

# Vocational Voice

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

Summer, 2003



Mayor discusses plan to relieve overcrowded schools.

## Mayor Visits Queens Voc Holds Press Conference with Chancellor Klein to Discuss New Addition for Our School

by Tanvir Toy

New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg visited Queens Voc to discuss the impending construction project.

By 8:30am on Monday, June 9, Queens Voc was surrounded by NYPD as dozens of reporters and camera crews from major networks, local television news channels, radio stations, and newspapers started to arrive. The reporters gathered in the library where Mayor Bloomberg and Schools Chancellor, Joel I. Klein held a

press conference to discuss the new addition to Queens Voc. The mayor, chancellor, and a School Construction Authority (SCA) representative discussed their efforts to reduce costs, which will allow more construction to take place.

The building was abuzz prior to the arrival of the mayor and chancellor. As they entered the building at 9:25am, Principal Vittor greeted them and welcomed them to the school.

The mayor took time out to

*continued on page 3*

## Construction to Begin July 1 Get Ready for New Gymnasium and Cafeteria

by Rezaur Rahman

Queens Voc students should start looking forward to staying indoors for Physical Education for the next two years, as construction for the new addition is expected to begin on July 1.

While Queens Voc will

finally get a gym, the schoolyard will be gone as students and staff return after the summer.

When completed, the addition will be four stories and include a new gym. Two locker rooms, student and teacher cafeterias, twelve regular

*continued on page 2*

## Career Day is a Huge Success

by Jennifer Buitrago

Speakers and guests filled the hallways and visited classrooms during Queens Voc's second annual Career Day on Friday May 9. Ms. Vittor, Queens Voc principal, initiated Career Day last year and has seen it grow into a popular and well-attended event.

"This Career Day has been successful," she said. "We had about 25 different people come in from all walks of life to speak to students, to share their life and work experiences, and to open a line of communication which benefits our students and industry," said Ms. Vittor.

About twenty-five representatives from major industries, civil service, armed forces, local businesses, colleges and universities, and trade and tech schools gave presentations in many classes, including shop classes. "Career Day activities included resume writing, completing interest inventories, in which students examine their career interests and how that interest relates to what students might choose as a career, and career exploration," said Ms. Vittor. "Visitors offered students expertise and their view of jobs, opportunities, and skills needed for the fields in which they work," she said.

One of the many visitors who attended was a manager of Vidal Sassoon, Ms. Olga Platt. "When I conduct interviews, I look for upbeat, fashionable, and eager people," said Ms. Platt, who advised the cosmetology students, "if you

really want the job, you have to show us." How you interact with people is very important in this field, she said. Roddy Tolentino, a senior cosmetology student, said, "I realized you have to be a very skilled worker to enter the field of cosmetology."

Cosmetology wasn't the only class that benefited from guest speakers. Mr. Melvyn Jacobsen, high school coordinator and recruiter for Apex Technical School spoke to various classes including C-Tech. "When students come to our school," he said, "we start at the beginning like if you knew nothing at all." The Apex Tech representative told students to stay in school. "You don't need a high school diploma to come to our school, but companies themselves won't hire you unless you have a high school diploma, so make sure you stay in school," advised Mr. Jacobsen.

Another speaker who offered her advice and expertise to various classes was Ms. Rosa

Lopez, marketing coordinator of Health Plus. "I am very proud of my job because I help out the community. My job is to help families get health insurance," she said. You have to be very comfortable and proud of what you do," recommended Ms. Rosa Lopez.

Con Edison section manager for emergency operations, Nick Caputo, showed a video of how Con Ed workers responded to WTC attacks. "You really have to be dedicated and work hard," said Mr. Caputo, who also worked 16 hours a day for 32 days non-stop, to help restore power in lower Manhattan. He described the many opportunities available at Con Ed and said that the location is great because New York has a very stable utility and industrial base. "The presentation was very informative and it was interesting to know that there are many ways disasters can occur and you must be ready to take action," said Armando Calpeno, a sophomore. Once

*continued on page 2*



Jason Butler of Newsday with Journalism class.

## Regents Examination Schedule for June 2003

| June 17<br>Tuesday<br>9:15 am                                     | June 18<br>Wednesday<br>9:15 am       | June 19<br>Thursday<br>9:15 am  | June 20<br>Friday<br>9:15 am | June 23<br>Monday<br>9:15 am                  | June 24<br>Tuesday<br>9:15 am                 | June 25<br>Wednesday |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| Regents in U.S. History & Government<br>RCT in Writing<br>1:15 pm | Comprehensive English Session 1       | Comprehensive English: Session 2<br>RCT in Mathematics                | RCT in Global Studies        | RCT in U.S. History & Government              | RCT in Reading<br>Physical Setting/ Chemistry | RATING DAY           |
| Regents Physical Setting/ Physics<br>Regents Mathematics A        | Regents in Global History & Geography | Regents Physical Setting/ Earth Science<br>Regents Living Environment | Regents Mathematics B        | Introduction to Occupations<br>RCT in Science | Good Luck!                                    |                      |

## What's Inside

this Edition of the *Vocational Voice*

|                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mayor Bloomberg.....1,3     | Shop Profiles.....11        |
| Honor Society.....4         | Voice Grams.....12-13       |
| TOPPP.....5                 | Readers Speak Out.....14-15 |
| College Acceptances.....6-7 | Journalism Class.....16     |
| Cosmo News.....8            | Art at QV.....17            |
| Houseplans.....9            | Inq. Photographer.....18    |
| Principal's Message.....10  | Honor Roll Trip.....19      |
| Tiger Sports.....21-24      |                             |

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

## Construction to Begin July 1

*continued from front page*

classrooms, and six new shop rooms. Key classrooms will have mounted Smart Boards with projectors. The new addition will also have one electronic shop, a computer technology shop, two EI shop rooms, a plumbing shop, a library with a state of the art media room, a guidance suite, and a student activities suite.

The new building will also have a high-tech surveillance system. "The construction will cost the city about \$37-\$41 million," said Ms. Vittor. When completed the renovated building will hold 1,548 students.

Physical Education classes will take place in the

auditorium, which will be renovated to allow two classrooms in the rear.

By the time school starts in September, windows and doors will be closed off facing the schoolyard because of the construction. "No one has to worry about being exposed to lead or any other kind of dust particles," said Ms. Vittor. Further, "most of the heavy duty work, digging, or any demolition work will occur after 4pm," the principal said, so that the students' education will not be disturbed. When the teachers and staff return in September, they will not have their parking lot, and will have to find parking somewhere else. The Principal is trying to remedy this situation. "I have asked a local councilman to allow parking on the 37th Street side of the school for the teachers and staff," said Ms. Vittor, however no decision has yet been made.

## Yearbook Distributed at Senior BBQ

by John Uruchima

The senior yearbook was distributed to seniors at the first-ever Senior Barbeque, held in the schoolyard on Friday, June 6.

To this year's seniors, the sky was the limit, as they initiated numerous new activities at Queens Voc. It was fitting then that the yearbook theme is *Sky's the Limit*.

The 2003 senior yearbook, created by Ms. Lo Bosco and her yearbook committee, is an 88-page yearbook that includes 16 color pages and a 2-page collage.

The yearbook "looks very good," said Ms. Lo Bosco. "It is somewhat different from last year's yearbook," she added. Ms. Lo Bosco and her committee doubled the number of color pages from 8 color pages to 16. The biggest change however is the location of the senior portraits. The senior portraits are not simply in alphabetical order, but are placed according to students' majors. "It looks nicer that way," said Jennifer Ng, one of the yearbook editors.

The seniors' response to their yearbook was very positive. "The pictures look great, and the designs are nice," said Rosy Abreu. Foeysien Betances said "it looks very creative." Mixelins Arroyo agrees. "I like the way it looks and the way they organized the portraits."

It is likely that graduating seniors will never forget all the good times they had in Queens Voc. But if they do, their senior yearbook will be there to remind them of all the good times they had.

The yearbook committee is

proud of their work. "It took a lot of effort and time but we got it done," said Natalie Parada, yearbook editor.

To celebrate the success of their work and to show her appreciation to their hard work, Ms. Lo Bosco took the yearbook committee to dinner at Applebee's in Manhattan. Ms. Lo Bosco took Jennifer Ng, Natalie Parada, and Kimberly Tavaréz, the editors, and



**Ms. Lo Bosco & yearbook**

contributors Yeimy Rodriguez and Xavier Vega. To show her appreciation for their help with photographs, Ms. Lo Bosco invited Mr. Schimenz, newspaper advisor, and Tanvir Toy, *Vocational Voice* editor. Juan Leger, an old student and friend of Ms. Lo Bosco was also invited.

Ms. Lo Bosco, who has put out the past two yearbooks, is moving on. Next year, she will begin teaching English at Smithtown High School. In the meantime, "she should take pride in her work here," said Mr. Schimenz, "she works hard and the yearbook is a testament to her dedication."

**Congratulations to Ms. Lo Bosco and the yearbook committee on a job well done.**

# Career Day is a Huge Success

*continued from front page*

people are employed in Con Ed, they are given the opportunity to go to or continue on in college; Con Edison pays 80% up-front, and the remaining 20% when employees graduate, no matter what degree they choose.

Jason Butler, a well-known *Newsday* sports reporter, attended Career Day to speak to the Journalism class. Mr. Butler writes for *Newsday* and *Newsday's* high school sports weekly, *High Five*. Several weeks ago, he wrote an article in *High Five* entitled "Coaches, Athletes work Together to Achieve Mutual Respect." The article highlighted baseball team captain and *Vocational Voice* editor Tanvir Toy. "Being a reporter gives you the chance to meet all different kinds of people, and it's a good way to get a feel of the world," said Mr. Butler. "It can be very stressful but you have to learn to deal with it, like talk to people you never talked to before." Alex Benitez, a journalist and layout editor of *Vocational Voice* said, "meeting deadlines is more important than what it seems for the production of a paper and it's amazing to know that Mr. Butler writes the article while watching a game." Martin Galeano, also a journalist, learned that "journalists do a lot of traveling and live a busy life."

Queens Voc students, such as junior Henry Romero, had ample opportunities to learn about various fields. "I realized that there are many careers out there but you must be prepared to meet their requirements," said Henry. Umbreen Hanif, another junior, said she learned about different trade and tech schools that graduates can attend instead of an academic college. "In trade and tech schools, such as Apex Tech School, it is interesting to know that girls also have these opportunities available for them," said Umbreen.

Presenters who covered various classes and shop classes from major industries included Jason Butler from *Newsday*, Nick Caputo, Jake Silberfarb, George Czerniewski, Charles Feldman, and Alfred Harris all from Con Ed, Bonnie Harper from NYC Transit, Rosa Lopez and Albert Simmons from Health Plus, John Paguaga from Fleet Bank, and Olga Platt from Vidal Sassoon.

Presenters from local businesses and local organizations included Scott Brady from C-Tech Associates, Kendell Charter from YMCA, Jane Esposito from Trane Marketing, Paul Greenburg

from CES, Dominick Monaco from Plumbers Local #1, Gabrielle Ophals from Spa's Haven, Rudy Perez from FAA Engineering, and Kevyl Spann from Local 3.

Also, presenters from colleges, universities, trade and tech schools included Thomas Bracken from College of Aeronautics, Chelsea Lavington from Queens College, Lawrence Muller from La Guardia Community College, John Buoncora from DeVry, Hank Clouden from Lincoln Tech, Melvyn Jacobsen from Apex Tech School, and Ender Tortop from Educational Networks.

In addition to classroom visitors, civil service and military representatives were stationed in the lobby, which included Aleashi Barton from

Department of Education, Larry Christian, Alberto Cortez, Keith Dickerson, Lorraine Difiglia, Michel Elaine, Rowena Karsh from Department of Education, Hamid Latif, Dr. Libermann, David Lieberman, Salina Morocho, Tina Micel, Anthony Parada, Andrzo Paradka, Esther Pineda Reyes, Ronald Richmond, Mary Jane Schimeed, Jennifer M. Schimeed, Narceen Spuler, Eileen Taylor from Aviation High School, Blanka Winfield, and Sally Young from NYC Department of Education.

To add a touch of professionalism, each visitor was escorted by a leadership student. "Students escorting presenters and showing respect helped make Career Day a great success," said Mr. Vega, COSA and member of the Career Day



**Veronica Mulligan, Queens Voc's plumbing pro With Ms. Vittor and Career Day participants.**

NYPD, Roberto Cruz from U.S. Army, Richard France from NYPD, Ernest Fernandez from U.S. Marines, Anthony Johnson from U.S. Navy, Ellis Johnson from U.S. Navy, Junior Korhegay from U.S. Army, Anthony Kosta from U.S. Air Force, Flynn Lawrence from NYPD, Manuel Martinez from U.S. Marines, Jemmy Milton from U.S. Army, Gina Moreno from Security, Oconnor from NYPD, P. Brooks from Security, Jacob Perez from U.S. Army, John Rogers from FDNY, Rohan Shaw from NYPD, Anthony Wheeler from U.S. Coast Guard, Shekima Writter from U.S. Air Force, Sharath Veakata from U.S. Air Force.

Other guests who participated in Career Day were Amparo Acevedo, Arnold Abramowitz from NYC

Planning Committee.

A complimentary breakfast was held in the library for visitors in the morning and lunch was provided to visitors and staff. Career Day participants were given certificates of appreciation by Ms. Vittor.

"The presenters were able to give the students the idea that learning is really a life long process and many of them stated that they started off doing one kind of job and ended up in a different kind of area," said Mr. Stigliano. Ms. Erkins said, "Students were able to learn about different careers and the presenters helped the students decide which career they are going to pursue in life."

"It was an exciting day and hopefully many students benefited from our guest speakers," said Mr. Vega.



**Senior EI students learn about technology in the field.**



# Mayor Visits Queens Voc

Holds Press Conference with Chancellor Klein to Discuss New Addition for Our School



Ms. Vittor thanks the Mayor and the Chancellor.

*continued from front page*  
introduce himself to a few students and staff, as well as talk a little sports before being escorted into the principal's office.

Mayor Bloomberg then held a briefing with his top aides as well as Chancellor Klein and some other Department of Education officials. Ms Vittor discussed some history of the school and long-ago promises to add a gym. The mayor was friendly as he chatted amiably in the principal's office.

Mayor Bloomberg and Chancellor Klein then proceeded to the cafeteria, where they witnessed the conditions under which Queens Voc students eat their lunch each day. They then went to the schoolyard where the chancellor played basketball and spoke with students while the mayor spoke with Ms. Vittor and signed a student's yearbook.

At 10am the entourage walked into the library to start the press conference. The mayor spoke about Queens Voc and the restructured and efficient SCA.

"New York City schools are desperate for classroom seats. Overcrowded classrooms burden teachers, frustrate parents and cheat our children out of the education they deserve. By lowering the costs of construction and renovation through efficiency, we build more schools, create more seats and improve the education system in our city," the mayor said.

Under their new approach to capital projects, the city will realize a 29% reduction in the cost to build schools as compared to the last seven schools built by the SCA.



Mayor: QV fan.

"Thank you for your leadership," said Chancellor Klein, after he was introduced by the mayor. "Last October, Mayor Bloomberg and I pledged to establish accountability and lower the cost of building our children's public schools by reforming the city's school construction process," said Chancellor Klein.

Ms. Vittor discussed the need for this project and thanked the mayor and chancellor for making the dream a reality. The principal told the members of the press that the school has a capacity of under 800 students but has an enrollment of over 1,100. "The moment has finally arrived," said Ms. Vittor.



Chancellor scores for QV.

The mayor seemed genuinely interested in our school said Ms. Vittor. "He's a bright man, very approachable, and I found that commendable," she said.

SCA Trustee William H. Goldstein, SCA Trustee Craig M. Hatkoff, President and CEO of the Building Trades Employers Association Louis J. Coletti, President of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York Edward J. Malloy, and Vice President of Turner Construction Jim McKenna joined the mayor and the Chancellor, for the announcement to build a new addition to Queens Voc.

The project will consist of an 86,400 square foot addition that will increase Queens Voc's capacity by 650 students. The addition will include new classrooms, library, gym, offices, shops, kitchen, cafeteria, two elevators, and an independent HVAC system.

July 1 is the targeted start date for the project and is scheduled to finish September 2005.

## Meet Mayor Mike Bloomberg

Michael R. Bloomberg is the 108th Mayor of the City of New York. He was born on February 14, 1942 to middle class parents in Medford, Massachusetts, where his father was the bookkeeper at a local dairy. Mayor Bloomberg's thirst for information and fascination with technology was evident at an early age, and led him to Johns Hopkins University, where he parked cars and took out loans to finance his education. After his college graduation, he gained an MBA from Harvard and in the summer of 1966, he was hired by Salomon Brothers to work on Wall Street.

He quickly advanced through the ranks, and became a partner in 1972. Soon after, he was supervising all of Salomon's stock trading, sales and later, its information systems. He was fired in 1981 after another company acquired Salomon. Michael Bloomberg used his stake from the Salomon sale to start his own company, an endeavor that would revolutionize the way that Wall Street does business. As a young trader, he had been amazed at the archaic nature in which information was stored.

Nearly 20 years after its founding, Bloomberg LP now employs more than 8,000 people -- including 2,500 in New York City -- in more than 100 offices worldwide. His desire to improve education, advance medical research and increase access to the arts, has provided the motivation for much of his philanthropy.

He funded relief programs for victims of domestic violence in New York City, sponsored the Children's Health Fund's Mobile Medical Unit which serves the children of homeless families, and supported construction of new athletic fields at city high schools throughout the five boroughs. He also served on the boards of 20 different civic, cultural, educational and medical institutions, including the High School for Economics and Finance, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Police & Fire Widows' & Children's Benefit Fund, S.L.E. (Lupus) Foundation and Prep for Prep.

In 1997, Michael Bloomberg published his autobiography, Bloomberg by Bloomberg. All of the royalties from sales of the book are donated to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Information Obtained from [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov)



Monkeys, tigers, and bears, oh my!

## SPIRIT WEEK ENCOURAGES ENTHUSIASM

by Carlos Ojeda

Every year, the Student Organization (SO) encourages students to participate in fun activities during a week known as "Spirit Week." This term Spirit Week was from May 12 to May 16. Monday was "Inside-Out Day," Tuesday was "Red, White, and Blue Day," Wednesday was "Color Shirt Day," Thursday was "Heritage Day," and Friday was "Stuffed Animal Day."

"Creating an event such as Spirit Week was not an easy job. First we had to present a big list of themes to Principal Vittor. If she agrees with the themes that we selected, then we set up a survey so the students can choose from our list which themes we will use. The SO surveyed 1/4 of the school," said the SO Secretary, Nathalie Alonso.

Inside-Out Day was supposed to consist of students and staff wearing clothes inside-out, but it wasn't so popular. "I did not see anybody wearing clothes inside-out," said senior Carl Chinatomb. He added, "What is the point of wearing clothes inside out? It's not fun and it's uncomfortable." Mr. Goldwag showed his school spirit by putting his yarmulke inside-out.

During Red, White, and Blue Day students and teachers participated by wearing red, white, and blue clothing to represent patriotism to the United States. Many people wore the American flag. "I wore a red shirt with blue stripes, I at least showed patriotism. I like being part of school activities," said Rifat Islam.

On Color Shirt Day freshmen were asked to wear green shirts, sophomores white shirts, juniors black shirts, and seniors red shirts. "Green is the primary school color, so we felt the freshmen should have green so that they can start getting into school spirit," said Nathalie. Many freshmen wore green because they tried to show school spirit, but mainly because they wanted their "picture to show in front of the SO office," said senior Mixelines Arroyo. "Mostly seniors participated in this

event, since seniors tend to participate in a lot of school activities because it is their last year here," said Mixelines.

On Heritage Day, many students and staff showed their heritage with flags, hats, shirts, and interesting objects that represent their background. "I wore the colors of the Bangladesh flag because I have pride for the country I was born in," said senior Mohammed Salahuddin.

For Stuffed Animal Day students and staff were asked to bring in their favorite stuffed animal to school. The stuffed animal that you brought should represent a characteristic that you have. Henry Hernandez brought his gigantic bear and Mr. Schimenz brought in "Mr. Meanie Face," a stuffed animal he got from a favorite student.

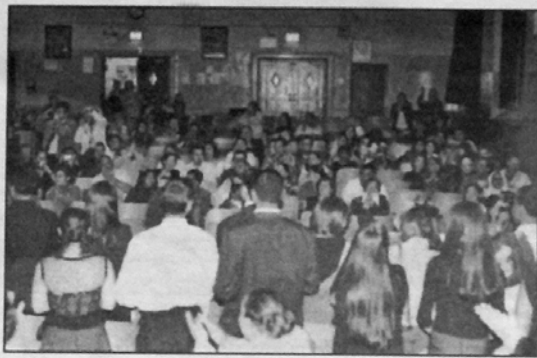
Spirit Week is supposed to be full of excitement but many people did not participate. "It was a bad idea to have this event at the end of the school year. Students were really more focused on tests than on the event, and teachers were too busy grading tests," said Mr. Vega. There are many reasons why it wasn't as successful as the other school activities. One such reason was a lack of publicity, said Francisco Barahona. "Spirit Week was not a success because there weren't enough advertisements for the students to know there was going to be a Spirit Week," he said.

"For next year's Spirit Week, the SO will be ready with better ideas and new concepts," said Vega.

For helpful tips and ideas to help have a successful and memorable spirit week, visit [http://www.geocities.com/aicm/zine/spirit\\_week.htm](http://www.geocities.com/aicm/zine/spirit_week.htm).



Pals for life.



Parents look on as students get inducted.

## HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS EIGHTY-NINE

by Asim Bhatti

Eighty-nine Queens Voc students were recently inducted into the Presidential Honor Society. These students attained an 85 or higher cumulative average on their transcripts.

The induction ceremony took place on the night of Thursday, May 15 and was attended by the 89 inductees and their parents and friends. Parents and guests of the students began to arrive at 6pm and were treated to a light buffet consisting of heroes, salads, soda, and other snacks.

The ceremony began in the auditorium at roughly 7pm with the presentation of the color guard and the Pledge of Allegiance. Raymond Chiu then sang the "The Star Spangled Banner." The mistresses of ceremony for the night, Maritza Mora and Elvia Collado, welcomed the guests and introduced Ms. Vittor, Queens Voc principal, who told the students she was glad to see them "doing the right thing." Gioconda Gordillo introduced Hameed Bacchus, the Parents Association president. Mr. Bacchus said he was "very glad to see so many students inducted into the Honor Society."

Sumon Miah spoke and discussed what it meant to be honorable. In his speech, Sumon pointed out "honor is not only measured by grade point average, but by how you go about your day's objective." Sumon said "honor is the willingness to stand alone."

Arpita Chowdhury, a junior, also spoke about being honorable. "Honor is a reflection of skill leadership, determination, and discipline," she said.

Freshman Naoul Elidrissi told the audience what it means to be an honor student. She said that she had not always been an honor student, so when she made it this year, she was really glad. She went on to praise her teachers for keeping her focused on her studies. "Teachers want us to do well in

school," said Naoul.

