

The Understudy for Sightlines July/August 1995

USITT NEWS Editor Search Nears Completion

This issue of the USITT membership newsletter is an interim version as we complete the search for a new Periodicals Editor. Eric and Cecilia Fielding completed their term as Editor on June 30, and are currently enjoying the summer in England where Eric is teaching in the Brigham Young University program.

As you read this special issue, the Editor Search Committee will be completing the process of selecting a new Editor. Applications have been solicited from around the country, and a number of promising proposals have been received and reviewed by the Committee. Interviews with selected candidates will be conducted at the Summer Meetings in Fort Worth. We intend to have the new Editor in place by mid-August, so watch for the announcement in the September issue of Sightlines.

Meanwhile, if you have information for the September issue, please send it to the National Office c/o Periodicals Editor. The deadline for material for the September issue of Sightlines is August 15. Submissions for upcoming issues of TD&T should also be sent to the National Office.

The publications schedule has been shifted slightly to accommodate the transition to a new Editor. The 1995-96 Directory issue of TD&T is scheduled to be mailed by September 30, 1995. The Fall issue of TD&T will be published in late October, and will focus on the activities at the 1995 Prague Quadrennial. Dick Durst, President of USITT, will be the guest Editor of this special issue.

Joy Emery

VP Communications

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United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.

LIFETIME MEMBERS Samuel H. Scripps CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS Colortran. Inc The Crosby Group, Inc Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc Entertainment Services & Technology Association The Great American Market SH Systems, Inc. InterAmerica Stage, Inc. KM Fabrics, Inc. Kryolan Corporation Neiman Supply Co. Rosco Laboratories, Inc. - Sapsis Rigging, Inc StageRight Corporation Staging Concepts, Inc Strand Lighting The Studio School of Stage Design Inc Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc TCI/Lighting Dimensions Magazinaa

USITT Announces Two New Initiative Funds

New Initiatives Fund

ast November in the Board of Directors meeting in Reno, we continued our efforts to spend our time in planning for the future of USITT rather than on some of the more mundane tasks that have tended to occupy our time previously.

After some stimulating discussion on USITT's strengths and in what direction we wish to lead this organization, the Board requested that the Finance Committee establish a "New Initiative Fund" that would stimulate commission and other projects of USITT members, especially those not directly related to conference programming. It is easily understood that our Conference & Stage Expo demands a large measure of both our volunteer member energy and our organizational financial resources. Since some of the Institute's major goals and strategies are to "stimulate and advocate research and projects," and to "encourage other projects, workshops, exhibits, and symposia," the intent of this new fund is to provide stimulation for new projects, activities, or initiatives. "We want to inspire our member's ideas and imagination," said Larry Hill, chair of USITT's Finance Committee, "and we are pleased to fulfill the Board's request to establish the New Initiative Fund". The New Initiative Fund is budgeted for this fiscal year at \$23,248.

Applicants must be current members of USITT. Applications will be accepted from an individual or group (commission, committee, sections, working group, etc.). Application letters outlining the project and including a detailed project budget are to be submitted to your USITT Officer or the USITT President. The project, activity or initiative must

conclude before March 1, 1998. Application letters should address how your project will benefit the performing arts community and further the mission, goals, and objectives of USITT.

Copies of the mission statement and long range plan may be obtained from the USITT National Office.

Applications for this fiscal year's budget (95/96) will be received from August 1, 1995 until March 1, 1996. Proposals will be reviewed as they are received. Funds will be allocated as each proposal is approved until the budget is depleted.

STUDENT CHAPTER INITIATIVES

When USITT raised student membership fees in order to cover the cost of periodicals and membership processing, the Finance Committee created a Student Chapter Initiative Fund. The initial fund, \$3,000 for 1995-96, can be used for any new project undertaken by a student member or members of USITT. Projects must further the goals and objectives of the organization and must benefit student members.

Applications for financial support of projects must include a detailed budget and should be submitted to the USITT Vice President for Relations. Applications must be endorsed by the student chapter faculty sponsor. Project funding is for this fiscal year only and must be completed by June 30, 1996. Final reports are to be submitted to the VP for Relations by September 30, 1996 and must be received before any further financial requests will be considered.

