

'Friends' Support Cultural and Performing Arts

By Jennifer Alverson
Staff Writer

Driven by a dedication to the arts, the Cal State Friends of the Arts organization supports Cal State East Bay's cultural and performing arts.

Throughout the year, CSFA hosts an array of receptions, show openings and other activities related to the arts. In addition to increasing the patronage of CSUEB art activities, CSFA hosts fund-raisers for the organization.

CSFA board member Nancy Hird said she was enthusiastic about the arts on campus.

"Student work is worthy of a lot of attention. You get a chance to see an artist becoming; it is truly exciting," Hird said.

The organization hosted the reception for the Fall Jazz Concert, the opening of the Machu Picchu exhibit in the C.E. Smith Anthropology Museum and numerous dinners before shows.

The funds provide annual scholarships to one student in each of the departments of art, music, and theatre and dance.

When the organization has sufficient funds, it purchases art pieces from students and displays them in the university library.

"The purchase money helps the student artist to get started in their career, and the University Library has kindly consented to exhibit these examples of excellence in the works of our art students," CSFA President Jerry Rose said.

Membership in the organization varies from about 30 to 75 people, with 13 board members who attend meetings, and organize and operate events.

Hird said CSFA welcomes new members. Members receive discounts to events and their membership fee contributes to the scholarship fund.

CSFA's members range from students and faculty of CSUEB to community members interested in supporting the various art programs.

Contribution forms are generally available at events sponsored by CSFA, and membership is obtained after a \$35 or more contribution.

CSFA, founded in 1991 by CSUEB President Norma Rees, is dedicated to increasing patronage, awareness and support of the university's various art programs, Rose said.

Up and Coming Rap Group Looks To Be 'The Next Big Thing'

By Mark Noland
Staff Writer

Rap group All Starr Trybe has its sights set on being the next big thing to come out of East Oakland.

The Trybe is made up longtime friends: C-Rob, 18, Ja'seen, 19 and Stoney, 21. Their debut album, "Lay it Down," was released earlier this month through Squad Music Group, an independent label based in Oakland.

"The album is about us and our experiences," C-Rob said. "It's definitely street, and there's a lot of feel-good songs too."

C-Rob said that All Starr Trybe formed nearly two years ago, adding that they wanted the group name to represent the loyalty each member has for one another, as well as their confidence that their talent is the "best out of the whole league."

The group's first show came

during a lunchtime rally at Berkeley High School last year. The show's opening act was booed off the stage, and C-Rob explained that before the Trybe went onstage, he was teased that his group would get booed, too.

"I said, 'No, we're gonna lay it down,'" he said. "That's how we got the name for our album. Then we did our show and we killed it. We got love from everyone."

As the group played more gigs, they met some of rap's big names along the way, from E-40 to Jay-Z.

"We met (Oakland rap group) The Team and did a show in Berkeley together," C-Rob said. "It was a real good vibe; we just fed off each other."

Down the road, C-Rob envisions big things ahead for All Starr Trybe.

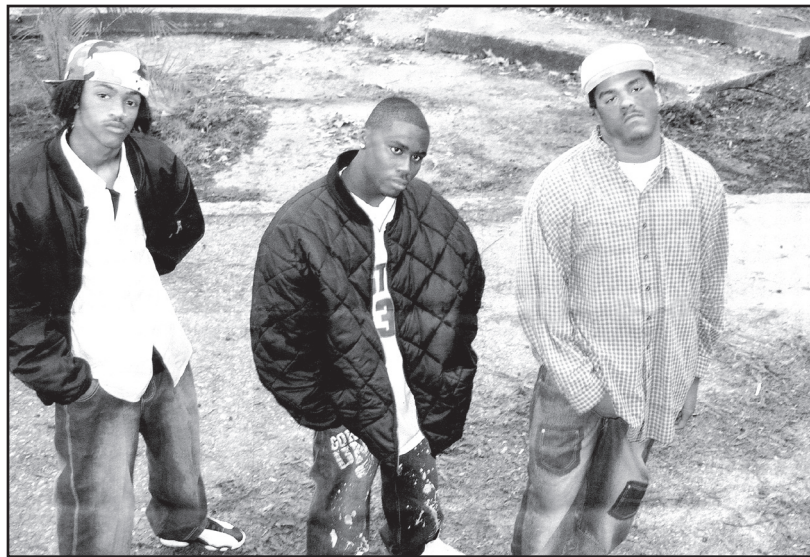
"In three or five years, we'll be on top," he said. "I want to position

myself where I'll have my own empire. I already have the name picked out, "Trybe Entertainment."

C-Rob grew up always wanting to be involved in music, having begun rapping in the sixth grade. Despite the group's big ambitions, Squad Music Group President Will "The General" Uschold emphasized the importance of long, hard work.

"I wanted them to experience the independent grind," Uschold said. "From the first day I met them, they had that raw energy. That's the most important thing. It just needs to be molded and tamed."

All Starr Trybe will be performing Friday at noon at Encinal High School in Alameda. DJ Backside, of 106.1 KMEL, is also slated to appear. "Lay it Down" will be available at Rasputin Records and Amoeba Music within the next few weeks.



That's a Rap: All Starr Trybe is looking to make an impact on the Bay Area hip-hop scene. Their debut album, "Lay it Down," is coming soon to a store near you.

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