# sightlines

F E B R U A R Y 1 9 9 5

LAS VEGAS CONFERENCE

#### LAS VEGAS: GETTING TO KNOW YOUR 'HOME AWAY FROM HOME'

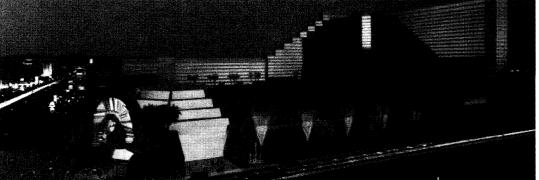
While in Las Vegas at our Annual Conference & Stage Expo, our homes away from home will be the guest rooms, restaurants and hospitality services of the Tropicana and MGM Grand Hotels and Resorts. Each of these two splendid properties have unique personalities and each will house conference attendees and various components of the USITT Conference and Stage Expo.

Programming and business sessions will be held in the meeting rooms of both properties. These two, very impressive properties are side by side at the intersection of Las Vegas and Tropicana boulevards (Tropicana

Boulevard separates the two hotels). A new pedestrian overpass has been installed between the two properties making it unnecessary for conferees to pit their wits against Las Vegas traffic.

From the outside, the MGM Grand is a shiny green monolith of immense proportions. This enormous space is filled with cavernous casinos and reception areas and a labyrinth of hotel hallways that seems to rival the Pentagon. The parking garage is to the

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las vegas Conference

THE EXECUTIVE REPORT

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL

COMMISSION NEWS

TT CLASSIFIED ADS

12 CHECK POINTS

THE TWO SITES **FOR THE 1995 USITT CONFERENCE** & STAGE EXPO: THE MGM GRAND (ABOVE) AND THE TROPICANA (RIGHT). HOTEL ROOMS, CONFER-ENCE CENTERS, RESTAURANTS, AND ENTERTAIN-MENT FACILITIES OF THE TWO **ADJOINING** PROPERTIES WILL PROVIDE AN **EXCITING** ENVIRONMENT FOR THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL CONFER-ENCE.



IOTO: COURTESY OF THE LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

#### COMMERCIAL Endorsement

USITT IS VERY PROUD OF ITS COM-MERCIAL MEMBERS AND THE CONSTANT IMPROVEMENTS OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES USED BY USITT MEMBERS IN PERFORM-ING ARTS DESIGN AND TECHNOL-OGY.

USITT ENCOURAGES THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AND IMPROVED PRODUCTS AND IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE AND REPORT ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL AS REPORTING ON THE PROJECTS AND SUCCESS OF ITS MEMBERS.

USITT DOES NOT RECOMMEND OR ENDORSE SPECIFIC COMPANIES OR PRODUCTS.

#### SIGHTLINES

#### **VOLUME XXXV NUMBER 2**

#### **USITT SIGHTLINES**

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# EDITORS • ERIC FIELDING & CECELIA FIELDING @

USITT IS THE UNITED STATES
CENTER OF OISTAT: THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF
SCENOGRAPHERS, TECHNICIANS,
AND ARCHITECTS OF THEATRE.

LAS VEGAS CONFERENCE

#### LAS VEGAS: GETTING TO KNOW YOUR 'HOME AWAY FROM HOME'

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back of the property, just off Tropicana Boulevard, and hotel guests move from the garage through a semi-finished underground passage to the reception area, in the center of the property.

In keeping with the MGM movie theme, hallways and guest rooms are theme decorated so, you may find yourself walking (and walking) down a "yellow brick road" to your pleasantly "OZified" room. The MGM Grand has a food court that includes a number of the standard "fast food" services and also boasts enough MGM theme restaurants to keep you busy during your entire stay. Needless to say, you cannot avoid the casino as you move from your guest room to conference activities or other property services. The MGM Grand style is big, slick and somewhat frenetic

The Tall towers of the adjacent Tropicana Hotel seem to hold their own against the background of green monoliths, nearby pyramids, and castles. The Tropicana buildings are set amidst lush tropical plantings, enormous pools and waterfalls and a sense that there is a world and sky nearby. While the quickest path between the meeting spaces of the Tropicana and MGM Grand will take you through two casinos, it is possible to use an alternative path through a pleasantly landscaped area or the surrounding parking areas in order to circumnavigate the enclosed casino spaces of the Tropicana.

The Tropicana guest rooms are decorated in a lanai theme and are light and pleasant. Half of the rooms provide a view of the tropical plantings and pools while the other half face the city-scape and distant desert.

In the Tropicana it is possible to stay in a guest room that is within the same tower as the conference center meeting rooms. The Tropicana also offers a range of restaurants and entertainment, and there is parking directly adjacent to the conference center tower. The Tropicana style is hotel tropical, comfortable and relaxed.

Whichever hotel you decide to call

home while attending the 1995 USITT Conference and Stage Expo, it will provide you with excellent service, more restaurants and activities than you can reasonably use, and good value for your accommodation dollar. Each roomnight you use helps us keep down the cost of conference making by helping defray the high cost of meeting room space—the heart of our conference programming.

All hotel reservations must be made using the Official Hotel Reservation Form. The form must be sent by mail or fax to the USITT Conference Housing Bureau by 27 February 1995. Late reservations will only be accepted by the LVCA Hotel Reservation Division (702-892-0777) but conference prices and availability cannot be guaranteed. Also, it is more than likely that your late room reservation will not count toward our contracted room-night obligation, thereby adding to our Conference costs.

Make your hotel room reservation now and you'll not only get the hotel that best suits your needs but you'll be helping ensure the success of the conference as well.

Leon Brauner VP-Conferences

1995 STAGE EXPO

#### VISIT YOUR EXHIBITORS AT STAGE EXPO '95

Listed below are the 93 companies and organizations which will be exhibiting at Stage Expo '95 to be held 21-23 March at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas:

Alcone/Mutual
Altman Stage Lighting
Anchor Communications
ATM Fly-Ware
Automatic Devices Company
Baer Fabrics
Bash Theatrical Lighting Inc.
Broadway Press
Bulbman Inc.
CAE Inc.
J.R. Clancy, Inc.
Classic Trims
Clear-Com Intercom Systems
Cobalt Studios

Color Filters Corp Colortran, Inc. Columbus McKinnon Corporation The Crosby Group, Inc. Crouse-Hinds Molded Products Custom Rigging Systems Dazian's Inc. DePaul University Drama Book Publishers The Drama Book Shop, Inc. **Duff-Norton** Elantec Med **Electronic Theatre Controls** Encompass Design & Management Entertainment Services & Technology Association Entertainment Technology Inc. Flying Pig Systems, Inc. Folio 1 GALA Gothic Ltd. **Gray Interfaces** The Great American Market Greenville Stage Equipment Co., Inc. Group One Ltd. H&H Specialities Inc. Claude Heintz Design Irwin Seating Co. ISH Systems, Inc. Jeamar Winches ICN Joyce/Dayton Corporation The Juilliard School

Kinetic Artistry, Inc.
Kryolan Corporation
L'Air Pneumatic Suspension Floor
System
LaBrosse, Ltd.
Lee Filters
Limelight Productions, Inc.
LuxArt Conception Inc.

Lycian Stage Lighting Mann Brothers MBI Products Co.

University of Montana N and N Productions

Norcostco Inc.

Oleson, A Division of Entertainment Resources

Penn State University
Phonic Ear, Inc.
Prosceptum Lighting C

Proscenium Lighting Co., Inc. Protech Theatrical Services Inc.

Raiments

Rosco Laboratories Inc.

Rose Brand - Theatrical Supplies, Fabrics & Fabrication

Sapsis Rigging Inc. Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc. ShowBiz Expo Silkpaint Corporation

Olaf Soot Associates P.C.

Sourcebook Press, Inc. Southern Illinois University Stage Directions StageRight Corp. Staging Concepts, Inc. Strand Lighting Inc. Strong International Inc. Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co.,

TCI/Lighting Dimensions **TDF Costume Collection** Telex Communications, Inc. Theatre Arts Video Library James Thomas Engineering, Inc. Steven Thompson & Associates, Inc. Tiffin Scenic Studios, Inc. Tomcat USA Inc. Towson State University Union Connector Wenger Corporation University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Yale School of Drama

We are anticipating that the Grand Garden at the MGM Grand Hotel & Resport will very soon be completely sold out for Stage Expo '95, so if you or someone you know is interested in exhibiting, don't delay. Please call me in the USITT Sales Office at 1-800-398-EXPO to reserve a booth today.

> Helen Willard **USITT Sales Manager** Stage Expo & Advertising

DUE TO A TECHNICAL ERROR, THE ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUM-BERS FOR DUDLEY THEATRICAL AND JCN, AS LISTED IN THE DISPLAY ADS ON PAGE 183 OF THE 1994 TD&T DIRECTORY, ARE INCORRECT.

**USITT APOLOGIZES FOR THIS ERROR AND ENCOURAGES YOU** TO PLEASE CORRECT THIS INFOR-MATION IN YOUR ISSUE OF THE DIRECTORY.