We are excited about the potential for new projects through these two funds and look forward to your proposals.

Richard Durst

President

Fort Worth

a Texas

as Vegas was truly Grand! Our Conference making team treated us to a fantastic event. One of the most notable features of the 1995 Conference was the opportunity to view Las Vegas productions, hear from the production teams of the shows, and be energized (and sometimes crazed) by the frenetic energy of our Conference hotels. There were several important lessons to be taken away from the Las Vegas Conference. We can try new approaches to the conference making process and be successful. We can also cut down on programming and still provide a strong and viable conference for our members. We should include destination cities in our list of potential conference venues. We can successfully market our Conference and Stage Expo to the city and region where the Conference is located.

Success breeds success. The 1996 Fort Worth Conference & Stage Expo will

The signs are already there. We have more exhibitors signedup for Fort Worth Stage Expo booths than we did for Las Vegas at this time last year (or, for that matter, Nashville or Wichita). The super-sessions were a wonderful

be "Texas Big."

way to take advantage of the available high-tech Las Vegas showrooms. The programming outlook for Fort Worth is incredible. Once again we shall make use of fairly high density specialized programming as well as some open slots for performances, tours and special exhibitions. Slated for the Fort Worth Conference are pre-conference

workshops on rendering and model making, management and leadership, and an exploration of some of Texas' unique theatre research centers and collections. Conference programming includes sessions that provide challenges for both the seasoned and novice theatre professional. There will be discussions led by nationally known designers and technicians, working sessions dealing with the Internet as an effective tool, professional and student portfolio reviews, as well as the Young Designers Forum. The crafts of making a production will be explored by some of our most creative craftspersons. New equipment and production techniques will be demonstrated in programming sessions and on the Stage Expo floor. While Las Vegas may be a tough act to follow, it is great to have the opportunity to build a new Texas-style conference on top of 1995's immense success. Everything points to another spectacular Conference &

Stage Expo.

While we won't have skyscraper hotels complete with one-armed bandits, tropical birds, and a storm in your entrance foyer, we will have three handsome, comfortable hotels within very easy walking distance to the convention center. Fort Worth will be quieter, more compact and will allow us to engage each other rather than a "chinka-chinka clang," one-

armed bandit or cackling tropical bird. While the crowds of the MGM Grand and Tropicana were kind of fun (in a frenzied kind of way), we'll be our own crowd in Fort Worth. It will be a good time to meet old friends and make some new ones. It will be a perfect time to build our network. This is not going to be a small Conference, au contraire - it

is going to be a large USITT Annual Conference and Stage Expo - and, it will be our own Texas-style Big show.

. *ig* Conference

> The Conference hotel is the Radisson Plaza Fort Worth. It is the closest of our three hotels to the Convention Center. While most of our meeting rooms will be in the Tarrant County -Fort Worth Convention Center, some will also be at the Radisson. Our Conference hotel rates are reasonable and competitive. The Convention Center is in the Fort Worth downtown area. There are excellent restaurants. shops and theatre venues in the vicinity of the hotels and Convention Center. Getting to Fort Worth will be easy too. The Dallas-Fort Worth Airport (DFW) is a major hub and is the home base for American Airlines.

While our initial Fort Worth teaser articles have been a Texan's tongue-incheek view of what to do and what is going on in Fort Worth, there is far more to this vibrant young city than our hosts would like to let on. During the coming months we shall describe and schedule the conference events, programming and Stage Expo as well as let you know how you might spend your spare time enjoying Texas hospitality and culture. The September Sightlines will provide the first Conference registration materials and will be followed in the late Fall by the Fort Worth Conference Preview Guide.

The Fort Worth Conference Committee, and those of us who make up the rest of the Conference making team, encourage you to mark March 13 - 16, 1996 on your calendar. A Texas-style welcome is waiting for you!

Leon I. Brauner

VP Conferences

"The programming outlook for Fort Worth is incredible."

