

# the stentorian

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## An afterthought: Martin Luther King, Jr.—remembering his dream

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Martin Luther King Day is a day of celebration in honor of a great man who fought for all people. We all know this. On a more personal level, however, Monday's MLK Day Assembly united the NCSSM community, to remember the dream of Dr. King.

"I've attended about twelve MLK Assemblies in my lifetime, but never have I been to one where people actually focused on defining King's

dream through such unique methods," said NCSSM Junior Anna McMillan during a class discussion.

MLK Day utilized a variety of unique methods to portray King's vision. It is necessary to give appreciation to the many people who joined together to make this assembly successful.

"This year's assembly was one that adequately embraced African American culture while still specifically emphasizing the excellence

of Dr. King's true dream," said Senior Michael Martin.

These positive comments not only made the program participants feel extremely proud of their work, but strengthened and unified the entire NCSSM community. The assembly played the enlightening role of inspiring a more in-depth revelation into King's true goal: realizing and accepting differences while focusing on community.

"The assembly set

an ideal tone for the day. It was inclusive, student based, and showed off how far we have come and how far we have to go," said Tom Clayton, Assistant Director of Academic Programs.

Harambee looks forward to a successful program next year as well. Harambee and all program participants should be commended for their hard work and efforts in striving to accomplish the theme of this year's program: "Remembering His Dream."

## Happy birthday?

kenneth gibbs, jr.

Birthdays are supposed to be very special times. Cake, presents, and the feeling that, for one day, you are the most special person in the world make them, for many, the most memorable day of the year. On the male residence halls of NCSSM birthdays mean one more thing: "birthday beat down."

"Birthday beat downs," as many students interviewed for this article affectionately called them, can involve a variety of actions. On some of the halls in Hill House, the birthday boy is pushed to the

ground, then "dog-piled" by his hallmates. In Hunt Dormitory, the birthday boy can either be thrown in a cold shower and sprayed with shaving cream (known as a "polar bear") or have his head flushed in the toilet (called a "swirlie"). Junior Trent Suggs, who recently celebrated his first birthday at Science and Math said,

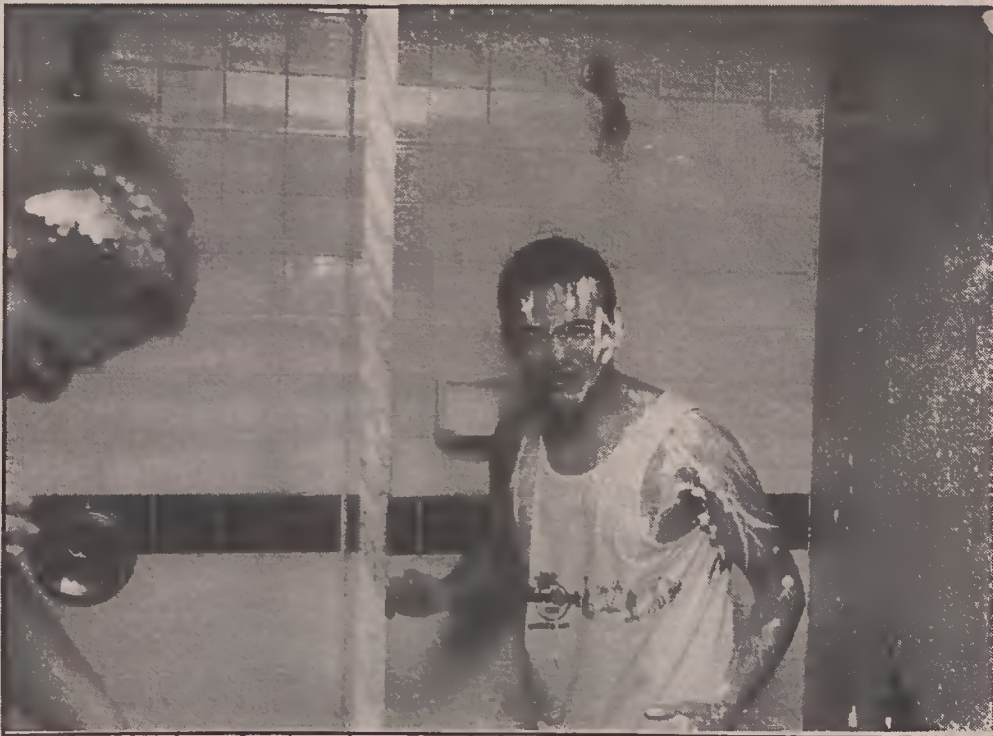
"It can be constructive because it can bring unity and brotherhood to the hall."

