

Manhattan College Quadrange

A Weekly Student Newspaper Established in 1924



Vol. LXXXIV Issue 9

Wednesday, October 22, 2008

www.mcquadrangle.org

Garden Gourmet Blossoms on Broadway

By Anna Jankowski
Staff Writer

I'm willing to bet you are familiar with Whole Foods Market or Trader Joe's. With the increasing popularity of organic and natural products, these goods have become staples within the food industry. No longer do only the health conscious flock to these trendy health stores, but those interested in improving or incorporating healthier choices into their diet and lifestyle in general do as well.

Given that many individuals of our generation have adapted this trend, Broadway has as well, introducing the Garden Gourmet. "We saw something needed in the neighborhood. We had a vision, something would work here," explains owner Andy Zoitias. The

Garden Gourmet, a family operated business located at 5665 Broadway across from Staples, first opened their doors three years ago. Influenced by a customer's idea, the name Garden Gourmet defines what lays within the store, a fresh variety of products at reasonable pricing.

"We import items from all of the world. We go through a lot of

vendors, three to four food shows a year," states Zoitias in reference to their large variety of fresh, different, and ethnic products. As a result, Zoitias states that what makes the Garden Gourmet different, is the fact that people can find things there that cannot be found anywhere else.

Where else could you find Organic fig bread from Spain, Emmi Swiss Premium Yogurt, 100% pure raw honey, Vitaminka Happy Cream from Macedonia, Pecan Raisin bread from the Silver Bell bakery, imported Swiss cheese, gluten-free Bakery on Main granola, and every variety of fresh Napolitanke?

Additionally, Zoitias highlighted upon the store's emphasis of fresh products over packaged goods. It would be impossible to walk by the store's outdoor display of fresh produce that continues within the store, and leads to the overwhelming assortment of cheese, multiple tubs of olives, freshly baked breads, several varieties of coffee beans, and eventually to the deli, and seafood selection, and sushi, and the list could honestly go on and on. Although the Garden Gourmet does sell various packaged items, a large amount are homemade, or packaged daily within the Garden Gourmet itself, such as the homemade flan and green olive tapenade.

I myself am addicted to the Garden Gourmet, and their unique mixture of healthy and interesting products. In regards to how many other students visit the Garden Gourmet, Zoitias says it is hard to determine who is a student or



Photo by Anna Jankowski

Garden Gourmet has a great fresh produce section.

not, however the ratio of younger to older customers appears to be about 40:60. Despite the age range of customers, during my last visit to the Garden Gourmet I noted one commonality, the fact that everyone loves the store itself—evident by the few crumbs which remained from the samples put out earlier that afternoon.

Through its products and services (catering and grocery delivery system), the Garden Gourmet has certainly established itself as a one of a kind business on Broadway. When asked where do you see yourself in five years, Zoitias replied, "I hope to open another store, somewhere where it is needed and would work." Meanwhile, on behalf of the Garden Gourmet, I invite you to take a brief walk down Broadway – you won't leave empty handed!



Photo by Anna Jankowski

Garden Gourmet a local market at the corner of 234 & Broadway.