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

A.C. Lighting ATM Flyware A V Pro, Inc Altman Stage Lighting, Inc Aurora Productions Automatic Devices Company EMI Suppl B.N. Productions, Inc. Baer Fabrics The Barbizon Companies Bash Theatrical Lighting, Inc. Centre Theatre Group Chicago Spotlight, Inc. J.R. Clancy, Inc. Clear-Com Intercom Systems Color Filters Corp. Crouse-Hinds/CAM LOK Molded Custom Rigging Systems Darcor Casteres Designlab Chicago, Inc. Dove Systems **Duff Norton Hoist Division** Electronics Diversified, Inc Encompass Design & Management Services Entertainment Technology, Inc. Foy Inventerprises, Inc GALA, A Division of PACO Group Geni Electronics Co., Ltd W. Gerriets International, Inc Glantre Engineering Ltd. Grand Stage Company, Inc. H & H Specialties, Inc A. Haussmann Theaterb Hollywood Lights, Inc Interstate Consolidation Service Irwin Seating Compan leamar Winche Joyce/Dayton Corporatio

News from the National

Hopefully you are all engaging in some fun activities and surviving the sweltering heat. Here are some items from our members and the performing arts world.

Contributing Member News

Sapsis Rigging, Inc. recently supplied and installed the scenic elements and rigging for the Grand Ball held in London in honor of the upcoming wedding between Crown Prince Pavlos of Greece and Marie-Chantal Miller. The Ball took place in a 50,000 square foot tent designed by Robert Isabell. The tent was converted into a Greek temple incorporating two 30' tall temple structures, a banquet area for 500, a dance floor and cocktail lounge. The walls and ceiling were covered with painted backdrops. All of the scenery and backdrops were painted in Pennsylvania and shipped to London. Sapsis Rigging, Inc. also supplied and installed 85 chain motors, rigging and over 3/4's of a mile of custom truss to support lighting, sound and scenery for 7th on Sale the four day shopping extravaganza where designers sold their clothes at Bargain prices. This huge bazaar took place at the Armory at 26th and Lexington in New York City and benefited CFDA, Inc. an organization dedicated to AIDS Research.

Sustaining Member News

Belated Congratulations to **Theatre Projects Consultants** for having three of their performing arts projects: California Center for the Arts, Seiji Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood Music Center and Glyndebourne Opera House featured in the December issue of *ARCHITECTURE* Magazine.

Rose Brand has opened its doors to a new stocking facility in North Hollywood, California. Conveniently located a 10856 Vanowen Street, Rose Brand's West Coast facility is minutes from the Burbank Airport and I-5. The leading

supplier of textiles, sewn draperies, and scenic supplies, to the theatrical & film industry, Rose Brand West features a wide variety of textiles including duvetyn, velour, muslin, canvas, and netting. Stocking items are available for immediate shipment, pick-up, or local delivery.

ATM Flyware announces the new AMGS Series Modular Loudspeaker Grid Flying System, a newly developed approach to the complex task of permanently flying multiple loudspeaker enclosures when a horizontally configured array is not an option. The AMGS Series is comprised of ATM FLY-WARE components which provide the installer with a safe and efficient permanent support grid. For more information on the specifications for the AMGS Series contact Mike Payne, Sales Manager at ATM Flyware.

Texas Scenic Company has recently completed the installation of the center speaker cluster hoist at the new Keil Center Arena in St. Louis, Missouri. The speaker cluster hoist fabricated and installed by TSC has a lifting capacity of 5,000 pounds with 125 ft. of travel. The multiple motor, shaft driven system, has four preset control positions operated from a remote control panel, allowing the facility multiple usage positions. The project was completed in conjunction with Audio Communications Consultants of Memphis, Tennessee and acoustical consultants, Coffen, Fricke and Associates, Inc. of Lenexa, Kansas.