However, D.J. Dore's birthday beat-down on December 4, 1999 ignited quite a stir

back stairs of Hunt and through 1<sup>st</sup> Hunt. 4<sup>th</sup> East SLI Mike Charlton explained that trying to escape a beat-down is common because the fun in this birthday tradition comes in the pursuit and

treatment sounds harsh, Dore said, "It wasn't done against my will."

The beat-down continued with Dore receiving an unprecedented 17 swirlies and a polar bear. But when it was all



Is this hazing??? Senior David Angeles seems to be having fun during the traditional Birthday celebration.

amongst parents and school administration.

After returning to his hall, 4<sup>th</sup> West, following the winter semi-formal dance, Dore knew his time had arrived. He went in his room and changed into his running clothes. After emerging, Dore, an accomplished runner, led ten pursuers on a game of cat and mouse down the

capture of the birthday boy.

After being dragged back on 4<sup>th</sup> West, D.J.'s beat-down was in full force. He said he had at least thirty students, most of whom were his friends give him 17 "birthday licks," including one hallmate who hit him with a belt.

Although this

over, his hall mates sang "Happy Birthday" to him in the spirit of brotherhood.

As Dore said, "It was no big deal." In fact, Dore neither filed an incident report nor spoke to an SLI about it until he was approached by 3<sup>rd</sup> West

~B-Day p4

## We're off to see... The Wiz

theresa anasti

Following in the tradition of student-run productions, NCSSM has taken on yet another project. This time, it is a rendition of the musical *The Wiz*. *The Wiz* is a published musical; the music was written by Charlie Smalls, and the script was written by William F. Brown. NCSSM does not plan to change any part of the play, though the setting may be modernized slightly. Produced by Barbara Namkoong, the only adult involved, the play was decided upon by the drama board.

"Since we had a serious musical last year, we wanted a more upbeat musical this year. They [the drama board] wanted this play, and I agreed," said Mrs. Namkoong.

Rosie Stoertz and Eric Karlsson are the directors of the play, and they help to decide who received parts.

"I was very impressed with the turnout for the audition; me and Eric were sitting there laughing because we did not realize that the talent would be this good. The people who received the parts were able to make fools of themselves and have good stage presence; we had them sing a Backstreet Boys or Brandy song to test this," said Senior Rosie Stoertz.

Thirty-five people auditioned for the play, and even if they did not receive a large role, each person was asked to be in the chorus. However, participating in the auditions has caused anxiety for several of the actors.

"I was nervous, because I threw my voice

out a couple of days before auditioning. Other than that, I thought I did okay; Rosie and Eric were making me crack up though because they were acting like munchkins," says Junior Chelsea Armitage.

"A lot of the people auditioning did really well; I thought I did pretty well too though," says Junior Elizabeth Daniels.

"To prepare for the play, I listened to the CD of the musical, and just practiced the part that I wanted," said Senior Dina Gerber, who received the role of Evilene.

Although the drama department does not have extensive funds to put on its production, the members are going to do the best with what they have. Since a nearby school also performed *The Wiz* earlier in the year, the drama department is hoping to borrow some clothes from them, and also see what the actors are able to use from their closets. The play will be held in the ETC, and much of the setting will be in dreamscape and multimedia, to see what the ETC is able to do with technology. The play will be held on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>; Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>; Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>; Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>; and Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup>. On Friday and Saturday the play will begin at 7:30 p. m., and on Sunday the play will begin at 2:30 p. m.

"I think this is going to be a good production; a lot of really talented people are involved," said Junior Elizabeth Currin.