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## Capitol Steps to Appear at the Shirk Center, IWU, Bloomington, IL

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## **Capitol Steps to Appear at the Shirk Center, IWU, Bloomington, IL**

Bloomington, IL --Acclaimed comedy troupe, The Capitol Steps, performs at Illinois Wesleyan on November 16 at the Shirk Center in Bloomington, IL. This is an all-ages show.

Tickets for the 8:00 p.m. general admission show are \$10, and are available from Co-Curricular Programs at IWU through mail order: 1312 North Park St., Bloomington, IL 61701. Orders must be prepaid by checks/money orders made payable to: Capitol Steps. Tickets obtained through the mail available without additional fees or charges. Tickets will be sent immediately upon payment. Tickets can be purchased in person at the aforementioned office which is located in 209 Holmes Hall on the IWU campus, M-F, from 8:00 AM-4: 30 PM. A ticket outlet accepting cash, checks and money orders is also available at the Garlic Press, located at 108 North Street in Normal, IL.

The Capitol Steps are a troupe of Congressional staffers-turned-comedians who travel the States satirizing the very people and places that once employed them. The Steps perform over 500 shows a year all over the country. Since they began, the Capitol Steps have recorded 21 albums, including their latest, "One Bush, Two Bush, Old Bush, New Bush." They've been featured on CBS, ABC, NBC, and PBS; and can be heard 4 times a year on National Public Radio stations nationally during their "Politics Takes a Holiday" radio specials.

The Capitol Steps were born in December 1981 when 3 staffers for Senator Charles Percy were planning entertainment for a Christmas party. Their first idea was to stage a nativity play, but in the whole Congress, they couldn't find three wise men! So, they decided to dig into the headlines of the day, and created song parodies and skits that conveyed their special brand of humor that was as popular in Peoria as it was on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Ronald Reagan was President when the Steps began, so co-founders Elaina Newport, Bill Stauss and Jim Aidala figured that if entertainers could become politicians, then politicians could become entertainers! Since then, the Steps have had over 4500 performances in 48 states. The group now has 22 cast members, 5 of whom are on stage for any one show.

Most cast members have worked on Capitol Hill--some for Democrats, some for Republicans, and others for politicians who firmly straddle the fence. No matter who holds office, there's never a shortage of material. Says Elaina Newport; "Typically the Republicans goof up, and the Democrats party. Then the Democrats goof up and the Republicans party. That's what we call the two-party system.

Although the Capitol Steps are based in Washington, DC, most of their shows are out-of-town for out-of-town audiences. Whether it's the National Welding Supply Association, a University audience, high schoolers or State Legislators, people love to laugh at the foibles of public figures like Bill Clinton (who never goes away with "Pardon Me, Bill"), President George W. Bush ("My Staff Belongs to Daddy") or Attorney General John Ashcroft ("Loonies of the Right"). In

fact, the Capitol Steps have performed for the last 5 presidents (6 if you include Hillary). The only complaints the Steps seem to get are from the politicians and personalities who are not included in the program!

The Capitol Steps show at IWU is co-sponsored by the IWU Student Senate and Co-Curricular Programs as well as local Public Radio station, WGLT (89.1 FM). WGLT presents the Capitol Steps annual fall broadcast on October 31 at 8:30 PM.

For further information about the Capitol Steps appearance, contact Darcy L.Greder at: (309)556-3541.