#### **DUDLEY THEATRICAL**

**5088 HARLEY DRIVE** PO BOX 519 WALKERTOWN, NC 27501 PHONE: 910-595-2122 FAX: 910-595-6331

JCN PO BOX 9986 OAKLAND, CA 94613 PHONE: 510-638-6907 THE EXECUTIVE REPORT

#### USITT PUBLICATIONS OMMITTEE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The directives for publications developed at the Board Retreat in Las Vegas last August (detailed in full in the October Sightlines) spurred considerable activity during the Fall. Following David Rodger's energetic lead, members of the Publications Committeeincluding Will Bellman, Whitney Blausen, Barry Cleveland, Sylvia Hillyard, Steve Nelson, Patrick Gill, and others-are working out the implementation details. A working plan for realizing the directives was presented at the Winter Board Meeting.

A number of the initiatives have been cited in Sightlines and there are more to come. Of course, the bottom line is to continue to "improve and expand" the Institute's publications, both admirable and ongoing objectives. But, since we are a volunteer organization, the realization of these objectives is totally dependent upon the response of the members.

To "improve and expand," we must increase the number of quality submissions for publication in TD&T and individual published works, such as the DMX512/1990 & AMX192 Standards and The Scenic Modeler's Sourcebook. The question is: How do we do that?

As always, the responsibility falls upon the membership, the Commissions, the Committees, and the individual. We need to find the way to encourage everyone to share their knowledge and expertise in TD&T and other USITT publication/communication formats. The process of taking the time to sit down and write up the information and ideas is not easy, especially if one is not sure how best to communicate the ideas. "How-To" and technical articles are particularly difficult, yet these are precisely the articles the membership requests on a regular basis.

The Publications Committee plans to offer writing workshops at the Ft. Worth Conference in 1996. In the meantime, if you have ideas and want assistance in developing them for publication, I encourage you to contact any member of the committee listed in the Directory issue of *TD&T*.

Electronic communication is no longer "in the future." It is here. Subscribers to the new on-line entertainment technology service, ETEC, will find the summer issue of TD&T under the Associations menu. Canada's CultutreNet is being developed on schedule and will have a sneak preview at the Vegas Conference. Expect demonstrations of ETEC at the Conference.

In response to the demand for juried publications in design and technology, the Institute provides two possibilities; the juried section of TD&T and Cutters' Research Journal. Each publication contains information on the submission process. Will Bellman's "Writing Papers for the Juried Section of Theatre Design & Technology" details the process for TD&T in the Spring '94 issue. For more information on either journal. contact the National Office. Papers for these publications are always on-call.

To meet the challenges outlined in the new Mission and Goals for USITT Publications, active participation from the membership is essential. One means of voicing your interest is to attend one of the open working meetings of the Publications Committee at the Vegas Conference.

The meetings are scheduled at 10 am on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, respectively. Another approach is to contact any member of the committee, the associate, contributing or department editors or the editors, Eric and Cecelia Fielding, with your questions and ideas.

Active participation and involvement of each member of the Institute is essential if we are to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves.

> Joy Emery, **VP-Communications**



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**ELECTRONIC THEATRE** CONTROLS, INC.

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STRAND LIGHTING

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TCI/LIGHTING DIMENSIONS **MAGAZINES** 

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NATIONAL OFFICE

# NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL

Welcome to 1995! We have many exciting events, including the Las Vegas Conference, to look forward to in this brand new year. As we move closer to the year 2000, let's look at the advancements taking place with our members and the performing arts world:

#### CONTRIBUTING MEMBER NEWS

- Rosco has added to its product line a professional reference binder for the entire Roscolux collection. This swatchbook contains an 8"x 10" sheet of each Roscolux color and diffusion, as well as transmission and spectral energy distribution information. The binder is light tight to protect from ultraviolet rays which could damage filters. This Professional Reference Edition is available for \$75 and comes with a free update offer so users always have a complete set of the color range. For more information or to place an order, you may contact any authorized Rosco dealer.
- TCI-Lighting Dimensions hosted its holiday party and annual awards ceremony for TCI Magazine on 12 December 1994 at the Players Club in Gramercy Park, NYC. The TCI Award honors outstanding achievement in design and technology for the performing arts and entertainment industry. This year's recipients were: Costume Designer, Florence Kloz (Lifetime Achievement); Prosthetics Designer, John Dods, Beauty and The Beast; Hair and Wig Designer, David Lawrence, Beauty and The Beast; and Production Designer, Roger Fortune, The Cosby Mysteries. The awards were presented by Harold Prince and Terrance Mann.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

• ESTA-Entertainment Services & Technology Association has announced the results of elections for their Board of Directors for 1995. Elected officers include the following USITT members: Paul Vincent, Vincent Lighting Systems; John Cooke, Stageworks; Lou Farina, Lycian Stage Lighting; Gary Justesen,

Oasis Stage Works; Mitch Clark, Tomcat USA; Rob Rowlands, Vincent Lighting Systems; Larry Nelson, L.E. Nelson Sales Corporation; and Sonny Sonnenfeld, Electric Lighting Agencies. We'd like to congratulate the new officers and wish them a productive year.

- PERA-Production Equipment Rental Association has had much success with the recovery of stolen equipment because of its Missing Equipment Fax Alerts, a project of its Missing Equipment Program. The Fax Alerts sent out on PERA letterhead distribute information about missing equipment locally as well as nationally and internationally. Future goals for PERA's Missing Equipment Program include: establishing an 800 number tip-line for information about thefts, creating a working database of missing equipment, and initiating a promotional campaign to inform the industry about the program. For more information on the PERA Missing Equipment Program, contact PERA, 818-906-2467 or fax 818-906-1720.
- The Black Theatre Network has published a catalog titled Dissertations Concerning Black Theatre. The catalog is arranged by artist, theme, and period of history, and includes title, author, and order number for each dissertation. For purchase price and information, contact: The Black Theatre Network, PO Box 11502, Fisher Building Station, Detroit, Michigan 48211.

• The Educational Theatre

Association and The American Alliance for Theatre and Education have designated March 1995 as Theatre in our Schools Month. This annual event works to bring theatre into the lives and classrooms of young people. Actor and founder of the National Actors Theatre Tony Randall will be this year's honorary chair. State Governors and Boards of Education nationwide will participate in this celebration. Promotional materials and an activities start-up kit for this event are available by contacting AATE, Dept. of Theatre, Box 3411, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-3411, 602-965-6064; or Karen Kay Husted, Chair TIOSM, Theatre Arts Dept. University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, 602-621-8741.

#### MEMBER NEWS

- Harry Donovan's consulting firm Donovan Rigging, Inc. was one of the main contractors on the recent repair of the Seattle Kingdome. His crew of 40 men removed and replaced the sound system and all existing house rigging as well as doing all the rigging, safety, and lifeline work for reconstruction. He is also proud to report that, in the more than threemonth period it took to complete the project, there were no accidents or injuries to the crew.
- Paul Garrity, formerly a principal consultant for Artec Consultants, has formed his own New York City-based firm, Paul Garrity and Associates. Paul Garrity and Associates will provide sound and communications systems design and consulting services for theatres and other performing arts venues. Garrity brings to his firm more than 12 years of design experience throughout North America and in the U.K., including serving as production sound designer for numerous off-Broadway and regional plays and musicals.

#### INDUSTRY NEWS

- The Southeastern Theatre Conference will hold its 46th Annual Convention March 1-5 in Norfolk, Virginia. USITT member Ming Cho Lee will be judging the Costume and Scenery Competition and there will be numerous workshops and seminars focusing on technical theatre and design. The USITT Southeast Section will also be holding a meeting at SETC. The convention will take place at the Marriott Hotel, the Omni Hotel, and the Norfolk Convention Center: For more information contact Marian Smith, SETC PO Box 9868, Greensboro, NC 27429-0868; 910-272-3645.
- The Summer Theatre Directory 1995 is now available. This publication, edited by Jill Charles, is an updated employment guide for students and professionals in all areas of theatre seeking summer work. It includes vital statistics on a total of 390 summer theatres, Shakespeare festivals, theme parks, and outdoor dramas across the United States and Canada as well as a number of cruise ship lines. Essential hiring information including: positions available, application deadlines, salary,

and housing information is also listed. *The Summer Theatre Directory* may be purchased at drama book stores across the country for \$15.95 or may ordered directly from Theatre Directories, P.O. Box 519, Dorset, VT 05251; 802-867-2223. For mail orders please add \$2.75 for shipping.

Maureen Rahill USITT Member Services

LAS VEGAS CONFERENCE

#### SECOND USITT RAFFLE PROMISES MORE PRIZES, GREAT ODDS FOR FT. WORTH

Our second USITT Raffle is being conducted in Las Vegas during the 1995 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Your \$5 raffle ticket (buy 5 tickets, get one FREE) will be your opportunity to win one of a host of Fort Worth gifts, many provided by the great and very hospitable folks at our next Conference site, Fort Worth, Texas!

