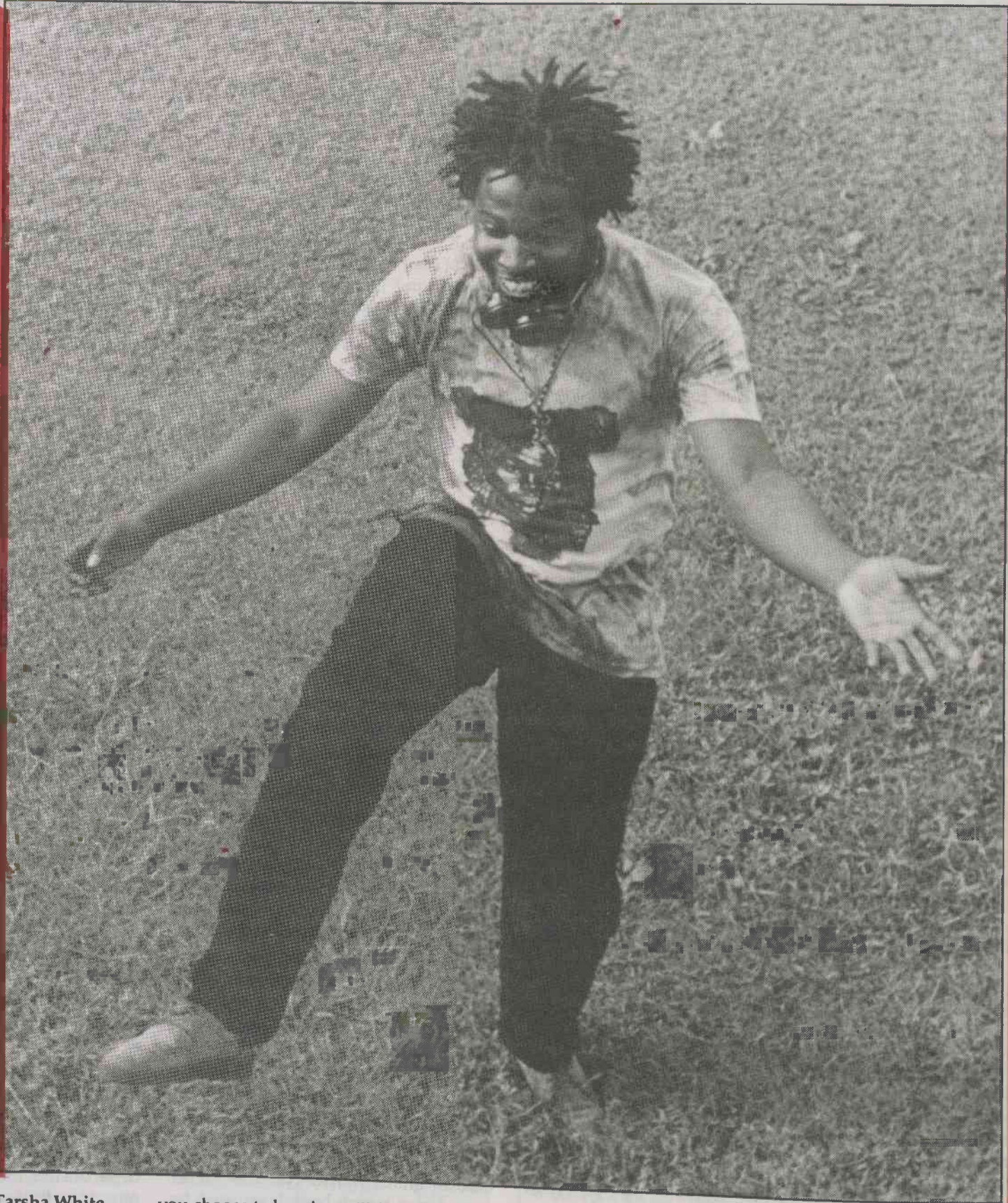


Cuttin' Loose with Hip Hop:

The fashion statement for the wild and free at heart

Photo by J. Gary Brian

Keiwanee Powell, a sophomore from Jamaica, cuts loose on campus while sporting his characteristic Hip Hop style of dress.



By Kysha Gary and Tarsha White

"Rebels without a cause" could sum up Hip-Hop, the newest fashion statement here on the ECSU yard.

The spirit of rebellion is a fundamental part of Hip-Hop, according to ECSU sophomore Tarick Scott.

"Hip Hop is a fashion statement of one's spirit," says Scott, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. "But it's also a rebellious type movement. It's the desire to be different, to go against the norm, to be whatever

you choose to be—but still fit in."

To be considered a Hip-Hop dresser, one must first "dress for comfort," says Scott. "The style is more a statement of comfort than of fashion."

You would wear loose-fitting clothing such as baggie pants or jeans, with or without a belt according to your own taste, and an oversized shirt. Shirts are usually a t-shirt bearing a message like "NOT!," "It's a black thang," "Just Do It!," BEBE's Kids, "I Want To Be Like Mike!," (Michael Jordan)." Other popular messages include: "Cross Colors,"

"Malcolm-X," and "Martin Luther King Jr." Shirts can also have logos and colors of the wearer's favorite sports club, with matching hat to top it off. A fan of the Miami Hurricanes, for example, might wear orange and green colors, with the club logo in the t-shirt.

Matching accessories are a must when completing your Hip-Hop look. Sneakers should match with your outfit to give it a more organized and together look. Popular sneakers among Hip-Hoppers are Nikes or Reeboks—at an average cost of \$65.00. Owning a lot of sneakers is no

longer a must any more. But sneakers are still very important to the look. Hiker boots or Military boots are also an important part of the footwear agenda. A popular name brand for boots are Timberlands. The R&B/Hip-Hop group, Jodeci, are well known for wearing black military-style boots.

Now that you've taken care of the fundamentals, for the final touch, add a string or two of beads to give your outfit a little flare.

Hairstyles are also important when completing your look. Styles include the