Organizational Member News

Theatre Communications Group announces the next application deadline for their *National Theatre Artist Residency Program.* This program has been designed to foster both new and expanded relationships between theatres and individual artists and will be targeted toward providing substantial support for accomplished independent artists who have created a significant body of work, and exemplary theatres that have both the organizational resources to support the artist and the capacity to build upon the program's outcome in their long range institutional planning. Approximately 10-14 grants of \$50,000 or \$100,000 will be awarded. Applicants must file Intent to Apply Cards by August 31, 1995 and applications must be received no later that September 29, 1995. For guidelines and applications contact: National Theatre Artists Residency Program, Theatre Communications Group, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

Seattle Repertory Theatre has unveiled its plans for the long-awaited 284-seat, 24,500 sq. foot proscenium second stage theatre. The groundbreaking is set for November 1995 with the anticipated theatre opening being January 1997. The second stage will be furnished with state-of-the-art equipment and is intended to operate as a free standing facility as well as be integrated with the 856-seat mainstage. The comprehensive project cost is \$8.7 million with over \$6 million already raised.

The University of Kansas' production of The Adding Machine which combined live actors with virtual reality was featured in the June 30th edition of The Chronicle of Higher Education. This project not only utilized virtual reality to develop stage characters but also created the scenery entirely with computer generated images. Audience members wore plastic glasses with polarized grav lenses to enable them to see the set in three dimensionals. USITT member Mark Reaney, Associate Professor of Theater and Film at the University, utilized WalkThrough by the Virtus Corporation and the Power Macintosh 7100 to create these images. This project was partially funded by the USITT Kook Endowment Fund.

Regional Section News

The **Southern California Section** will be hosting 2 one-day workshops in September: *Personnel Management* on Sept. 9, 1995 and *Total Quality Management* on Sept. 30, 1995. Both workshops will be led by Bill Flynn. For more information, contact the Southern California Section at 714-957-8586 Ext. 412.

The **Chesapeake Section's** first workshop for the fall season will be

Life Casting for the Stage, Saturday August 19th at Old Dominion University. The workshop will begin at 9:00am and run until 4:00pm with a break for lunch at 12:00. To register contact Gary Brown, workshop leader, at 804-683-5135 ext. 20. Registration is limited to the space available. Workshop is free to Chesapeake Section members but transportation, housing and food are the responsibility of the participants. List of local hotels will be made available with registration. The Chesapeake Section also announces the USITT Chesapeake Tech Olympics will take place October 7, 1995 at the University of Maryland Baltimore County in Cantonsville, MD. All regularly enrolled part or full-time graduate, undergraduate, and high school students in the Chesapeake Section and Southeastern Pennsylvania are eligible to participate. Registration is free to all members of the section and \$10 to nonmembers. For more information contact Bill Jacobs at 610-436-3492 or Terry Cobb at 410-455-2497.

Industry News

The 1995-96 Regional Theatre Directory, edited by Jill Charles, has just arrived in drama specialty book stores around the country. This directory offers specific information on hiring and casting procedures at 440 theatres across the country which run fall-winter seasons. It covers Equity (LORT, LOA, SPT and U/RTA contracts), non-Equity and Dinner Theatres. Each listing includes: contact names and addresses; recommended procedure for obtaining an interview; projected hiring needs for the upcoming season; salary information and information on Internship Opportunities for students and young professionals. Also included is a resource guide to unions and various service organiz? tions. You may also get a copy by writing to Theatre Directories, P.O. Box 519, Dorset, VT 05251, or call (802)867-2223. The Regional Theatre Directory sells for \$15.95 plus \$2.75 shipping and handling.

Maureen Rahill

Membership Services Administrator

Kinetic Artistry, Inc. R.L. Kirkegaard & Associa

R.L. Kirkegaard & Associates, Inc Lehigh Electric Products Co. Leprecon/CAE, Inc. Lighting & Electronics, Inc. lighting Associates Templates Limelight Productions. Inc Lite-Puter Enterprise Co., Ltd. Lite-Trol Service Co. Inc. Live Entertainment of Canada Lycian Stage Lighting MD The MAGNUM Companies, Ltd. Mainstage Theatrical Supply, Inc. Mann Brothers Meyer Sound Labs Mole Richardson Company Musson Theatrical, Inc. Mutual Hardware Corporation NSI Corporation Norcosteo, Inc. Nutech Industries, Inc. Olesen Company, Division of Entertainment Resources PNTA, Pacific NW Theatre Assoc. Phonic Ear, Inc. Pook Diemont & Ohl, Inc. Production Arts Lighting Inc. Proscenium Lighting Co., Inc. Protech Theatrical Services, Inc Quality Stage Drapery Red Dot Scenic, Inc.

