

Hip Hop to Success keeps it real

By Ben Blackwood
Staff Writer

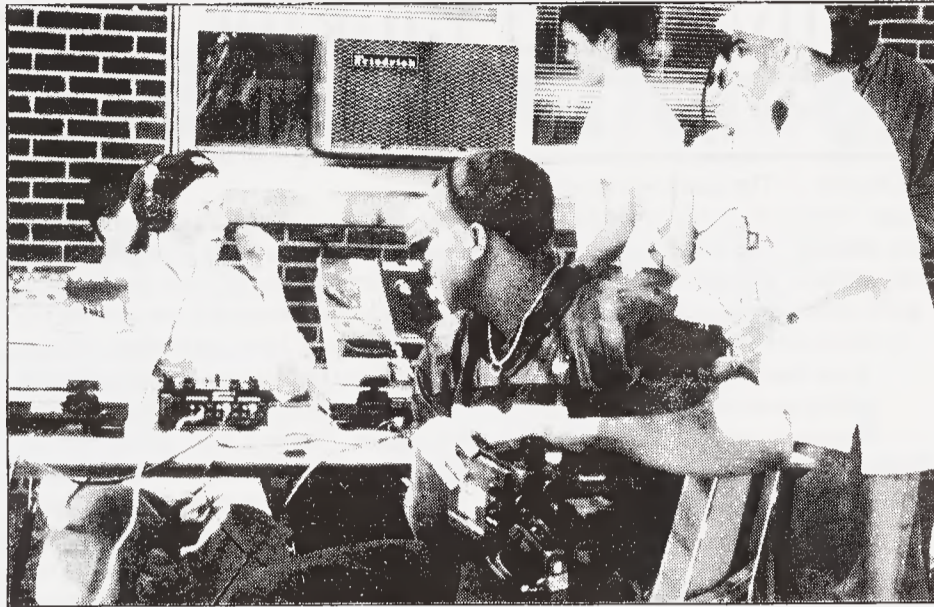
Have you ever wanted to "kick mad flava" into someone's ear? Do you feel the need to "bring the pain?" Would you rather be "livin' large" than a "playa-hater?" If so, you might be a candidate for Hip Hop to Success.

The Hip Hop to Success program is designed to introduce students to different production equipment and techniques. Funds were donated to the school by an anonymous beneficiary, and with that, Mr. White has purchased a great deal of broadcast, sampling and production equipment.

The group uses what is called a "beat machine" to construct the body of a song. Then, they use the sampling equipment to add sounds and effects to the beat. They also have access to turntables, "the wheels of steel," which are used for scratching. Then, MC's will break off some verse, either freestyle or pre-written. The group also produces videos of their work.

"It (the equipment) is only useful to a

certain extent," says Chris York, a junior and member of the group. "It's like a stepping stone."



Chris York, Fred Blakeney, and Jerald Vann of Hip Hop to Success check their equipment before students perform at lunch on the lawn.

Kidd photo

In the past, HHTS has performed at Grimsley events like Lunch on the Lawn, but the members of the group

would like to really "blow up" on campus.

"We need a way to show people what

we do," said Mike Davis, a senior.

The group has been visited by college groups for research, and some

members hope that their work will help them get into college.

"I think that colleges should take notice of us," said Jerald Vann, a sophomore.

One of the central foundations of the HHTS program is the Attitude Plan, which all members must abide by in order to remain active. Essentially, the plan follows the Student Code of Conduct, and includes progress forms that the members are required to have filled out by their teachers. Some members feel that the plan causes teachers to treat them differently, however.

"It gives the teachers an advantage," says York. "Sometimes they single you out because they know you're in this."

Overall, the members of HHTS seem to enjoy the group, which is allowed to use the equipment before school, during lunch, and after school.

"It gives you a good base," says Vann.

Anyone interested in joining the Hip Hop to Success is urged to "get their sign-up on" with Mr. White in the Media Center.

Friendly Center to expand, again

By Hallie Rojas
Reporter

Banana Republic, City Lights Video, and Gap Kids -- less than a mile from Grimsley. Not yet, but the stores will soon be arriving to Friendly Shopping Center.

Nowadays there are a lot of changes occurring at Friendly. Dump trucks and workmen can be seen all over the shopping center. Renovations and new buildings are popping up everywhere. The huge Belk recently opened, and currently you can buy a wide variety of books at the new Barnes and Nobles. However the construction does not stop there. Any day now City Lights Video will be arriving. In October, you will see Banana Republic and Gap Kids opening their doors.

The arrival of Gap Kids will effect more than just children. At the moment 1/4 of the already existing Gap is overrun by children's clothing. With the new Gap Kids the original Gap can fully return to adult clothing.

Because of the expansion of Friendly, Four Seasons may receive a little competition. Yet, most students will stay loyal to Four Seasons. Tracy Spencer, a sophomore, says, "I like Four Seasons better because there are more stores to choose from and a wider variety of restaurants."

Daniel Bass, a junior, feels that he would go to Friendly more often if there were more shops. He says, "I would like to see a J Crew outlet, American Eagle, and an Omega open at friendly. They should cater more to guys' needs."

However, Friendly encounters other issues besides the shopping. The fact that the shopping center is outdoors effects some of the shoppers. Julie Robinson says, "When the weather is pretty outside I don't want to be inside a huge mall. I would rather walk around Friendly."

On the other hand, Cookie Wilson, a junior, finds Friendly inconvenient at times. She says, "If it is raining I am definitely not going there to shop."

Next year you may encounter a little more traffic driving to and from school due to the growth in popularity of Friendly.

"Crazy for You" takes the stage

By Meganne Raines
Reporter

Anyone who remembers "Grease", the Grimsley musical production last year, will be happy to know that all the excitement of the past is back with this year's production, "Crazy For You," a musical by George Gershwin set in the 1920's. Even though students will not be running around school in 60's attire and goofy glasses, "Crazy For You" has singing, dancing, and all of the fun that made last year's "Grease" so popular.

"Crazy For You" is filled with excitement, romance, and false identities. It is about an aspiring dancer, Bobby who goes to Deadrock, Nevada to pursue his career, as well as the beautiful Polly, the daughter of a theatre owner whose establishment is falling apart. Bobby becomes a part of rebuilding the theatre, and by doing so gets to spend time with Polly. Even though she hates him, Bobby goes to extreme measures to win her heart. However, when Bobby pretends to be someone he is not, the problems explode. Grimsley students will have to attend the musical to discover what happens.

When asked why they were inspired to participate in "Crazy For You," most Grimsley students had the same response. The success of "Grease" last year inspired many to take part in the show. Amanda Ball, a sophomore in the musical, said, "I went to 'Grease' last year and I really regretted that I didn't participate."

Kate Peebles, also a sophomore, said that she joined this

year's production because she dropped out of "Grease" last year and wound up seriously regretting it.

Many Grimsley students are participating in this year's production as well. There are 10 to 15 singing and acting leads in the musical and dozens of extras. Many participants are chorus singers and dancers. Participants meet for rehearsals Monday and Thursday afternoons.



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