish all of you the best of luck in life. I'll always remember these great years together and the many more to come. Christian, AKA Stretch

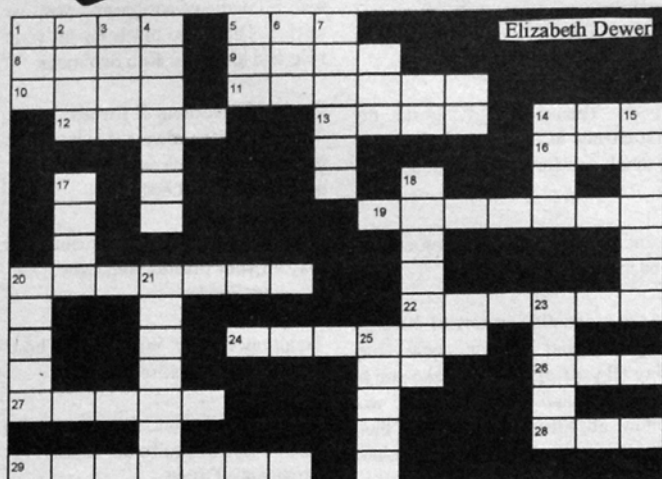
To Burrito: Thanks for all your past help and friendship. I'm glad we became friends and that I was able to help you too during these years, I truly don't regret it. I hope you reach your true potential in college. And remember, I'll always be just a phone call away. Love, Rob



Thanks to all those who took out Voice Grams for your help & kindness and for making this a success! Salena & the Editors



Entertainment



Movie Reviews

by Wendy Beltran

M:12

Three words: go see it. If you saw "Mission Impossible" you have to see this one. John Woo did a great job in directing this movie. Ethan Hunt (the very handsome Tom Cruise) is a spy who has a mission to save the world again. The package that comes with this mission is high-velocity action. Of course he can't do the job by himself he needs help from an international jewel thief which he falls for. I don't want to spoil the rest of the movie for you just take my advice and go see it. I give it 5 stars because it's an awesome movie. $\Delta\Delta\Delta\Delta\Delta$

Final Destination

"Final Destination" is a teen scream disaster movie that makes you jump off the chair more than once. It's better than "Scream" or "I Know What You Did Last Summer" because there's no masked murder chasing you. It's death coming get you in any way he could. It all starts with Alex (Devon Sawa) who has an eerie gift of seeing one step ahead of death. Strapped in for a senior class trip to Paris, he's so sure what will happen to the airplane, he panics, demands to get off, and embroils five other classmates and a teacher in the skirmish. The seven survive. But death wants them. It's not like any horror movie I have ever seen; it had a totally original script. Made everyday things such as clipping your nose hair, crossing the street, or even making tea, a dangerous activity. In "Final Destination,"

everyone wonders, who's next? The teacher? The bully? The mellow artistic girl? Is Alex going to save the day or will he end up dead? When your number's up, your number's up. $\Delta\Delta\Delta\Delta\Delta$

28 Days

Sandra Bullock plays Gwen Cummings, a high-flying New Yorker who had too many drinks in life. She ruins her sister's wedding and on top of that she gets into an accident. The judge gives her a choice to go and serve time in jail or go to a detox and rehabilitation compound for 28 days. This movie showed a person what are the consequences of being addicted to alcohol or drugs. I give this 3 stars out of 5 because the only thing I enjoyed from this movie was the message it gave the viewer. $\Delta\Delta\Delta$

Frequency

What a surprise this one was. I thought that it would stink. Fortunate for me it was a great movie it had suspense and thrills. John (Jim Caviezel) gets on his dad's old ham radio and some how communicates with his dead father. More fantastically his father is speaking to him in 1969 and has not died yet. He tells his father about his mother's death in 1969, a serial killer murdered her. Frank has to figure out how to save her before it occurs and how can he stop the serial killer from killing others. "Frequency" is filled with suspense and it thrills the viewer because the script is so well written it amazes you. This movie gets 4 out of 5 because it is surprisingly thrilling. $\Delta\Delta\Delta\Delta$

ACROSS

1. MTV
5. Dawson Creek star James Van _____ Beek
8. He controls interest rates
9. Street
10. Not Harvard but _____
11. Roy _____
12. Clean
13. Salutation of a letter
14. _____ of Light
16. Period of time
19. WWF Wrestler phrase: "know your role and shut your mouth."
20. Actress _____ Williams
22. Smallest Basketball Player
24. Menudo Star
26. Frozen water
27. Dru Hill Band Member

