

Educator offers alternative to gangsta rap
Philadelphia Tribune (1912-); Dec 12, 1995; ProQuest
pg. 3_E

Educator offers alternative to gangsta rap

Who says there's no alternative to gangsta rap?

Definitely not Grand Hank, Philadelphia's premier educational rapper.

At a record release party scheduled for Friday, Dec. 8, Grand Hank unveiled his most recent pro-educational singles, "Hyped About School" and the "8 Parts of Speech." The release party, held at Winners Entertainment Complex, 1101 Vine St., featured a performance by Grand Hank and was attended by many educators, local celebrities, politicians and scores of concerned parents. An autograph signing followed the performance.

The new singles encourage young people to make education a priority and to "be about the business of learning." The message in its "educational-rap form," which is upbeat, uplifting and lyrically challenging, is appealing to young audiences who habitually listen to similar forms of music with less productive messages.

"Our goal is to make a difference," said Grand Hank. "We want kids to hear our message, and the only way to make them hear it is to present it in a form that they will listen to. We view our music as an opportunity to reinforce educational programs in a fun and non-threatening manner."

The Grand Hank production team incorporates the full educational spectrum, including scientists, educators, marketeers and parents. In fact, many of the lyrics come directly from past classroom and lab experiences. Parents, students and teachers

have applauded Grand Hank's efforts and have endorsed the pro-educational message. In a letter, Juanita Duckson, a program coordinator from the Bayard Taylor



School, describes Grand Hank's lecturing raps as an "outstanding program."

Grand Hank Productions Inc., founded in 1990 by Tyraine

Ragsdale, is a multimedia company specializing in the development and production of interactive educational programs. The programs combine contemporary and rap music with