Prizes include: (All prizes are for use during the **1996** Annual Conference & Stage Expo)

- Round-trip, economy airfare to Fort Worth from anywhere within the continental United States (provided by American Airlines and Conventions in America).
- Getaway Weekend for two (two nights) at the Worthington Hotel (Getaway Weekend includes, dinner and brunch for two).
- Lunch for two at the Worthington Hotel's exceptional Star of Texas Grill
- Thre-night stay in the fine accommodations of the conference hotel, the Radisson Plaza.
- Two-night stay at the Remington Hotel & Conference Center.
- Dinner for two at the one of the conference hotel, the Radisson Plaza's fine restaurants.
- Live in luxury, away from the teeming masses, with a room upgrade to the concierge level at the Radisson Plaza Hotel (must be registered in a standard room at the Radisson).
- For those who really want to go

- wild, two passes to the Fort Worth
- For a real taste of regional hospitality and history, four family-style dinners at Joe T. Garcia's Mexican
   Dishes amidst a festive, mariachi music-filled atmosphere. Garcia's has been a Fort Worth highlight since 1935.
- If your palate is calling for great Italian cuisine, two gift certificates (\$25 each) for The Prego Pasta House Restaurant.
- If Fort Worth is too tame for you, blast yourself into outer space at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History's OMNI THEATRE (eight individual gift certificates will be raffled).
- Two free tickets for the final event of the Fort Worth Conference, the feast of feasts, the Annual Banquet of the 1996 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo.
- One free full Conference Registration to the big Texas show of shows, the 1996 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo.
- One free Pre-conference
  Registration for the event of your
  choice. (These unusual and intensive events are held on the one or
  two days prior to the opening of the
  Conference.)
- Two Grab-bags of Fort Worth gifts.
   These gifts may be small, but they come from a Texas heart!

All proceeds from the USITT Raffle will go to the general operating fund of USITT. Members of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and employees of USITT are ineligible to win the hotel and round trip airfare awards.

Tickets will be available at the Registration area in Las Vegas, at the Fort Worth Conference booth on the Stage Expo floor, or from various members of the Executive committee during the Las Vegas Conference.

Plan to buy early, buy often, and buy in vast quantity! Help support the many worthwhile activities of USITT while increasing your odds of winning these valuable prizes!

> Christine Kaiser Treasurer

EMPLOYMENT SERVIC

# QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES SEEK YOU!

Finding qualified employees to work for your company, shop, university, or theatre is always time consuming and often costly. How many times have you hired someone who was not quite right for a position because it was less expensive than continuing to search? USITT offers a solution to these hiring challenges.

USITT has engaged THEatre SER-VICE to operate THEatre Conference Employment SERVICE (TCES) at the 1995 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Las Vegas. Whether you are an exhibiting company or attending the conference as an individual, you can register to interview qualified applicants face-to-face.

TCES will arrange for you to meet with applicants at prearranged times designed for your convenience.

Condensed vitas indexed by applicant skills and complete credential files are available for quick reference or indepth review. Each candidate is provided with a description of the position(s) you have available, enabling them to meet with you prepared to discuss their qualifications.

THEatre Conference Employment SERVICE is a fully computerized state-of-the-art operation designed to efficiently match employer and applicant. TCES handles full-time employment as well as internships and summer theatre positions. As a USITT member you are entitled to receive a discount on registration fees if you register for the service by 1 March 1995.

Don't pass up the opportunity to take advantage of the wealth of experienced and talented professionals assembled at the USITT Conference. Contact THEatre SERVICE *today*!

For more information, please call Patricia Angotti at 812-474-0549. You may write or fax THEatre SERVICE, PO Box 15282, Evansville, IN, 47716; fax 812-476-4168. Registration forms are available in the Las Vegas Conference Preview Guide (pages 28-30), the Las Vegas Exhibitor's Manual, and from the USITT National or THEatre Service office.

Looking for work? Use the same address and phone number to contact Angotti for additional information.

#### SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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INC.; LITE-PUTER ENTER-PRISE CO., LTD.; NSI CORPORATION; SCHULER & SHOOK, INC.; AND TECHNICAL SUPPLY

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IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, VOTE AND RETURN YOUR BALLOT BY 20 FEBRUARY 1995. ©



USITT



COMMISSION



NEWS

COSTUME AND DESIGN **TECHNOLOGY** 

#### INTERNATIONAL **GUESTS AT** LAS VEGAS CONFERENCE

The Las Vegas conference offers those of us in the Costume Design and Technology Commission not only some very exciting programming but also a unique opportunity. Because USITT (as the U.S. Center of OISTAT) is hosting the first-ever World Costume Congress, we will be able to meet with colleagues in our field from around the world.

As of 1 January 1995, our international guests include:

Argentina: Valentina Bari, Anibal H. Lapiz, Sebastian Perez Australia: Sue Osmond

Austria: Carola Popodi, Mag. Claudia Goll, Annette Beaufays

Bulgaria: Maria Kimanova (Kamencheva)

Canada: Carolyn Devins Chile: Maria Teresa Lobo R., Edith del Campo, Imme Moller, Isabel

Alvarado China: Weiyue Zhoa, Yi Lu Czech Republic: Ester

Krumbachova

Ecuador: Eduardo Alimedia Naveda

Finland: Maija Pekkanen Great Britain: Gary Dahms, Jane Cowood, Graham Cottenden, Jan

Whittemore White Hong-Kong: Gary Wilkins, Vicki Le

Sache

Hungary: Edit Zeke

Peru: Maria Lucia Carillo Thorne. Marco Leclere San Roman

Poland: Danuto Kuznika

Russia: Valya Komolova, Irina Cherednikova

Sweden: Maria Geber, Roland

Soderberg

Taiwan: Ping-Ping Chin Uruguay: Soledad Capurro, Laura Lockhart, Conception Masachs

Additional guests will be sent from Germany, Korea, Japan, and

If you plan to attend the conference and are interested in helping make our international guest feel welcome, please contact Gini Vogel at 620 John Fremont Drive, Reno, NV

89509. She is coordinating volunteers who are willing to be help a guest feel at home, help them find their way to sessions, introduce them to others, be sure they don't miss any important information, etc. Gini can also be reached by calling 702-784-6839 (work) or 702-322-8373 (home).

> Diane R. Berg Commissioner

health and Safety

#### LAS VEGAS PROGRAMMING DETAILED

One of the most exciting sessions to occur at the Las Vegas Conference will be the two-day pre-conference session on "Risk Management for Hazardous Chemicals in the Entertainment Workplace" chaired by Randy "Dr. Doom" Davidson. This extended session will be jam-packed with information on purchasing, handling, using, and disposing of a wide variety of chemicals we use everyday in theatre.

Along with Dr. Doom will be Skip Hines of California State University, Fullerton and other experts in this field. Numerous handouts will be available to attenders of this session. At the conference, Davidson will be presenting two new Pocket Guides for Theatre Safety.

In our continuing exploration of the effect of ADA on the workplace, several panels are being offered: "Evacuation and Signage, Developing a Facility ADA Compliance Plan," and "Creative Solutions to ADA Problems."

Dr. Doom et. al will explore "Pyrotechnic Safety, Fog, Smoke and Mists: What's in the Air?" As a spin-off of last years' "When to say NO!", a panel will discuss "Who's Life is It Anyway? Saying No and Staying Sane and Employed."

These are just highlights of the exciting and meaningful series of sessions produced by the Health and Safety Commission. We look forward to seeing you there and taking part in the discussion and Commission activities.

> **Bill Hektner** Co-Commissioner

LAS VEGAS CONFERENCE

#### VEGAS SHOW UPDATE FROM JANUARY LISTINGS: ORDER NOW!

Here are a few corrections, revisions and additions to "Las Vegas Show Comparison" list published in the January issue of Sightlines:

#### **EFX**

Hotel: MGM Grand

Time: 7:30 & 11 pm (Dark Tuesday)

Price: \$65 (inclusive)

Style: Special effects musical extrav-

aganza.

Special Interest to USITT members: Total state-of-the-art facility. Automation, spectacular lighting, sound, fire, smoke and special effects, projection, lasers, illusions, and unique costuming. A Super Session is planned for this show.

#### **BUCCANEER BAY**

Hotel: Treasure Island

Time: 4:, 5:30, 7, 8:30, and 10 pm

Price: Free

Style: Swashbuckling pirate battle performed outside in front of the hotel.

Special Interest to USITT members: A unique, first-of-its-kind attraction for Las Vegas. Gun battle, pyro, fire, scenic special effects, stunts. Best seen after dark if possible. A super session is planned for Tuesday, March 21 at 9:50 am. If you are going to attend this session, try to see the show first.

Shows, times, and prices are subject to change without notice. Don't forget: the January issue of Sightlines contains a detailed listing of available Vegas shows, including one free show! Conference-goers will be able to get reduced price tickets for many of the shows if they order BEFORE FEBRUARY 15. See the conference registration information in that issue, or call the National Office for more details.

