



The Dallas Morning News: Nuri Vallbona

Instructor Bart Marantz surrounded by his Arts Magnet High School students (from left) Ken Fields, Roy Hargrove, Aaron Comess, Monique Jackson, Damon Criswell, Darrell Phillips and Doug Neil.

# The beat goes on at Booker T.

## From albums to contests, jazz combo rates an 'A'

By M.I. Blackwell  
Staff Writer of The News

In the rehearsal hall, where the walls are covered with pictures of legendary jazz figures, the combo is into another rhythmic groove. The titillating sounds are enough to make heads bob, toes tap. The musicians support each other with a smile or a nod of the head.

This spirited scene takes place for an hour each day — in a well-lit classroom, not in a dark, dank late-night club.

These seven musicians attend the Dallas Arts Magnet High School at Booker T. Washington in the downtown Arts District. They study under the direction of former jazz trumpeter Bart Marantz, who has guided the combo and the school's 20-piece lab band to national recognition.

In the past two years the Arts Magnet musicians have dominated the prestigious annual *down beat* music magazine awards in the high school category. Last month, competing against some 7,000 taped entries, they received 10 "deebee" awards. In 1985 the students walked away with six.

There's more. Last year the Arts Magnet groups were named as the outstanding high school jazz and lab bands by the National Association of Jazz Educators, the best band and combo at the Tarleton State University Festival in Stephenville, and best bands by the Abilene Christian University Festival.

Can there be more?

The merry musicians have also cut seven albums in the past seven years, with the last two — *Impressions* in Please see ARTS MAGNET on Page 2E.



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Trumpeter Roy Hargrove, 16.