28. Short term for evening

29. Pikachu's show

DOWN

1. MTV
2. He Controls Interest Rates
3. Opposite of Female
4. Footwear
5. Rapper Dr. _____
6. Long period of time
7. _____ House
14. Attorney General Janet
15. 1999 Baseball Champions
17. Baseball star Sammy
18. Host of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire"
20. Upper part of boots
21. Julio Iglesias's son
23. To come together
24. Hilfiger

Jeff's Final Music Reviews

by Jeffrey Durand

Music Scale

- \$\$\$\$\$ - Off da Meter
- \$\$\$\$ - Hot
- \$\$\$ - Worth a Listen
- \$\$ - Don't Waste Your Money
- \$ - Whack

Big Pun

L.G.P. "Latins goin' platinum," this seems like the road that Big Pun seems to be on. Big Pun has released his second album entitled "YEEEAH BABY." It has been all it was cracked up to be and more. There are many titles on this album that make it so enjoyable to listen to. With tracks like "Watch Those," "Off Wit His Head," "We Don't Care," and "Wrong Ones," Pun shows his skills have reached new and enjoyable levels of listening pleasure. Unfortunately we will not be able to see how far this Latin rap star could have gone but at least he left us with great music to remember him by. \$\$\$\$

Jimmies Chicken Shack

Jimmies Chicken Shack is the name of a new group that has recently released their debut CD "Bring Your Own Stereo." Well good luck with that career. This CD

had only a few catchy tunes that I could actually sit through entirely. I don't want to be mean, maybe I just can't get into it like another person could but I don't feel that this is the reason because I am usually open minded about listening to different types of music. This CD consisted of a total of 3 out of 13 tracks that I could truly listen to, "Do Right," "Trash," "Pure." There is a chance that I'm wrong, these guys might be successful. For their sake I hope I'm wrong. \$\$

Eminem

Controversial? Yes. Interesting? Yes. Weird? Yes. Offensive? Yes. But who cares this album is amazing. Eminem has released his new album "The Marshall Mathers LP." This album has already sold 1.7 million albums and still counting and for good reason. Eminem takes shots at all is critics and at those who he doesn't like. With tracks like "Kill You," "Stan," "Who Knew," "The Way I Am," "The Real Slim Shady," "Marshall Mathers," and many others. Eminem seems to release much built up tension and anger, with a unique lyrical style that can be done by no one better. This album shows that his first album's success was no fluke. This is not an album to sleep on it's definitely worth it. \$\$\$\$\$

Inside Tiger Sports

Senior Sports Profiles

Hipolito Burgos



Kevin Moreaux, teammate for two years said, "Hipolito is the best guy there could possibly be for the team and has been like a brother since day one."

Mr. Schimenz, baseball coach said, "Burrito played on the varsity bowling, basketball, and baseball teams. That took a tremendous amount of dedication. In baseball, he has been the person on whom I depended the most. For the past three years, he worked with me on every aspect of the team. His dedication to the team and to me should be an example for the younger members. There will never be another Burrito to me—and that's a tribute to him."

by Henny Fernandez & Danitza Parrales

Francisco Calero



Ronee Barua, teammate for two years said, "Francisco is a great player who taught me how to play. He is a great leader who shows team spirit. It's been fun playing with him."

Mr. Schimenz, team coach said, "Francisco came to Queens Voc having never played baseball. With the help of older players, he learned a lot. In his final year, he helped teach the younger players many of the skills he learned."

Johanna Arteaga



Diana Trujillo said, "Johanna is a great motivator, she helped us a lot with all our training. She also was very funny and outgoing person. As a team member she helped us to reach our goal."

Mr. Lerro, track coach said, "She is a hard-worker, shows a great deal of improvement, and has a great positive attitude at every practice. She contributed to our strong finish in every divisional track meet. Johanna will be greatly missed."

Tiffany Franco



Jeanette Tavarez said, "Tiffany is a nice and hardworking person who is very competitive."

Coach Wolin said, "Tiffany came down when she was available and always gave her best effort."