Richmond Sound Design, Ltd. Rose Brand Theatrical Supplies Fabrics and Fabrication

SPX Design. Inc.

Schuler & Shook, Inc.

Secoa

Skjonberg Controls, Inc. Kenneth Snipes Fabrication Design, Inc.

Stage Directions

Stage Equipment and Lighting, Inc.

Stagecraft Industries, Inc Stageworks Produc Strong International. Inc. Sunbelt Scenic Studios, Inc. Surety Manufacturing Systems Design Associates, Inc TMB Associates TR Controls, Inc Technical Projects, Inc Technical Supply Japan Co., Ltd Texas Scenic Company Theatre Arts Video Library Theatre Projects Consultants **James Thomas Engineering** Tiffin Scenic Studios, Inc. Tobins Lake Studio Tomost USA, Inc. Tracoman/Martin Union Connector Co., Inc. United Stage Equipment, Inc. Vincent Lighting Systems Co. Walt Disney Imagineering I. Weiss & Sons, Inc Wybron, Inc.

COMMERCIAL ENDORSEMENT

USITT is very proud of its commercial members and the constant improvements of products and services used by USITT members in performing arts design and technology.

USITT encourages the research and development of new and improved products and is pleased to announce and report on these levelopments as well as reporting on the projects and success of its members.

JSITT does not recommend or endorse specific companies or products.

Announcing 1-800-93USITT

To afford greater access to our members we are pleased to announce our new 800 number.

Now you may call the National Office toll-free with any questions or concerns about your USITT membership.

We look forward to hearing from you.

🔹 In Memoriam 🕷

USITT Fellow Dr. Donald Charles Stowell, Jr. died Friday, May 19, 1995 at his home in Tallahassee, Florida. He was 55. Don Stowell was a guiding light in the creation of the Costume Design and Technology Commission and served as the first Costume Commissioner. He initiated the Heritage Exhibits as part of USITT's Design Expo; he inaugurated and coordinated several post conference events and Costume Symposia. For his outstanding contributions to Costume Design and Technology, he was the first recipient of the Donny award, named in his honor. Dr. Stowell received his doctorate in theatre, history and criticism from the University of Texas. From 1970-1983, he was Costume Designer, Professor, and Associate Dean for Instruction at Florida State University. In 1990, Dr. Stowell was named as the first Director of the Division of Fine Arts at North Dakota State University and named Professor Emeritus when he retired in Spring, 1994. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for research in Brazil in 1993. His recent, ongoing research was on Scottish Rite and York Rite Masonic garments. This year he was honored at the Las Vegas Conference with a retrospective of his costume design work. Memorial services were held at the Florida State University School of Theatre and at North Dakota State University, Fargo. A more comprehensive memorial will appear in the Fall issue of TD&T.

Classified Ads

Now you've got the connections you need!

ESTA, the Entertainment Services and Technology Association represents over 225 of the country's leading suppliers of entertainment technology. Dealers, manufacturers, production, and service companies are looking for people with skills like yours to fill a variety of permanent positions. For a \$15 application fee, make the connections you need to work in this exciting industry. We'll introduce your resume to ESTA members seeking qualified employees. For an application send a S.A.S.E. to ESTA- Box C, 875 Sixth Avenue, Suite 2302, New York, NY 10001.

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TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER/ STAGE MANAGER

Bucknell University seeks a manager for its Department of Campus Technical Services. The position also serves as Stage Manager for the Weis Center for the Performing Arts, a 1200 seat facility on campus. *Responsibilities*: coordination of sound and lighting requirements for campus events; recruitment, hiring, training, and scheduling of student crews; supervision of student crews working campus events; office management including payroll and budgeting; stage management for the Weis Center.