> **Louis Bradfield** Conference Committee

## TECHNICAL SOURCE GUI

## PNEUMATIC CYLINDERS AND THEIR USE AS PLATFORM LOCKS

#### by Roy C. Hoglund, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

- Pneumatic cylinders (actuators) have been used in platform control for the stage for over twenty years. However, many serious problems have plaqued the users — the size of the cylinders was usually large and difficult to place inside of platforms, it was difficult to provide enough air supply pressure and volume to engage the cylinder without connecting a supply hose, and the high level of sound when pressure was released was a deterrent.
- The Pancake® Cylinder (a tradename used by Fabco-Air Inc.) is a short-stroke, large-bore pneumatic cylinder which addresses the problem of size. Its smallest cylinder, at 2-3/4" in length with a 1-1/2" bore, can produce 124 lbs. of push power using 60 lbs. of air pressure. This means that, typically, only two cylinders of this size are needed to secure a standard 4 x 8 fixedcastered platform. It is important to note that bore size and air pressure are directly related to the lift strength of a cylinder. Bore area in inches square multiplied by pounds per square inch in applied air pressure is the equation used to estimated the lift of a pneumatic cylinder.
- The double-acting design of a pneumatic cylinder makes it necessary to have two air pressure lines connected to each cylinder. One line is used to deliver the air pressure to push the cylinder in one direction, and the other is the line used to deliver the air pressure to retract the cylinder back to its starting position. The cylinder usually requires greater pressure to push the cylinder than is required to retract the cylinder.
- · Although cylinders are available in many different sizes and configurations, that which is typically used will have a rod with a female-threaded end to accommodate any number of attachments that may be required. For platform use, a foot with a rubber pad is desirable to prevent the foot of the rod from slipping when the cylinder is in the down or locking position. Single-acting cylinders have a spring retractor to return the cylinder to its original position after the air pressure has been released.
- Manufacturers suggest that a nonrotating cylinder be used in cases where rotation of the unit is undesirable. The nonrotating cylinder has two rods within the unit quiding the cylinder travel. This prevents rotation when the cylinder is in the engaged position.
- · Another component required in the use of cylinders in platforms is a small high pressure air supply. Very small air supply containers, such as emergency air supply containers able to hold 1000 psi, can be acquired from some army surplus distributors. It is also possible to obtain more expensive versions, which hold lower psi, from medical supply distributors. The typical small, low psi container comes in cylinder or pancake shapes. The heights can range from 7-3/4" to 8" in a variety of lengths. The tank must be able to hold 124 psi and enough volume to accomplish the task desired.
- To create an avenue through which the pressurized air can travel, a plastic tube and fittings are necessary. The polyethylene plastic tube, which works best, and fittings should be rated at least to 120 lbs. of pressure and can usually be purchased from a hardware store or a local Grainger distributor. Typical fittings usually require an insert sleeve and a compression nut to lock the tube in place. It also requires small wrenches for installation in tight places.
- Camozzi Pneumatics has a line of fittings, called Super-Rapid Pro Fit, which are designed with a spring-loaded collar that allows the plastic tube to be inserted into the fitting without using a wrench. To release the plastic tube, the spring-loaded collar is depressed and the tube is pulled out. These fittings, although more expensive than the usual fittings, can cut installation
- Other items necessary in the installation of a pneumatic cylinder system for locking platforms in place are a two-position, four-way valve, an adjustable regulator, and a noise suppressor at the end of the air release line. Many of these items can be acquired from the same companies which sell the pneumatic cylinders. See illustration for typical design of pneumatic locks.
- For exact sizes and psi requirements for your specifications, contact one of the manufacturers listed below.

American Cylinder Co. Peotone, IL 60468 Phone: 708-258-3935 11111 Zodiac Lane Fax: 708-258-3980

Camozzi Pneumatics PO Box 59974 Dallas, TX 75229-1974 Phone: 904-373-3578 Brentwood, TN 37027 Phone: 214-247-5411 Fax: (214) 247-5178

Fabco-Air PO Box 5159 Gainesville, FL 32602 Fax: 904-375-8024

Numatics Actuator 7106 Crossroads Blvd., Suite 216 Phone: 615-370-4440 Fax: 615-370-0538

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Date the product/technique was used:
Name, address and telephone number of product manufacturer:

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#### TECHNICAL SOURCE GUIDE

• A Project of the USITT Technical Production Commission

#### #17 - Pneumatic Platforms

Editor: Roy Hoglund

(continue on reverse)

Associate Editors: Elbin Cleveland, Jonathan Darling, Martin Gwinup

Technical Source Guide 514 West Parkway Boulevard Appleton, WI 54911 414-424-7051

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# TECHNICAL SOURCE GUIDE

Please give description of product/technique—take into account length of time, special materials used in conjunction with product/technique, manpower needed, safety requirements, etc.:

(Use this form or send the requested information to the "Technical Source Guide" Editor at the address listed on the front page of the "Guide.")

#### TECHNICAL SOURCE GUIDE

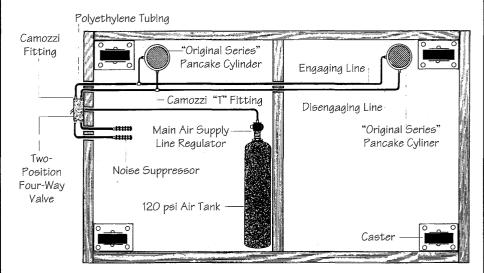
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#17 - Pneumatic Platforms

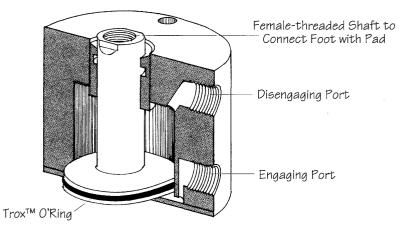
Thank you for your participation in the "Technical Source Guide!"

### PNEUMATIC CYLINDERS & THEIR USE AS PLATFORM LOCKS

BASIC LAYOUT OF PANCAKE PISTON STOPS FOR A PLATFORM



#### CUTAWAY DIAGRAMS OF CYLINDERS

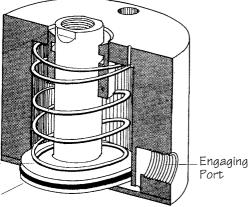


"Original Series" C-221X
Pancake Cylinder

Female-threaded Shaft to
Connect Foot with Pad

Retracting Spring—

Trox™ O'Ring



"Original Series" C-2210 Spring-Retracted Pancake Cylinder





#### SM United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.

# SHOW TICKET UPDATE

ALL SHOW TICKET
ORDERS MUST BE
RECEIVED BY THE USITT
NATIONAL OFFICE
BEFORE
FEBRUARY 15, 1995.

# THE EFX TICKET PRICE IS \$65.50

We have been unable to secure a group discount for this new show. USITT is selling these tickets at the same price they can be purchased individually.

Notices have been mailed to all those who reserved EFX tickets. In order to secure your tickets, payment for the tickets must be received by February 15, 1995.

# SHOW TICKET INFORMATION

Enter the Night at Stardust Hotel Monday, March 20 8:00 PM Ticket Price: \$23.00

Starlight Express at Las Vegas Hilton Tuesday, March 21 7:30 PM Ticket Price: \$47.00

#### Jubilee

at Bally's Las Vegas Tuesday, March 21 11:00 PM Ticket Price: \$34.00

Mystere - Cirque du Soleil at Treasure Island Wednesday, March 22 7:30PM Ticket Price: \$48.00

#### **EFX**

at MGM Grand Hotel & Resort Wednesday, March 22 11:00 PM Ticket Price: \$65.50

# REGISTER NOW!

ADVANCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15, 1995

USITT MEMBERS SAVE OVER 20% off Late and On Site Registration Fees

**DON'T MISS** THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO GO

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CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

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The 35th Annual
USITT Conference &
Stage Expo
at the MGM GRAND
RESORT HOTEL AND
THEME PARK and THE
TROPICANA
HOTEL

All program information is subject to change. All efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of the information presented herein, however USITT can not be held responsible for omissions or changes.

#### 1995 USITT ANNUAL CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO **REGISTRATION FORM**

Please return this registration form together with full payment. You may photocopy this form for additional registrants. Please complete a separate form for each registrant other than spouse/guest. Please print or type information below as you would like the information to appear on your badge.

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Las Vegas March 20-23, 1995

## Reservation **Deadline** February 27, 1995

After this date, room availibility and rates at discretion of the hotel

All exhibitor Suites and Meetings/ Events subject to approval by USITT 1-800-398-EXPO

The Conference Housing Bureau will make all room assignments on a first-come, first-served basis.

> **ROOM TYPES** (S) Single 1 Person, 1 Bed (D) Double

2 Persons, 1 Bed (D/D) Double-Double 2 or more Persons, 2 Beds

#### MAIL OR FAX **Completed Form To:**

**USITT Conference** Housing Bureau 3150 Paradise Road Las Vegas, NV 89109-9096

FAX 702-892-7565 No Phone Calls Accepted

#### OFFICIAL HOTEL RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

ALL HOTEL RESERVATIONS must be made using this form. The form must be sent by mail or fax to the USITT Conference Housing Bureau by February 27, 1995. Reservations will not be accepted by phone. Hotels will not accept direct reservations. This form may be copied for additional reservations.

AFTER February 27, 1995 telephone reservations may be requested by calling LVCA Hotel/ Motel Reservation Division (702) 892-0777. This is a telephone reservation service only and does not process forms. Prices and availability are not guaranteed. No calls will be accepted before February 27.

Upon receipt of the completed Housing Form, the Bureau will send you an acknowledgment and forward your request to your requested hotel. Subsequently, the hotel will send you an Official Confirmation. Please allow 4 weeks for processing. If you do not guarantee your reservation(s) by credit card on this form, the Hotel will ask you to guarantee within 14 days of confirmation date.

DEPOSIT REFUNDS MUST BE HANDLED IN WRITING DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL. CHANGES AND CANCELLATIONS MUST BE MADE BY CONTACTING THE HOTEL.