Intramurals...

by Ivette Ramirez

by Christian Ghigliotty

This year's volleyball intramural tournament was full of team spirit and competition, as all eight gym classes tried to become the Spring 2000 Champions.

The teams for this year were: George's Giants (period 2), Edgar's Techsters (period 3), Elba's Elites (period 4), Jag's Gators (period 5), Bernie's Bombers (period 6), Chris's Spikers (period 7), Walter's Wonders (period 8), and Tabares' Terrors (period 9).

The tournament started on April 10th and ended May 3rd. Throughout the tournament there was a tremendous amount of competition. In the end, the champs were Edgar's Techsters. James Brunder, a member of the winning team, said, "This year's competition was neck and neck; it was exciting, exhilarating, and there was a lot of spirit."

The winning team will receive trophies at a small ceremony. The members of the third period team were James Brunder, Angela Casallas, Jonathan Escalante, Flordeliz Florez, Henry Garcia, Mohammed Nawaz, Captain Edgar Rodriguez, William Romero, Arisleyda Toribio and Hui Zheng.

The warm weather has finally arrived, and with it many activities follow: the end of the school year, report cards, and summer vacation. But perhaps one of the most anticipated events of the spring term is the annual Intramural Softball Tournament.

The tournament started on Wednesday, May 3rd, with 12 EI and 12 Computer squaring off. Fifteen teams from throughout the shops participated in the tournament. These teams included: 9 Business, 10 EI-Vega, 10 Computer, 10 EI-Lai, 11 EI (early) and 11 EI (late), 11 Plumbing, 11 Radio-Ali, and 11 Computer. Six senior shop classes also participated: 12 Computer, 12 EI-Maloney 12 EI-Cintron, and 12 Business.

The tournament lasted about two and a half weeks, and ended on May 22nd. The Intramural Softball Tournament champions were 11 Computer, making Ms. Thompson, their teacher, very proud. 11 Computer beat the reigning softball champions 12 Business in a 2-0 pitcher's duel. "This upset win marked the first time a computer class has won both the Intramural Football and Softball tournaments," said tournament coordinator, Mr. D.

Henny Fernandez



Daniel Rosa, teammate for two years said, "Henny has improved in his batting and fielding this year. He came through with some big hits and put in a lot of effort. He told me that if I made a mistake, I could make it up by making a good play."

Mr. Schimenz, team coach said, "Henny was always there, ready to do his best, a silent leader, and a good example for the other player. He was already ready to do what he could to help. He'd play any position to the best of his ability. This season he became one of our lead pitchers, giving us a chance to win numerous non-league games. I have a great deal of respect for him. He's a good-natured young man whose cooperation this year greatly helped out the team."

Are you next?



Track Team Continued...

Being part of a team also gives opportunities to meet new people, Jessica Arteaga said, "you meet different people and you get to value your team because I saw envy in the other teams and I didn't see it in our team." It also "surprises you because you do things that you didn't think you could do," added Cassandra Falcon. But the team not only allowed the athletes to meet new people, gain experience in the sport, or discipline it also allowed the athletes to focus on their studies. According to Anuradha Bhaggan, "I won 3 trophies, which is my first time winning anything. But the team also helped me focus more on my studies because in order to be part of the team we needed to keep our grades up."

Next year Coach Lerro expects to see Diana Trujillo, Anuradha Bhaggan, Cassandra Falcon, Jessica Arteaga, Yasmin Julien, some additional freshmen, and sophomores.

TIGERS

Lady Tigers Score Big!

by Hipolito Burgos

Mr. Wolin and the girls Tigers ended their season successfully. The girls ended their season with a record of 9 wins and 13 losses overall, 4 wins and 10 losses in the league, and 2 out of the last 3 games.

The Tigers concluded their season with a record that the girls think proves that coach Wolin has done a great job with the team. "They get better every game. Even though we had some key injuries that hurt the team, they kept improving," said Mr. Wolin.

Many of the players on the team think that their coach did a great job. "Mr. Wolin was very supportive, he taught us how to work together and care about each other," added Tiffany Franco, the only senior on the team.

Anna Aumuller, Suhel Polanco, Jannette Tavares, Roselis Perez, Maria Perez, and Loan Ho, led the team with their highly productive offensive and defensive skills. Players such as Monica Animas, Vanessa Rivera, Gisselle Urina, Pamela Gonzalez, Martha Rodriguez, Mildred Hernandez, Vielka Ramirez, Nancy Garcia, and Isaris Sosa, improved, making this year's team one that will always be remembered as one of the best in their coach's eyes.