Qualifications: bachelors degree, preferably in technical theatre; working experience with portable audio and lighting systems; proficiency in use of IBM computers and software applications; experience in stage management; must work well with professional artists, campus community, and students; requires flexible schedule and long hours during peak periods, climbing, and lifting.

This is a 10-month per year position. Bucknell University encourages applications form women and members of minority groups (EEO/ AA). Send letter, resume, and references to Nancy Cook, Operations Manager, Weis Center for the Performing Arts, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA 17837

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VISITING SCENE DESIGNER POSITION

Dartmouth College seeks a Visiting Scene Designer for an appointment to run winter 1996 through spring 1997. The Scene Designer holds one of three essential teaching-design positions in the Drama Department. Responsibilities include: teaching, advising, and designing three major faculty directed productions per year. Oualifications include: an MFA in Scene Design or an appropriate terminal degree or equivalent professional experience; at least three years of experience beyond the MFA, in academic and/or professional theatre with comparable teaching experience. Salary DOE. Send letter, resume and names & phone numbers of references to: Chair, Visiting Scenic Designer Search Committee, Department of Drama, Dartmouth College, 6204 Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH 03755-3599. Please do not send portfolios until requested. Review of applications will begin on October 1, 1995. Position available January 1996. **Dartmouth is an equal opportunity/ affirmative action employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.**

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY is now accepting nominations for

THE SECOND ANNUAL KM FABRICS, INC. TECHNICAL PRODUCTION AWARD

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN TECHNICAL PRODUCTION

The award will be made to an individual who has demonstrated excellence while pursing a graduate degree in the field of Technical Direction or Technical Production. To be eligible a nominee must be completing or have completed an advanced degree within the last two years from an accredited college or university in North America.

Made possible by a generous gift to The New Century Fund by Mr. Richard K. Heusel, Founder & CEO of KM Fabrics, Inc.

Nominations from current members of USITT will be accepted until *December 15, 1995.*

For more information contact the National Office at (212) 924-9088 or watch for the next issue of *Sightlines*.

Corrections

Due to a technical error, the addresses and phone numbers 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 information 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

Due to a clerical error, the phone number for **The Studio School of Stage Design, Inc.** was listed incorrectly on pages 52 and 139 of the 1994 TD&T Directory.

USITT apologizes for this error and encourages you to please correct this information in your issue of the directory.

The Studio School of Stage Design, Inc. 359 Monmouth Street

Jersey City, NJ 07302 Phone: 201-451-1333 Fax: 201-451-1333

Institute Business Calendar

AUGUST 1995

- 3-5 Summer meetings in Fort Worth - NO Board of Directors meeting is scheduled.
 15 Deadline for September
 - Sightlines submissions

SEPTEMBER 1995

- 5 Deadline for October Sightlines submissions
- 12 Budget Requests for 1996/97 mailed to Officers
- 20 Call for Reports mailed
- 30 Final deadline for Fort Worth Conference presenters bios due to VP-Programming and Conference Program Chair

OCTOBER 1995

- 5 Triennial Reports due to Officers
- 5 Deadline for November Sightlines submissions
- 13 Budget Requests for 1996/97 due back from cost centers to Officers
- 23 Budget Requests from Officers due to the Finance Chair

NOVEMBER 1995

- 3 Board Packets mailed
- 5 Deadline for December Sightlines submissions
- 16-18 Winter Board Meetings to be held at the Crowne Plaza Miami, Biscayne Blvd @ 16th Street, in Miami Beach - Board of Directors meeting, Saturday, November 18
- 30 VERY EARLY Conference Registration Deadline

DECEMBER 1995

- 5 Deadline for January Sightlines submissions
- 10 Commission programming recommendations for 1997 Pittsburgh Conference due to VP-Programming

REMINDER:

Juried Paper Submissions for TD&T and Call for Papers: Cutters' Research Journal are encouraged and welcome at any time.

Call the USITT National Office for submission details.

Design & Layout: Robert Loncar

Summer Stock

The Understudy for *Sightlines* **U.S. Institute For Theater Technology, Inc.** 10 West 19th Street, Suite 5A, New York, NY 10011 NON-PROFIT U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** SYRACUSE, N.Y. PERMIT NO. 1031

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