Mail Confirmation(s) To: (To insure accuracy, please type or print clearly)

Name	Phone	e		
Company/Organization				
Address				
City	State		Zip	 '.
Please check your preferred  MGM GRAND F Single/Double Extra Person	RESORT HOTEL 🗅	TROPICANA Single/Double	\$65.00	
Name	Name(s) of Person(s) Sharing Room	Room Type	Arrival Date	Departure Date
One night's deposit is required CHECK WITH THIS FORM. The card authorization is NOT comply WILL RESULT IN RESERVATHE confirmed hotel if the reservated confirmation.	e Hotel will notify you of re- pleted. FAILURE TO SEND TION CANCELLATION. Ac	quired deposit A DEPOSIT F dvance deposit	if the follow PRIOR TO is refunda	wing credi CHECK able from

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The Assigned Hotel is authorized to use the above credit card/authorization for deposit for room reservations(s), unless otherwise instructed. Also, I understand that one night's guest room charge per reservation will be billed through this card if I or others fail to arrive for my/ their assigned housing on the confirmed arrival date unless the reservation is changed or cancelled with the Hotel and within the Hotel's established Cancellation Policy.

#### PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS SIGN UP BY 2/15/95

#### Computer Controlled and Automated Stage Equipment

Saturday, March 18 and Sunday, March 19 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM each day

Join a panel of computer automation experts on the importance and analysis of the operation, interconnection and maintenance of equipment in the high-tech entertainment field.

#### Management and Leadership Academy #10 - 1995

Saturday, March 18 & Sunday, March 19 This 12 hour program includes the Personal Profile and Case Studies from the Management Skills Workshop, in addition to new modules on Quality Management and Leadership Training, as well as role playing and small group problem-solving

#### Computer Aided Design and Production **Process**

Leave Las Vegas Friday evening, March 17 -Sessions Saturday, March 18 & Sunday, March 19 An opportunity to get "hands-on" instruction in the use of MiniCad+, Strata Studio-Pro and MacLux Pro in the design and production process. The sessions are held at Dixie College in St. George, Utah. Transportation is included. Housing in St. George is additional.

#### Hands-On Moving Lights PART 1 - Clay Paky Sunday, March 19 8:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

This "hands-on" moving light workshop provides a demonstration of equipment and an opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the operation of Clay Paky equipment. Problem solving and the development of effects producing techniques are highlighted.

#### Hands-On Moving Lights PART 2 -Intellabeam

Sunday, March 19 1:00 PM, 3:00 PM
This "hands-on" moving 15th workshop provides a demonstration of the equipment and an opportunity to the first-hand experience in the operation of the labeam equipment. Problem solving and the development of effects producing tracking are highlighted. techniques are highlighted.

#### SHOW CONTROL Intensive Workshop

Sunday, March 19 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM Workshop covers all aspects of Show Control. Included are an overview of basic technology in plain language; types of protocols, and proper usage. Workshop is directed at stage and production managers; sound, scenic and lighting designers. Participants will receive a demonstration of the system, workbook and instruction.

#### Risk Management Guidelines for Hazardous Chemicals in the Entertainment Workplace

Saturday, March 18 & Sunday, March 19, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

This workshop provides the latest information on hazardous chemicals used in the Entertainment workplace, including use and disposal and reading and using MSDS sheets. Also included is demonstration and handling of required Personal Protective Equipment and demonstration of new computer programs for hazardous chemical information.

#### Hotel Information

**Conference Headquarters Hotel** MGM GRAND RESORT HOTEL AND THEME PARK 3799 Las Vegas Boulevard South Las Vegas, NEVADA 89109

Single/Double \$72.00 Extra Person \$10.00

No charge for children under the age of 12 years when sharing same room with adult and using existing bedding.

#### Additional Hotel

LAS VEGAS TROPICANA 3801 Las Vegas Boulevard South Las Vegas, Nevada 89109 Single or Double \$65.00

Hotel rates are subject to an 8% room tax.

Please call USITT Sales Office (315) 461-9088 for Suite details

#### THEatre Conference **Employment Service**

USITT has engaged THEatre Service to operate THEatre Conference Employment Service (TCES) in La Vegas. For an additional fee, all registrants and exhibitors may participate either as an employer or applicant. The service is a fully computerized, state-ofthe-art operation designed to efficiently match employer and applicant.

Use the forms in your CONFERENCE PREVIEW GUIDE (pages 28-30), request forms from the USITT National Office. For more information contact:

> Patricia Angotti THEatre Service P.O. Box 15282 Evansville, IN 47716-0282 Phone: 812-474-0549 Fax: 812-476-4168

#### 35th ANNUAL USITT CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO

## BEYOND THE NEON

LAS VEGAS 1995

#### Travel

#### Information

Make your airline and car rental reservations NOW using the USITT travel management company CONVENTIONS IN AMERICA. Obtain the lowest possible airfares, receive FREE flight insurance, advanced boarding passes, seat assignments, senior discounts, points towards your frequent flier mileage programs and automatically enter bi-monthly drawings for two free round trip airline tickets on American Airlines system wide (world) route and help USITT to receive credits to use for Cancellation Policy our non-member program presenters.

TO ARRANGE YOUR AIR AND CAR RESERVATIONS

CALL

800-929-4242

Give USITT's special group number

415

or FAX your request to 1-619-544-0215 Outside the 800 area call 1-619-544-0215

#### For Additional Information

Conference Registration, Conference Programs, USITT Information **USITT National Office** (212) 924-9088

Las Vegas Information Las Vegas Convention and **Visitors Authority** (702) 892-0711

Tickets are not refundable or ex-Tickets: changeable.

Conference: 80% refund prior to March 3, 1995. 50% refund prior to March 17, 1995. NO REFUNDS after March 17, 1995. Pre-conference Events: 50% refund prior to March 3, 1995. NO REFUNDS after March 3, 1995.

REQUESTS FOR CANCELLATION RE> FUND MAY BE MADE BY PHONE, HOW-EVER, TO SECURE REFUND, THE RE-QUEST MUST BE CONFIRMED IN WRIT-ING.

# TECHNICAL SOURCE GUIDE

#### ENGINEERED LUMBER I-BEAMS

#### by Elbin L. Cleveland, University of South Carolina

- Due to the diminishing availability and increasing cost of sawn structural lumber, a number of engineered lumber products (ELP) are claiming an increasing percentage of the construction market.
- Engineered I-beams have a web of selected plywood or oriented strand board (OSB) and flanges of MSR, LVL or PSL lumber. Wood I-joists were first used in the 1920s and were essentially built by hand. First mass produced by Trus-Joist Corp. in 1969, they are now manufactured by at least a dozen companies and are common items on construction sites.
- Many of the advantages that engineered wood I-beams offer contractors are also applicable to the theatre. (1) They are lighter in weight for a given span or load capacity, which makes them easier to lift into place and install. Two men can easily lift and install a 24-foot I-beam which also makes the work safer. (2) They are more rigid than dimensional construction lumber of the same size, resulting in longer spans and wider spacing between joists. (3) They are constructed from carefully graded and closely inspected materials to be highly consistent from piece to piece. Since I-beams are truer and straighter than sawn lumber, there is no need to examine a stack of lumber to select the best pieces. (4) They are manufactured in lengths and heights far beyond the range of dimensional lumber. Consequently, they can be used in buildings which require open spans of 20 to 40 feet. (5) Each I-beam is cut to a specified length at the yard so there is less labor on site and less waste. (6) Wooden I-beams do not require blocking or bridging so they are faster to install and save on labor costs. (7) Within limits, webs can be drilled or cut for the installation of electrical, plumbing or HVAC runs. Of course flanges should never be drilled or notched. (8) Engineered I-beams can be ordered in special profiles to fit particular needs.
- Of course, nothing is perfect and wood I-beams have limitations, too. 1) Toe nailing is not acceptable since it may split or damage the flange and thus weaken the entire beam. Instead, flanges are straight nailed to the plate with one 8 d nail on each side. 2) Butt joints require filler blocks to stiffen the web or to flush it out with the flanges. 3) There are limits to the sizes and locations of holes allowable in the webs. 4) Joists need to be stacked and handled vertically since they have little lateral strength. 5) This lateral weakness makes I-beams more prone to roll-over until decking or sheathing is applied, which requires temporary bracing. 6) Some construction joints are more complicated and may require metal connectors for best results. In any application other than common joists, it is wise to obtain and follow the manuals provided by most manufacturers or the Forest Products Laboratory.
- At the present time engineered wood I-beams cost 10% to 15% more than dimensional lumber of the same size. As with other engineered lumber products, this cost differential is often actually reversed due to other savings. Every lumber yard in our area now stocks wood I-beams or can supply them in any required size on 24 to 36 hours' notice.
- Major suppliers of engineered wood products include:

Tecton Laminates P. O. Box 587 Hines, OR 97738 (503) 573-2312

Trus Joist MacMillan P. O. Box 60 Boise, ID 83207 (800) 628-3997 Weyerhaeuser Corp. Willamette Company Headquarters Tacoma, WA 98477 Albany, OR 97321

(206) 924-2345

Industries, Inc. P. O. Box 907 (503) 926-7771

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Date the product/technique was used:
Name, address and telephone number of product manufacturer:
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#### TECHNICAL SOURCE GUIDE

 A Project of the USITT Technical Production Commission

#### #18 - Lumber I-Beams

Editor: Roy Hoglund

Associate Editors: Elbin Cleveland, Jonathan Darling, Martin Gwinup

Technical Source Guide 514 West Parkway Boulevard Appleton, WI 54911 414-424-7051

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# TECHNICAL SOURCE GUIDE

Please give description of product/technique—take into account length of time, special materials used in conjunction with product/technique, manpower needed, safety requirements, etc.:	L U
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requested information to the "Technical Source Guide" Editor at the address listed on the front page of the "Guide.")	Web of ( (Oriented Stra

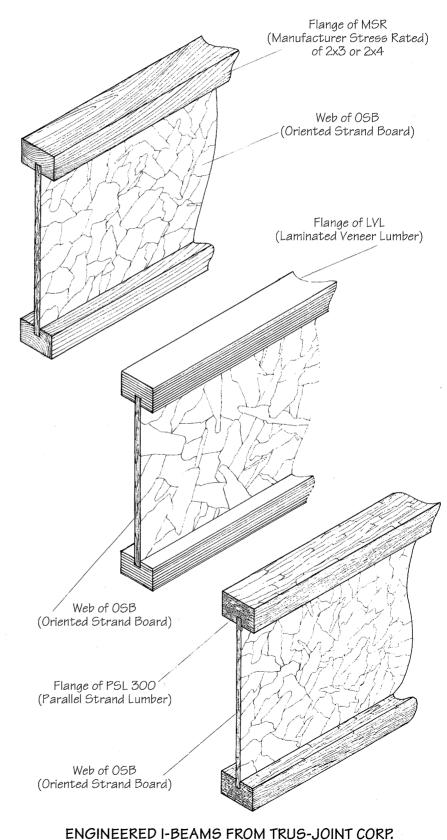
#### TECHNICAL SOURCE GUIDE

• A Project of the USITT Technical Production Commission

#18 - Lumber I-Beams

Thank you for your participation in the "Technical Source Guide!"

