

Better to Laugh

Ensemble Showcases the Lighter Side of D.C.

By Rebecca Patrick

Nowadays, there is much frustration directed squarely at Washington. Be it the economy, health care, energy – you name it. The decisions, or antics if you will, of the nation’s leaders more and more serve to push people further into their respective red or blue corner.

At least for one night, however, Hoosiers can check their party affiliations at the door and laugh (you know it’s better than screaming, though arguably less cathartic) at all the nonsense and mayhem that go on in D.C. and within government circles in general.

On November 10, the popular political satire group, The Capitol Steps, brings its musical comedy act to the Indiana Chamber’s 20th Annual Awards Dinner in downtown Indianapolis.

The ensemble, known for having “put the mock in democracy,” has released nearly 30 albums of political song parodies; the latest is *Obama Mia*, which “features our new president, his



former rivals and all those who have helped put the country in the great shape it’s in.”

The Capitol Steps started performing in 1981 when a few Senate staffers got together. Over the years, members have worked in a total of 18 congressional offices and represented 62 years of collective Capitol Hill office experience. Today’s cast features many professional performers, with group appearances including major network television and public radio.

Throughout, the skits have centered on presidents, vice presidents, governors, hot-topic policy issues and even the occasional foreign commander.

With such real-life instances as Vice President Dan Quayle’s unique spelling of P-O-T-A-T-O-E, President Bill Clinton’s personal definition of what constitutes sexual relations and President George W. Bush’s frequent verbal miscues, let’s just say the Capitol Steps have not had to worry about source material.

The troupe last performed at the Chamber’s annual dinner

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