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Media Advisory

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March 19, 2002

Contact: Anita Kesavan, 309/556-3181

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Event: The Underground Series Spring 2002 will present the vocal band *Naturally Seven*

Date: April 6 (Saturday)

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: Center Court of IWU's Hansen Student Center, 300 E. Beecher St., Bloomington

Admission: Free and open to the public

Contact: For additional information please contact Director of Student Affairs Kevin Clark at (309) 556-3850.

Background: Blending gospel, jazz, R&B, hip-hop, and even classical vocal genres, *Naturally Seven* has been described by music critics as "choosing from a palette that is deep, intense, and brilliant and producing music that is urbanized, funky and immediate."

The seven members of the group Garfield Buckley, Marcus Davis, Rod Eldridge, Jamal Reed, Dwight Stewart, Roger Thomas and Warren Thomas combine their voices to create various harmonies.

Hailing from the New York metropolitan area, *Naturally Seven* has won several awards including the New York City Regional A Capella Harmony Sweepstakes at Symphony Space, and a spot in the National Harmony Sweepstakes program in San Francisco.

In May of 1999, *Naturally Seven* went on to become Harmony Sweepstakes 1999 National Champions, besting top A Capella groups from around the country with a performance one reviewer described as, "The best surprise of the evening. Seven gracious young men stealing the show and the hearts of the audience with an astonishing harmonic banquet." The group also took first place in the category for best arrangement with their lush revival of Simon & Garfunkle's "Bridge Over Troubled Water," showcasing their "gorgeous textures, brilliant arranging, and inspired soulful delivery."

In the fall of 2000, *Naturally Seven* recorded their first CD, *Non-Fiction*, which has been heralded by one music critic as, "One of the most electric innovations yet in contemporary gospel music. The group's gospel background has been good preparation for the brilliant rainbow of tonalities that characterize their technically ambitious, yet passionate approach."

The manager of the group Roger Thomas says, "*Naturally Seven* has a keen ear for complex harmonies, and is eager to experiment and create what doesn't already exist. Most moving is when people find honesty and spirit in the music." For *Naturally Seven*, the music and the message are inseparable. "We're all about hope. It's spirit, music and entertainment. We want to give you something you will remember."

www.naturallyseven.com