### ENGINEERED LUMBER I-BEAMS



# AS VEGAS N THE CHEAP!

The summer commissioner's retreat didn't turn out like I thought it would. After several days of intense brainstorming about the future of USITT, etc., I thought I'd pick up a rental car and head off to see Hoover Dam and the Grand Canyon, making the most of the extra long weekend I had planned for myself.

Being the budget-minded type, I found a great deal on a rental car. (It was Avis, if you must know, but the bottom line is you never know when one of the companies is going to have a bunch of extra cars sitting around and they want to rent *very* cheap, so if you are looking for a bargain you have to call them all *after* you get there, *and* ask for prices for a lot of different models. The bargain I found was on a mid sized car that was going to coast me about \$10/day LESS than the subcompacts!).

All the car places give you free rips from the hotels to the airport thich is only a couple of miles away anyway), so that saved on the old cab fare. Unfortunately, I got to the car rental place only to find that my driver's license had expired, and there was no way on God's brown earth (this is Vegas, remember), that they were going to give me ANY keys!

Like many people, I was under the impression that Vegas was no place for a guy with no money—Heck, look at all the people who leave there broke! So I was going to have to make the best of the weekend and try to find some cheap entertainment for myself. Besides, at Purdue, we have always found a way to caravan a group of students to the National Conference and made it a big theatre department activity. How was I going to be able to convince students that they could do up Vegas for the cost of Wichita?

Surprise, surprise—It turns out that you might even be able to do Vegas cheaper than Wichita, especially if you are willing to do a little (OK, a lot) of walking. Walking is good for people atching and for fully appreciating the hitecture of the casinos. It IS a long walk from the MGM Grand to some of the other casinos, however, so it may be worth taking the bus (ten tickets for eight bucks, and they run every 15

minutes until 1 a.m. and every 30 minutes until 4:15 a.m.).

The first place you'll need a bus ticket is to get to your hotel. The Institute has booked the conference during the "cheaper rate" hotel periods so you will find some very attractive rates. There are many smaller hotels off the strip where you can get rooms for around \$40 bucks a night.

Once you put down your bags in your hotel room, you will probably want to grab some food. Here you will be amazed at how inexpensive it can be to live like a king in Vegas. In Las Vegas time, effort, and money have been invested in sound systems for virtually every square inch of your experience in Las Vegas. Some are stunning, and some are not. You will, of course, form your own opinion as you walk through some of the most exciting sound technology ever gathered together in one city.

You might want to take in some of the attractions—especially if they're free! Two interesting attractions (of the absolutely free kind) are the circus at Circus Circus, and, of course, Buccaneer Bay at Treasure Island

HOTOS: COURTES OF HELDS VECAS NEWS BUREAU



TREASURE ISLAND (TOP) HOME OF "BUCCANEER BAY" AND THE CIRQUE DU SOLEIL. THE GLITTER GULTCH (BOTTOM) OF LAS VEGAS' FREEMONT STREET.

one lives by the buffet. You can get breakfast of the "all-you-can-eat" variety at a lot of different hotels for four to five bucks. Lunch buffets can be found for around five-six bucks, and you can eat up to 2:30 p.m. Dinner buffets can be found between six to eight bucks. The cheapest buffet I found was at Circus Circus—\$2.29 breakfast, \$2.99 Lunch, and \$3.99 dinner! In Vegas you can eat like a king on fast food (which is also abundant on the strip) prices!

After you get some food in you, you may want to head out and check out the town. The first thing you might notice is the sound. Generally, a lot of

(there is a Super Session for this from 9:50 to 1:30 pm on Tuesday.) If you are willing to drop a couple of bucks and want to check out some really neat virtual reality type games, check out the game room at Bally's. 'The Secrets of the Luxor" at the Luxor has a great magic motion ride in the first attraction of a three-part trilogy. If that turns you on, you may also find the next two parts of the trilogy exciting also-state of the art technical stuff like Virtual Reality, 3D effects, large screen, and chair rattling (literally). There's also some neat magic motion rides in Excalibur. There are a couple of roller

coasters—one at the MGM Grand, and another at Circus Circus —and these will only cost you a couple of bucks each.

If you want to try your hand at Lady Luck, but don't want her to walk away with it, some of the hotels have nickel slot machines (I played for an hour on a roll of nickels at the Stardust!) Casino Royale actually has \$1 black jack tables (too rich for my tastes). Even if you don't gamble, you should take a walk through some of the casinos-the stained glass mirror at the Tropicana, the Pyramid and boat ride inside the Luxor, the lavish decorations of Caesar's Palace, and Oz at the MGM Grand are just some of the mainy spectacular interiors you will encounter in the casinos of Vegas.

Hopefully your best bets for"splurges" will be a couple of the shows especially related to sound programming. The cheapest (\$23) also turns out to be one the Sound Commission is doing a special session about: "Enter the Night" at the Stardust. A little more expensive (\$48), but something one must experience is "Cirque du Soleil" at Treasure Island. The Super Session for it will include sound designer Jonathan Deans and composer Ränä Dupärä. Although we don't know how much it will cost yet, there is a new show scheduled to open at the conference hotel, the MGM Grand, called "EFX." George Kindler, chief executive of the Las Vegas firm Thoughtful Designs, is working on the sound for it with Jonathan Deans. Both will participate in the Super Session.

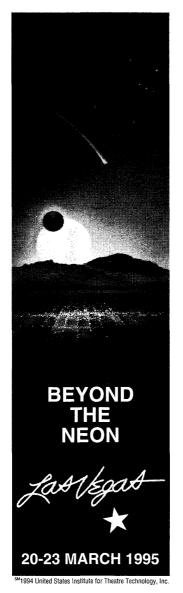
Oh, and don't forget the rest of the conference—you've already paid for that—including the Pre-Conference Event in MIDI Show Control, wall-to-wall sound programming, and all of the manufacturer's exhibitions of sound equipment! As I think about it, I didn't seem to mind not being able to rent a car after I saw some of what "Las Vegas on the Cheap" had to offer.

All in all, I really don't know if it turned out to be cheaper than Wichita or not, but certainly seemed like it could be comparable, if you knew where to look! I got the distinct impression that there didn't need to be anyone who left town broke—only exhilarated!

Rick Thomas Commissioner



# CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO



PRODUCTION
AND MANAGEMENT

# STAGE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS DETAILED

The Stage Management Project (of the Theatre and Production Management commission) has been really busy on several fronts this year. The University Affiliation Project continues, we have a new stage manager member on the National Liaison Committee (Ira Mont), and we have created a new mailing list of stage manager members through the time and effort of Jim Allen at Baylor. We have a new project, detailed below and the Mentoring Project Continues to create strong interest among the professional and student members of The Institute.

#### Stage Management Advisory Committee Studies SM Education

At the 1994 conference of the United States Institute of Theatre Technology in Nashville, professional/faculty stage managers participating in the Stage Management Mentoring Project met in formal and casual settings to talk about issues surrounding the college and university education of stage managers. Discussions centered on the absence of accreditation of stage manager training and the lack of guidelines for establishing a standard basic curriculum of study at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Three professional stage managers, who are also teachers, joined together as an education sub-committee of the Stage Management Advisory Committee to further study the issue of stage manager training. Travis DeCastro heads the stage manager training program at Penn State University, where he is also the production stage manager for the university resident theatre company. Rachel Durkin is the production stage manager at the University of Texas at Austin, where she teaches stage management for the Department of Theatre and Dance. Cynthia Poulson is the head of stage management for the professional theatre training program at the

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a conservatory program. The training for stage managers in these three institutions varies widely, as it does in institutions of higher learning throughout the country.

Under the auspices of the Theatre and Production Management Commission, the committee is surveying USITT-affiliated colleges and universities about current courses of

The commission is surveying USITTaffiliated colleges and universities about current courses of study in stage management looking for patterns and similarities among like institutions that might indicate trends, opportunities, and objectives. Your participation in this project would be appreciated.

study in stage management looking for patterns and similarities among like institutions that might indicate trends, opportunities, and objectives in the field. The committee hopes to provide schools currently offering an emphasis in stage management with some advisable entrance and exit standards necessary for a student to compete in the job market, and to offer a national standard or cohesion among stage manager training programs to insure that all students are fully prepared both academically and professionally. Finally, the committee hopes to provide developing programs with some concrete curricular guidelines essential for quality stage manager training.

