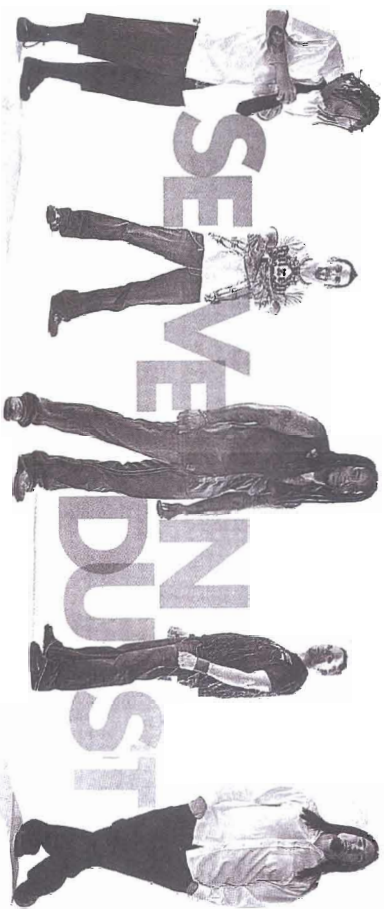


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## WITH A NEW ALBUM OUT AND THE ORIGINAL GROUP BACK TOGETHER, THIS ROCK BAND IS MAKING A STOP IN SIOUX FALLS TO SHOW A SOFTER SIDE

STORY BY **JAY KIRSCHENMANN**  
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**A** tanta-based rock band Sevendust plays Sioux Falls on Sunday with original guitarist and singer Clint Lowery, back after several years. But you won't hear Lowery playing on

the band's new CD release, "Sevendust VII: Hope & Sorrow." It was made before Lowery returned.

Former guitarist Sonny Mayo plays on the April 1 release. It also features Chris Daughtry of "American Idol" fame on vocals on "The Past."

A couple days after the CD release, the band announced that Lowery quit as guitarist for Dark New Day and returned to

the Sevendust lineup in place of Mayo. Lowery is touring with the group for the first time in years.

Sunday's show at the Ramkota Exhibit Hall starts at 7 p.m., with opening bands Black Stone Cherry, Neverset and Over-

scene. The change back to all-original members is good, lead singer Lajon Witherspoon says.

"It's great. It's so exciting, we don't even sleep well at night because the energy is so strong," Witherspoon says by phone.

"Clint is the original player, so the original band is back, and we're loving it," he

says. "We're rockin' again."

They're already working on new material for the next release. Lowery was writer, singer and guitarist with the band from 1997 to 2004.

Mayo was a member from 2005 through March of this year.

Today's Sevendust is Witherspoon and Lowery, with John Connolly on guitar and vocals, Vinnie Hornsby on bass and Morgan Rose on drums and vocals.

### A sweeter sound

Witherspoon also had a bit more to say.

**Question:** The new album has some

soft stuff on it, at least for a band labeled an "alternative metal band," almost able to cross over to mainstream Top 40. Does that bother you?

**Answer:** I have no problem with that - I'm too old to be whatever everyone else wants us to be. We're not trying to be the heaviest band around, we just want to stick around. Music is music, so we're not afraid to show

