

# We are hip-hop...

## The passion of Reali-T.

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by entertainment editor

Face Off. The song begins with piano riffs that almost come off as haunting, but are accompanied by a comforting feeling. Then a voice introduces the track; you have a new feeling of anticipation. And when the first verse of high-speed, high-octane lyrics explodes – you lose your breath.

That is what hip-hop is all about.

"It's all about the essence and the love, the drive. Hip-hop is life, I am hip-hop."

So says the surprisingly soft-spoken Tarrell Gulledge, part of a four-man collaboration under Snakehouse Records: including Mathew Evers, Dayton Rogers and Tony Davis, all seniors at North High.

Gulledge is known as Reali-T and when he's not busy inventing concepts for songs, he is working with the guys at his independent record label Snakehouse Records.

Evers, also known as M.C.E., has been friends with Gulledge since they were eight years old. "We did everything together," said Evers. The two of them were even on a skate team.

"One time I actually stole one of Mat's little cars. His mom called mine and I had to return it. Ever since then, we've been good friends," remembers Gulledge.

It was freshman year when Gulledge and Evers met Dayton Rogers. "Our personalities brought us together and we were friends before we were about music," said Evers, "and ever since then we've been 'brothers.'"

Rogers is known to the group as Camelot. "It's actually just a weird name so people will ask about it, it's for a mystery effect," said Rogers. He enjoys acting and portraying roles.

Shortly after Rogers joined the group, the three of them discovered Tony Davis. He is the comedic glue that keeps the guys together with high spirits; constantly messing around and telling jokes.

Davis goes by Cynosure.

"It's all about being the center of attention. But honestly in this group we are all in this together, there isn't one center. We want to base our music off of unification," said Davis.

After mixing with Snakehouse, the guys are speaking to a pressing company about getting their album produced and distributed. They chose Diskfactory, a local company, to keep their music close to home for now. Changing the face of hip-hop is the goal. "We are different from every other hip-hop group because we're not followers; and if we get ourselves out there to the rest of the U.S. or world, Omaha will have a new reputation and a new way to go," Evers said.

Together Gulledge, Evers, Rogers and Davis could be Omaha's next big thing. But don't let the hip-hop façade fool you; these guys are not about to throw away their foundations.

"Education is everything, if you have an education you can go forward. If you don't have an education and you run into some downfalls, you have nothing to fall back on," Gulledge said.

All four of the guys practice the importance of music. "Music teaches people. It has taught people for hundreds of years. Way back when there were only poets, the poets would go from village to village

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