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Rap moves from fad to furor

Dedication, decisive flavor and individuality are what it takes to make it in the big-business world of rap music.

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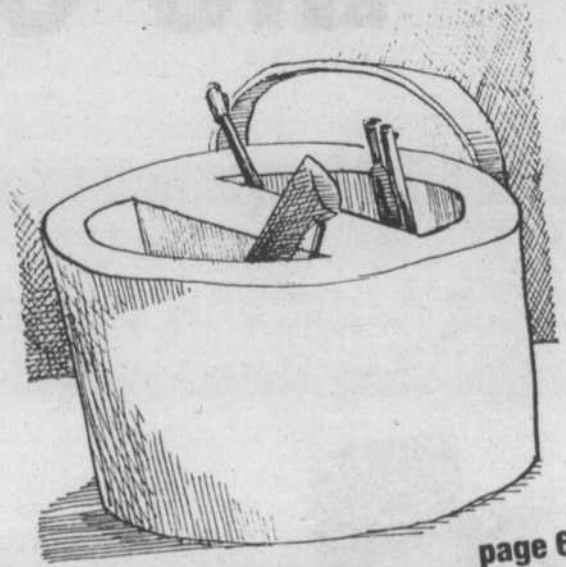
Spoken rhymes become voice of a generation

Standing the test of time, rap music, a 15-year phenomenon, can no longer be called a passing fad.

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Sex, violence part of rap's mirror on society

Negative overtones of popular rap music overshadow the positive aspects some artists try to convey.



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Rap roosts in Midwest

Local musicians carry on rap's African heritage with distinctive style.



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Rappers concoct singular sound from African, Jamaican traditions

Musicians blend musical backgrounds of jazz, blues, rock 'n' roll, reggae and funk to create modern rap.



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Cultural collision

Rap music reveals the harsh realities of inner-city life to an often reluctant mainstream society.



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Rap banned

From left to right, opinions vary on the value of regulating rap music and the possible behavioral effects the music can have on young people.



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