Along with student speeches were student performances. Darryl Sorrentino passionately read a Shakespearean soliloquy, and sang "Mack the Knife." Arisleida Rodriguez recited "Invictus," a poem by William Ernest Henley. Umbreen Hanif recited her original soliloquy, "Roots & Wings," and Nathalie Alonso sang, "Go the Distance."

Anancy Moreno then introduced Ms. Hulak, the Houseplans coordinator. Ms. Hulak led the audience and inductees in the Ephebic Oath. The candidates were then called onto the stage, and recited the Honor Society pledge. After that, a candle-lighting ceremony took place, and pins and certificates were handed out to the inductees.

The boys' baseball team and girls' softball team turned out to support their team members who were being inducted that night. Twenty-five baseball team members cheered their fellow team members Elvis Collado, Asim Bhatti, Mohammed Salahuddin, and captain Tanvir Toy. From the girls' softball team, Anancy Moreno, Elvia Collado, and Elliana Kim, were inducted.

Many students were happy to be inducted into the Honor Society, and glad that their hard work was being recognized. "I liked being inducted, and I am happy because my parents are proud of me," said Botao Yu, a junior. Rawle Anoop "felt good" about being inducted, which was a similar response from many of the inductees.

Ms. Datter organized the event along with help from Ms. Radovich-Gonzalez, Ms. Hulak, Ms. Abrams, and Ms. Gurka.

### The Honor Society Inductees for 2003:

| Seniors             |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Diana P. Casallas   | 401 |
| Kan Kan Fang        | 401 |
| Hui Jin             | 401 |
| Sylvio R. Lamisere  | 401 |
| Jennifer Ng         | 401 |
| Natalie Parada      | 401 |
| Mohammed Salahuddin | 401 |
| Lady C. Velastegui  | 401 |

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Mixelines Arroyo        | 402 |
| Gioconda Gordillo       | 402 |
| Christopher Harrinandan | 402 |
| Anancy Moreno           | 402 |
| Tanvir Toy              | 402 |
| Suen Suen Wong          | 402 |

### Juniors

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Nathalie Alonso     | 301 |
| Rawle Anoop         | 301 |
| Asim Bhatti         | 301 |
| Rui Chen            | 301 |
| Ravi Gupta          | 301 |
| Miao Miao Huang     | 301 |
| Elliana Kim         | 301 |
| Ana Maria Martinez  | 301 |
| Miao Ling Zhao      | 301 |
| Alexandros Katechis | 302 |
| Navjot Kaur         | 302 |
| Maritza Mora        | 302 |
| Eliaana Panora      | 302 |
| Henry Romero        | 302 |
| Botao Yu            | 302 |
| Stephen Bacchus     | 303 |
| Arpita Chowdhury    | 303 |
| Elvia Collado       | 303 |
| Dianely Disla       | 303 |
| Umbreen Hanif       | 303 |
| Segundo Minchala    | 303 |
| Ci Jing Pan         | 303 |

### Sophomores

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Sumon Miah        | 201 |
| Samantha Caban    | 202 |
| Rattan Kaur       | 202 |
| Angelica Lopez    | 202 |
| Kwan Poon Hui     | 202 |
| Vivian Sanchez    | 202 |
| Precious Johnson  | 203 |
| Jennifer Rosario  | 203 |
| Harpreet Singh    | 203 |
| Tahjib Zaman      | 203 |
| Syeda Ali         | 204 |
| Elvis M. Collado  | 204 |
| Evelyn Mejia      | 204 |
| Lillian Nieves    | 204 |
| Alexis Ramirez    | 205 |
| Raymond Chiu      | 206 |
| Yolanda Griffith  | 206 |
| Adiyasa Kurniada  | 206 |
| Abel Collado      | 207 |
| Maria Faller      | 207 |
| Johnathan A. Pena | 207 |

### Freshmen

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Andres Castano       | 101 |
| Artur Karwowski      | 101 |
| Majdi Mansour        | 101 |
| Vanessa Morales      | 102 |
| Kendra Pajevic       | 102 |
| Melissa De Jesus     | 103 |
| Sydney Harris        | 103 |
| Salman Khan          | 103 |
| Sheila Ruiz          | 103 |
| Jacqueline Rodriguez | 104 |
| Janine Uribe         | 104 |
| Rasel Ahmed          | 105 |
| Mishell Baquero      | 105 |
| Rajendra Bharath     | 105 |
| Andres Diaz          | 105 |
| Naoual Elidrissi     | 105 |
| Bruno Gallego        | 105 |
| Ivan Gomez           | 105 |
| Xiao Dan Hu          | 105 |
| David Molina         | 105 |
| Andrew Bator         | 106 |
| Jacqueline Corona    | 106 |
| Melissa Encarnacion  | 106 |
| Andres Gallo         | 106 |
| Yesenia Pena         | 106 |
| Jessica Rios         | 106 |
| Arisleida Rodriguez  | 106 |
| Lucas Rodriguez      | 107 |
| Daisy Valdez         | 107 |
| Alyssa Montes        | 108 |
| Jennifer Moy         | 108 |
| Patsy Sanchez        | 108 |

## SO has an Eventful Year

by Jessica Kenniff

"Together we accomplished a lot this year, and there are many things we are proud of doing. We have worked hard, and we hope the students have enjoyed all the SO activities," said Student Organization (SO) Vice President Maritza Mora. The SO has been involved in different activities throughout the year, including participating in the March of Dimes and the Honor Roll Trip, and attempting to produce a talent show.

On Sunday April 27, Mr. Vega and numerous leadership students participated in the March of Dimes. The students who participated were Nathalie Alonso, Elvia Collado, Jessica Kenniff, Jessica Lopez, Manny Luna, Tiffany Negron, Cassandra Toole, and Jennifer Rodriguez. The March of Dimes is a ten mile walk to raise money to help find ways of preventing premature births and birth defects. The students who walked enlisted sponsors and leadership students collected money from students and teachers. Students and teachers who donated money signed their name on cardboard shoes, which were then hung on the wall of the first floor. Together, the participants raised \$870 for the March of Dimes.

On Tuesday May 7, seventy-one Honor Roll students along with Mr. Vega, Ms. Vittor and seven other chaperones went to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum and ESPN Zone for lunch, to reward the students who achieved Honor Roll for the fall term. The SO officers changed the Honor Roll trip from a Spirit Cruise around New York City, to the wax museum because the Chancellor's new rules do not allow students to go on a cruise.

Spirit Week was held Monday, May 12, through Friday May 17. Monday was Inside-out Day, Tuesday was Red, White, and Blue Day, Wednesday was Color Shirt day (Freshman were supposed to wear green, sophomores were supposed to wear white, juniors were supposed to wear black, and seniors were supposed to wear red), Thursday was Heritage Day, and Friday was Stuffed Animal Day.

Talent Show auditions were held April 28-29. Students had a chance to audition in front of several judges to see if a talent show could be put together. "We are limited in many ways at Queens Voc, we wanted to put together an event that would lift school morale," said SO Secretary Nathalie Alonso. But not enough students showed up

to the auditions for the SO to plan a show. "I was really disappointed that the talent show didn't happen. Not everyone came through. Approximately twenty-five students signed up, but only eight showed up at the auditions," said Nathalie. "We made some progress and hopefully it will take place next year," she added.

In the beginning of the year, the SO officers and Mr. Vega envisioned an SO trip, but unfortunately were not able to develop requirements for the trip. "There are 229 SO members; we could not take all of them on a trip without having them pay and we were not sure of how to go about allowing the students to come on the trip, do we not allow students who were suspended, require students to have a certain average, these are decisions we were unsure of," said Mr. Vega.

"The SO has progressed from previous years and is leaving a good foundation for upcoming years," said Mr. Vega. They purchased a sound system for the auditorium which was installed by Mr. Schimenz and senior Tanvir Toy. The sound system will help with a possible talent show for next year, freshman orientation, and the Honor Society Induction. The SO also purchased BBQ equipment, allowing the seniors to hold the first ever senior BBQ. The BBQ equipment will become property of the school, and can be used again. "The SO Officers managed to accomplish a lot this year as a team...we gave next year's SO officers a stepping stone," said SO President Tiffany Negron.

The following students ran for positions in the SO: sophomores Leonel Tavaras and Harpreet Singh ran for president, sophomores Sumon Miah and Aneka Grandison ran for vice president, freshman Jessica Rios ran for treasurer, and sophomore Giovanni Cano and junior Arpita Chowdhury ran for secretary. Elections were held on Tuesday, June 10, but the newspaper had already gone to press, so it was not possible to report the results.



Chris: it's a bear market.





# TOPPP CELEBRATES TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

by Arturo Cazares

The students in the Teen Outreach Pregnancy Prevention Program (TOPPP) went to the New York City Academy of Medicine for a "Peers Educating Peers Conference" in recognition of Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Month. The trip took place on Wednesday, May 28. According to Ms. Abrams, TOPPP advisor, the purpose of the trip was to allow students to meet other students and share experiences and advice about pregnancy prevention. The trip was the first of its kind available to TOPPP students at Queens Voc.

In addition to the TOPPP trip, the Queens Voc TOPPP club conducted a Pregnancy Prevention Day on Thursday, May 22.

Many schools throughout the New York City area attended the conference. Representatives from organizations such as The Adolescent Family and Comprehensive Services, Planned Parenthood, and The Career and College Orientation Program were there to meet with students. There were also representatives from various clinics and hospitals. Mt. Sinai Adolescent Clinic, Metropolitan Hospital Adolescent Clinic, and Lincoln Hospital-Teen Clinic were at this conference.

Ms. Abrams and the TOPPP students attended several events at the conference. At the

beginning of the trip, while students arrived and registered, they were invited to watch movies produced by Scenarios USA, a company that produces films about various subjects related to teenagers. Shortly after, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy "Test Your Knowledge" survey was held.

Following the survey was a presentation by the New York City Department of Health, Bureau of STD Control. Alana Boutelle-Carnegie and Mark Naftel were there to represent the Bureau of STD Control. They acted out various skits regarding pregnancy prevention and methods of avoiding the dangers of STDs.

Students then attended several workshops created by some of the other high schools that attended the conference. The workshops included skits about abstinence and contraception. The Layaway Plan: "How to Maintain Abstinence," by Clara Barton High School, "Methods of Contraception," by Science Skills Center High School, and "Is It Worth It?" by South Bronx High School were some of the presentations held.

Before the trip, several students felt that the trip would benefit them in several ways. Freshman, Mishell Baquero said, "I'm going to get a chance to talk to other students about pregnancy prevention." Another student who felt that

this trip would be beneficial was Kimberly D. Tavaréz, a senior. "On this trip I hope to learn more about pregnancy prevention, STDs, and get advice that can help me or friends," she said. Cindy Diaz, another student in TOPPP, said that the trip taught her more, and she liked hearing what other students had to say.

Kimberly Tavaréz thought the trip was interesting and informative. "The workshops at the conference were good because I got to hear from other kids my age," she said. Another TOPPP student who benefited from the trip was Mishell Baquero. She thought the trip was good because she learned more. "The conference made me think twice about everything. I now realize the importance of pregnancy prevention," she said. "I think this trip was a culminate experience, it was a review of all the things the TOPPP students learned," Ms. Abrams said.

In total, 19 Queens Voc TOPPP students attended the trip. Mishell Baquero, Angelique Bland, Jamell Curry, Cindy Diaz, Felicia Franco, Aneka Grandison, Shantika Hardy, Rachele Joseph, Shaniece Josey, Nanette Lagares, Samira Lesure, Vanessa Maharaj, Andres Manzanarez, Quatisha Norris, Joseph Padin, Josie Pena, Yeimy Rodriguez, Kimberly Tavaréz, and Xavier Vega.

## Get Down with TOPPP

by Lady Velastegui

The Teen Outreach Pregnancy Prevention Program, TOPPP, sponsored Pregnancy Prevention Day on Thursday, May 22, during periods 4 through 8 in the school lobby.

"The purpose of Pregnancy Prevention Day was to inform students about pregnancy prevention and how to avoid Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)," said Ms. Abrams, faculty advisor for TOPPP.

Pregnancy Prevention Day was a very informative event. Members of TOPPP assisted students by distributing pamphlets as well as pens, candy, cookies, and bookmarks. About 30 TOPPP members were present in the school lobby assisting other students, while wearing their new TOPPP shirts.

"It was a very educational day because there was a lot of information available in the school lobby about topics such as STIs, drugs, contraception, and where to get help if needed," said Cassandra Falcon, a TOPPP member. "Choices," a video about unwanted teen pregnancy, which was produced by the Queens Voc drama club several years ago, was also shown.

Representatives from different organizations and agencies, such as Sadrac Colin from Catholic Charities, Mona Head and Cynthia Dunbar from Love Heals, Gina Gibbs from AIDS Center of Queens County, Mary Hill and Catherine Jordan from MIC Women's Health Services, Emily Bieber from Anti-Violence Project, and Jason Malone and Brandon Hall from

Queens HARP provided information about birth control, homophobia, AIDS, HIV, and how to avoid STIs.

"My goal was for students to get a sense of whether or not they want to get involved in sexual activities. I wanted students to know the risks involved in having sex and the ways they can protect themselves from HIV and AIDS if they are sexually active," said Sadrac Colin.

Mona Head hopes she had some impact on students after speaking to them about STIs and letting them know that she is HIV positive.

Students also recognized the importance of Pregnancy Prevention Day. "This day was important because it gave students an insight on the consequences that result from having sex at an early age and how that can change your life," said Francisco Fiallos, a sophomore.

"Pregnancy Prevention Day enables students to get accurate information. When students ask their friends for information they don't usually get the right facts. They are reluctant to ask their parents," said Ms. Abrams. Once the information has been made available, it is up to the students to use it. "Pregnancy Prevention Day benefits students because they are able to use the information provided to them to learn how to protect themselves," said Gina Gibbs from AIDS Center of Queens County.

"This year, like every other year, Pregnancy Prevention Day gave students an opportunity to learn about topics that are important to them in their life," Ms. Abrams concluded.

## Business Students Look Sharp

by Steven Garcia

Queens Voc celebrated Business Day on Wednesday, April 30. To celebrate Business Day and to raise money, the business students had a flower and a bake sale.

Business Day, which is coordinated by Mrs. Hunter, celebrates the accomplishments of business students. Dressed up in business attire, appropriate for the work place and for job interviews, the business students showed just how professional Queens Voc students can look. "When you send students for interviews they have to be well dressed, and that is what we try to teach our business students," said Ms. Siegel.

Business Day was not just a day for business students to dress up, it was also a day to prove just how responsible the business students could be. "The bake sale, as well as the flower sale, required a lot of preparation and responsibility. It is real nice to know how responsible the students who

took charge of the sales were," said Luz Arias. The bake, flower, and address label sales were all very well organized. "Seniors were in charge of collecting money for flowers, ordering, and dividing them for distribution. They also sold extra flowers in the lobby and took charge of the bake sale," added Ms. Siegel.

Some of the money, which was raised through the sales, "is used to buy the supplies that are needed for our business class," said Mixelins Arroyo. Another part of the money

raised will "be given to a business student at graduation," said Victoria Tomshinskaya. The rest of the money is used to pay for "a trip to the New York Job and Career Center, for the junior class," said Ms. Siegel.

"Business Day was a success. We allowed the school to see our business class working hard. We impressed the freshmen and that'll probably make them want to join the Business department next year," said Victor Panora. Ms. Siegel concluded, "Business Day was very positive and the students looked very nice. The business students were definitely well prepared."



Students check out information on pregnancy prevention.



Students look professional on Business Day.



Ray inspects breaker panel.

## El Fixing Up QV

by Jennifer M. Rodriguez

All the banging and pipe cutting that is heard by the Electrical Installation rooms have proven beneficial to the school. The senior EI class does any electrical service work needed in the school, such as changing lights in the hallway and classrooms and installing new outlets. "Need power lines in your room? Call the senior EI class, we service and maintain the school," said Mr. Maloney, the senior EI instructor.

When the new ID system was going to be installed, the senior EI installed the wiring so that the barcode equipment could work in the lobby. "They ran the power lines for the scanning system at the student entrance to the school and by the auditorium for lunch," said Mr. Maloney.

The rooms have been wired by Vincent Calderon, Andres Manzanera, Evan Prestano, Ramon Rodriguez, Miguel Velez and Ray Lanzer. Ray has been picked by Mr. Maloney to be in charge of all the jobs. "Ray has shown very good leadership, and along with his other crew members they do an excellent job," said Mr. Maloney. Ray along with his crew has also wired up the Writing Center (301), computer technology shop (416), SO office (217), and the plumbing classroom (412).

The reason for the wiring in room 301 was that "we needed more dedicated lines in the rooms for the air conditioners that are going to be added and for new computers that are going to be added," said Mr. Maloney. But air conditioners weren't the only reasons for new wiring. The computer technology room needed new wiring because of the many new computers that were added to the room this year. The SO office needed a dedicated line for the new photocopier. The plumbing room needed room lights to be replaced "because we broke them," said Mr. McCarthy.

By having the senior EI class do the electrical work around the school, "the students get on-the-job training," said Mr. Maloney.

# Queens Voc's Seniors: Accepted

compiled by Alexis Benitez

Every year, the *Vocational Voice* compiles a list of which colleges or universities graduating seniors have been accepted to and plan to attend. The college or university the seniors plan to attend is in bold text.

| Name of Senior        | College/University   |
|-----------------------|--|
| Abreu, Rosy           | LaGuardia Community College, New York City College of Technology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice   |
| Arroyo, Mixelins      | New York City College of Technology, York College (Undecided)  |
| Belik, Michael        | Bronx Community College, City College, Kingsborough Community College, New York City Tech, Queensborough Community College, The College of Staten Island (Undecided) |
| Benitez, Alexis       | City College, New York City College of Technology, Queensborough Community College (Undecided)   |
| Betances, Foeyson     | John Jay College of Criminal Justice, LaGuardia Community College, New York City College of Technology   |
| Bou, Anna Maria       | New York City College of Technology  |
| Bourdier, Nereyda K   | Electrical Union   |
| Brown, Nishon C.      | Queensborough Community College  |
| Buitrago, Jennifer N. | Bronx Community College, Hostos Community College, New York City College of Technology   |
| Calderon, Vincent     | John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York City College of Technology, York College  |
| Carriel, Inez         | Borough of Manhattan Community College, Kingsborough Community College, LaGuardia Community College (Undecided)  |
| Casallas, Diana       | Baruch College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Queensborough Community College (Undecided)  |

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Chico, Alex D            | City College, Hunter College, New York City College of Technology   |
| Chinatomby, Carl A.      | Baruch, Polytechnic University, York College  |
| Choi, Eugene             | Baruch College, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Queens College  |
| Collado, Isaac           | Bronx Community College, New York City College of Technology, Queensborough Community College                 |
| Correa, Tania            | John Jay College of Criminal Justice  |
| Dos Santos, Richard      | Queens College  |
| Estrella, Ronny          | John Jay College of Criminal Justice, LaGuardia Community College   |
| Felix, Valeria           | Bronx Community College, New York City College of Technology, Queensborough Community College (Undecided)     |
| Galeano, Martin E.       | City College, New York City College of Technology, Queensborough Community College                            |
| Garcia, Steven           | New York City College of Technology   |
| Gordillo, Gioconda K.    | Borough of Manhattan Community College, Hunter College, Queensborough Community College                       |
| Harrinandan, Christopher | City College, New York City College of Technology, Queensborough Community College (Undecided)                |
| Hernandez, Christopher   | LaGuardia Community College, New York City College of Technology, Queensborough Community College (Undecided) |
| Hernandez, Henry         | Chubb Institute   |
| Hristov, Viktor          | City College, Hunter College, Queens College, DeVry Institute, Pace University, SUNY-Farmingdale              |
| Islam, Rifat             | New York City College of Technology   |
| Jordan, Tasia            | Bronx Community College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, John Jay College of Criminal Justice         |

## Prom Night: A Night to Remember for Seniors

by Anayancy Moreno

An unforgettable night for many seniors made the theme "A Night to Remember" perfect for this year's prom, which was held on Friday, May 30 at Giando On the Water, in Brooklyn.

The prom started at 8pm. The first hour consisted of hors d'oeuvres, and dinner was served at 10pm. "Even though we missed the cocktail hour because we had limousine problems, the dinner made up for it. The food was good—a lot better than Bruno's," said Areli Duran. The dinner menu consisted of chicken francaise,

penne ala vodka, fried calamari, oven-roasted potatoes, veal parmesan, chicken and rice, and a carving station of roasted pork. Dessert consisted of chocolate-filled pudding cake and coffee. On the cake was "Q.V.T.H.S. Senior Prom 2003" written in decorative icing.

After dinner, students enjoyed dancing to the music of Musical Madness & DJ's Entertainment, the same DJ who played at the senior luncheon. "The music wasn't what I expected, but I did dance more than other people," said Isaac Collado. The DJ played a variety of music such as reggae, hip-hop, merengue, and bachata. Yet not everyone liked the selection. "I was expecting to hear more Spanish music and better reggae," said David Robles.

Students who attended the prom were given favors as a memory of their senior prom. "This year we gave 5x7 glass picture frames, which read 'A Night to Remember '03 Queens Voc & Tech HS Prom' on



Couple on patio of Giando's.

them," said Jessica Kenniff, senior class secretary. "I really liked the prom favors, they were really nice and the frame will look really nice in my living room," said Massiel Estevez, senior class vice president.

As in previous years, the prom king and queen were chosen randomly. This year's winners were David Robles and Jennifer Rodriguez. "When I heard my name I was really surprised, it was really unexpected, but I was happy," said Jennifer. David felt the same way. "I was really surprised and shocked when I heard my name. I never thought

it would be me," he said.

"The prom overall was good, I loved it, especially the scenery. I really didn't get a chance to dance that much, but from what I heard from other people the music was not all that," said Miguel Velez.

For this one special day, many seniors ended up spending hundreds of dollars. "Although there are many expenses, it's all worth it because the prom is a once in a lifetime event and this was the last time I would be able to have a lot of fun with my friends from school," said Raymond Lanzer.



Chris & Jose looking sharp.



Garofano enjoys prom night.



# to Colleges and Ready to Go

## Lack of Participants Dooms Talent Show

by Arturo Cazares

It seemed like Queens Voc would finally have a talent show. Maritza Mora, SO vice president, and Nathalie Alonso, SO secretary, planned an audition and posted flyers to attract potential talent. "At the beginning," said Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, "approximately 25 students signed up to audition." But the show never took place.

"The audition did not go as well as we had planned," said Nathalie Alonso. "At the audition, seven acts showed up, and most of them needed work," said Mr. Vega.

Mr. Vega and the SO coordinators felt that seven acts were an insufficient number of acts to have a successful show. They believe 10-12 acts were necessary.

Francisco Fiallos was one of the contestants who auditioned. He sang "Hero" from the *Spiderman* sound track. Another student who auditioned was Daniel Arias, who sang "Shape of my Heart" by the Back Street Boys.

