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## For Immediate Release

Vito Tifiletti  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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**Contact:** Vito Trifiletti 309/556-3181

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--*The Flirtations*, an a cappella group, will perform at Illinois Wesleyan University's *Blue Moon Coffeehouse*, Thursday, Nov. 17, at 8 p.m. in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center. Admission is free and open to the public.

*The Flirtations*, self-described as, "the world's first and only politically active, multicultural, all-gay a cappella vocal quintet," began singing on the streets of New York's Greenwich Village in 1988. Recently the group appeared on *Good Morning America*, *Donahue*, *MTV News*, *Nightwatch*, *National Public Radio*, and HBO's documentary, *Why Am I Gay?* They were also featured at Carnegie Hall and in Jonathan Demme's film, *Philadelphia*, starring Tom Hanks.

*The Flirts* (as they're affectionately known to their fans) have been known to take doo-wop classics and bend the words to suit their purposes: "Mr. Sandman, send me a dream. Make him the cutest boy that I've ever seen." Along with having fun with their music, they also remark on their varied childhoods--surviving name-calling, confusion, sexual abuse and Catholic school.

In 1990, *The Flirts* released a self-titled debut album, *Out on the Road* (Flirt Records). Using songs from the fifties, ballads, rock, folk songs, gay anthems, salsa and even a lullaby, the album tackles current issues such as: racism, coming out, love, homophobia and politics.

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"When you're openly gay and honest about what you are," says group member Jon Arterton, "you don't have to beat the audience over the head with any messages."

But underlying in their performance is a very political and social message. Arterton explains, "For example, we don't have to say much about AIDS. The points make themselves. Seeing someone with AIDS jumping about on stage, being a queen, and having a high old time means more than millions of speeches about living one-day-at-a-time and enjoying life to the fullest."

AIDS has a special relevance to the group, one member, who wishes to remain anonymous, is HIV-positive, while one of the founders of *The Flirts*, Michael Callen, died of the disease in 1993.

The *Blue Moon Coffeehouse* brings to the Illinois Wesleyan University community entertainment presented in a coffeehouse setting. All *Blue Moon Coffeehouse* events are held in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center and feature flavored coffees, herbal teas and light pastries (for nominal cost), along with a varied program of acoustic performances that span traditional to contemporary folk music, with some reggae and salsa for spice.

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