

A CELEBRATION OF DANCE

by Courtney McSwain

Creating a style all their own, Opeyo! dance troop performs dance like no other group on campus. As an official subgroup of the Black Student Movement, Opeyo! was founded in 1973 to "provide a positive outlet of artistic expression for BSM members," says Rashida Waddell, Co-Artistic Director of Hip-Hop Opeyo!. The group is separated into two different styles: Hip-Hop and Modern. Though they perform separately, both groups believe that their dance should go "Beyond the Horizon." More than just a slogan, "Beyond the Horizon" represents the group's desire to grow in their art through hard work, dedication, and a strive for excellence.

Audiences can check out both groups of Opeyo! throughout the year. Hip-Hop Opeyo! will be performing at the Homecoming step show this fall, and Modern Opeyo! will be performing at a multicultural arts show in November. Both groups will appear at other events that will be announced throughout the

year. However, before making a public appearance these dancers must practice! Sitting in on both Hip-Hop and Modern Opeyo!'s practice gave me the chance to gain a better appreciation for what both are all about.

Feel the Beat Ya'll

Hip-Hop is more than music; it is a culture consisting of a unique style of dress, art, and dance. The ladies of Hip-Hop Opeyo! are celebrating that culture. While watching the dancers move to "Superhug" by Noreaga, one might find themselves wanting to get up and show some of their own moves. Unfortunately, in order to dance with these ladies, you have to have skills. While speaking with some of the new members of Hip-Hop Opeyo!, who obviously impressed the judges with their skills during the past tryout, their excitement to be a part of the team was evident. The four new members were chosen out of

*Opeyo!
Modern
performing
artistic
expression.*