Giselle Urena, a senior, who served as a judge at the talent show audition, was disappointed at the outcome of the audition. "How can people expect a talent show if no one shows up," she said.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Kenniff, Jessica    | Bronx Community College, City College, SUNY - College of Technology at Delhi, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, <b>Pace University</b>              |
| Lamisere, Sylvio R. | Baruch College, Hunter College, Queens College, <b>St. John's University</b>   |
| Lopez, Jessica      | <b>York College</b>  |
| Marshall, Tyrone    | <b>Foxhounds College</b>   |
| Mateo, Jairo        | <b>New York City College of Technology</b>   |
| Mejia, Kenny        | New York City College of Technology, Queensborough Community College ( <b>Undecided</b> )  |
| Moreno, Anayancy    | New York City College of Technology, Queensborough Community College ( <b>Undecided</b> )  |
| Ng, Jennifer        | Baruch College/Hunter College, <b>Queens College (Fall Semester)</b> , SUNY - Albany, <b>Binghamton (Spring Semester)</b> , <b>St. John's University</b> |
| Ojeda, Carlos       | <b>New York City College of Technology</b>   |
| Osorio, Briant      | New York City College of Technology, <b>Queensborough Community College</b>  |
| Parada, Natalie     | Baruch College, Hunter College, <b>Queens College</b> , Pace University, <b>St. John's University</b>  |
| Pauyo, Jennifer     | <b>Borough of Manhattan Community College</b> , Kingsborough Community College   |
| Peña, Alexis        | <b>City College</b> , Queensborough Community College  |
| Peña, Yoskaira      | Baruch College, Queens College, <b>York College</b>  |
| Pereyra, Jonathan   | LaGuardia Community College, New York City College of Technology, Queensborough Community College ( <b>Undecided</b> )                                   |
| Perlaza, Andy       | City College, <b>New York City College of Technology</b>   |

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Pichardo, Leonela     | <b>LaGuardia Community College</b> , New York City College of Technology, <b>Queens College</b>          |
| Rahman, Rezaur        | <b>New York City College of Technology</b> , SUNY - Farmingdale  |
| Ramos, Damien         | LaGuardia Community College, Queensborough Community College ( <b>Undecided</b> )                        |
| Ramos, Eloisa         | Borough of Manhattan Community College, LaGuardia Community College ( <b>Undecided</b> )                 |
| Reyes, Sharon J.      | Dowling College, <b>Manhattan College</b> , Pace University, <b>St. John's University</b>                |
| Rios, Christina       | <b>Katherine Gibbs School</b>  |
| Robles, David         | <b>City College</b> , New York City College of Technology, Queensborough Community College               |
| Rodriguez, Aaron      | <b>Deferred Field, Join Electrical Union</b>   |
| Rodriguez, Denise     | <b>John Jay College of Criminal Justice</b>  |
| Rodriguez, Jennifer   | Bronx Community College, Hostos Community College, <b>New York City College of Technology</b>            |
| Salahuddin, Mohammed  | <b>City College</b> , New York City College of Technology  |
| Tomshinskaya, Victori | Brooklyn College, <b>Kingsborough Community College</b> , Queensborough Community College                |
| Toy, Tanvir           | College of Staten Island, Hunter College, New York City College of Technology, <b>Queens College</b>     |
| Urena, Giselle        | <b>Queensborough Community College</b>   |
| Uruchima, John C      | <b>Queensborough Community College</b>   |
| Velastegui, Lady C.   | <b>City College</b> , Hunter College, <b>Queens College</b>  |
| Wong, Suen Suen       | Borough of Manhattan Community College, <b>City College</b> , <b>New York City College of Technology</b> |



## Seniors sign each other's yearbook in school yard. Seniors Leave Legacy of Accomplishments

by Yoshira Pena

"Making this year unforgettable was my primary goal," said Jessica Lopez, the senior class president. To many seniors, she and her fellow officers she succeeded.

This year, the senior class initiated several new events that they hope become Queens Voc traditions: the food festival, the yard sale, and the recent barbecue.

There were two food

festivals this year, but the one that took place on Thursday, March 27 in the school library was the most successful. The food festival was such a success that all the food was sold out by 5th period. "We raised all together close to \$900," said Mr. Vega.

The yard sale is also a new event. It was held on Sunday, May 4 by the school, on the corner of 37th Street and 47th Avenue. "There were toys, clothes, books, hair accessories,

and many more items sold at the yard sale," said Mr. Vega. Helping with the yard sale were Isaac Collado, Massiel Estevez, Raymond Lanzer, Jessica Lopez, Jennifer Ng, Natalie Parada, Sharon Reyes, Jennifer Rodriguez, Mohammed Salahuddin, and Miguel Velez.

According to Jennifer Ng, "at first it didn't seem like it would go so well because it was a Sunday, and there were very few people on the street, but as the day went on business picked up and many items were sold." Jessica Lopez said that \$689 was raised from the yard sale. The money helped the seniors fund the barbecue that was held on Friday June 6 "to celebrate our graduation and everything the senior class has achieved," said Jessica Lopez.

The prom was held on Friday, May 30 at Giando on the Water. Giando was picked by the senior class because "We didn't want the prom to be in the same place as last year, so we picked three places and had the seniors vote. Giando on the Water won. We figured that if the seniors voted, we would have a better outcome because it is at a place they want, rather

than something the officers just picked," said Jessica Kenniff, senior class secretary.

Although the Prom was from 8pm to 12am, many attendees, such as Suen Suen Wong, said that the prom needed to be longer. "I had a lot of fun, but the prom was too short. Most of my friends came around 10pm, which made the prom really short," said Suen Suen Wong.

The first 100 tickets were sold for \$60 and sold out by May 1. The rest of the tickets were at the normal price, which was \$75. "151 tickets were sold," said Jessica Lopez. Tasia

Jordan, a senior from cosmetology fundraised money, by selling 5 boxes of candy, which covered the cost of the tickets for her and her guest. "I felt good because the money didn't have to come out of my pocket and because I also needed to pay for other things, so I encourage all seniors for next year to sell candy for their senior dues and prom," said Tasia Jordan.

The last senior event will be the graduation ceremony, which will be held on Wednesday, June 25 at 6pm, at Aviation High School.



Chefs of Queens Voc serve at first ever barbeque.

# Cosmo Year in Review

by Jennifer Ng

On Career Day, May 9, manager Olga Platt and creative designer Elaine Mitchell from Vidal Sassoon visited the junior and senior Cosmetology class to demonstrate hairstyling and makeup techniques. "Elaine did a good very good haircut because she took her time and she knew what she was doing," said Natalie Parada, a senior in Cosmetology.

Career Day is one of the many activities in which the senior Cosmetology class participates. Other activities include providing services to senior citizens at the Sunnyside

experience working on people," said Mr. Grochala, the Cosmetology teacher.

The students appreciate the opportunity the salon offers. "The Cosmo salon has been one of the activities that I enjoy the most because I get to work on real people instead of manikins," said Areli Duran.

The money brought in on the salon days are used to help pay for supplies. The Cosmo salon was given money by the Board of Education to purchase the new paraffin wax treatment, which "leaves your hands soft and smooth. The treatment is good for people with dry hands," said Natalie Parada.



Cosmo girls style each other's hair in salon.

Community Center four times a year, attending the International Hair Show once a year, preparing for the Cosmetology State Board Exam, and operating the Elite Beauty Salon on Thursdays and Fridays from 7:30 to 10am.

"In our salon we provide a lot of services for both men and women: cuts, facials, and manicures for teachers and students. Men and women are coming for facials because the pollution in the air outside wreaks havoc on the skin. Deep pore cleansing and facials are essential for everyone, and through the Elite Beauty Salon, the students' gain a lot of

Mr. Grochala is planning to purchase an airbrush machine for nails, new curling irons for different types of curls and waves, a new facial chair, and a new waxing kit.

The seniors visited Sunnyside Community Center to perform facials, manicures, cuts, and hairstyles. "The clients are very grateful that students volunteer their work, there is no charge for the services provided," said Mr. Grochala. "Volunteering at Sunnyside Community Center is good volunteer work, shows experience on the resume, and the students gain excellent interpersonal relationships with



Cosmo activities prepare students for a productive future.

clients," he added. Leomari Torres finds the visits helpful "to get more experience and meet new people."

The International Hair Show at the Jacob Javitz Center is another way for students to gain experience and knowledge in beauty culture. Maria Ornelas learned from the International Hair Show "all the new technology in the hair industry."

The latest activity the students prepared for was the State Board Exam, which took place in May and June. The requirements are 1,000 hours of instruction to apply for their licenses, a physical examination, and a \$30 fee. The State Board Exam has two parts: written and practical. The written part of the exam is taken first and tests students on anatomy, physiology, chemistry, electricity, the salon business, and anything involving beauty culture from sterilization to sanitation. The written exam consists of 100 multiple-choice questions. Students who passed received a notice by mail to take the practical exam. The practical part of the exam is timed with a maximum allowance of 25 minutes for comb-out, 30 minutes for haircut, 20 minutes for permanent waving, 20 minutes for finger waving, 20

minutes for hair coloring, and 25 minutes for chemical hair straightening. The judges also watch for sanitary preparation.

"Their work really improved and I'm sure most of them will pass the State Board Exam in June," said Mr. Grochala. Students have learned a lot from the Elite Beauty Salon, visiting Sunnyside Community Center and the International Hair Show, participating in Career Day, and preparing for the Cosmo State Board Exam. According to Mr. Grochala, Queens Voc Cosmo students have "learned the art of beauty culture, gained experience working on people, and created an easy transaction to gain employment in a salon," he said. His students agree. These activities have "helped me

realize that people don't only see us as Cosmo girls but friends who can make you look better so you can feel better about yourself," said Tinna Laruy.

This year, the Cosmo class has learned to associate with customers, be professional, master hair cutting and coloring, waxing, technical theory, patience with customers, responsibilities of salon work, and to "perfect skills needed to pass the practical part of the State Board Exam," Mr. Grochala said.

Mr. Grochala truly enjoys teaching this class. Students this year have been "very talented, hardworking, well mannered, and the clients really enjoy their work."

★★★★



Sunnyside receives manicures from Queens Voc.

## Farewell to Teachers

by Jessica Kenniff

Just as seniors graduate and move on to the next phase of their lives, so too do teachers move on. After eighteen years of being the school librarian, Ms. Resnick will retire in June.

Ms. Resnick started as an early childhood education teacher in PS 95, where she worked for twelve years. A close friend recommended becoming a librarian and Ms. Resnick took her advice. She transferred to Queens Voc and has been the librarian for the past eighteen years.

Ms. Resnick has enjoyed her years here and will miss Queens Voc very much. "What I will miss most is seeing the students

enjoying the library, reading, researching, relaxing. That is what I wanted the library to be. I will miss the staff and people who have become close friends. Most of all, I will miss coming here everyday, enjoying my job and seeing the way the kids have really made the library the place they like to be, and I am very happy I could accomplish that," said Ms. Resnick.

The memories of Queens Voc will stay with Ms. Resnick forever, but she has plans to enjoy her new life as a retiree. "My husband is retiring also. We plan to enjoy ourselves, travel, spend time with our new grandson, and begin what we hope will be a wonderful time in our lives," said Ms. Resnick.

Ms. Lo Bosco, who has worked as an English teacher in Queens Voc for the past three years, will be leaving in June. Ms. Lo Bosco will be transferring to Smithtown High School in eastern Long Island beginning in September. She has served as adviser for the senior yearbook for the past two years, conducted SAT

prep classes, and wrote and administered the grant that helped establish the Verizon Writing Center in room 301. Ms. Lo Bosco and her junior English classes recently published an eighty-one page booklet called *Haiku Moments*.

Even though she has only been in this school for three years, she has had many memorable moments. "There were a lot of memorable moments for me. My favorite

was when I would connect with the students and they showed me they have learned something," said Ms. Lo Bosco. Ms. Lo Bosco will begin a new life in Smithtown High School, but she will miss Queens Voc. "I'll miss the staff a lot, we have a great staff here. Everyone is very close and helpful to each other. I will also miss the students I have really connected with," she added.



Ms. Resnick says farewell.

**Best of Luck to  
Ms. Resnick and  
Ms. Lo Bosco**



# EVERYDAY IS A GREAT DAY

by Lady Vclastegui

It is not easy attending school every day. But a group of exemplary Queens Voc students show that it is a possible achievement. As usual, *Vocational Voice* recognizes and has the honor to present those dedicated students who have perfect attendance through June 4, 2003.

Students with perfect attendance for the entire school year:

|                     |     |                      |     |
|---------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Jarvis Alexis       | 203 | Andrew Bator         | 106 |
| Rcnata Cascante     | 302 | Rajendra Bharath     | 105 |
| Yan Chen            | 107 | Francesco Bosco      | 108 |
| Andres Diaz         | 105 | Nereyda Bourdier     | 402 |
| Christian Douglas   | 205 | Christopher Butera   | 102 |
| Eduardo Eguizabal   | 104 | Jackson Calle        | 302 |
| Naoual Elidrissi    | 105 | Andres Castano       | 101 |
| Melvin Espinal      | 302 | Rui Chen             | 301 |
| Bruno Gallego       | 105 | Jessica Concepcion   | 201 |
| Edilberto Garcia    | 107 | David Diaz           | 106 |
| Endy Gomez          | 401 | William Diaz         | 107 |
| Pamela Gonzalez     | 356 | Britney Dutes        | 103 |
| Gioconda Gordillo   | 402 | Ivan Gomez           | 105 |
| Jenneth Grullon     | 104 | Luis Gonzalez        | 152 |
| Jose Guismundi      | 316 | Nomar Gonzalez       | 252 |
| Ravi Gupta          | 301 | Derrick Guichardo    | 208 |
| Viktor Hristov      | 401 | Louis Hernandez      | 104 |
| Jia Shan Hu         | 202 | Tania Hernandez      | 303 |
| Qi Yong Hu          | 402 | Yesenia Hernandez    | 106 |
| Xiao Dan Hu         | 402 | Jose Herrera         | 207 |
| Jesthe Jean         | 352 | Toneise Holmes       | 104 |
| Ryan Lai            | 207 | Irfan Iftikhar       | 301 |
| Ying Lin            | 105 | Shalini Jain         | 217 |
| Bismark Mason       | 201 | Tomasz Kuczynski     | 303 |
| Peter Mastro Simone | 105 | Adiyasa Kurniadi     | 206 |
| Segundo Minchala    | 303 | Joseph Livecchi      | 207 |
| Alejandro Moreno    | 303 | Danny Lopez          | 101 |
| Anayancy Moreno     | 402 | Edwin Lopez          | 353 |
| Jennifer Moy        | 108 | Peter Lopez          | 303 |
| Jennifer Ng         | 401 | Albert Maldonado     | 352 |
| Kendel Ortiz        | 302 | Kashif Malik         | 108 |
| Ci Jing Pan         | 303 | Gabriela Marte       | 216 |
| Vivek Panneer       | 205 | Brett Mosley         | 253 |
| Alexis Pena         | 401 | Shaun Mulvey         | 101 |
| Leslye Pena         | 107 | Kendra Pajevic       | 101 |
| Carlos Remache      | 202 | Katherine Pena       | 105 |
| Sharon Reyes        | 402 | Yesenia Pena         | 106 |
| Jennifer Rodriguez  | 401 | Steven Ramirez       | 102 |
| Robert Rosario      | 105 | Antoney Ramnarine    | 117 |
| Salvador Ruiz       | 255 | Miller Rascos        | 207 |
| Patsy Sanchez       | 108 | Segundo Riera        | 301 |
| Domingo Tlatelpa    | 351 | Jessica Rios         | 106 |
| Tahjib Zaman        | 203 | Evelyn Rivera        | 303 |
|                     |     | Jacqueline Rodriguez | 104 |
|                     |     | Euri Rojas           | 201 |
|                     |     | Henry Romero         | 302 |
|                     |     | Denise Rosa          | 102 |
|                     |     | Miguel Ruilova       | 102 |
|                     |     | Mohammed Salahuddin  | 401 |
|                     |     | Luis Segarra         | 251 |
|                     |     | Zeneida Tavarez      | 104 |
|                     |     | Tanvir Toy           | 402 |
|                     |     | Daisy Valdez         | 107 |
|                     |     | Anselmo Vaquero      | 205 |
|                     |     | Geraldine Vargas     | 104 |
|                     |     | Ruben Villalobos     | 101 |
|                     |     | Miao Ling Zhao       | 301 |

Students with perfect attendance during the spring term only:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Adriana Acosta   | 252 |
| Mohammed Ahmed   | 104 |
| Patricia Alvarez | 103 |
| Mauricio Argudo  | 107 |
| Mixelines Arroyo | 402 |
| Stephen Bacchus  | 303 |

## SPECIAL VISIT

by Sharon Reyes

On June 6, Ms. Himmel's tenth grade Honors English Class heard a presentation by Mr. William Tarrant, a resources administrator from Y.A.I. (Young Adults Institute).

This agency provides social services throughout N.Y. State to handicapped and developmentally challenged persons. Mr. Tarrant's visit was part of a unit of study on *Flowers for*

*Algernon*. "Mr. Tarrant's visit helped us understand better about some of the problems and programs out there for people like Charlie, the hero in the novel," said Johnathan Peña, a student in the class.

"Classroom visits and presentations like this always help to make the study of literary work more alive and relevant for the class," said Ms. Himmel. "I try to arrange for them whenever I can."



Students celebrate Dr. Seuss Day.

## An Eventful Year for Houseplans

by Natalie Parada

"Making A World of Difference," Back-to-the-Child-Heart, Student of the Month, Liberty/Leadership activities, the Poetry Slam, Dr. Seuss Day, the Good Will Writing Campaign, and Jeopardy are activities Ms. Hulak's Houseplans conducted this term.

According to Ms. Hulak, the latest activity took place on Wednesday June 11, during period 2, when Houseplans members and the Negotiation class participated in "Making A World of Difference." In mini-handbooks, students wrote positive thoughts to change the world. "Making A World of Difference" took place in the lobby where Houseplans and Negotiation students encouraged other students to write pledges on smiley faces to put on a world map. "It's a great way to help others realize how they can help improve their community by actually realizing their own flaws. I believe that the best change a person can make is changing themselves for the better," said Sumon Miah, a sophomore.

Houseplans also participated in Back-to-the-Child-Heart on Wednesday, June 11. Speakers talked about their favorite children's book. Ms. Hulak brought a variety of multicultural children's books to be read and written about. "Students learn and discuss life lessons through children's books," Ms. Hulak said.

The latest Student of the Month took place on Friday, May 2. Teachers nominated 42 students for Student of the Month to reward them for their hard work in class. Mr. Burke,

Ms. Hulak, Mrs. Hunter, Mr. Schimenz, and Ms. Walsh submitted names of their outstanding students. The selected students received a certificate, a "magic" pen, and a book or folder.

From May 8 to June 12, the freshman classes of Ms. Florio, Ms. Hulak, Ms. Muresan, and Ms. Radovich learned about leadership in the Liberty/Leadership activities on Thursdays. The speaker, Amatus Karim, gave six presentations to teach the students about leadership. The students learned about dreams, goals, and careers. "The activities allow the students to think in a different way about their future and how they live their lives in a world of many different people and experiences," Amatus said.

The Poetry Slam was held on Wednesday, April 30 and on Thursday, May 1. In the Poetry Slam, students read their own poems or poems by famous poets. The students who participated in the Poetry Slam were Elias Contreras, Ender De La Rosa, Nataly Delgado, Andres Diaz, Edward Duran, Britney Dutes, Henry

Guiracocha, Sydney Harna, Toneise Holmes, Samira Lesure, Kashif Malik, Jessica Martinez, Sophia Mian, Denise Rosa, Tyann Snape, Angel Vasquez, and Ralph Wilson. "The Poetry Slam had excellent participation and students reported they would love to see another performance," Ms. Hulak said. At least one student learned as he listened to the poems. "I learned not to give up on my dreams," said Elias Contreras, a freshman who participated in the Poetry Slam. Ms. Hulak, Mr. Burke, and some students decided on the five winners: Toneise Holmes, Kashif Malik, Sophia Mian, Denise Rosa, and Angel Vasquez.

Students in Houseplans participated in Dr. Seuss Day on Wednesday, April 16, by reading and analyzing Dr. Seuss poems. The winners of the Dr. Seuss contest—Jackie Hagans, Jennifer Guzman, Mark Mauricio, Ralph Wilson, and Sophia Mian—all received trophies. "It was fun because I got to express myself through Dr. Seuss poems," Ralph Wilson said.

In March, the Journalism class and Houseplans students participated in the Good Will Writing Campaign. Students wrote letters to two soldiers who fought in Iraq: Stephen Tychnowitz, who attended Queens Voc, and his brother Paul. Stephen wrote back 10 personal letters, thanking the students and the school for remembering him. "It gave me a great deal of motivation and joy to know that there were more people other than my family members who supported me," Stephen wrote in one of his letters.

Another Houseplans activity is Jeopardy, which has been ongoing since September, and takes place once a week in room 103.



This is Jeopardy, Queens Voc style.

## The Vocational Voice Wishes all our Students and Staff a Great Summer.

# EDITORIALS

## Thank you Mayor Bloomberg

It has become common to read a newspaper and find someone or some group bashing the mayor. The complaints are that he's either raising taxes or cutting services. We don't know much about economics, but it seems as though people can't have it both ways. Regardless, this is one newspaper that won't bash him. The other day, Mayor Bloomberg and Schools Chancellor Joel Klein visited Queens Voc to deliver on a 50-year old promise. We'd like to echo Principal Vittor and thank the mayor and chancellor for coming to Queens Voc, spending time getting to know us, and for making sure that Queens Voc students are no longer shortchanged.

## Now, We Can all Breathe Easier

Now that the summer heat is here, Queens Voc students and teachers want fresh air in the classrooms. And now, we can get it by simply opening windows. Until recently, many windows did not open. Over the years, they broke and were bolted shut for everyone's safety.

The windows have been repaired thanks to the determination of Ms. Vittor, who inherited the window problem. If it took 50+ years for us to get a gym, we should recognize the relative quickness in getting the windows throughout the building repaired.

It's nice to feel the cool breeze through our classrooms on hot days. Thanks to our principal for helping make that happen.

## Time to Change Independent Study Grading Guidelines

At one time or another we all have researched and written projects, but independent study projects are counted in our final report card average. Independent study projects are given to students to make up a credit for a class they never took, were never offered, or failed. Most students have to take two or three independent study projects their senior year: Art, Music, and Spanish.

Long ago, Mr. Serber, the former principal, established a grading policy that requires teachers to give a 55, 70, or an 85. This policy was to make it easier for the teachers handling independent study projects and to give them a guide to grade students. We believe that the policy should be retired as well, mainly because it's unfair.

Students in non-academic classes often receive relatively high grades and students in Leadership and Peer Mediation students frequently receive 90s and 95s, which count toward their average as well. We don't have a problem with that. We believe grades reward students for their efforts. But when it comes to independent study projects, teachers who grade the projects do not have the full range of grades that are available to most other teachers.

