Rapped with talent!

Riley has its own artists

You don't have to travel all the way to Chicago to find the next Kanye West or go all the way to Houston to find the next Paul Wall. Riley High School has its own talent right here in South Bend.

You may not know this, but we have students of our own who have put out rap CDs and are trying to make it big in the music industries.

Quentin "Queezy" Watts, sophomore, has been rapping since he was 12 years old. He was inspired by his older brother Carl Thompson and brings a different style to rap music.

"I rap a certain way," Queezy said. "The way I sound is different from everybody else."

There are many types of rappers, like battle rappers and freestyle rappers. According to Queezy, "a battle rapper focuses on eating up his opponent, so he thinks of jokes as he raps (sort of like roasting) and a freestyle rapper just focuses on spittin' (saying) hard punch lines."

Rappers aren't always hard thugs who start trouble.

"People think that I am a bad kid, but really I'm an A-B student," said Queezy.

Even though you may hear a couple of songs from Queezy that talk about sex,
money, cars, clothes, guns and the hood, Queezy also raps about things he sees in the black community.

"All that other stuff I talk about is used for entertainment," Queezy said.

Some think that rap music these days is being labeled unfairly.

"Rap music is being labeled because of what people see on TV," said Eric Baker, senior, also known as "Squidward."

Some people just think that rappers are a cover, but some are fake and some aren't, depending on where you grew up. Rap doesn't always have to be hardcore. There is also an artist that talks about the importance in life and the positive outcomes you can achieve for yourself.

Bobby Williams, a senior, goes by the stage name of "Double B."

Double B brings a different kind of spice to the rap game. Double B raps about beliefs and his experiences.

"I consider my music as a reflection of myself," he said. "What makes my music different from the next person, is the same thing that makes me different from the next person. I'm true to myself and who I am, and I think people recognize that in my music."

Double B's music is different but liked by others. His music is something that all different types of people can come together and enjoy.

Another positive rapper is Top Flight security guard, David Reed known as "Chilly-D." You probably know him from his work not only as a security guard but also his performances in the Black History Month program and the Cinco De Mayo program.

"Chilly D" is another rapper that adds a little difference to the rap game. Chilly D has been rapping since 1988. He first started out writing poems and changed his poems into rap. One of his inspirations was "Run DMC," an 80's rap group. Chilly D doesn't only listen to just rap music but he listens to R&B and also country.

"I'm an inspirational rapper, I write lyrics that have meanings to them," said Reed.