Mr. Wolin thinks that with the great talent that is going to return next year and a couple of new players, the Tigers could do a better job. "The coach is expecting most of the girls to come back to the team, making the team stronger than ever. The only senior leaving the team this year is Tiffany Franco. "She always gave her best effort to the team," said coach Wolin.



Softball Team voiced their appreciation for Coach Wolin

Run, Tigers, Run!

by Leydy Avila

"Experience, trophies, the feeling of winning," responds Jessica Arteaga as to what she has gained through the track team. Diana Trujillo, added, "other than exercise, it was an invigorating experience. I learned to compete in the sport as well as in life."

The track team placed third out of six divisional teams in total awards. The team consisted of six girls, five of them were first time competitors but all the girls won awards. "The girls placed highly in the 4 out of 6 meets during the regular season. Diana Trujillo was our top finisher placing second in the shot put and long jump in 3

consecutive meets," says Mr. Lerro, coach of the team. Mr. Lerro thought that the track team had a good start after a one-year break. "This is a good sign for next year," said the coach.

According to Mr. Lerro, a lot of enthusiasm was put into the team and "the willingness to learn a new sport." Senior Johanna Arteaga says, "I have learned the power of discipline, which not only helped me in the track team but will also help me in my everyday life." She also expressed that not only the athlete makes up the team, but also the coach. "Mr. Lerro has a lot of patience and he's there for you, even if you mess up," concluded Johanna.

Continued Inside Tiger Sports (p.15)

SPORTS

Bittersweet

Ending

by Tamar Walters

The bittersweet ending to the baseball season showed that the team, which played more games than ever before, had a rough road. The baseball played 30 non-league games, in addition to the 12 regular season games they played. Mr. Schimenz, the coach of the team, said, "We should have done better. We had a very strong team, but it never came together."

Francisco Calero, a team captain, commented, "The team didn't communicate or work together," and freshman Isaac Collado agreed. "We played good, but we didn't all play together." Junior Luis Toribio realized the players attitudes were partly responsible. "It's a good team, but we had no communication. Everyone wanted to do their own show."

As captains of the team, the job of Francisco and Hipolito Burgos was to help the coach with the team and to coach the players in areas that needed work. One area they skipped was communication. Francisco said, "We did a good job, but the team never came together and that made us weaker on the field."

There were several bright spots in the Tigers season. "For the three years he was a member of the team, Henny Fernandez never complained," the coach said, "he did his job day to day and is probably the most unrecognized star. I think it was only this year that I realized how much of a team player he really is." Henny said that he improved a lot during his three years on the team, "I wasn't as good as I am now."

"Two of our new additions who stood out were Luis Toribio and Franklin Checo. They were good offensively and defensively," said the coach.

Some of next year's returning players chose to look positively on the season. "We started to come together in the end, said Elvin Tejada, "We got closer and played harder and we were more confident." Salvador Melendez, who was injured sliding into third base in a game on May 4th, said, "The team played good and as a team. The captains encouraged me to play better. The coach was a friend more than a coach." Rookie Franklin Checo said, "When we came together as a team, we did very well. Everyone did something when we played good."

It's common knowledge that Hipolito and his coach were close friends. The coach has often praised Hipolito as a hardworking captain and frequently referred to him as his partner in running the team. Hipolito said of his coach of three years, "Rob was a really good coach and a good friend. He did what he believed was right for himself and the team."

As the year comes to a close, the graduating players are looking back at the years that flew by and remember the good times. "Thanks for the good times, you were a good coach," Henny said adding, "good luck to the players who will be here next year." Francisco, another three year veteran, said, "Thanks [coach] for giving me a chance to play."

The coach suggested that next year's players should learn to listen to directions and to support their coach. And new members, "should be as dedicated to baseball as this year's team members were." The coach pointed to a *Newsday* article that was supposed to be about Forest Hills, but included a glowing lead about the Tigers. Even to outsiders, "it was obvious that our team played hard and had fun. That's baseball," he concluded.



Girls Track Team had a good season with Coach Lerro

TIGER SPORTS CONTINUED INSIDE