Just as with most other schoolwork, teachers should be allowed to reward students for their efforts.

## Goodbye, Schoolyard

The schoolyard has been a center for many activities at Queens Voc: intramurals, the senior barbecue, and the student-faculty softball games. Farewell, schoolyard. We will sorely miss you.

## Vocational Voice

Queens Vocational & Technical High School

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

## Principal's Message

QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL  
Denise Vittor, Principal

As the 2002 - 2003 school year draws to a close, let's reflect on what a successful, eventful year it has been. These events demonstrate not just how diverse we are as a school community, but how we strive to create more extra-curricular activities for our students despite our lack of facilities. This year was one of many "firsts" for our students and the school as a whole. Since it would take pages to include every activity, award, and student, we are limited as to what we can include. However, let's recall some of the highlights of 2002 - 2003.

We began the year by forming our first soccer team in over 30 years, with a new coach, Mr. Ali. Mr. Vega and the officers introduced sellout Food Festivals, and a Sidewalk Sale as fundraisers. We established the Winner's Circle, our monthly attendance contests for students who had perfect attendance, and for classes with the best attendance. Our first annual Sports Awards Banquet was held at Bruno's on the Boulevard, and our Senior Prom was held at Giando on the Water. As I write this message, we are preparing our first Senior Barbeque, where seniors will celebrate receiving their yearbooks and jerseys and maybe even get a softball game out of this event.

It was a year for firsts in scholastic competitions, too: our Vocational Voice placed first in the American Scholastic Press Association competition, and Darryl Sorrentino placed first in the Borough wide Shakespeare Competition. QVTHS was recognized in other competitions, as well. We can now say we have an award winning yearbook (2nd place), FBLA chapter (Citywide awards), and VICA chapter (3rd place, plumbing for Veronica Mulligan). The Mock Trial Team made it to the 3rd round and Asim Bhatti was named the regional winner for NYC in the "Inside Albany" essay contest sponsored by the American League of Women Voters.

We also enjoyed the continuation of many great QVTHS traditions this year such as: Career Day, Honor Society Awards Night, Honor Roll Trips, The Senior Trip, Senior Ring Day Ceremony, Senior Luncheon, Spirit Weeks, and the Intramural Sports Competitions between our "shop" teams. Our "Shops" have now been updated and renamed "CTE Institutes," but out in the schoolyard (our gym) "shop teams" live on. It is that "shop" spirit that helped our VICA and FBLA clubs enjoy a rebirth in their membership so that our vocational traditions live on. It is our athletic spirit that ensures our varsity sports teams are competitive and do well even though we lack a "home court" or "home field." This year, we have a winning team. The Lady Tigers Bowling Team became the Division III champions and our baseball team made it to the playoffs for a second year in a row. Our teams may win or lose, but they always make us proud on or off the field because of their team spirit.

I am proud to say we are not just a school with lots of events, we are a school with lots of "heart and soul." Over and over, our students and faculty participate in charity events: charity walks, fundraisers, toy drives, community service, etc. Student officers, Leadership students, Houseplans, and Negotiation students organize and motivate our entire school community to give. Our CTE classes compete for the top spot in donations in the Penny Harvest charity drive, while our senior cosmetology class provides the Sunnyside Senior Citizen Center members with Salon services once a month.

Now it is time to ask yourself if you were part of our proud moments. There were many opportunities for you to join in. Were you part of the Winner's Circle? Did you compete in the Intramural Sports Competition? Were you part of the varsity teams? Did you participate in Career Day? Did you donate your time, effort, or money to our many charity drives? Did you attend some of our events even if you did not help to organize them? Did you participate in any of our clubs or debate teams? Did you qualify for the Honor Society or Honor Roll? If you participated in any of these events, congratulations for representing our school and making us proud. For those of you who didn't get the chance, make it a priority to participate next year. To all who put their efforts into creating these events and successes, thank you. QVTHS could not have had these successes without your hard work and perseverance. I am proud of the students, faculty and staff of Queens Vocational and Technical High School for making this a memorable year in so many ways.

Have a well deserved, relaxing summer. I look forward to a challenging new year in September.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Vittor  
Principal



# Shop Profiles

by Sylvio Lamisere

In our final edition this school year, we highlight the most outstanding seniors in their shop and business classes. We conclude with seniors because we highlighted sophomores in our second edition and in our third edition we highlighted juniors. The following questions were asked to the selected students:

1. Why did you choose this major?
2. What do you expect to do with this major after you graduate?
3. What did you like the most about your major?
4. Why do you think your teacher chose you to be the most outstanding student?
5. What would you like to say to your shop teachers before you graduate?

## ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

Raymond Lanzer was selected by his EI teacher Mr. Maloney because "he is a self-motivated individual who can tackle any electrical project presented to him. His work is flawless and needs very little supervision to complete task. I don't see any problem with him being employed in the electrical industry. The teachers in the 10th and 11th grade prepared him well for the senior electrical shop. My parting words for Raymond are continue to be motivated. Also, have an open mind for learning and meet every challenge with a positive attitude and you will continue to be successful."



1. I chose this major because I knew I would make a lot of money in the future with it.
2. After I graduate, I expect to go to the union or to a private company.
3. The thing I liked the most of my major is the teachers that I have had throughout the years.
4. I think my teacher chose me because I am the top kid in the shop and all my work is done neatly.
5. I would like to say thanks to my shop teacher for all his help teaching me about electrical and other things, such as life.

## ELECTRONICS

Kenny Mejia was selected by his Electronics teacher Mr. Ali because "he is one of the better students, he does his work on time, he is more focused, and he has initiative in doing what has to be done as a senior. My parting words for Kenny are to follow your dreams."

1. I chose this major because when I was in the exploratory class, I took Electronics and liked it a lot.
2. I want to go to college and get a bachelor's degree in Electronics Engineering Technology.
3. I like all the hands on training and the challenges that came along the way.
4. I think he chose me because I like to do my work, I enjoy building my labs, and I try my best to finish them on time.
5. Thank you for all the support and motivation and the encouragement to go on.



## COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Kan Kan Fang was selected by his C-Tech teacher Mr. Stigliano because "he does his work, he's reliable, and he shows continuing effort. He also hasn't caught the disease of senioritis. My parting words for Kan Kan are to keep it up!"



1. I chose my major because I like computers.
2. I'm going to use the skills I learned in Queens Voc and use it in the future by starting a career with it.
3. I liked the hands on work with the computers.
4. I think he chose me because of the effort that I show in class.
5. Thank you for a wonderful time!

## PLUMBING

Veronica Mulligan was selected by her Plumbing teachers Mr. Garrison and Mr. McCarthy. Mr. Garrison selected Veronica because "she works hard for her achievements and she is more focused on her work. She also went to VICA and won 3rd place statewide. My parting words for Veronica are I have all the faith in the world that you will be successful."

Mr. McCarthy selected Veronica because "of her dedication and commitment to participate in the VICA competition. She stayed after school to train on her VICA bench and it took away from her personal activities. My parting words for Veronica are good luck and I'm proud of your effort and dedication towards your plumbing career and the VICA competition, in which you came in third place."

1. I chose this major because I was always a little tomboy and I really liked getting dirty.
2. I was going to continue to do plumbing but I'm changing my mind. I plan to go to college.
3. The thing I liked most about my major was all the fun I had learning with Mr. Garrison and Mr. McCarthy. If I needed help, I always got it. They both helped me and pushed me to do my work.
4. I really can't say why they chose me, but I'm happy they did.
5. I really love you both. Mr. McCarthy was the one who gave me laughs and Mr. Garrison made me learn. So I'll just say thank you for everything you have helped me achieve and thank you for your support when I went to VICA. I also see you both as father figures to me. I Love You, Kisses!



## COSMETOLOGY

Although this article is intended to highlight the outstanding students in their major, Mr. Grochala selected all of his students in the Cosmo class because "they are all outstanding this year. All the students did very well. They completed their jobs, did well on the test, and they are applying for their state licenses in Cosmetology. I would like to tell them that I'm very proud of them and I'm sure they will be a success in the future. I wish them all the luck in the world."



Anayancy Moreno and Angela Calisti, two senior cosmo students who are in Mr. Grochala's cosmo class, were interviewed.

### Anayancy Moreno

1. I chose this major because I was interested in fixing people's hair. I like to work with people to help them bring out their features with a good hairstyle.
2. I don't really think that I'm going to keep going with this major, but I would really like to open my own salon later on.
3. I like to do evening styles on hair.
4. I think the teacher chose the whole class because everyone works hard and does their best when doing the work whether its during theory or during practical time.
5. I would like to thank him for helping me out when I needed help with anything that I might have doubts about.

### Angela Calisti

1. I chose this major because my sister is a cosmetologist and I followed her because I felt that it made me happy when people feel and look their best.
2. I want to get into the Student Vocational Assistant (SVA) program and become a cosmo teacher.
3. I like that we have the freedom to experiment with each other.
4. Personally I don't know why he chose the whole class, he knows I'm the best.
5. I would like to say thank you for believing in me and helping me with my state bound set.

# Richie's Recipe

by Richard Dos Santos

## HONEY-GLAZED CHICKEN

This succulent chicken glazed with honey, mustard, and thyme, bakes to low-fat perfection. Sure sounds tasty and is done in almost no time.

Preparation Time: 10 minutes

Cooking Time: 20 minutes

Serves 4

### Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon of dry mustard
- 3 tablespoons of white-wine vinegar or cider vinegar
- ¼ cup honey
- 2 tablespoons of chopped shallot or green onion
- 1 teaspoon of Dijon-style mustard
- ¼ teaspoon of dried thyme
- ¼ teaspoon of dried oregano
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves (4 ounces each)

### Directions:

- 1) Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Line a baking pan or jellyroll pan with foil; spray foil with vegetable cooking spray. Set aside for later use.
- 2) Place the dry mustard in a small bowl and stir in vinegar. Add honey, shallot, Dijon-style mustard, thyme, and oregano. Mix well and set aside.
- 3) Place the chicken breasts in the prepared pan. Brush with half of the honey-mustard glaze. Bake for ten minutes.
- 4) Remove pan from the oven. Using tongs, turn chicken breasts over and brush with the remaining glaze.
- 5) Return pan to the oven and bake until juices run clear when pierced with a knife, for about 10 minutes. Slice chicken breasts and place on individual serving plates. Serve immediately.

### Serve In Advance

- Make the honey-mustard glaze ahead as directed in Step 2, and keep refrigerated until ready for use. Should be stored in a glass jar or an airtight plastic container for upto 1-week.

### COOK'S TIP:

- To help chicken absorb the glaze and cook evenly, lightly score the breasts on both sides. Use the tip of sharp knife to make small slashes.
- Always be sure poultry is thoroughly cooked before serving. Undercooked chicken can harbor harmful bacteria. Use an instant-read meat thermometer for the most accurate test of doneness.

To Tanvir Toy,  
Newspaper editor, baseball  
captain, hero, friend: words  
cannot adequately convey my  
feelings. You truly have "been  
there through it all" for me, and  
for that I am thankful.

Caring, hard work, honesty,  
and loyalty are just some of the  
wonderful traits that you have  
exhibited over these past three  
years. They are what make you  
so very special.

I will miss seeing you each  
day in school. I will miss our  
lunches. I will miss your  
companionship. But no matter  
where we are and how much  
distance separates us, you will  
always be on my mind and in  
my heart. And as you have  
always been there for me, I will  
always be there for you—and I  
will always be just a phone call  
away. -Your grateful friend,  
Rob Schimenz

To my wonderful girls and my  
handsome guys, you know who  
you are. You guys are the best.  
I will never forget the crazy,  
sad and happy times we shared.  
I love you all. -Diana C.

To TOPPP Students,  
Have a great summer. It's been  
fun! -Love, Ms. Abrams

Congratulations Seniors, I wish  
you much success in your  
future. -Love, Ms. Abrams

I love you all my friends, I  
think I do. -Hui Jin

To my baby Janet,  
Through the year you have  
become someone special in my  
life. I will miss you. I love you!  
Take care. -Luv, Vic

To the Class of 2003,  
Good Luck in your future.  
-Mrs. Grenz

Hey Lady,  
You're that special little friend  
to me that I'm really going to  
miss and the good times we  
had. Hopefully we go to the  
same college and take the same  
classes and it'll be all good.  
From the one and only.  
-Ricardito

Farewell to all those who love  
me. -Love, Anna (Bananas)

Best wishes to all the Graduates!  
May you have a great and  
successful life. -Mr. Rivera

Big-ups to my boys Tanvir,  
Richard, Victor, John, Jermaine  
and the Cripple crew. Peace.  
-Steven

To the Science, Math and  
Physical Education Staff  
members, thank you for your  
support and hard work with our  
students this year.  
-Sincerely, Mr. Gorman

Life will be what you make it -  
so make the best of it!  
Congratulations Class of 2003!  
-Mrs. Cheree Himmel

# Voice Grams

## Reaching out to tell someone...

compiled by Tanvir Toy and Diana Casallas

I just wanted to wish all of my  
friends (they know who they  
are) the best in life. Also, I  
wanted to thank you for your  
friendship and I'll never forget  
you guys. I luv you all. -Mixy

Dear Mrs. Resnick,  
You will be missed! Enjoy  
retirement! -S. Grenz

Congratulations to the  
graduating class of 2003 and  
thanks to all the QV students  
for making my 1st year  
memorable. -Mr. Devaux

C-Tech crew,  
I'll miss you. Remember the  
good times. -Love, Jennifer B.

Dear Mr. Schimenz,  
Thank you for all your  
wonderful work! -Ms. Hulak

To Ms. Radovich,  
I always enjoyed the topics you  
would bring up in class because  
they were very interesting and  
dealt with everyday life.  
Hopefully other students enjoy  
your lessons as much as I did.  
From your best student,  
-Richard

Steven,  
Thank you so much for being  
there for me and showing me  
how much you care. Also for  
being sweet and funny. -Mixy

To Kendel, Oscar, and Tanvir,  
Thanks for your time and  
efforts as captains this year.  
Your help kept our team  
together, if not always in line.  
I've enjoyed our lunches  
together. Thanks for being  
good captains. -Rob

Ting Ling,  
For all the things we have been  
through. I will never forget  
when we first met in the same  
class together to let you know I  
will always love you more  
forever and wish me luck in  
college. -Jonathan Pereyra

My best wishes to the Class of  
2003. May your dreams and  
wishes come true. God bless  
you. -Mr. Alohian

To my colleagues at Queens  
Voc, thanks for helping me  
through a difficult time in my  
life. I truly appreciate all the  
support you gave me.  
-Rob Schimenz

Good luck, Class of 2003!  
Hope you will be somebody  
someday. Don't make a boo  
boo in college.  
-Ms. Juliana Erkins

Ana, I wish you the best always.  
Love you. -Ana

To my girls, Valentina and  
Rosemarie. I love ya, thanks  
for the memories. Ramon, I  
love you. -Jennifer R.

Mo, Thanks for your sweetness,  
kindness and friendship. Sorry  
for the heartaches, but you  
know you have always been a  
special friend to me. -Mixy

To my Journalism editors: Alex,  
Asim, Jennifer, Natalie, Rich,  
Sharon (Shirley), Tanvir, and  
Yoshira: Thanks for giving so  
much of your time for the  
school newspaper. You have  
helped our paper become a  
model for others, and you have  
been model editors for those  
who might follow. Thanks not  
only for the time, but for the fun  
and the laughs. -Rob

To my 11th grade Cosmo girls,  
good luck in everything you do.  
To my parsera Diana, go to  
class. -Much love always, Ana

Much love and best of luck.  
One and only, -Fobolous

To my very special friends,  
Leonela, Yoskara, Diana, Tania,  
and Rosy. I want to thank you  
girls for the good times we had.  
You have left many  
unforgettable memories in my  
heart, which I will treasure  
forever. -Love Always, Lady

To Ms. Lo Bosco,  
I wish you luck in your new  
school. I have always respected  
your hard work and your  
commitment to our students.  
Through your efforts in the  
classroom, you have continually  
shown how much you really  
care, you have demonstrated the  
importance of putting children  
first. -Rob Schimenz

Thanks to all the teachers, good  
and bad, who showed me life  
ain't easy and hard work is  
required to survive. Also the  
friends I made along the way.  
Good Luck! Now I'll enjoy a  
school with a gym and cafeteria,  
thank God. -Eugene Choi

Eay Tun,  
I love you. We had a great time  
for the last four years. I am  
looking forward to making  
more memories with you. -Topu

Adeline, Betsy, Elvia, and  
Taina. I love you all and hope  
next year will be the best for all  
of us. -Maritza Mora

Thanks Gio, Mixy, John, Chris,  
Bristy, Rafath, and Mohammed  
for helping us with voice grams.  
-Tanvir & Diana

Keep your head up!  
-Anonymous

Diana (Princess),

I won't get over not being with  
you everyday, I'll just have to  
accept it. I'll miss you so  
much. You're the most special  
girl in my life next to my mom.  
Your smile makes me forget all  
my worries and you'll always  
be in my heart. -Tanvir T.L.Y

To the girl I got to know so late  
I wish you the best and I know  
you'll succeed in life. And I  
want you to know that I will  
always be there for you.  
-John (Ecuakid)

To all my friends have a nice  
summer! -Maritza Mora

To my Honors Juniors:  
I had the pleasure of teaching  
you for two semesters, and it  
was indeed a pleasure. A good  
class is an inspiration to a  
teacher, and first period has  
played a role in improving my  
teaching skills. I wish you all  
continued success, and I plan to  
return for your graduation.  
-Love, Ms. LoBosco

To the Queens Voc Tigers  
baseball team: Thanks for  
proving what I have said for  
years, that we can have a lot of  
players who work together as a  
family to play well and to win.  
You were dedicated to the team.  
Thanks for your support. -Rob

Thanks for making 2 years so  
special. I love you.  
-Your Chulo, David

To Kari, Diana, Gio, and Mixy.  
I will miss you girls.  
-Jessica Lopez

To Steven,  
You have been so sweet and I  
hope you stay that way. It has  
been three years of craziness  
with you. I have mad love for  
you. -Love ya, Sharon

Mixy,  
You're someone I'll always  
remember we've been friends  
for a long time and it's going to  
be hard to say goodbye. I care  
about you and you'll always be  
someone special to me.  
-Much Love, Steven

A shout out to all my friends  
who have made these three  
years at Queens Voc fun. I love  
all of you. -Truly Yours, Briant

To Rob Schimenz,  
You turned out to be a very  
good and cool teacher after all.  
I have learned a lot from being  
in Journalism, except to bring  
my work on time.  
-From your best student, Richie

To my Sparkle Grلز,  
Thanks for always being there.  
KIT -Love you all, Ana

Massi and Areli,  
It was fun talking to you two  
during Cosmo, can't wait to  
move in together. KIT  
-Love, Ana

To my baby,  
Being with you was the best.  
We have so much more to go  
through. -Love You, A. M.

To Ms. Lo Bosco  
Congratulations and the best of  
luck in your new school!  
-William Burke

We can never forget our  
education at QV. We etah  
everyone at QV.  
-Carlos & Tamzid

Dear sweet Evelyn,  
I love you, I want you forever.  
-Anonymous

To Mrs. Resnick,  
Thanks for the help you have  
given me over the years.  
-William Burke

To my mom,  
My best friend, who avidly read  
each issue of the VocVoice:  
thank you for your support in  
every step I took. Thank you  
for the love you gave me, and  
for the comfort you gave me  
when I was down. I will miss  
you forever. Your son, Rob.

Good luck to all my friends and  
to everyone in C-Tech. It's  
been fun. Take care now, bye  
bye then. -Andy Perlaiza

Girls,  
What's up! Love you all. KIT  
Never forget COSMO! -Gizzel

Mr. Grochala,  
You are always #1 with me!  
-Ms. Hulak

Congrats to the graduates and to  
the Lady Tigers Bowling Team.  
Good Luck and Best Wishes.  
-Mr. Garafano

Thank you to my friends,  
Jennifer, Carolina, Valentina.  
For making my high school life  
much easier and thank you to  
my Corona people for the  
friendship you've given me.  
(You know who you are!)  
-Rosemarie M.

Tita, Tina, Fefa,  
You will always have a place in  
my heart. Thanks for the good  
times Corona.  
-Carolina Dilone

Daryl, you're such a special  
student and I'm grateful to  
know you and to consider you a  
friend. - Rob

Best Wishes to Ms. LoBosco.  
You will be missed.  
-Ms. Hulak

To Schimenz and Vega,  
Out of the four years in this  
school, this has had to be the  
best one, this is because of you  
two. I am so grateful, you're  
the best.  
-Much Love, Alexis Benitez



Seniors,  
Thanks a lot for all these  
memories I am leaving with.  
Good luck to all of you, keep in  
touch.  
-Mohammed S.

To Joe O,  
We've had all kinds of  
memories. You know I will  
always be here. I'm going to  
miss you so much. Don't  
change.  
-Love, Sharon

Sharon, Jess, and Jenn,  
I'll miss you girls. Thanks for  
being good friends.  
-Tanvir

Mrs. Singh,  
Have a wonderful restful  
summer. Thank you.  
-Ms. Hulak

To Solange Tolentino,  
I hope and pray that you receive  
your diploma and go on to your  
future.  
-Eben Horne

C-Tech,  
We've had some great times.  
Y'all really made this year  
worth something to me.  
-Alexis Benitez

Mr. Cintron, Mr. D, & Mr. G,  
This has been a wonderful year  
with you guys. You gave us a  
lot of great memories. We are  
going to miss you very very  
much. We will come back to  
visit you.  
-Love, The Sparkle Girls

# Voice Grams

## Reaching out to tell someone...

To all my friends,  
I'm going to miss you guys.  
-Nereyda

To Mr. Davidson,  
Have an "Aussiesome" Summer!  
-Ms. Hulak

What goes around comes  
around, you know who you are.  
-Dennis Rodriguez

Dear Navjot,  
From freshman year, I have  
been desperate to be with you.  
I have longed for love and  
affection.  
-SJB

It's been a pleasure hating you  
all. Price is cool.  
-Guga, Spyke, Nicoy Muk,  
Akhy (Carlos, Viktor, Chris,  
and Alex)

Jennifer,  
I love you, you are my sister  
and my best friend. Ain't  
nobody and nothing breaking us  
up one!  
-Valentina V.

QV Seniors, I am so very proud  
of all of you!  
-Ms. Hulak

To all my friends,  
You all have made my four

years at Queens Voc.  
unforgettable and lots of fun for  
the most part. I will miss you  
people. From the one and only,  
-Richard

To all my friends,  
We had a lot of fun together.  
It's going to be hard to say  
goodbye, I am going to miss all  
of you especially Mixy and the  
business girls.  
-With lots of love, John U.

To my junior girls,  
I am going to miss ya. I wish  
you have a lot of fun senior  
year. You too, Jet. Goodbye  
lover, cousins, have fun!  
-John U.

