



Photos courtesy of Joe Liles

*Above-* The Colours Gospel Choir performed during the assembly that was held in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Jan. 15. *Below-* Pin Points Theatre presented "1001 Black Inventions" in the auditorium on Jan. 25.

## Celebrating diversity on MLK day

### Students have chance for observation, need action

This school is incredibly diverse. Asiafest, Africafest and Latin America Fest celebrate our various dance, food and fashion styles. The French, Hispanic, and Asian Cultures Clubs work year-round showing movies, providing food and initiating discussion among their student members.

Just walk down the hall and you will see blacks holding hands with whites and Asians laughing with Latinos.

We applaud the administration's refusal to sidestep issues of race. Martin Luther King Day should not be a school day off without meaning, doomed to walk the same plank of indifference as President's Day.

The morning festivities of MLK Day kicked off well, with gospel music, movies and other activities highlighting African and African-American culture. The variety of activities that were offered promised something interesting for every student, which assured a higher level of participation.

Pin Points Theatre came from Washington, D.C. to entertain and educate with a performance of "1001

#### Staff Editorial



Black Inventions." It is a step in the right direction when we can enjoy a school event rather than complain that we do not get the day off.

But to avoid that plank of indifference, the activities should not end there. When it is reduced to just a day of observation, the relevance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of action is ignored. King was about feeding the poor and providing equal opportunity to the oppressed.

Next year, let us go into the

community. We can help build houses and clean parks. It would take massive organization and responsibility from staff and students, but it would be worth it to those people in Durham who could use the hope promised in King's message. Let us combine education and outreach in a single effort to connect with those around us.

We have started off on the right foot, but we still have a lot of work to do to get to King's mountaintop.

## SLI turnover affects hall's experience

By WHITNEY BAKER

Fourth Bryan seems to be going for the record as we adjust to yet another new SLI taking the ropes. Chasity Wilson arrived fresh with the year 2007 as we returned from winter break to continue the second trimester—and so far, the transition has been completely seamless. Which is a lot to say, considering the ordeal that we went through with the same transition last year.

Tammy Parks left in February 2006 and we were left in limbo until the end of May, when our next SLI, Carmen Blubaugh, graduated from college. In the time between, we borrowed SLIs from other halls and had what we needed done taken care of, but we lacked something specific.

The student-SLI relationship can be an awkward one at first, and it differs from SLI to SLI and among students, but with the short amount of time that we have here it is continually developing. The biggest disadvantage to switching SLIs the number of times that we have in my two years here is that just as I got to know Tammy, then Carmen, they moved on to bigger things—better jobs, graduate school.

Don't get me wrong; we've been fortunate enough to have a string of active and involved SLIs. They've all kept up regular hall activities and been available on- and off-hall for chats, help and anything else that we need. But it seems that as soon as an SLI really started to get comfortable and become one of us, she'd drop the bombshell at a hall meeting: "I'm leaving."

On one hand, this gives me a chance to know three very different, very fun people. But I also feel that on some level it's unfair: my fellow Fourth Bryan seniors and I have not had what amounts to a "normal" on-hall experience. Each new SLI brought changes in the frequency and type of activities.

Does this affect my overall outlook or life at NCSSM? Not particularly—our experience has been different from most, but just as rewarding. For the first couple of weeks while the new SLI gets settled and on a regular duty schedule, we felt more in power with our experience and our routine here. But each of them fell into our routine seamlessly and even now we function as halls normally do.

### the stentorian

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