

# 'Friends' Support Cultural and Performing Arts

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 experience on 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 empThs i 3

ings 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 Gt

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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.

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