To Tanvir,  
You are one of the greatest  
people I know. You have a  
great heart and you deserve  
everything good that comes  
your way. Stay sweet.  
-Love Always, Sharon

Good luck to all the seniors of  
2003.  
-V R

Ms. Walsh,  
Happy summer to my good  
friend.  
-Ms. Hulak

To all out seniors and staff  
here's to a job well done! Enjoy  
the summer.  
-Ms. Vittor

To all my girlz,  
I'll miss you and I'll never  
forget ya.  
-Yoskaira

Ms. Abrams,  
Thank you for everything.  
Happy summer!  
-Ms. Hulak

To my Sparkles,  
It has been four great years with  
you guys. There are no words  
to explain how much I'll miss  
you. Our memories will never  
fade. You will always be in my  
heart.  
-Love Always, Sita

To all my senior friends,  
Thank you for being cool. I  
will miss you all.  
-Love, Gio

Miss-Pretty-Smile,  
To the world you maybe just  
one person, but to one person  
you could mean the world.  
Believe me... And keep on  
smiling.  
-Mr. Sweetheart  
(No Comments)

Ms. Dattner,  
Merci, Happy Summer!  
-Ms. Hulak

Steven and Richard,  
You guys made HS a lot of fun,  
I'll always remember the funny  
and crazy memories. I'll never  
forget you guys.  
-Tanvir

Dorothy, Maria,  
Thank you for being so  
hospitable! Happy summer.  
-Ms. Hulak

Tanvir,  
Thanks for a great friendship,  
for always being there for me  
even though I couldn't do the  
same. You are an awesome  
guy. Thank you for bringing so  
much happiness into my life.  
We'll always have our  
memories and you will always  
have a special place in my  
heart.  
-Love Always, Princess

Mrs. Basirico wishes the  
seniors the best in all your  
endeavors. May you have good  
fortune and good health. Good  
Luck.  
-Mrs. Basirico

Rob,  
I love you like a big brother. I  
respect you as a coach, I am  
thankful to have to as a teacher,  
and most importantly I'm glad  
to have you as a friend. You  
have done so much for me and I  
hope one day I can repay you.  
Thanks for everything and  
thanks for caring so much.  
-Love, Tanvir

## Correcting Our Mistakes

by Steven Garcia

"Congratulations on another  
fine edition of the *Vocational  
Voice*," wrote Mr. Davidson, in  
a letter to the Journalism class.  
Even though it was a "fine  
edition," the previous edition of  
*Vocational Voice* had a couple  
of mistakes.

The Calendar of Events on  
page 2 is for Queens Voc, not  
Queen Voc. On page 3, the  
article "Case Closed," written  
by Natalie Parada, has a couple  
of mistakes. The first para-  
graph states, "The Queens Voc  
mock trial team was among the  
top 48 schools that successfully  
competed in the third round of  
the mock trial competition." Although it says that the  
students competed successfully  
in the third round, they really  
did not, according to Mr.  
Davidson. The team lost in the  
third round, therefore they were  
not successful in that round.  
Paragraph 3, of the same article,  
says, "According to the Fifth  
Amendment, there must be a  
speedy and public trial. This is  
another mistake. A person is  
guaranteed a speedy and public  
trial by the Sixth Amendment."

On the next page, the article  
"Honor Roll Names Announ-  
ced," written by Arturo  
Cazares, says, "Students who  
achieve Honor Roll for the fall  
semester are inducted into the  
Honor Society." This is wrong,  
which Mr. Davidson pointed  
out in his letter. He made it

clear that there is a distinction  
between the Honor Roll and the  
Honor Society. "Only students  
with a cumulative average of 85  
are eligible to be inducted into  
the Honor Society," wrote Mr.  
Davidson.

"Mr. Bhatti Goes to  
Albany," an article on page 6,  
written by Alexis Benitez  
misspells Mr. Davidson's name.  
The article "Students Travel to  
Albany to Lobby," on the same  
page, written by Asim Bhatti,  
says, "Seven Queens Voc  
students made impassioned  
speeches..." Then nine names  
are listed. That is because nine  
students were supposed to  
speak but only seven did.

The article, "Our Readers  
Speak Out," on page 7, written  
by Diana Casallas has a mix-up.  
The first paragraph begins,  
"After the third edition of our  
school newspaper..." the  
previous edition was the third  
one. It should have read, "After  
the second edition..."

On page 9, the article "The  
Lost Books," by Lady  
Velastegui, mentions that 332  
students owe books and that  
that amount also includes  
"approximately 100 students  
who were discharged in  
September 2002." That  
information is wrong. Accord-  
ing to Mr. Davidson, the total  
does not include discharged  
students who left the school  
while still owing books.

On the same page, the article  
"Do Students Know?" written

by Steven Garcia, has a couple  
of mistakes. The questions,  
"How many planets are there in  
our solar system?" and "What is  
the smallest planet in our solar  
system?" both have more than  
one answer. There is currently  
a controversy over whether  
Pluto is the smallest planet in  
the solar system or the largest  
of the Kuiper Belt objects.  
Questions 3 & 6 than have more  
than one answer.

Mr. Davidson also pointed  
out that the "Senior Sports  
Profiles" didn't say who  
compiled the information. The  
information was compiled by  
Christopher Hernandez. The  
teams the seniors played for  
were not mentioned either.  
Anayancy Moreno, Giselle  
Ureña, Tania Correa, and  
Veronica Mulligan all played  
on the softball team. Randy  
Portes and Renard Inniss played  
on the basketball team. David  
Robles and Isaac Collado were  
baseball players, and both  
where four-year players as well.

The *Vocational Voice* has  
won first place in the American  
Scholastic Press Association's  
(ASPA) annual review and  
contest, but by no stretch of the  
imagination are we perfect. We  
make mistakes just like other  
newspapers do. And just like  
other newspapers, we try to  
minimize our mistakes, because  
we believe that "Good enough  
is the enemy of it can be  
better."

\*\*\*\*\*

## Emeralds Shines With Pride

by Natalie Parada

*Emeralds*, which was  
distributed on Monday, June 9,  
shows the work of students  
through poems, writing, and art.  
*Emeralds* is a magazine of  
students' work. Its production  
was coordinated by Ms. Hulak  
and Ms. Muresan, who  
proofread poems and selected  
artwork.

"*Emeralds* is an outstanding  
work of literature which  
portrays students' feelings and  
thoughts," said Sumon Miah, a  
sophomore who edits and  
submits work to *Emeralds*.  
"Writing reflects the students'  
passion, feelings, and analysis  
of their world," Ms. Hulak said.

This year's *Emeralds*  
consists of 40 pages filled with  
creative writing from nearly  
100 students. Jennifer Voinea,  
a junior, designed the cover of  
*Emeralds*. Students who  
submitted their work to  
*Emeralds* had the opportunity  
to share their thoughts with other  
students. "*Emeralds* gives  
students an opportunity to  
express themselves creatively,"  
Ms. Muresan said.

The editors have the  
opportunity to improve their  
editing skills by checking the  
spelling and grammar of the  
students' writing. The editors

were Nathalie Alonso, Olmery  
Aguero, David Bonilla, Diana  
Casallas, Nataly Delgado,  
Annabella Fortuny, Jennifer  
Guzman, Jessica Kenniff,  
Jessica Martinez, Sumon Miah,  
Yoskaira Pena, Carol Rivera,  
Denise Rosa, and Ralph  
Wilson.

"If there are any other  
inspiring students who want to  
participate and will be  
dedicated for next year,  
*Emeralds* may be the perfect  
opportunity for them," Ms.  
Muresan said. Nathalie  
encourages other students to  
participate in *Emeralds* for next  
year. "Not only is it wonderful  
to see your work in print, but  
you learn quite a bit. It has  
helped me with my editing  
skills," she said.

To obtain a copy of  
*Emeralds*, students may see Ms.  
Hulak or Ms. Muresan.

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Preparatory  
Review



A student's view of Baruch.

## Students Attend College for a Day

by Martin Galeano

Queens Voc students went to Baruch College on Friday, May 2, to get a taste of what college is really like at Baruch's College for a Day program.

Quatisha Norris, Billy Peña, and Stephanie Arjona, all juniors at Queens Voc, were escorted to Baruch by Mr. Palou, the college advisor at Newcomers High School. Nine Queens high schools were represented: Far Rockaway, Frank Sinatra, Franklin K. Lane, Gateway, Grover Cleveland, Long Island City, Newcomers, Thomas Edison, and Queens Voc.

The students registered at 8:45 in the Vertical Campus Building. After registration, the students had a light breakfast.

By 9:45, the students got their first taste of college life. From 9:45 till 11:30, each student attended two of the following introductory classes: Communications, History, Law, Music, Psychology, English, Marketing, Public Affairs, Business, and Finance. "Some classes were big and the freedom students have is very different from Queens Voc. It was a look into what college life is really like and what to expect when we go to college. I liked the experience," said Quatisha. According to Billy, "Class sizes vary. I thought all classes were going to be big but most of them aren't." After the classes, Baruch students led a 15-minute tour of the college campus. While the tour was being conducted, the college students answered questions about the school and the schedule. "I like the idea of being more independent; you get to make up your own schedules and what classes you take," said Stephanie Arjona. Afterwards, the students headed to the cafeteria where they had lunch.

As lunch ended, a representative from the college admissions office and a financial aid counselor spoke to the students about the college and how students could apply. At 2:30pm the trip to Baruch College was over and the students stepped out of college life and back into the high school world.

by Diana Casallas

The Journalism class received many compliments and letters after our third edition of *Vocational Voice*. Ms. Hulak, who encourages her students to write to the Journalism class, wrote, "I congratulate you on the energy and diversity of the articles." Mr. Burke wrote, "Thanks for using the responses of my students so extensively. It motivated them to write again." You're welcome, Mr. Burke. We endeavor to use as many quotes from the letters as possible in "Our Readers Speak Out" section.

Some students had general comments about the newspaper. Ci Jing Pan wrote that our third edition was "interesting...I appreciate your work." Angel Vasquez wrote, "I would like to congratulate you for the great effort...to keep us informed and entertained on what is going on." Jonathan Perrier had some comments as well. He wrote, "I think that the class that produces the *Vocational Voice* shouldn't just be made up of and published by seniors." Jonathan suggested, "In case a student from the 9th, 10th and 11th wants to write for the *Vocational Voice*, he or she could be paired up with a senior and they could write an article together." Good idea Jonathan. We have often had non-seniors volunteer to write articles. In fact, Nathalie Alonso, a junior, wrote baseball articles for our paper as a 9th and 10th grader. Any student who wishes to write for the *Vocational Voice* should speak with the newspaper advisor next year.

The school staff also found the paper very interesting and informative. Mr. Davidson wrote, "there is truly something for everyone in the paper." Ms. Abrams also wrote a letter in which she congratulated the Journalism class for winning first place in the American Scholastic Press Association contest. She also wrote, "I was very impressed with the numerous well-written articles and beautiful layout," of the third edition.

Many students responded to the article "Lateness to Class: Disrupting Education," by Tanvir Toy. Most of the students who wrote agreed with Tanvir that students arriving late disrupt class. Alex Gonzales agrees that students should not be late to class because "it takes longer for classes to get settled." Joseph Peralta wrote, "If we get to class on time we could learn more and we don't disturb the classes." Halil Todic mentioned

that it is hard for the students in the class to concentrate because "there is a lot of noise in the hallways," when students are late. Julio Ospina finds it upsetting that "instead of learning, they [students] want to talk to their friends in the hallway." Silvia Paguay wrote that is not a good idea to be late to class because "when you are late you don't know what to do in the class." Daisy Valdez, who admits that she goes late to class wrote, "I know it's very disturbing...I try to come early but it's impossible." Daisy, try a little harder and you will see that your effort will be rewarded.

Three students suggested why students are late to class. Dennis Mansour wrote, "students may have a hard time to get to the next class because it's too crowded." Lisette Quizhi wrote, "some people talk to their friends until the bell rings." Annyuliana Bedoya wrote, "we come late because we stop at those machines...we really shouldn't be late to class," she admitted.

Other students suggested a solution to end the problem of latecomers to class. Eliana Morocho wrote, "I say that every time somebody comes in late they should get a penalty...like an essay saying why we shouldn't be late for class." Bruno Gallego wrote "because teachers don't do anything, students think that it is right to come in late and interrupt the class." He suggested, "teachers must do something...like give them zeros if they come in late." Joey Long recommended that Queens Voc should have

**"...everytime somebody comes in late they should get a penalty," said Eliana Morocho.**

"more security guards and put them on each floor." Alne Perez wrote that students who are late "should be put in the detention room." Miguel Sanchez suggested that students' cooperation would help "get rid of this problem."

Tanvir also received a letter about his article "Black History Month Celebrated at Queens Voc." Wilson Montegudo wrote, "I learned to reflect on things that African Americans have done to make America a better place for all people."

Sharon Reyes and Jennifer Rodriguez received a letter about their article "To Read or Not to Read." Jarrett Sanchez thinks that "classes should read during the reading period so you can have a break from

doing work, and enjoy reading a book."

Asim Bhatti received many comments about his article "Students Abuse PCs." Sheriece Dawkins is pleased that this issue was addressed in the newspaper. "I'm glad it's being broadcast so maybe something will be done," she wrote. Rajendra Bharath wrote that "students have to be more mature and trustworthy...I think it is a privilege to have computers but yet they abuse it." Mercedes Lopez wrote, "students just go on destroying things, not realizing that they

**"I agree that students and teachers are responsible for dirty classrooms," said Tania Artiles.**

are the ones who benefit from them." Christopher Hyland wrote, "something should be done...I don't get to work on a computer because there aren't enough." Syeda Ali suggested that "to decrease damage, when the class isn't using the computers for that day, make the students sit away from the computers."

On the subject of computers, Yoshira Pena received some letters on her article, "New PCs for Business." Jennifer Moy suggested that the new PCs shouldn't be used exclusively by the seniors. "Freshmen should also have the chance to use the new computers," she wrote. Henry Guiracocha explained why. "I am in room 407, and most of the computers there are broken or slow," he wrote. It shouldn't be just about seniors, Andres Diaz wrote, "freshmen's computers should be fixed as well because we also need good computers."

"Keep QV Clean" by Gioconda Gordillo brought many responses from students. Tania Artiles and Julio Vasquez agreed with Gioconda. Tania wrote, "I agree that the students and teachers are responsible for dirty classrooms." Nanette Lagares thinks that teachers should "apply rules that can help limit this kind of behavior." Rafal Biedrzycki wrote, "It is nice to see a classroom 1st period," when it is clean. Nedzad Hodzic remarked that the teachers should not allow "students who come in with a drink or food in [the class]." Eloisa Ramos agreed with Gioconda. "Our environment affects our attitudes. Dirty classrooms impact our education," she echoed. Sebastian Garcia noticed a connection. The

garbage problem "in the classroom is the same as in the lunchroom."

The article "Late to School: Barcoded Excuses," by Sharon Reyes also brought forth comments. Melissa De Jesus wrote, "I think the article is right because sometimes students try to find their way out of lateness and they blame it on the machine." She added, "having the system is a great idea. If you are late just accept it and blame it on yourself." Lina Marin agreed with Melissa that the "new IDs have been helping the school keep track of the attendance." Some students gave advice to those who arrive late. Jeremy Lorenzi wrote, "If you can spare a few minutes to get here earlier...you wouldn't be late." Other students observe their peers in the morning as they come inside. Kendra Pajevic was amazed when she saw "a huge number of students arrive a minute before from the bell expecting to come in early." Other students do not think that is worth it coming in early. Michael Lawrence asked, "why should I come earlier...the line is always long," but Kendra wrote, "you should come minutes earlier and watch how students come earlier without forming a line." Not all students who arrive late blame the barcode system. Some blame the trains! Denise Rosa wrote, "it's the problem with the trains...this situation also happens to many others." Melissa Encarnacion wrote, "the train also has problems because of construction and you might need to transfer a lot."

Some controversy was created by the article "War: What is it Good For?" by John Uruchima. Steven Battle wrote, "I wasn't surprised that more people opposed the war than [supported] it. Many people around New York City have family and friends stationed in Iraq." Angel Vasquez commented, "I think that going to war was a good idea because that way we would prevent Saddam Hussein from using biological weapons." But Salman Khan asked, "How are you bringing democracy into Iraq with your missiles and your bombs?" Salman, just who do you mean by "you"?

Our Inquiring Photography question about rap music spurred numerous letters. Sydney Harris wrote, "you targeted one of the most controversial topics in any high school." William Huazhco wrote, "I like rap and think it's a way to express your words through a ghetto flow." Teneise Holmes agreed. "Rap



# sPeak Out

## Jen's Horoscopes

by Jennifer Buitrago

is a form of art and it should be taken seriously." Christopher Butera wrote, "even though I don't like it [rap], it is a way for people to express themselves."

"The Lost Books" by Lady Velastegui brought in some interesting opinions. Xiao-Dan Hu does not think it is proper for students to take books and not return them because "if you don't return the book then the next students cannot use it." David Molina believes that "if there is not a stop to this now, there's going to be thousands of dollars lost." Mauricio Argudo suggested that to help teachers to get the books back, "students

**"I liked how you honored...the shop students who work hard to be the best in shop," said Arman Ganie.**

should take a test the same day that we are supposed to return the textbook." And Andres Gallo thinks that "points should be taken off," if students don't return their books.

Lady received more letters on her article "Regents Results: Good News, Bad News." Sandra Janz wrote, "the article shows that not many students were serious about those exams." Ivan Gomez wrote, "I am only a 9th grader but I took the Math Regents and found it simple if you were prepared." Rui Chen believes is good to have these results in the newspaper because it helps the students "know what needs to be improved." While most freshmen, sophomore and juniors are getting ready for the June Regents, most seniors are getting ready for their prom.

"Senior Prom Prep" by Jennifer Buitrago caught the attention of many students. Yesenia Peña enjoyed reading this article and hopes, "all the seniors make the best of prom night because it only comes once in a lifetime." Vanessa Morales encouraged the seniors, "you waited four years for this day to come and should enjoy it to the fullest." Jenneth Grullon thought that it was a good idea to write this article because "it is a way to tell the do's and don'ts to everyone just in case they get nervous before the big day comes."

But before the year ends the most outstanding students from each shop had to be recognized once again. And Sylvio Lamisere did just that in his article "Shop Profiles." Arman Ganie wrote to Sylvio, "I liked how you honored some of the shop students who work hard in shop to be the best." Patsy Sanchez thought it was a good

way to "give ideas to people in exploratory." Angelique Bland enjoyed the article but asked, "what about the freshmen? There are some freshmen who work very hard in their shop." Good question Angelique. Most freshmen are in exploratory and we did not want to influence the selection of their major. Moreover, they rotate shops frequently, unlike sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Steven Garcia received letters for his article "Do Students Know?" Kashif Malik wrote, "It's a shame that so many people don't know the answer to simple questions," but Eduardo Eguizabal thinks that "students are just fooling around... I hope they try next time."

Steven also received letters for his article "Reality Shows are a Waste." Jacqueline Corona wrote "most of these shows are successful because they're so ridiculously stupid and corny that it's actually funny... when they come to an end there's no sadness because we all know that a new reality show, which will of course be overrated by the media, is already in the making." Cindy Almonte thinks that one of the most ridiculous reality shows is "Fear Factor." "That show just shows you that people would do anything for money, for example they eat insects... it makes you wonder what else they would do to themselves to get some money," Cindy wrote.

We also received some letters about our sports section. Michal Ciach wrote, "I really enjoy Tiger Sports... this

**"It's a shame that so many people don't know the answer to simple questions," said Kashif Malik**

helps me catch up to what's going on like how many wins and losses we have had." Mark Mauricio wrote, "I love the news on the teams, about what's happened and what's going on, who won, who lost."

Arturo Cazares received two letters about his article "Honor Roll Names Announced." Andrew Bator wrote, "I think that people in QV need to work harder on their grades. I think that the students have the ability to do it but they don't care." Arturo mentioned that students who achieve Honor Roll get to go on the Honor Roll trip. Miao-Ling Zhao, who is on the Honor Roll wrote, "I am so happy that I can go on this trip because it means that I earned something."

The advice column, "Monkey and the Cuban," was also enjoyed by students. Sheila Ruiz wrote, "some people who want advice might not have someone to talk to... Monkey and the Cuban give out good advice." Rosenny Taveras likes the article because "sometimes teenagers need advice from other people with their problems."

In Queens Voc we have more than a newspaper advice column, we also have a program in which students can find the help they need to solve their problems. Gabriella Marte wrote a letter to Jennifer Ng about her article on our Spark program. She thinks that it is a good idea to have this program in our school because "students who need help should go and talk to someone who could listen to them." "I hope the Spark program stays in QV because students need it." Tasia Jenkins thinks that Spark, "can truly help a lot of kids with their problems because some kids go through a lot and just keep it inside."

Jennifer also received a letter for her other article "Future Business Leaders Ready to Compete." Jacqueline Rodriguez wrote, "I think that FBLA is a good program for people who are really interested in business. I think that I might like to join FBLA."

Mr. Davidson complimented Natalie Parada for her article "Case Closed" on the mock trial team. He wrote, "Natalie did a good job of interviewing many members of the team. It was nice to see their quotes in the article."

Diana Casallas received a few letters about her article "Hulak's Houseplans Hopping." Jackie Hagans enjoyed participating in the Philosophy Slam. "I think that it was really fun, and it was a great opportunity for me and other people to move on up in the world and expand our horizons if we wanted to be writers," Jackie wrote. Benjamin Cortez wrote "it was very interesting to find out about the things she [Ms. Hulak] has accomplished, during the time I've been here she has been a very good teacher."

The Journalism class thanks our readers for the time they took to read the newspaper and to write to us. We'd also like to thank Ms. Abrams, Mr. Burke, Ms. Hulak and Ms. Vittor for their support, and Ms. Packer and Ms. Radovich-Gonzalez for the letters we received from some of their students. We hope that we have accomplished our goal, to keep you well informed and entertained.

**Gemini (May 21- June 21):** Happy Birthday! Go out with a person you enjoy being with a lot, not necessarily your boyfriend or girlfriend. You have worked hard so you deserve some fun and laughs, but don't take people for granted.

**Cancer (June 22- July 22):** Your moody attitude and insecurity will be the downfall of your relationship. Cheer up! Your character needs a bit of change for the better, so try making yourself happy first, then concentrate on others.

**Leo (July 23-August 22):** You are having trouble making decisions because one way or the other they seem to lead to negative consequences. There are other alternatives that you haven't found. Seek and ye shall find.

**Virgo (August 23- September 22):** Success seems to be in your way! Just when things seemed to be far from your reach, you'll soon be at the top. The answer is yes to the question rambling about in your mind, but you don't seem to believe it.

**Libra (September 23- October 23):** Make up your mind and stop playing games that will leave you empty handed. Follow your heart regardless of what others say.

**Scorpio (October 24-November 22):** Be careful how you act. It may seem to you that you are funny but are really just making a fool of yourself. Grow up.

**Sagittarius (November 23- December 21):** Sometime at the end of summer you will be useful to someone who will need a favor and who also might not be that close to you. Do them the favor and you won't regret it. A favor done will be a favor returned.