Nearly 200 surveys were mailed to USITT-affiliated schools in October and more than 60 replies have been received. An initial report on the survey and responses will be presented at the conference in Las Vegas in March of 1995.

If you have not received a survey and would like to participate, please contact Travis DeCastro at Penn State at 814-863-8071 or wtd2@psu.edu. Completed surveys should be returned to Rachel Durkin, University of Texas-Austin, Performing Arts Center, P.O. Box 7818, Austin, TX 78713-7818. Your participation in this project is greatly appreciated.

#### SM Mentoring Project Notes

Congratulations to Mentoring Project Participants Cynthia Chalker (Nashville '94), Lisa Derian (Nashville '94), and Jason Krueger (Seattle '92). Cindy is working as an apprentice at the Pearl Theatre Company in New York City, Lisa Derian is an apprentice at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, and Jason (who spent six months following his mentor project experience at the National Theatre of Great Britain as an apprentice under Jason Barnes) was the assistant sound designer for this years production of A Christmas Carol on Broadway!!

The professional stage managers joining the Mentoring Project this year are Andrew Feigin (veteran of Broadway and Radio City Music Hall), Nancy Ann Adler (National Touring Companies of Cats and currently stage managing for Long Beach Civic Light Opera) and Jason Barnes, production manager for the Cottesloe Theatre at the National Theatre of Great Britain. For further information, please call the National Office for a 1995 Las Vegas Conference Brochure or send application form, letter and resume directly to Elynmarie Kazle at 615 Redfield Avenue, LA, CA 90042; 818-908-2121 ext. 230 PST.

> Elynmarie Kazle Project Coordinator

LIGHTING DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

# DESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT RECAP

Last time I mentioned remarking to a scion of the lighting industry that, since DMX is a serial protocol and personal computers were becoming faster and cheaper, software would soon dominate lighting control and that he replied, "No way will it ever happen!" Now, software is the name of the game and hardware...well, read on.

This year at LDI, everybody was yelling, "Ethernet!, Ethernet!, Step right up!" but all with slightly different protocols. (It reminded me of old movies of UN meetings when you couldn't see or hear the translators and so all you heard was a cacophony of languages.) The only big issue seemed to be transfer speed-no big surprise in the case of real time video updates, but a disappointment in terms of being the most impor-13t, nonetheless. Steve Terry was neard to remark on the lack of "robustness" on 10-base-T wiring. (Of course, the cost of retrofittingpulling "thick," "thin," or "fiberoptics" through existing pipe, even if it will fit, is an issue no one was talking about.)

In my humble opinion, the industry needs to be more concerned with adopting some common protocols and even establishing. dare I say it, standards. It was accomplished with AMX/DMX, and that has proven to be the best approach that could have been taken both for manufacturers and users, allowing for a host of new controllers and translators that are smaller and less expensive. While it seems that an attempt is being made by manufacturers in conjunction with ESTA, let us learn from our successes.

ERSs that are reminiscent of the ETC unit continue to proliferate, and it is heartening to see that the industry is embracing so-called "green" hps. ETC is shipping units again, and, judging by the whispering and winking going on among the ETC engineers and marketing folks on

the plane to Reno, something or

things SECRET is/are brewing (although they may just have been practicing for an audition).

Colortran's new "I" series digital dimmers are out sporting an ethernet tap and a cool hand-held remote. (Equal time, after all...)

Claude Heintz Design has version 1.5 of *MacLux Pro* in beta testing and will probably be shipping as you read this. Of course, version 1.5 exports RIB (Renderman Interface Byte stream) files that can be used by some popular 3D rendering applications and imports USITT-approved ASCII cue description information, but Claude is working on a dedicated RIB interface for Strata products.

A new version of *MacLux Pro* that will incorporate Apple's *Quickdraw* GX technology and run on the PowerPC platform is planned for release next year. A Windows version is being negotiated with an unnamed developer as we go to press.

For my money, the big news is a Las Vegas conference session being co-sponsored by the Lighting Design and Technology Commission and the Intercommission Liaison for Computer Applications on Tuesday, 21 March, from 16:35-17:55 titled,"Desktop Lighting Control: DMX comes to the PC." This session will be a presentation of a prototype lighting control system (hardware and, get this, integrated design software) for DMX dimmers that operates from a Intel-based personal computer. It is based on the work of John Nestor, a graduate student of the session chair, Lee Taylor, at Western Washington University.

It is hoped that Gary Dove from Dove Systems, Inc. and Sean Adkins of Pthalo Systems, both of which are marketing AMX/DMX bus cards for personal computers, will also be part of the discussion. Watch the March Sightlines for an update.

While this is certainly not all that is happening in R&D for our industry, I feel safe in predicting that there will be some very cool things to see—besides revealing costumes and roller skates—on the trade show floor in Las Vegas. ●

Patrick Gill Lighting Commission

THEATRE PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

#### NETWORKING ON VENUES PLANNED FOR LAS VEGAS

Studying over a pile of paper almost as high as a foot ruler, I decided to put forth a challenge. First a touch of history... Some years ago Michael Heaffey and I picked up a small ball labeled Road House Venue Needs and Requirements. This early attempt at getting basic information out to other people about touring shows was not very sophisticated or real fancy. A short questionnaire, some answers, and we had a small database of information. Soon after, there appeared on Callboard a forum for Roadshows. Information was getting around.

Time passes.

While on tour with a ballet company I was plunked in Florida. Everyone knows that Florida is usually a loop of dates, or run in play a couple bigger houses and zoom off to the next stop. We danced through 14 venues that two weeks. One stop was at Philharmonic Center for the Arts in Naples, Florida, where I met Walt Thinnes. Walt had been working on a network of venues in Florida, sharing information about road companies and their needs, likes, and dislikes, etc. Walt and I talked about USITT, Callboard, and informational networking.

More time passes.

Last year at the USITT Conference in Nashville, a number of those mentioned—plus Ion Newstrom, Adrian Durlester, and various members of the Theater Production Management Commission—discussed this network again. We talked about the need for information to travel from one venue to another. The smaller venue and the larger venue need similar information almost everyday. Florida shares a type of newsletter, North Dakota uses Callboard, California calls each other on the telephone, New York uses a little of all the above. Jon Newstrom, sitting in Colorado, expresses desire to standardize, get this management tool working and pull it together!

Some more time has passed, and

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THEATRE PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

#### NETWORKING ON VENUES PLANNED FOR LAS VEGAS

#### ▲ Page 9

we are all looking forward to a favorite session in Las Vegas, probably thinking about seeing one of the shows again or for the first time, or searching for those great discussions about topics not unlike this information network. Communicating is something many of us from management spend so much time searching for the "way to do it" that we miss getting it done.

My challenge? Standardize this information network during the next Conference. How about Florida, North Dakota, California, Colorado, New York, Texas, and all the rest of us interested in getting this plan completed getting together for an hour or so and finishing it off! I know a few of you have real solid methods in mind.

I have documents that have been sent me this year that cover a lot of it, but we do not have space for all of this printing. In fact it weighs a lot when you pile up the paper. What ever happened to floppy discs? Whatever happened to Callboard, America on Line, the other ways to get information sent to a list of USITT members and others..those guys "on the road," for example?

Enough of this talk. If you're interested, send a note or fax a message to me. Look on information boards at the Conference for a meeting discussing this issue. If response is low, we'll mention that in an upcoming issue of Sightlines.

If your travel plans get you in Las Vegas on Saturday, March 17, and you have NEVER attended the Leadership Academy, it will be the best \$100 or so you have spent this year. It will help you get geared up for this Conference, and once you have attended you, will simply get out there and DO IT!

> **Dick Peterson** Vice-Commissioner-Communications, TPM

SECTION SHOWCASE

#### OHIO VALLEY ION HAS NAME, CTIVITIES

The Ohio Valley Section of USITT, formerly known as the Ohio Section of USITT, was renamed in 1994 to reflect the addition of Western Pennsylvania to its region. The Section's membership consists of a diverse cross section of professionals, academicians, and students in the arts and entertainment industry.

The Section's philosophy has and always will be to serve its membership, interested individuals outside the membership, and the national organization. With this in mind, the Section has generated services and programming that covers the spectrum of the arts and entertainment field, building communication lines and networks between academia and professional theatre, theme parks, cruiselines, television, video, film and the business world. This has resulted in a strong, active and viable Section that promotes its membership, offering them every opportunity to feel personally involved and connected to USITT at the regional and national level. This is extremely important for continued growth and development.

During the past year, the Section has grown to approximately 160 members. In response to membership requests for programming, the Section offers a Spring and Fall Conference as well as symposiums and master classes.

This year, the 1994 Fall Conference was a one-day "hands-on" conference called "Computers and Software the Easy Way" at Mount Union College. The conference allowed attendees to sit at their own computers and actually try out software packages found to be useful in the arts and entertainment industry while receiving tutorial assistance. Noted individuals presenting software were Isabelle Lott of PC Patternworks, chair Raynette H. Smith of Kent State University, Stan Kozak of Phil Reddish Sound, Tim Parsons of Purdue University, and Carlton Guc of Stage Research.

