

# Celebrate Diversity



On February 7 and 8, the members of Slam, (Students Learning About Multi-culturalism) a group taken out of 93-94 SLC, executed its first exercise in diversity awareness. On the 7th Rainbow of Reality Day was held, where everyone was given either blue, red, green, or yellow ribbons at random. The colors went in order from blue, the highest and elite, to yellow, the majority and the lowest class. We instructed teachers to discriminate their students based on these color ranks and we color coded the stairwells, water fountains, cafeteria and the MPR. The blues, the smallest in number, were to be given the most privileges such as having their garbage thrown out for them at lunch. The reds were to be treated slightly better than the greens, but not as well as the blues. The greens were to be in a way, ignored. They wouldn't bother anybody and no one would bother them. The yellows were to be abused. They were the lowest class and so they would be picked on and discriminated against the most. The idea for all this was developed by Lesley Cooper and it was a success. Some students were nonchalant but most went along with the experiment with no problems. The yellows banded together while the blues felt alone. It was also excellent preparation for the assembly on the 8th.

After the Rainbow of Reality Day, a group of students called the Positive Impact Ensemble from Rosa Parks High School put on an interesting and entertaining assembly. We had seen them when Slam first met with students from other districts at the first Diversity 2000 meeting at Kean College. They put on about a 30 minute series of skits portraying people being discriminated against, many of which were real-life scenarios. Afterward there was some time for students to ask questions about the group and their performance. It was a touchy topic for most people but the assembly helped in a lot of ways. For a few minutes people thought about diversity and discrimination. They thought about the things they see everyday that they may ignore and they saw their own reactions to discrimination when it is right in front of them. Hopefully everyone realizes that discrimination isn't something that will just go away overnight, but with time and enough people who want to help, and support from advisors like Mr. Cancellia and Mr. Tuttle, and all the other adults and students involved with SLAM, a difference can be accomplished.