**Capricorn (December 22- January 20):** You have been long waiting for that special event to happen. Don't delay! Hurry while it's there or else the magic will be gone.

**Aquarius (January 21- February 19):** Messy, messy, messy! You need some organization in your life. Take care of duties and put important priorities at the top of your list. Also, stop being so materialistic. Choose your needs over your wants.

**Pisces (February 20- March 20):** You have been hurt in the past but its time to move on. Summer is finally here and this is your chance to go out, meet new people. Don't close yourself in a box.

**Aries (March 21- April 19):** You do too much talking and accomplish very little. Your friends already know you are phony. Be more realistic and stop swearing you're all that because you'll never get what you want.

**Taurus (April 20- May 20):** You're in need of money and it's time for you to stop saying, "Ma, I need money." Find a summer job and start doing things on your own. Nothing is better than spending money you've earned yourself.

## Queens Voc Scholarships for Seniors

by Natalie Parada

This year, four graduating seniors can each win a \$1,000 scholarship from the Student Organization (SO) from a scholarship program initiated three years ago. Students had until Monday, June 9 to apply for the scholarship. The winners will be selected on Friday, June 20.

"The \$1,000 helps students with expenses such as books, or any other expenses in their first year of college that they may have," said Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities.

"The SO scholarship is an opportunity for students...to compete for scholarships from a smaller pool of eligible students," Ms. Vittor said.

To be eligible for the SO scholarship, students must have at least an 80 average on their transcripts, and 85% attendance throughout their high school years. Students must attend a two year or four year college, or a trade school in the fall after graduation.

Students must also have been involved either in some community service such as the March of Dimes, or have been involved in school activities such as SO or school teams. To be considered for the scholarship, students had to write a brief essay explaining why they believe they should get the scholarship. Students who have been suspended are disqualified.

The scholarship selection committee composed of Principal Vittor, Mr. Vega, senior guidance counselor Ms. Abrams, non-senior SO officers, and any senior teachers interested in participating. During the selection process, teachers may write recommendations for students.

To collect the scholarship money, the four selected students must bring back to Queens Voc their college ID and a letter from the college stating that the student is in college and doing well academically.



Editors show how to produce award-winning newspaper.

## What we Learned in Journalism

by Martin Galeano

As students walked into Journalism in September of 2002, they had no idea how to produce a newspaper, but as they're leaving, they have a whole new understanding of what journalism really is. "I really did not think I could be a productive journalist, but now that the year is over I feel that I have learned to write efficiently because of Mr. Schimenz's guidance," said Sylvio Lamisere, one of the seniors in the Honors English Class.

Most English classes have a routine: read books then write a report, read poems and interpret them. And usually, English students write for an audience of one, the teacher. The Journalism class also read a book, *Anthem* by Ayn Rand, and wrote a paper over spring break. But mostly, when journalism students write, they write for the newspaper with an audience of over 1,000 people, including students, teachers and other staff members, administrators, and even principals and journalism students in other schools. The larger the audience, the more inclusive the newspaper, the harder it is to make everyone happy.

"When writing for the newspaper, you must have an open mind and you can't take sides. Writing for the newspaper depends on facts, whether they are good or bad. Journalism is not about making friends, it's about reporting news to the students and letting the truth be heard," said Sharon "Shirley" Reyes.

There are numerous steps that must be taken before the school newspaper is read. The first task is for students to come up with topics to write about. Generally, each student must suggest five topics for each section of the newspaper: news, opinions, features, and sports. Those suggestions become the basis for the topics of articles up for grabs. From school news to school sports, each section must be covered to be sure, as Mr. Davidson said, "there is something in the newspaper for everyone."

A comprehensive list of

students' suggestions is then typed and given out to students. The students select their topics, usually the students with the highest homework grade, most effort, or highest-class grade get to pick first and the students with lower grades follow. "A meritocracy," Mr. Schimenz says. With articles picked and students ready to start, the class develops a schedule of due dates. Each journalist must comply with the schedule, or points get deducted from their articles.

It is often difficult to gather information and write an article, but writing an article is very difficult when the journalist cannot schedule an interview because of schedule conflicts, or the person he needs to



Editors look on attentively.

interview is not cooperative. "Teachers sometimes give you a hard time when you need information for your article. It is hard to write an article that is informative and up-to-date when a teacher tells you he or she is too busy to update you on current information," said Rezaur Rahman. But most people gladly cooperate with the journalists, said Mr. Schimenz, "because they understand that our goal is to show all the good that goes on in Queens Voc."

After writing their first draft, Mr. Schimenz gives the students his perspective on each article. "He takes each article and dissects every single one to look for flaws or weak points, which is hard to do," said Sylvio Lamisere. By the time their articles are considered print-worthy, students have usually written four or five drafts. Often, the students type

their articles using the computers in room 402. But that presents a problem, as most of the computers have viruses and the computers are not equipped with anti-virus software. Disks are frequently corrupted. According to Mr. Schimenz, Tanvir Toy is usually the one who solves this problem. He runs a virus scan on every disk and after the disks are virus free he saves all the articles to a zip drive. Of course, while articles are being written, pictures are taken to help make the paper more visually appealing. When the students have submitted their final drafts, the work of the editors really begins.

Each editor has a favorite task. Junior Asim Bhatti said "It can be stressful when you have to keep editing final drafts, but I enjoy editing articles rather than physically pasting the articles for the layout. I think I contribute more when I stick to editing, but I will do anything to put out a great newspaper." The layout of the newspaper all takes place in one weekend. "It's fun if it's going smoothly, but not if we find mistakes or have problems laying out a page," said Editor-in-Chief Tanvir Toy. The editors meet on Saturday and Sunday mornings at 8am and usually are home by 11pm. Sometimes, finishing touches are applied Monday mornings.

Once the layout process is

efforts gave me a sense of pride when I found out we won 1st place," Jennifer Rodriguez said.

But awards only take a class so far. Some students feel what they have gained in the class is more than just putting out a great paper. "Everything we did while we were in Journalism will help us when we are in college, from writing skills we acquired to time management," said Tanvir, who is also the captain of the baseball team.

Once the *Vocational Voice* is distributed, journalists have a little break before starting on the next edition. The class gets dozens of letters from students about the paper, usually as part of a class assignment given by Mr. Burke and Ms. Hulak. In their letters, the students discuss what they like or dislike about a particular article. Ms. Abrams, Ms. Hulak, and Mr. Davidson also write to the class. Mr. Schimenz enjoys reading the letters to the class. Ms. Abrams and Ms. Hulak usually comment about how much they like the paper but it is always fun to read Mr. Davidson's letter, said Mr. Schimenz. "Mr. Davidson writes his letter with humor but no mercy, whether the comments are good or bad, he tells the class what is on his mind. I like to hear his comments because he mentions weak points in the newspaper. That helps us know where we need to improve," said Jennifer Buitrago. Ms. Vittor on the other hand visits the Journalism class to discuss the latest issue of the paper. She starts off congratulating the class on the current issue and goes on to give her opinion on what she likes and what she dislikes. "It makes me feel important because Ms. Vittor takes one period out of her busy day to come and speak to the class, it shows that she really cares about the newspaper and our efforts," said Yoshira Peña.

"Overall, the paper shows how great our school is, but that doesn't mean we can't improve, or that we don't have problems, or that students don't have concerns or complaints. This is their venue to discuss them," said Mr. Schimenz.

In this way, Journalism is different from a typical English class.



Editor and Mayor.

# VICA

## QV takes 3rd place in plumbing contest

by Alex Chico

The VICA competition, held Wednesday, April 2 through Friday, April 4 in Syracuse, New York, was a success for Queens Voc.

Veronica Mulligan, a senior in plumbing, came in 3rd place statewide in the plumbing competition. "I was surprised that the judges chose me," said Veronica Mulligan. "I was the first female to go up and win a trophy for plumbing in Queens Voc," she said.

Other Queens Voc students also took pride in their work. "I proved to myself what I'm capable of," said Rezaur Rahman, a senior c-tech student who participated in the computer maintenance portion of the event. "I tried my best to keep up with the students from other schools," he said. The Queens Voc students found the competition tough. "The students we competed against were very dedicated to their work; it was an honor competing against them," said Andy Perlaza, who participated in the technical math event. "Competing against such people makes me want to perform better," he said.

Ten Queens Voc students participated in the statewide VICA competition. Vincent Calderon, Cassandra Falcon, Rifat Islam, Raymond Lanzer, Veronica Mulligan, Andy Perlaza, Rezaur Rahman, Mohammed Salahuddin, Miguel Velez, and Suen Suen Wong. They participated in the following events: electrical, plumbing, computer maintenance, computer applications, job interview, technical math, job demonstration, and prepared speech.

"I feel the results of the competition were positive," said VICA Coach Mr. Cintron, "we competed in events our school has never participated in, and I feel that our students performed to the best of their ability."

"This competition helped us have a better understanding of our field of study," said Mohammed Salahuddin. "But students who are planning to join VICA next year should prepare early and make sure they choose an event in which they have a lot of knowledge and confidence, because they are going to compete against the whole state," he said.

VICA coach Mr. Cintron agreed with Mohammed's advice to future VICA members. "You have to be motivated and prepare by yourself from the start, in a field you're comfortable in," Mr. Cintron said.



# QUEENS VOC FEATURES

## ART AT QUEENS VOC

by Gioconda Gordillo

For the past few years, Art classes have usually been assigned to freshmen, but there is a chance that won't happen for next year. According to Ms. Vittor, "Art classes for entering freshmen are still undecided, instead the classes will be moved into the curriculum for sophomore students." If the curriculum for Art is moved to sophomore year, freshmen who took Art won't have to take the class again.

Students would rather take Art class than complete an art independent study. Juan Lucas, a freshman, prefers "taking the class over independent study because in class we are able to learn new things every day, and the teacher explains how to make an object step by step, and I find that more interesting than just doing a long project." In class, students are able to demonstrate their potential, they have the opportunity to compare their artwork with



Artwork by Andres Gallo.

their neighbors' work, and they can get feedback on their artistic efforts.

In class, Ms. Fabian began teaching her students basic drawing skills. She began with shading, taught the elements of art, line color, and how to get objects to start getting shape. New to teaching and the only Art teacher in the school, Ms. Fabian has quickly developed many artistic and fun activities for her students. "Students have learned different types of art work such as how to draw landscapes, city scenes, still lives and perspective, which is a method for representing three-dimensional objects on a two-dimensional surface. Students also learn about artists," she said.

Ms. Fabian's students are enthusiastic about their experiences in Art. "I learned about Michelangelo since we had to do reports on artists, and I also learned about colors and the color wheel," said Freshman Franklin Mejia. Art classes do



Edward Duran, Ms. Smith-Norman & Toniese Holmes.

not only consist of painting and drawing. "Even though most of the work is art, it is important that students research and write reports on artists or on a period in art history," said Ms. Fabian. A student in her class, freshman Mishell Baquero, says her favorite part of art class is drawing buildings and backgrounds. "I thought buildings were just lines, then I found out I had to draw a horizon line and a midpoint to draw these buildings in order to make them look real," she said.

Students are usually assigned to work in groups, and are then asked to bring an object to life by painting or drawing it using all the techniques taught in class. "Ms. Fabian provides us with the pictures and then we are asked to draw them, sometimes using water colors, one of my favorites. When we paint, and start mixing colors, the class becomes more interesting, and it makes you want to learn more and more," said Juan Lucas. On the other hand, Mishell Baquero found perspective very interesting, and in the end she was amazed at what she had accomplished.

Recently, three of Ms. Fabian's students—Edward Duran, Toniese Holmes and Miguel Ruilova—had pastel landscapes displayed in a student art show run by the Museum of Modern Art. The show was called "Enter, Stop, Look, Feel," and Ms. Fabian, Ms. Smith-Norman, and Edward Duran, and Toniese Holmes attended the opening on May 29th. There was a string ensemble and gourmet foods were served. All the art work presented was produced by students from various high schools in Queens.



Portrait by Andres Castano.

## Music Reviews

by Asim Bhatti

### Wu-Tang Clan: *Iron Flag*

When people hear of Wu-Tang Clan, they usually think that the group is non-existent, but there are a few hip-hop fans who are trying to bring the group flavor back to hip-hop. Most people already know that *Iron Flag* was released in late 2001, and in today's market of changing artists, that may sound like ancient history. I decided to review this album because I believe that it is unappreciated by rap and hip-hop fans.

*Iron Flag* is Wu-Tang Clan's fourth album after three generally successful albums. Right out of the box, "In The Hood" takes a step back in time to a more street-oriented Wu-Tang Clan, like that found on *Wu-Tang Forever*. Stripping back the glitz and glamour, "In The Hood" aims at getting the Wu back onto the forefront of ghetto hip-hop making use of gunshot samples, sirens, and a blaring R&B horn section so familiar to the Wu.

Each member provides his input as usual on *Iron Flag*. Raekwon the Chef is under-utilized however, and Ghostface doesn't make an impressive appearance. The GZA is lyrically great as usual, and Inspectah Deck and U-God once again play the supporting roles and don't disappoint. Method Man is, well, Method Man, nothing more can be said about that. The real improvement on *Iron Flag*, however, is RZA. He more than adequately fills the production end and he shows refinement in his normally sketchy rhymes. ★★★★★

### Kelly Clarkson: *Thankful*

As the first winner of the very popular show *American Idol*, Kelly Clarkson is expected to be a big celebrity in the upcoming years, but she has to get her first album out of the way. She might have gotten her first album out of the way when she released *Thankful*, but the album sounds like something someone made in a hurry, sort of like they were trying to get something over with, like they were trying to get something out of the way.

Perhaps the most attractive song in this less-than-exciting release is *Thankful*'s first single, "Miss Independent." Co-written by Christina Aguilera, and sounding quite similar to Aguilera's "dirty" pop, the

track does spur excitement for *Thankful*. And this, unfortunately, is probably the only case of excitement on the album.

*Thankful* covers a fairly wide array of the musical map: country-crossover on "Just Missed the Train," Gospel / R&B on "The Trouble With Love Is," and pop-piano balladry on "Anytime." A wise decision marketing-wise, this variety will undoubtedly give Clarkson plenty of audience to work with before it's decided what her particular "expertise" will be. The problem however, is that by covering such a wide area, *Thankful* becomes more a mix of songs rather than a coherent single work.

What was most disappointing about *Thankful* was the fact that the vocals were not as great as I expected them to be. The whole basis of *American Idol* was to bring out a star with vocal and social talent, but this first album from Kelly Clarkson lacks both. ★★

### Cooler Kids: *All Around the World* (Single)

The Cooler Kids are a duo, with a new style of punk-pop music to offer to their listeners. *All Around the World* is the first single from their upcoming album *Punk Debutante*, which will be released in the summer. *All Around the World* has already been featured in the *Lizzie McGuire* movie.

The duo does not seem to have any singing skills, but that is not very noticeable with the loud background music.

I personally do not like the single *All Around the World*, because I believe that it is just too loud and seems to be going nowhere in rhythm. It is a dance beat, and it would be best if it were played in clubs or parties. I still think that the Cooler Kids have a lot of improving to do, and they cannot live on the success of their song in European clubs, where it is very popular. If you like punk music with a mix of new age pop, this is the song for you, if you don't like that style, don't bother. ★

### Rating Guide:

- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★ Very Good
- ★★★ Ok
- ★★ Just Bad
- ★ Awful



## Richie's Recipe

by Richard Dos Santos

### Chocolate Mousse Cake

What a great combination, chocolate mousse and buttery almond cake. While I give it thumbs up, calories stay down.

Preparation Time: 30 minutes, (plus chilling)

Baking Time: 25 minutes  
Makes 12 slices

### Ingredients:

- ¾ cup all purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon cream of tartar
- ¼ cup (1/2 stick) extra-light margarine (50% less fat), softened
- ¼ cup almond paste
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg white
- 2 table spoons skim milk
- 4 squares (4 ounces) semi-sweet chocolate, chopped
- 1 container (8 ounces) light frozen whipped topping, thawed

Chocolate curls and confectioners' sugar (optional) for garnish

### Directions:

- 1) Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Spray an 8-inch springform pan with vegetable cooking spray. Set aside for later use. In a small bowl, combine flour and cream of tartar. Also set aside.
- 2) In a large mixing bowl, using an electric mixer set on medium-high speed beat the margarine and almond paste for 5 minutes. Beat in sugar. Stir in the egg white and milk. Add flour mixture and beat for 1 minute. Spread batter in prepared pan.
- 3) Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, should take about 25 minutes. Place pan on a wire rack and cool for 10 minutes. Turn cake out onto rack and cool completely. Return cake to pan.
- 4) In a double boiler set over simmering water, melt chocolate squares. Set aside to cool.
- 5) Whisk 1 cup of whipped topping into melted chocolate. Whisk in re-maining topping. Spoon mixture over the cake. You can chill for about 30 minutes, until it is ready. Then garnish with chocolate curls and sprinkle with confectioners' sugar if you choose to.

# WEBSITES OF INTEREST

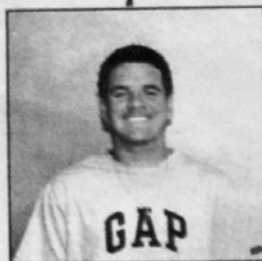
compiled by Diana Casallas

Queens Voc students spend a great deal of their time in front of a computer. We research, we shop, we chat, or just surf for fun websites to visit. It seems like nowadays the most popular hangout spot is the internet. There is so much you can do, from buying your favorite sneakers to applying for college. Here is a list of websites that we hope will keep you busy and entertained during your summer vacation. We would like to thank Ms. Abrams, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Nadler, Ms. Resnick, Mr. Stigliano, and Ms. Vittor for their suggestions. You might also want to visit our new school website, [www.qvths.org](http://www.qvths.org).

| WEBSITE NAME                                   | WEBSITE ADDRESS  |
|--|--|
| <b>Summer Fun</b>                              |  |
| National Wildlife Federation Teen Adventure    | <a href="http://www.weiprograms.org">www.weiprograms.org</a>                       |
| Student Life Tips                              | <a href="http://www.student.lifetips.com">www.student.lifetips.com</a>             |
| Broadway Theater Guide                         | <a href="http://www.nycourist.com">www.nycourist.com</a>                           |
| Chelsea Piers Sports & Entertainment Complex   | <a href="http://www.chelseapiers.com">www.chelseapiers.com</a>                     |
| New York City Swimming Guide Beaches and Pools | <a href="http://www.ny.com/health/swimming">www.ny.com/health/swimming</a>         |
| Six Flags Great Adventure                      | <a href="http://www.sixflags.com">www.sixflags.com</a>                             |
| Splash Splash Water Park                       | <a href="http://www.splishsplashlongisland.com">www.splishsplashlongisland.com</a> |
| <b>Educational</b>                             |  |
| NYC Dept of Education                          | <a href="http://www.nycenet.edu">www.nycenet.edu</a>                               |
| AFT (Teacher Union)                            | <a href="http://www.aft.org">www.aft.org</a>                                       |
| Queens Voc                                     | <a href="http://www.qvths.org">www.qvths.org</a>                                   |
| Poems  | <a href="http://www.poems.com">www.poems.com</a>                                   |
| Online Library                                 | <a href="http://www.libraryspot.com">www.libraryspot.com</a>                       |
| American Museum of Natural History             | <a href="http://www.amnh.org">www.amnh.org</a>                                     |
| Discovery Channel                              | <a href="http://www.school.discovery.com">www.school.discovery.com</a>             |
| Animal Planet                                  | <a href="http://www.animalplanet.com">www.animalplanet.com</a>                     |
| The Museum of Modern Art                       | <a href="http://www.moma.org">www.moma.org</a>                                     |
| Teens Health                                   | <a href="http://www.teenshealth.org">www.teenshealth.org</a>                       |
| New York City Public Library                   | <a href="http://www.nypl.org">www.nypl.org</a>                                     |
| Regents Exam Prep Center                       | <a href="http://www.regentprep.org">www.regentprep.org</a>                         |
| Edu Solution                                   | <a href="http://www.edusolution.com">www.edusolution.com</a>                       |
| <b>Search Engines</b>                          |  |
| Ask Jeeves                                     | <a href="http://www.ask.com">www.ask.com</a>                                       |
| Smarter  | <a href="http://www.smarter.com">www.smarter.com</a>                               |
| Dog Pile                                       | <a href="http://www.dogpile.com">www.dogpile.com</a>                               |
| Mamma  | <a href="http://www.mamma.com">www.mamma.com</a>                                   |
| About  | <a href="http://www.about.com">www.about.com</a>                                   |
| <b>Entertainment</b>                           |  |
| How Stuff Works                                | <a href="http://www.howstuffworks.com">www.howstuffworks.com</a>                   |
| Teen People Magazine                           | <a href="http://www.teenpeople.com">www.teenpeople.com</a>                         |
| Beat Greets (Free music greetings)             | <a href="http://www.beatgreet.com">www.beatgreet.com</a>                           |
| Seventeen Magazine                             | <a href="http://www.seventeen.com">www.seventeen.com</a>                           |
| Movies and TV Show Info                        | <a href="http://www.imdb.com">www.imdb.com</a>                                     |
| Celebrity Info                                 | <a href="http://www.starpulse.com">www.starpulse.com</a>                           |
| World's Most Popular Quotes                    | <a href="http://www.inspirelist.com">www.inspirelist.com</a>                       |
| EA Games                                       | <a href="http://www.aol.eagames.com">www.aol.eagames.com</a>                       |
| <b>Resources for Teachers</b>                  |  |
| The Teacher's Corner                           | <a href="http://www.theteacherscorner.net">www.theteacherscorner.net</a>           |
| Peak   | <a href="http://www.peaklearn.com">www.peaklearn.com</a>                           |
| Teaching.com                                   | <a href="http://www.teaching.com">www.teaching.com</a>                             |
| Discovery                                      | <a href="http://www.school.discovery.com">www.school.discovery.com</a>             |
| Teacher's Resources                            | <a href="http://www.teachers.net">www.teachers.net</a>                             |
| <b>Shopping</b>                                |  |
| Gap  | <a href="http://www.gap.com">www.gap.com</a>                                       |
| Amazon   | <a href="http://www.amazon.com">www.amazon.com</a>                                 |
| E-Bay  | <a href="http://www.ebay.com">www.ebay.com</a>                                     |
| Old Navy                                       | <a href="http://www.oldnavy.com">www.oldnavy.com</a>                               |
| Delia's  | <a href="http://www.delias.com">www.delias.com</a>                                 |
| CDNow  | <a href="http://www.cdnow.com">www.cdnow.com</a>                                   |
| Target   | <a href="http://www.target.com">www.target.com</a>                                 |
| Express Fashion                                | <a href="http://www.structure.com">www.structure.com</a>                           |
| <b>Sports</b>                                  |  |
| Public Schools Athletic League (School Teams)  | <a href="http://www.psal.org">www.psal.org</a>                                     |
| FOX Sports                                     | <a href="http://www.foxsports.com">www.foxsports.com</a>                           |
| New York Knicks                                | <a href="http://www.nyknicks.com">www.nyknicks.com</a>                             |
| New York Yankees                               | <a href="http://www.yankees.com">www.yankees.com</a>                               |
| New York Mets                                  | <a href="http://www.mets.com">www.mets.com</a>                                     |
| CBS Sports Line                                | <a href="http://www.sportsline.com">www.sportsline.com</a>                         |

# Inquiring Photographer

compiled by Sharon Reyes



**Leo Taveras, Sophomore**  
**Electrical Installation**

"If I would have a power it would be to fly so I could soar to where no man has gone before."