On 4 February 1995, the Section and the Kent State University Museum are co-sponsoring a one-day symposium on "Designing for Opera" with noted scenic designer John Conklin and costume designer Judy Levin from Glimmerglass Opera. Further, the 1995 Spring Conference will be at Youngstown State University on April 29 featuring an all-day session on tailoring presented by Kathie Brookfield; airbrush painting techniques for scenery presented by Karen and E. M. Lewis; portfolio reviews by Jim Gage; and a

sequel session on computers.

With the continued support of the national organization, manufacturers/ product dealers, entertainment corporations, academic and professional theatres, individuals in design, technology, management, production and crafts, the Ohio Valley Section will continue to act as a catalyst to the growth of skills, networking and quality of the arts and entertainment industry, as well as individuals interested or working in both.

The Section would like to send a special thank you to Bill Byrnes (we miss you) and to those who have given of their time and skills so unselfishly.

Section Name:

Ohio Valley Section

Region Served:

Ohio and Western Pennsylvania

**Number of Members:** 

160

Section Chair:

Keith Nagy

Secretary:

Rudy Roggenkamp

Treasurer:

John Seaman

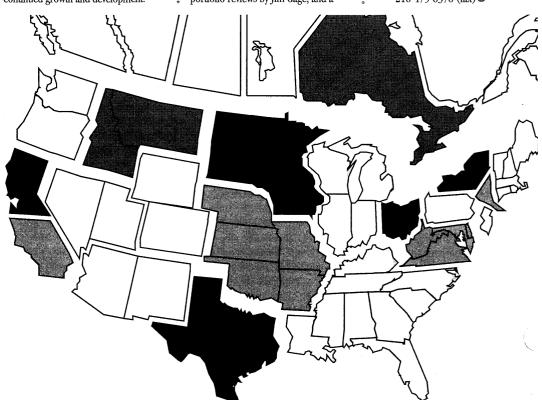
Section Address:

c/o Vincent Lighting Systems 20810 Miles Parkway Cleveland, Ohio 44126

Section Phones:

216-475-7600

216-475-6376 (fax)



#### OW CAN THE OMMISSION BETTER SERVE YOU?

As we move closer to our annual conference, it is easy to think more seriously about what USITT is all about and what the Scene Design Commission really does for its constituency. There is usually a flurry of activity directly before and after the conference since it seems so immediate. But isn't there a larger purpose to this institution? This might be a good time to rethink how USITT successfully serves you and how it might better do so throughout the year.

It is important that the Scene Design Commission hear your thoughts about what we are doing. If you have been a member for a while, consider what changes have been made within the commission of late. Is it better or worse? Are we moving in a direction that is more inclusive or not?

If you are new to the commission, are we doing what you expected? or what? The attempt has been made to address issues involving a wide variety of interests and needs and we would like to know if we are being successful.

Both Steve and I have been cocommissioners for a while. Within the next two to three years, two new people will be assuming these positions. Any input from members of the commission that might have an impact on the direction of the commission is welcome.

There has, for example, been an ever-present struggle with the use of computers for design. Should we expend more energy in the area of this technology? explore the possibilities on the high end or low end? The issue of developing the skills of painting, drawing, model-making, etc. as opposed to developing design ideas is another difficult one.

How would you like to see the Scene Design Commission cope with these and other issues? Let us know.

Continued next column ▼

CLASSIFIED AD

# TECHNICAL DIRECTORE

Technical director, technology instructor, design supervisor for Department of Theatre and Television Arts in a new (Sept.'95) \$3m theatre complex with 25+ majors, four-show season, and extensive outreach program to schools and churches. Successful candidate will teach undergraduates in all areas of theatre technology and supervise stage, lighting, and costume design. MFA and college teaching experience expected; experience in television production highly desirable. Tenure track. Send letter of interest, c.v., transcripts and the names and telephone numbers of three references (no portfolios until requested) to John Steven Paul, Department of Theatre and Television Arts, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN 46383 by March 7, 1995. Internet: JPAUL@EXODUS.VALPO.EDU for information or clarification only. Interviewing at USITT Las Vegas.

SCENE DESIGN

# HOW CAN THE COMMISSION BETTER SERVE YOU?

## ▲ Continued from previous column

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e-mail: SGILLIAM@VM1.TUCC.TRINITY.EDU

Dick Block Commissioner CLASSIFIED AD

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CLASSIFIED AD

#### ARENA STAGE FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available for the 1995-1996 season for early career theater professionals who are people of color. Provides apprentice-style training in administration and production areas. Full-time, paid position. Deadline: 4/1/95.

Call or send for information: Shannon Pringle, Fellows and Interns Program Coordinator, ARENA STAGE, 6th Street and Maine Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20024; 202-554-9066, fax 202-488-4056. ●

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MARCH 1995 ISSUE OF SIGHTLINES IS MONDAY FEBRUARY 6. © CLASSIFIED AD

#### TWO DESIGN ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

University of Regina Theatre: Two tenure-track appointments as assistant professor in costume design and set and light design. Applicants should have an MFA in design and at least five years of professional experience. The successful applicant will be required to teach the full range of classes in one of the defined areas, supervise graduating practicums, and design department productions. Familiarity with CADD and previous teaching experience would be an asset. Please submit applications with curriculum vitae and the names of three referees who have been asked to send letters by March 15, 1995 to: Mary A. Blackstone, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0A2. The University of Regina is committed to employment equity. In accordance with Canadian immigration regulations, this advertisement is directed to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

CLASSIFIED AD

#### EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Theatrical lighting control system. Lehigh Electric Products Co., mfg. 1981. Two-scene preset manual control console, 16-4.8Kw and 1-2.4Kw dimmers in racks with slider patch panel. Best offer. For information and complete specifications, contact Norm St. Germain, Dana Center, Saint Anselm College, 100 St. Anselm Dr., Manchester, NH 03102; 603-641-7274. ●

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HEALTH & WELLNESS STRATEGIES

#### CHECK POINTS

How do you cope with the stress in your life? There are numerous ways, and some are more effective than others Yet some coping strategies may be as harmful as the stress they are used to alleviate.

The following scale was created by George S. Everly, Jr. of the University of Maryland largely on the basis of results compiled by clinicians and researchers who sought to identify how individuals effectively cope with stress.

This scale is an educational tool, not a clinical instrument. Its purpose is to inform you of ways in which you can effectively and healthfully cope with the stress in your life, while at the same time, through a point system, give you some indication of the relative desirability of the coping strategies you may be currently using.

Simply follow the instructions given for each of the 14 items listed below. When you have completed all of the items, total your points and compare your calculation with the scoring guide.

- \_\_\_\_\_1. Give yourself 10 points if you feel that you have a supportive family around you.
- 2. Give yourself 10 points if you pursue a hobby.
- \_\_\_\_\_3. Give yourself 10 points if you belong to some social or activity group that meets at least once a month (other than your family).
- \_\_\_\_\_4. Give yourself 15 points if you are within five pounds of your "ideal" body weight, considering your height and bone structure.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Give yourself 15 points if you practice some form of "deep relaxation" at least three times a week. (Deep relaxation exercises include meditation, imagery, yoga, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_6. Give yourself 5 points for each time you exercise 30 minutes or longer during the course of an average week.
- \_\_\_\_\_7. Give yourself 5 points for each nutritionally balanced and wholesome meal you consume during the course of an average day.
- \_\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Give yourself 5 points if you do something that you really enjoy that is "just for you" during the course of an average week.
- \_\_\_\_\_9. Give yourself 10 points if you have some place in your house where you can go in order to relax and/or be alone.
- \_\_\_\_\_10. Give yourself 10 points if you practice time-management techniques in your daily life.

- \_\_\_\_\_11. Subtract 10 points for each pack of cigarettes you smoke during the course of an average day. (If you live/work with a smoker, subtract 5 for each pack they smoke.)
- \_\_\_\_\_12. Subtract 5 points for each evening during the course of an average week that you consume any form of medication or chemical substance (including alcohol) to help you *sleep*.
- \_\_\_\_\_13. Subtract 10 points for each day during the course of a week that you consume any form of medication or chemical substance (including alcohol) to reduce your anxiety or just calm you down.
- \_\_\_\_\_14. Subtract 5 points for each day during the course of an average week that you bring home work—work that was meant to be done at your place of employment.

SCORING: A perfect score would be 115 points. If you scored in the 50-60 range, you probably have an adequate array of coping strategies for most common sources of stress.

However, you should keep in mind that the higher the score, the greater your ability to cope with stress in an effective and healthful manner.

Stan Abbott Checkpoints Editor



#### FEBRUARY 1995

- PRE/POST CONFERENCE EVENT PROPOSALS FOR FT. WORTH DUE TO VP-PROGRAMMING
- 3 TRIENNIAL REPORTS DUE TO OFFICERS
- 15 RESOURCE LIST FOR
  PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE
  DUE TO VP-PROGRAMMING

#### **MARCH 1995**

- 3 BOARD PACKETS MAILED 18-19 (SAT/SUN) PRE-CONFER-ENCE EVENTS
- 19 (SUNDAY) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 17 P.M.
- 20 (MONDAY) LAS VEGAS
  CONFERENCE BEGINS—
  KEYNOTE AND ANNUAL
  MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT
  12:00 NOON
- 22 (WEDNESDAY) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING II 4:35 P.M. (PROVISIONAL)

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