**Rosa Garcia, Sophomore**  
**Business**

"The power to see the future so I can know what's ahead, good or bad."



**Stephanie Fernandez, Freshman, Exploratory**

"The power of intelligence so I could get good grades in school and have a better average."



**Marlon Oliva, Junior**  
**Computer Technology**

"X-ray vision because I am so easily amused. It would make my day so much more interesting. I would never get bored."



**Jonathan Percyra, Senior**  
**Computer Technology**

"The power of unlimited strength just to get more respect, to be feared, to be known, and to break away from problems."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Video Game Reviews

by Alex Chico

### hack//Mutation Vol.2 (PS2)

A 48-part episodic adventure that spans a novel, Japanese animation, and video games, *hack* is a complicated tale of mystery, deceit, and shocking revelations, which take paranoia to new levels of extremity.

The main character is a teenage boy named Kite, who gets involved in the conspiracy of the virtual online game called "The World." While playing this game, Kite's friend, Orca, gets attacked in "The World" and suffered a coma in the real world. Kite then plays "The World" to unravel the mystery of his friend's condition.

As with the first volume, *hack//Mutation* Volume 2 is another short role playing game that spans about 25 hours of game play, and uses the bland graphics of the first

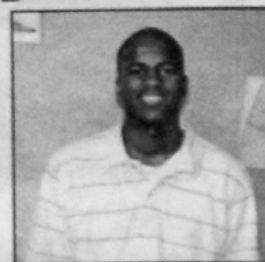
game. It answers questions left behind from the first game, while revealing more mysterious events that will intrigue newcomers about this epic.

The graphics have mostly remained the same with bland textures and backgrounds, but the number of monsters, structures, characters, and special effects on has increased. The controls are simple and responsive, and the game has an incredible soundtrack. This is a fun game that expands the already massive *hack* universe. The only downside is that this is a very short role playing game.

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Graphics   | 3 |
| Sound      | 4 |
| Control    | 4 |
| Fun factor | 4 |

### Enter The Matrix (X-box, PC, PS2, GC)

Enter the *Matrix* was released the same day as the movie *Matrix Reloaded*. Enter the *Matrix* was an average



**Jeremy Edwards, Junior**  
**Electrical Installation**

"Speed. I would get to school on time for my first period class because Mr. Vega be trippin'."



**Rifat Islam, Senior**  
**Computer Technology**

"The power of invisibility. It's better to be invisible than visible because sometimes you just want to get away."



**Alexis Benitez, Senior**  
**Computer Technology**

"I would like to have mind-controlling powers. Being able to control a person will be fun."

attempt to convert the movie experience to a video game. It seems that it will follow the tradition of movies turned video games, and let *Matrix* fans down. Never before have games and movies come together in this way, and the concept is a good one. However, the game serves as little more than an advertisement for the movie.

The story is poor, following two insignificant characters of the movie, and the game play doesn't really offer anything new. It's more of a gimmick to try to make more profit from *The Matrix*. This game is worth a rental, but don't bother buying it, unless you want a complete *Matrix* collection to show off.

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Graphics   | 3 1/2 |
| Sound      | 3 1/2 |
| Control    | 3     |
| Fun factor | 3     |

### Rating

- 1 Don't waste your money
- 2 Worth a rental
- 3 Satisfactory
- 4 Great
- 5 Excellent





Honor Roll Students meet Michael "Air" Jordan.

## Honor Roll Visits Wax Museum

by Richard Dos Santos

Students at Queens Voc who work hard and get high grades are rewarded with an Honor Roll trip. This term, the Honor Roll trip location was changed from the traditional cruise around Manhattan, to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum and ESPN Zone.

The trip location was changed because the Spirit Cruise wasn't educational enough, according to Ms. Vittor. This change gave students participating in the Honor Roll trip an opportunity to do something different. "I found the trip to be a great experience, it was the first time the Honor Roll students attended a wax museum," said Jessica Lopez, the senior class president. Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum is located in midtown Manhattan, at 23 W 42nd street.

To go on the trip, students had to earn an average of 85% or higher in the fall term. "The Honor Roll trip is a good reward for students who get high grades because they get a day off from school to go on a trip that is fun and educational. This encourages students to keep getting high grades," said Mohammed Salahuddin, a senior computer technology student.

The museum has around 50 wax statues of presidents, dictators, athletes, celebrities, and other famous people. "The celebrities made out of wax looked so real that after a while I didn't know who was real and who was not," said Natalie Parada, a senior cosmetology student. Some students were even "getting stuck behind these wax statues that they thought were real people," said Jessica Kenniff, the senior class secretary. Despite all the confusion with the wax statues, students got a chance to take pictures with them, while others got their hands printed on wax. The museum charged \$10 for guests to get their hand printed.

The SO paid the cost of admission to the museum, which was \$25 for each

attende. The SO also paid for the lunch. A total of 72 students attended the trip, which included 68 of the 69 students who achieved Honor Roll. Eight chaperones also attended the trip, which included Mr. Boyd, Ms. Bucaria, Mr. Lucero, Ms. Morales, Mr. Salamone, Mr. Vega, Ms. Vittor, and Ms. White.

At 12:30pm, the students and chaperones left the museum to go eat at ESPN Zone, which is located at 1472 Broadway. The food at ESPN Zone was



Leo and Lenny.

pre-ordered and the menu included chicken strips, chicken sandwiches, cheeseburgers, and hamburgers. "The taste and variety of the food was good," said Mixelins Arroyo. "There was a second floor with games and arcades, which made the place more exciting," she added.

"I thought the Honor Roll trip this year was fun and interesting, but it was kind of short," said Mixelins Arroyo, because most students left ESPN Zone at 1:00pm.

Honor Roll students who went on the trip:

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Rasel Ahmed     | 105 |
| Syeda Ali       | 204 |
| Nathalie Alonso | 301 |

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Rawle Anoop           | 301 |
| Mixelins Arroyo       | 402 |
| Stephen Bacchus       | 303 |
| Mitchell Baquero      | 105 |
| Asim Bhatti           | 301 |
| Angela Calisti        | 352 |
| Diana Casallas        | 401 |
| Alex Chico            | 402 |
| Elvia Collado         | 303 |
| Ingrid Cotrina        | 204 |
| Shakima Davis         | 207 |
| Melissa De Jesus      | 103 |
| Gian Carl Del Rosario | 255 |
| Andres Diaz           | 405 |
| Dianely Disla         | 303 |
| Melissa Encarnacion   | 106 |
| Cassandra Falcon      | 402 |
| KanKan Fang           | 401 |
| Anabella Fortuny      | 208 |
| Rosa Garcia           | 205 |
| Yolanda Griffith      | 206 |
| Umbreen Hanif         | 303 |
| Christopher Hernandez | 401 |
| Henry Hernandez       | 402 |
| Viktor Hristov        | 401 |
| Xiao Dan Hu           | 105 |
| Miao Miao Huang       | 301 |
| Hui Jin               | 401 |
| Precious Johnson      | 203 |
| Stephanie Jorge       | 204 |
| Alexandros Katechis   | 302 |
| Amritjoty Kaur        | 201 |
| Navjot Kaur           | 302 |
| Rattan Kaur           | 202 |
| Jessica Kenniff       | 401 |
| Adiyasa Kurniadi      | 206 |
| Ting Lin              | 204 |
| Angelica Lopez        | 202 |
| Jaime Lopez           | 301 |
| Peter Lopez           | 303 |
| Manuel Luna           | 303 |
| Sumon Miah            | 201 |
| Maritza Mora          | 302 |
| Juan Moscoso          | 204 |
| Jennifer Ng           | 401 |
| Lillian Nieves        | 204 |
| Carlos Ojeda          | 401 |
| Marlon Oliva          | 303 |
| Ci Jing Pan           | 303 |
| Natalie Parada        | 401 |
| Jonnathan Pena        | 207 |
| Catalina Ramon        | 204 |
| Jessica Rios          | 106 |
| Arisleida Rodriguez   | 108 |
| Jacqueline Rodriguez  | 104 |
| Henry Romero          | 302 |
| Ariana Rosas          | 201 |
| Mohammed Salahuddin   | 401 |
| Vivian Sanchez        | 202 |
| Harpreet Singh        | 203 |
| Leonel Taveras        | 206 |
| Tanvir Toy            | 402 |
| Suen Suen Wong        | 402 |
| Botao Yu              | 302 |
| Miao Ling Zhao        | 301 |

SO and senior officers who went on the trip:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Massiel Estevez  | 353 |
| Jessica Lopez    | 402 |
| Tiffany Negron   | 303 |
| Leonela Pichardo | 352 |



Dianely and friend take smoke break.

# Life After High School

by Alexis Peña and Usman Hanif

After spending 4 years in high school, life will demand a sudden change. Whether one continues on to college or gets a job, that person must be ready for a completely different experience. The *Voc Voice* got in touch with a few recent graduates and asked about their experiences after high school. These graduates are: Xavier Peña ('99), Christian Fernandez ('00), Anuradha Bhaggan ('01), Kevin Moreaux ('02), Jesse Fernandez ('02), and Willy Rodriguez ('02).

**Q: What was your Major in Queens Voc? What are you doing now that you have finished high school?**

**XP:** My major was Computer Technology. I am currently attending Hunter College.

**CF:** My major was Electronics. I am attending Computer Career Center.

**AB:** At QV my major was Electronics. I am now attending John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

**KM:** My major was Business. I am attending Queensborough Community College and I am studying Business Administration.

**JF:** My major was Electrical Installation. I am attending New York City College of Technology and I am studying Computer Information Systems.

**WR:** My major was Electrical Installation. I am attending Lincoln Technical Institute and I am studying heating ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration.

**Q: What was it like going from Queens Voc to college?**

**XP:** I don't feel that high school fully prepared me for college. When I went to my first college English class, my teacher used to return my papers with a lot of corrections. I found out that I couldn't write. I felt like I should've been taught. Not only in high school but also in general. I feel teachers don't really check the work in high school.

**CF:** It was a little different, a little harder, and also a bit more work.

**AB:** Going to college was a major change for me. No one tells you what to do or how to do it. Everything you do is your choice. I was prepared for college in numerous ways. Being in the Journalism class helped me a lot.

**KM:** It's hard because you have to depend only on yourself, you have to do your own work.

**JF:** This is much easier than expected because I always wanted to go to college and I was always told many stories about how difficult life was going to be and it isn't as hard as it is said to be.

**WR:** I expected it to be harder, but since I am enjoying what I am doing, it is not very difficult.

**Q: Do you wish that you were still in high school? If so, what would you have done differently?**

**XP:** Yes, I would try a little bit harder on the SATs. I would also apply to more colleges and for scholarships than I did and not settle for a CUNY school, as I did.

**CF:** Yes, I would definitely do more school work. I'd keep up with the work and raise my grades.

**AB:** If I would still be in high school, I would have probably majored in Business instead because that would have benefited me in the long run for the major I now have in college. I would have also joined CO-OP to gain some more job experiences so I would have a stronger resume.

**KM:** I honestly think about it from time to time, but I'm glad that I'm growing up. If I did have a chance to do high school over, I wouldn't change anything.

**JF:** I don't wish to go back to do high school over. I don't feel like trying to change the past.

**WR:** No, because I believe that no one should look back at the past. I believe that the past has passed us and the future is coming soon, but for now we must focus on what is the present. If we don't we won't enjoy our lives.

**Q: Any final thoughts?**

**XP:** If a lot of people are going to college without knowing what they want to pursue in the future, that's normal. Don't sweat not knowing what you want to do in college, just get into a college and you'll figure out what you want to do. Finding out what you do and finding out what you like, that's all part of the college experience.

**KM:** College is not easy, so if one is having a rough time or slacking off in high school they better straighten up their act, because college is a very serious part of your life, it is your future.

**WR:** Always try your hardest in life and never give up on what you like to do most.

## Reviews

by Anayancy Moreno

### X2: X-Men United

Starring: Patrick Stewart, Hugh Jackman, Ian McKellen, and Halle Berry  
Directed by Bryan Singer  
Rated PG-13  
Running time: 134 minutes

In the returning sequel to *X-Men*, Professor Xavier and his X-Men continue their struggle against a society that fears and distrusts. An ex-army commander, who has mysterious ties to Wolverine, launches anti-mutant programs. Their cause becomes even more desperate after an attack by an undetermined assailant possessing extraordinary abilities.

The unity shown by the X-Men proves once again that there is no obstacle to big to overcome. In this new exciting sequel, the X-Men must unite with those they considered their enemies, such as Magneto, who recently escaped from his plastic prison. He proposes a partnership with Professor Xavier and the X-Men to combat their common enemy, Stryker.

*X-Men United* delivers the stunt work that was promised. But the movie does leave you asking a few questions, such as, why do we only see Colossus use his powers only once throughout the movie when his powers are great and could beat even the strongest? Fans will be waiting to see if Colossus will appear in a bigger role in the next movie, which will explain the cliff-hanger at the end of this movie. Overall, this was an action-filled movie that fulfilled the fans' need for action. \*\*\*

### The Matrix Reloaded

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Laurence Fishburne, and Hugo Weaving  
Directed by Andy Wachowski and Larry Wachowski  
Rated R

Running time: 138 minutes  
The sequel that everyone has been waiting for since *The Matrix*, finds Neo, Trinity, and Morpheus continuing their fight against the artificial-intelligence machines who enslave the human race. The battlefield moves to Zion, the last holdout for human life on Earth, now in danger of being discovered and destroyed.

Freedom fighters Neo, Trinity, and Morpheus continue to lead the revolt against the Machine Army, by unleashing their extraordinary skills and weaponry against the systematic forces of repression and exploitation. In their quest to save the human race from

extinction, they gain greater insight into the construction of *The Matrix* and Neo's pivotal role in the fate of mankind.

"The Matrix has you," a quote used in the movie, makes a lot of sense when you try to understand what these heroes have to fight against. Once again fans get an action-filled movie designed to get people to think about the reality of the world.

The sequel lives up to fans' expectations. Some action scenes seem exaggerated, but these scenes have you asking for more. At the end of movie there is an unexpected turn that has movie watchers asking themselves what will happen next. This question will be answered soon, though, when they see the next sequel, which is expected to be in theaters in November. \*\*\*\*

### Bruce Almighty

Starring: Jim Carrey, Jennifer Aniston, Morgan Freeman, Lisa Ann Walter  
Directed by: Tom Shadyac  
Rated: PG-13  
Running Time: 94 minutes

Jim Carrey is a "human interest" reporter in Buffalo, New York who is discontented with almost everything in life despite his popularity and the love of his girlfriend Grace. At the end of the worst day in his life, Bruce angrily ridicules and rages against God. He then appears in human form acted by Morgan Freeman and supplies Bruce with all of his divine powers. He challenges Bruce to take on the big job and see if he can do it any better.

This comedy delivers the laughs that Jim Carrey is known for and demonstrates that the small signs are those that count the most when looking for an answer from God. In the movie as in real life a good point is brought up, when given too much power there are many people who will use it for their own good and forget about the problems others may be having. The stunts in the movie have watchers asking for more while almost rolling on the floor because of Jim Carrey.

Whining is not the answer to any situation. When a person's life is a mess they have to wait for the answer that may be right under their nose. Jim Carrey had to learn this the hard way and after getting all of God's powers he understood that he had everything he needed he just had to look for it. An unexpected turn has watchers asking if it's possible, but everything turns out fine at the end. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\* See it more than once

\*\*\* Worth spending your money

\*\* If the others are sold out watch this

\* Don't even bother spending your money

## Queen's Voc Teacher Word Search

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

by Sylvio Lamisere  
THEME: TEACHERS

Ali  
Basirico  
Boyle  
Cadet  
Davidson  
Erkins  
Garrison

Goldwag  
Grochala  
Himmel  
Hulak  
Hunter  
Lai  
Maloney

Mohan  
Nadler  
Price  
Schimenz  
Stigliano  
Vega  
Watkins

## Monkey and the Cuban

by Christopher Hernandez &  
Alexis Peña

**Dear Monkey and the Cuban,**  
My boyfriend broke up with me for a stupid reason. Instead of going with him to see *Matrix Reloaded*, I went with my best friend (who is a guy) to a carnival. My boyfriend got really mad and told me he didn't want to see me anymore. He won't return any of my calls and I haven't seen him for a while. What can I do to get him back because I really like him? Please help!

- Clueless and Lonely

**Dear Clueless and Lonely,**  
Maybe it isn't that stupid. He probably broke up with you for a good reason. Most likely it wasn't the first time you left him for somebody else. And because you left him flat for another guy that must have made him even more upset. There must have been similar problems like this and he just couldn't take it anymore. You need to meet him face-to-face and apologize to him. If you can't meet up with him you have to find someone that is close to him and let that person talk for you. If he still doesn't talk to you then you are going to have to let him go or just wait for him to get over it.

- Monkey and the Cuban

**Dear Monkey and the Cuban,**  
There is this guy at my job who

is constantly trying to kiss me and get with me. He won't leave me alone no matter how many times I tell him that I got a man, and to make it even worse, his girlfriend works with us and she has seen him try to kiss me and hears what he says to me. I don't want her to think that I like him, because I don't, and I want him to leave me alone. What should I do?

- Frustrated

**Dear Frustrated,**  
You should tell him that you don't like him, instead of telling him that you have a boyfriend, because he probably thinks that's the only reason that you won't kiss him. If that doesn't work then you should tell him that you don't want to do to you, to avoid any problems with her. You should tell her as soon as possible to avoid giving him a chance to make it seem as if you were the one hitting on him.

- Monkey and the Cuban

**Dear Monkey and the Cuban,**  
I need advice on a situation I have. The thing is I like this girl that has a man, but her man goes to another school. I have gotten really close to her and I don't know if I should tell her what I feel about her. I am afraid she will act weird once she knows. What should I do?

- Someone in love

**Dear Someone in love,**  
You should tell her how you feel. Take a chance and see what happens. Maybe she likes you and does not want to say it. She probably will not act different if she knows how you feel. If she does act different then forget about her and move on. You will find someone else.

- Monkey and the Cuban

**Dear Monkey and the Cuban,**  
There is this guy that I like a lot and he asked me to the prom but I thought he was joking around with me. Now I'm going with a friend and I found out he's going with this girl I don't like. I see him with her every period during the day and I'm jealous. I don't know what to do anymore.

- Desperate for some help

**Dear Desperate for some help,**  
You really screwed up. You cannot change who he goes to the prom with, but you should tell him how you feel. Just because he is going with another girl to the prom, it does not mean he has feelings for her. The two of you can book up after the prom.

- Monkey and the Cuban

E-Mail us at  
VocVoice@aol.  
com



# INSIDE TIGER SPORTS



Division champs with their proud coach.

## Queens Voc Teams Make History

by Yoshira Pena

On Tuesday, June 3, Queens Voc had its first Sports Award Banquet. The Sports Awards Banquet was held at Bruno's on the Boulevard, from 6-10pm. The cost of this event was \$20 per person and about 140 people attended.

Ms. Vittor, the principal, and Mr. Lerro, the athletic director, began the event by welcoming the athletes and guests and introducing the coaches. After the buffet dinner, the team trophies were handed out. Mr. Ali, the soccer coach, was the first to present. He expressed his pride in his team, the first soccer team at Queens Voc in 24 years. "It was a hard season, but hopefully it will get better next year," said Mr. Ali.

The second coach presenting that night was Mr. Maloney, who gave out the basketball trophies. He defined each of his basketball players as "dedicated and hardworking kids."

Mr. Garofano introduced the girls' bowling team. "It was a pleasure coaching this year. We won the division with 9 wins and made it to playoffs, that is a moment I will never forget in my whole life," said Mr. Garofano.

Mr. Lerro, the boys' bowling coach, said he was proud of "Queens Voc's dedicated and hardworking athletes."

After the presentation of the fall and winter sports trophies, the spring sport trophies were presented. The first coach to present was Mr. Maloney, who gave out the handball trophies. Next, Mr. Boyle, the softball coach, that presented trophies to

the girls' softball team. Mr. Schimenz, the boys' baseball coach, presented trophies to each member of the team. He told the audience that he was very proud of his players because they represented Queens Voc very well.

There was a break in the program as dessert was served. The program resumed and individual awards were presented.

Mr. Schimenz chose to speak about "things that matter more" than achievements on the field. He congratulated his four Honor Society inductees, Asim Bhatti, Elvis Collado, Mohammed Salahuddin, and Tanvir Toy. He recognized the efforts of his captains, Oscar Alzate, Kendel Ortiz, and Tanvir Toy, who he said were



Coach Boyle speaks.

"the backbone of the team." And he praised his team, and all the athletes present for having above average attendance rates.

At the end of the night, Mr. Lerro thanked everyone who assisted in the ceremony and said that our athletes deserve a special night such as this "because we have the greatest kids."

### Individual Awards

Name: Matthew Bermudez  
Award: Co-Captain's Award  
Sport: Basketball

Name: Vincent Calderon  
Award: Most Valuable Player & Multi-sport Award  
Sport: Basketball/Handball

Name: Renata Cascante  
Award: Captain's Award  
Sport: Girls Softball

Name: Peter Capo  
Award: Leadership Award  
Sport: Boys Bowling

Name: Boris Coronel  
Award: Best Player  
Sport: Soccer

Name: Massiel Estevez  
Award: Captain's Award  
Sport: Girls' Softball

Name: Cassandra Falcon  
Award: Most Improved Player  
Sport: Girls' Softball/Bowling

Name: Stephanie Fernandez  
Award: Rookie of the Year  
Sport: Girls' Softball

Name: Tyreese Fuller  
Award: Most Improved  
Sport: Boys' Bowling

Name: Joseph Gonzalez  
Award: Most Valuable Player  
Sport: Handball

Name: Jessica Kenniff  
Award: Captain's Award, Most Improved Player, Coach's Award,  
Sport: Girls' Softball/Bowling

Name: Brett Mosley  
Award: Most Valuable Player  
Sport: Boys' Bowling

Name: Alexis Peña  
Award: Leadership Award  
Sport: Boys' Basketball/Handball

Name: Sharon Reyes  
Award: Captain's Award, Most valuable player, Coach's Award  
Sport: Girls' Softball/Bowling

Name: Jennifer Rodriguez  
Award: Most Valuable Player  
Sport: Girls' Softball/Bowling

Name: Mohammed Salahuddin  
Award: Multi-sport Award  
Sport: Boys' Bowling & Baseball



Schoolyard days are numbered.

## Plans for Phys. Ed Classes

by Alexis Peña

Construction of Queens Voc's annex is scheduled to begin on July 1. Along with this new annex will come a gymnasium, a long-awaited addition to the school. But while construction of the new annex is going on, there won't be any outdoor Physical Education classes for at least a year, because there won't be a schoolyard. That's where the annex will be built.

Next year, students will take Phys Ed classes indoors, and the rear of the cafeteria will be modified to accommodate the classes that will take place there. During the time the annex is being built, the Phys Ed teachers will have to have lessons and activities to teach the students in the modified cafeteria.

Mr. Boyle says that he will teach his students the rules and strategies of different games and sports, in addition to the mandatory Phys Ed AIDS/HIV lessons. "Yoga, calisthenics, and weight lifting are also options," said Mr. Boyle.

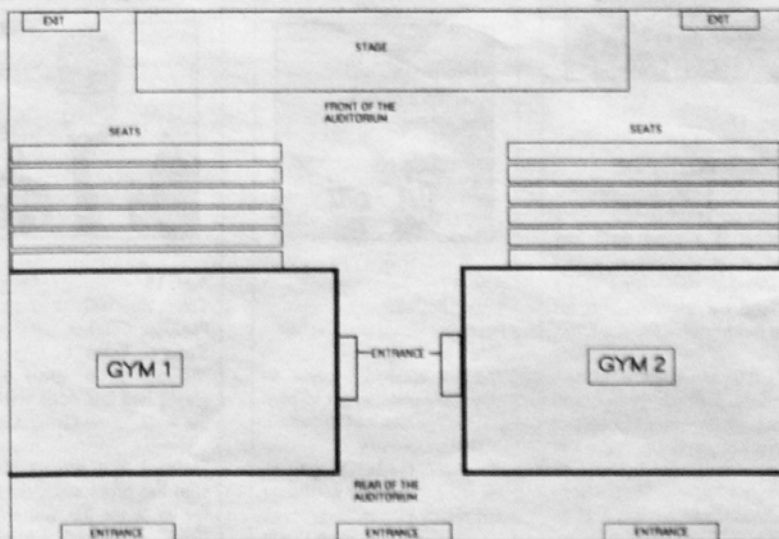
According to Mr. Garofano and Mr. DeVaux, they "are trying to get the school to order more equipment for physical fitness, such as a Stairmaster and an exercise bike. We're

also trying to get a Ping Pong table so the students can develop hand-eye coordination."

Mr. Lerro will teach his students about sports history, he said, and might even show them videos of past sports events such as the Olympics. He will also teach specific sports skill knowledge, such as correct bowling techniques.

Many of the Phys Ed teachers are concerned about further overpopulation of Queens Voc. Mr. Cadet is concerned that the building of the new annex might cause more overpopulation in the school. Ms. Bloom worries about the overpopulation that may take place next year due to the construction. The student population is expected to increase to over 1500 after the annex is completed, and no reductions are expected during the construction.

The program chairman, Mr. Davidson, who is in charge of developing the programs for the students said, "There will only be two Phys Ed classes per period, which means that Phys Ed classes will have to be spread out more to suit all of the students' schedules." Phys Ed classes will take place from periods 1-11, instead of periods 2-10, as it is now.



Proud athletic director.

## Final Outdoor Intramurals

by Alexis Benitez

### Boys Softball Tournament

The boys' softball tournament, which began on Thursday, May 1, consisted of 11 games. In the first-round rematch of the fall football championship, 12 EI played 10 EI. But 10 EI upset 12 EI by a score of 14-2 in the tournament.

Unlike previous tournaments, no team forfeited, which showed "sportsmanship and high-level competitiveness," according to Mr. Garofano, one of the teachers in charge of the tournament. Mr. Boyle, the other teacher in charge, said the level of competition was good. "A lot of good plays were made," said Mr. Boyle.

In the championship game on Tuesday May 27, 11 Electronics defeated 10 EI. The final score of the game was 4-3. Both teams upset senior teams to reach the finals to face each other. Captain of 11 Electronics, Tony Hernandez, thought the team "did better than last year." In the final game, "we didn't think we were going to win, but after a homerun, we were confident," said Tony Hernandez. "The final game was a great game," said Mr. Garofano.

Members of 11 Electronics were Captains Tony Hernandez and Anthony Santos, David Robles, Richard Rentas, Isaac Collado, Demetrio Reynoso, Oscar Alzate, Kenny Mejia, and Rodney Rojas. The members of 11 Electronics received a pizza party and trophies for their win in the tournament.

Twelve teams participated in

the boys softball tournament; 12th grade Business, Computer Technology, Electrical Installation, and Plumbing; 11th grade Computer Technology, Electronics, Mr. Abreu's Electrical Installation, and Mr. Vega's Electrical Installation; and 10th grade Computer Technology, Electrical Installation, Electronics, and Plumbing.

### Girls' Softball Tournament

Two days after the boys' softball tournament ended, the girls' softball tournament began. Eight teams played in the girls' softball tournament this year. Mr. Garofano and Mr. Boyle ran the girls' tournament as well. To Mr. Garofano, the games this year have been "decent."

The eight teams that played this year were: 12 & 11 Computer Technology, 12 Business, 12 Cosmetology & Plumbing, 11 Business, 10 Business, 10 Cosmetology periods 5-6, 10 Cosmetology periods 8-9, 10 Cosmetology periods 10-11.

The championship final will be held in the last full week of school. At the time this issue went to publication, the date of the game was not set. Because of the weather, the tournament was delayed. The weather also prevented the boys' basketball tournament from starting on time. The start of that tournament had not yet been determined by the time of publication.

The boys' basketball tournament has 12 teams, each team with four members. Three of the members play and there is one substitute. Because of the school year finishing, Mr. Garofano, will try having three games playing in one day for it to be a "very quick tournament."



Junior Boris Coronel will lead the team next year.

## Soccer Team Prepares for Next Season

by John Uruchima

Mr. Ali and the soccer team are already preparing for their second season. With the fall season starting in late September, practices for the team will begin on the 3rd week of June, and the coach will also try to conduct practices in August, according to Mr. Ali. "We will try to have more practices," said the coach, "that way we are more prepared for the fall."

Although the team will practice during June and August, there won't be actual tryouts, which would require medical and parental consent for new prospects. The soccer team had a rough start their first season, finishing with a 1-9 record. But the team had a lot of spirit and never gave up. "In every game, we told each other we are going to win this game, but in the end we lost," said Edgar Pineda, junior defender. "We had fun playing," he added. Their losses weren't necessarily about a lack of skills, according to the coach. "We have some good competitive teams in our

division," Mr. Ali said.

The Queens Voc soccer team is in the Queens B North division, which also includes Robert F. Wagner Jr, Thomas Edison, Hillcrest, Jamaica, and High School for Art and Business.

With the team losing seniors Christian Corella, Joseph Gonzalez, Kenny Mejia, and John Uruchima, Coach Ali promises to do his best to build a strong and united team that will work hard to get some wins. More practices, he said, will help the team.

Many of the players can't wait to get on the field. Returning midfielder Mauricio Argudo is one. "I will show my best performance next season and make some goals," he said. Other returning players are Boris Coronel, Michelangelo Franqui, Tony Hernandez, and Segundo Minchala.

Mr. Lerro, Queens Voc athletic director expects the team will do better next season. "I am sure they will have greater success as a team since they will be more experienced," said Mr. Lerro.

★★★★

## Tips to Stay Healthy

by Jennifer Ng

According to National Foods Ltd., "you will need your body for the rest of your life, so take good care of it." National Foods compiled a list of Tips to Stay Healthy on their website [http://www.nfoods.com/nfl/health\\_tips\\_to\\_stay\\_healthy.asp](http://www.nfoods.com/nfl/health_tips_to_stay_healthy.asp)

- Always eat a healthy breakfast to give you the necessary energy you need throughout the day.
- Drink a glass of water before a meal if you are trying to limit your intake of food.
- Drink more water than you feel thirsty for.
- Perform a variety of light exercises every day and a regular workout 2-3 times per week.
- Walk whenever possible instead of traveling by car, motorcycle, or public transport.
- Walk up and down the stairs instead of using an elevator or escalator.
- Walk briskly to increase your heart rate when exercising.
- Gradually increase your physical activities, as you get stronger and more physically fit.
- Alternate your training by using a combination of different activities (running, swimming, jumping rope, etc.)
- Always rest between exercise sessions to let your muscles recover and grow.

Tanvir Toy



Age: 17

Team: Baseball

Position: Center Field, Captain

Years on Team: 3

Tanvir is a good outfielder and a great captain. His leadership skills have really helped the team on and off the field." - Kendel Ortiz

"Tanvir has been a serious student, a steady player, and a superb captain. He always gave his all to the team and didn't care about glory or recognition. He's been indispensable to me and to the team." - Coach Schimenz

Jessica Kenniff



Age: 17

Team: Softball

Position: Shortstop, Captain

Years on Team: 3

"Jessica is always eager to play the game...eager to play it right." - Renata Cascante

"Jessica is the best athlete on the team. She is a confident and steady player." - Coach Boyle

Miguel Velez



Age: 18

Team: Baseball

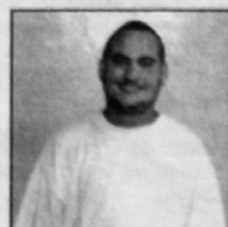
Position: Catcher

Years on Team: 1

"Miguel is a great team player and has done well on the team." - Oscar Alzate

"Miguel is a serious player who has often come through for us at the bat and on the field." - Coach Schimenz

Ramon Rodriguez



Age: 18

Team: Handball

Position: 1st Singles

Years on Team: 3

"Ramon really tried hard to beat his opponents." - Marvin Cordero

"Ramon has had several partners this year and the court continuity was hard to establish." - Coach Maloney

Briant Osorio



Age: 17

Team: Handball

Position: Substitute

Years on Team: 1

"Briant didn't get to play much, but when he did play he always gave a good effort." - Marvin Cordero

"I tried to fit him in where ever possible." - Coach Maloney





## Handball Team has High Hopes for Next Season

by Tanvir Toy

The Tigers handball season came down to a game between Newtown and Newcomers high schools. The Queens Voc handball team was rooting for Newcomers because a win by Newcomers would have given the Tigers a chance at the playoffs. The Tigers did their part earlier when they beat a 10-2 playoff-bound Bryant, three games to two, but Newcomers lost ending the Tigers playoff hopes.

With a 7 and 5 record, the Tigers placed fourth behind Aviation, Bryant, and Newtown.

"I was surprised by the success [the team had]

(sophomore), Joseph Gonzalez (senior), and Ramon Rodriguez (junior). Like Ramon and Andres, many of the players joined the team because they wanted to be involved in activities and they like to compete.

Because of their drive to compete, Mr. Maloney was disappointed for his players when he found out they were not making the playoffs. According to Mr. Maloney, they really tried hard and showed effort. Vincent concurred. "We played extremely well but it was a little upsetting that we missed the playoffs," he said, after playing his last handball game in high school.

Unlike Vincent, Christopher will play on the team next year, he hopes. "We will probably play better next year and hopefully we will make the playoffs," he said. Mr. Maloney thinks Chris is right. He believes his team is one or two players away from being a playoff contender next year.

considering we lost several seniors from last year," said Mr. Maloney, the handball coach, who also coaches the basketball team. "They played beyond my expectations."

Joseph Gonzalez, captain of the team, and Vincent Calderon were key contributors to the unexpected success. "Joseph really stepped up his game," said Mr. Maloney, and "Vincent played well above my expectations." According to Christopher Hyland, Joseph and Vincent were leaders. "They would always be confident about me. I'll miss not playing with them next year," he added.

According to Mr. Maloney, this year the team had a lot of heart and had the desire to win, but they lacked that "killer instinct," which let other teams get back in the matches.

The team consisted of nine players: rookies Vincent Calderon (senior), Christopher Hyland (freshman), Manuel Luna (junior), Andres Manzanares (senior), Briant Osorio (senior), and Sait Paljevic (sophomore), and veterans Marvin Cordero



Vin Calderon doesn't just play basketball!



Capt. Gonzalez serves ball.

## Senior Sports Profiles

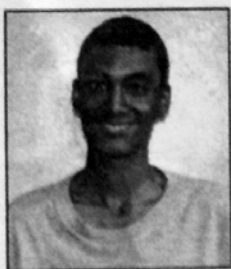
Massiel Estevez



Age: 18  
Team: Softball  
Position: Capt., Center Field  
Years on Team: 3  
"Massiel helps the rookies to understand the meaning of being a team and always helps the players during the game."  
- Jassil Diaz

"She has steadily improved over the years. She played a key role at center field."  
- Coach Boyle

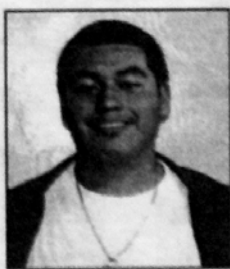
Endy Gomez



Age: 17  
Team: Baseball  
Position: Outfield  
Years on Team: 1  
"Endy is a good player and a good team motivator."  
- Anthony Santos

"Endy was eager to be a member of the team. We were eager to have him. He has played well and has been a friendly addition to our family."  
- Coach Schimenz

Andres Manzanares

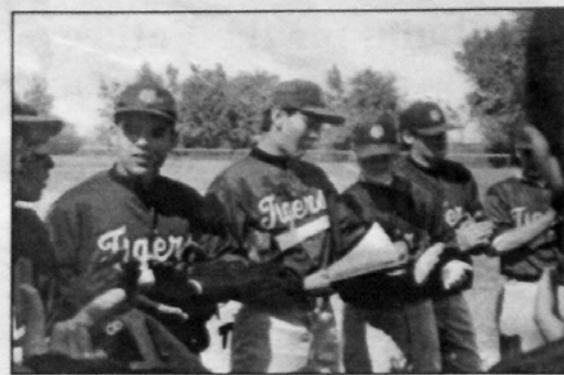


Age: 18  
Team: Handball  
Position: 2nd Doubles  
Years on Team: 1  
"Andres was a good partner to have because he always tried his best."  
- Sait Paljevic

"He has very good handball skills but sometimes he tried too hard, which easily took him off his game."  
- Coach Maloney

## Boys go to Playoffs Again

Baseball Team Played Hard All Year



Tanvir Toy reads off lineup in last game of season.

Continued from back page

to me," said Tanvir, "I was nervous and I really didn't know if I was good enough to play on the team," he added.

The best memory for Tanvir occurred on May 1, of this season. In a game against William C. Bryant High School, he had two hits and 3 RBIs and that was the first game his parents came to see in three years. "It will be impossible to replace Tanvir. We'll have to see if anyone steps forward and works hard, but captains are appointed for a year at a time," said Mr. Schimenz.

At the team's annual dinner on Saturday, June 7, the coach announced the award winners for the 2003 baseball season. The Coach's Award went to Talha Pasha and Sandy Rodriguez; Elvis Collado and Yodaryl "Yoda" Moronta were named Rookies of the Year; Karlos Amaro received the Team Spirit Award; Alberto "Zuzu" Aspiazu was selected as the most improved player; the Batting Title was awarded to Kendel Ortiz; Miller Riascos earned the Golden Glove award; Isaac Collado was named Gatorade's Will to Win Athlete of the Year; David Robles was selected as Tiger of the Year, and Tanvir Toy earned the Most Valuable Player award.

There are 29 players on the Queens Voc baseball team, 14 of them whom are rookies this season. The rookies include freshman Ender De La Rosa, Joey Long, Danny Lopez, and Yodaryl Moronta; sophomores David Bonilla, Elvis Collado, Alex Cruz, Adam Evangelista, and Miller Riascos; junior Asim Bhatti; and seniors Endy Gomez, Mohammed Salahuddin, Miguel Velez. The 15 veterans included sophomores Alberto "Zuzu" Aspiazu, Addison Davis, Jairo Fernandez, Fernando Nunez, Dennis Parache, and Luis Perez; juniors Oscar Alzate, Karlos Amaro, Jaiquan Cole, Kendel Ortiz, Talha Pasha, and Anthony Santos; and seniors Isaac Collado, David Robles, and Tanvir Toy.

## Double Dutch

by Jennifer M. Rodriguez

The Achievement Group is made up of "five girls who share the same issues," said Shanieka. They are "students who need to do well academically," said Ms. Toliver. The students meet in room 417 during periods 5 and 9 or whenever they feel a need to talk. The members include Jackie Garcia, Shanieka Hardy, Lauren Mendes, Maxine Mohamed, and Sheila Sanchez. Mr. Holder, Ms. Morales, and Ms. Toliver lead the group.

The Achievement group held bake sales on March 12 and April 9 to help raise funds for the competition. The money raised was to be used to supply ropes, stop watches, and t-shirts for the Double Dutch contest. The amount of money, which they "don't want to disclose," according to Mr. Holder, will now stay in the school account until next year.

The Achievement Group "will try again next fall or spring," to conduct the tournament, said Ms. Toliver.

The 1st annual Double Dutch contest was going to be added to the intramurals this year, but the contest was cancelled because there weren't enough people to start the teams, according to Mr. Holder, guidance counselor for the Instructional Support Services department.

"We had no school support," said Mr. Holder. "Some students came and picked up the form to start their teams but never actually made their teams."

A group of five girls who participate in the Achievement Group "thought about the idea because the girls don't have many events going on," said senior Shanieka Hardy, a member of the Achievement Group. They hoped to start the events by May 13, in the yard.

# TIGERS

# SPORTS

## Girls build for the Future

Seniors Leave Behind Well-Trained Players

by Steven Garcia

Under the direction of Coach Boyle, the Lady Tigers were on the prowl for a winning season. But wins did not come easy for the Lady Tigers this season. The girls ended with a 2-12 record.

Even though there were a lot of rookies on the team this year, and a lot of losses, the girls still had the spirit and motivation to go far. "We had a lot of rookies this year and it was a little harder than we expected," said Sharon Reyes. Another player on the team, Anayancy Moreno, said, "At first I was aggravated, but when I saw that many of the girls began to show improvement I felt like we had a chance." According to the coach, the team improved throughout the season. "Each game was better and better, although we had a lot of bad breaks this season, the girls showed improvement in every aspect of the game," said Mr. Boyle.

The "bad breaks" throughout the season did not make the girls slack off. "We still had all our practices, and tried to improve in every aspect of the game," said Jennifer Rodriguez. Several players on the team agreed that playing on the team was a great experience, no matter what their final record was. "What really matters was that we improved our game, and that experience will help the girls out next year," said Anayancy. Sharon Reyes added, "we gained experience and gave the juniors on the team a new hope for next year."

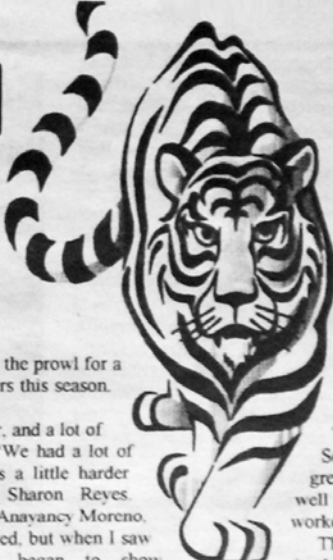
Although the girls had fun, they admit they could have done better. "We could've had a better record if we would have had our heads in the game and not made so many errors on the field," said Massiel Estevez.

The girls were rewarded for their season, even if they didn't do so great, record-wise. "Ms. Vittor was given free tickets to a Yankee game by the superintendent, and was told to give them to whomever she thought deserved them, and she gave them to the softball and baseball teams," said Massiel. Some girls were also singled out for their hard work throughout the season. They were acknowledged at the first annual Sports Awards Banquet. Massiel Estevez, Jessica Kenniff, and Sharon Reyes all received Captains Awards. Cassandra Falcon won the Most Improved Player award; Sharon Reyes won the MVP award; and Jessica Kenniff won the Coach's Award.

This year the team consisted of 15 talented girls. There were 9 rookies and 6 veterans. The rookies were: Renata Cascante, Elvia Collado, Jassil Diaz, Cassandra Falcon, Stephanie Fernandez, Rosa Garcia, Amber Kaur, Elliana Kim, and Amber Marrero. The veterans were: Massiel Estevez, Sharon Reyes, Anayancy Moreno, Jennifer Rodriguez, Adeline Romero, and Cassandra Toole.

The parting seniors are: Cassandra Falcon, Massiel Estevez, Sharon Reyes, Anayancy Moreno, and Jennifer Rodriguez.

"We taught the girls on the team everything we know. Hopefully they'll pass this down to the new members of the team next year," concluded Jessica Kenniff.



## Boys go to Playoffs Again

Baseball Team Played Hard All Year

by Hui Jin

For the second consecutive year, the Tigers baseball team made it to the playoffs. Their final league record was 8 wins and 8 losses. "We beat good teams, and the playoff seeding committee selected us to play in the playoffs," said senior Tanvir Toy, a captain on the team. "I'm happy with the record," said Mr. Schimenz, the coach. "The guys worked hard this season and it was great the way the veterans helped the rookies. We worked together well and acted like a family. That was one of our goals, and the boys worked hard to achieve that."

The team lost their playoff game to Samuel Gompers High School in the Bronx, by a score of 12 to 4. "We did well for a couple of innings," said the coach. "We usually play much stronger teams in first-round playoff games," he added.



Each day during baseball season, the coach and captains convened in the Writing Center during period 7 to calculate the statistics from the previous day and to plan out the team's activities for the day. Together, Mr. Schimenz, Oscar Alzate, Kendel Ortiz, and Tanvir Toy planned the course of the baseball season. "Together, the three captains got the team ready for the field and set up good game plans," the coach said.

Tanvir has led by example, and Kendel and Oscar have done well," said the coach. According to Mr. Schimenz, it's not about what grade the players are in. "Last year, Addison was a captain as a 9th grader hard for the team," said the coach. Being a team captain is not easy. "It was a lot of hard work, we are responsible to put the statistics into computers and submit them to PSAL, and we get to help the team, putting the best players on the field," said Oscar. Kendel agrees with Oscar. "Being a captain is a hard job, we have to develop the lineup and game plans, and we have to compile all of the statistics, that's our biggest responsibility," said Kendel.

At the Honor Society Ceremony, Asim Bhatti, Elvis Collado, Mohammed Salahuddin, and Tanvir were inducted. The entire baseball team went to cheer on their teammates. "They did well! They are in the Honor Society, which means they managed to study hard while they played baseball," said Miller Riascos, a sophomore rookie. The coach was happy too. "I'm so proud of them, and I was glad the entire team attend the Honor Society induction," he said.

The playoff was the last game for the senior players. "I'm glad they played for the team, and I appreciated them as team members," said Mr. Schimenz. Queens Voc's baseball team has given at least one senior, Tanvir Toy, good memories. "As a rookie, they treated me pretty well," said Tanvir. He still remembers his first game, in the tenth-grade against Aviation. He got on base a few times, and when he was on third base, the coach said, "I'm glad you're on the team." "That meant a lot



continued on page 23



# TIGER SPORTS CONTINUED INSIDE