EXHIBIT 17

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fire-wood (fir'wood') n. Wood used for fuel.

fire-work (fir'wurk') n. 1. a. A device consisting of various combinations of explosives and combustibles used to generate colored lights, smoke, and noise for amusement. b. fireworks. A display of such devices. 2. fireworks. a. An exciting or dramatic display, as of musical virtuosity. b. A display of rage.

fir-ing (fir'ing) n. 1. Application of fire or heat, as in the hardening or glazing of ceramics. 2. Fuel for fires.
firing line n. 1. The line of positions from which fire is directed

against a target. 2. The vanguard of an activity or pursuit. firing pin n. The part of the bolt or breech of a firearm that strikes

the primer and explodes the charge of a projectile.

firing squad n. 1. A detachment assigned to shoot condemned persons. 2. A detachment of troops chosen to fire a salute at a military funeral.

fir-kin (f\u00fcr'k\u00e4n) n. [ME < MDu. "verdelkijn < veerdel, one-fourth.]</p> A small wooden barrel or keg. 2. Any of several British units of capacity, usu. equal to about 34 liters or 9 gallons.

firm¹ (furm) adj. -er, -est. [ME ferm < OFr. < Lat. firmus.] 1. Un-yielding to pressure: solid. 2. Marked by the tone and resiliency of healthy tissue <firm muscles> 3. Securely fixed in place. 4. Indicating resolution or determination <spoken with a firm voice> 5. Constant and steadfast <a firm friend> 6. a. Fixed: definite <a firm deal> b. Unfluctuating: steady <firm prices> 7. Strong and sure <a firm grip> -vt. & vi. firmed, firm-ing, firms. To make or become firm. —adv. Without wavering : RESOLUTELY <stood firm> —firm'ly -firm'ness n.

firm2 (fûrm) n. [Ital. firma < firmare, to ratify by signature < LLat. firmare < Lat., to confirm < firmus, firm.] 1. A commercial partnership of two or more persons. 2. The name or designation under which

a firm carries on business.

fir-ma-ment (fûr/mə-mənt) n. [ME < OFr. < LLat. firmamentum < Lat., support < firmare, to strengthen < firmus, firm.] The expanse of the heavens: sky. -fir'ma-ment'al (-men'tl) adj.

A word history: Firmament is a word that English owes to the long tradition of Biblical translation. Firmament is from Latin firmamentum, "a support," which was used in the Vulgate to translate He-brew rāqī'a. The Hebrew word literally means "expanse," but the verb from which it is derived means "to make firm or solid" in Syriac, a language closely related to Hebrew. The Greek word used to translate Hebrew rāqī a was stereoma, "solid body, framework," chosen probably because of the translator's knowledge of the Syriac sense of the verb. The Latin translator in turn was influenced by the Greek inter-

pretation of the Hebrew word. fir-mer chisel (für'mer) n. [Fr. fermoir (< OFr. formoir < former, to form < Lat. formare < forma, form) + CHISEL.] A thin-bladed chisel or

gouge used in shaping and finishing wood.

firm-ware (furm'war') n. Computer Sci. Programming functions implemented through a small special-purpose memory unit.

firn (firn) n. [G. < dial. G., of last year < OHG firni, old.] Snow partially consolidated by thawing and freezing but not yet converted to glacial ice.

giacia ice.

first (fürst) adj. [ME < OE fyrst.] 1. Corresponding in order to the number one. 2. Coming before all others. 3. Taking place or acting prior to all others: EARLIEST. 4. Ranking above all others in importance or quality: FOREMOST. 5. Highest in pitch or carrying the principal musical part < first horn> 6. Of, relating to, or being the transmission part or corresponding spar ratio used to produce the transmission gear or corresponding gear ratio used to produce the range of lowest drive speeds in an automotive vehicle. - adv. 1. Before or above all others in time, order, rank, or importance. 2. For the first time. 3. Preferably: rather. -n. 1. The ordinal number matching the number one in a series. 2. The first in a set or sequence. 3. The one coming, taking place, or ranking before or above all others. 4. The beginning <from the first> <at first> 5. The voice or instrument highest in pitch or carrying the principal musical part. 6. The transmission gear or corresponding gear ratio used to produce the range of lowest drive speeds in an automotive vehicle. 7. The winning position in a contest. - first'ly adv.

* syns: first, initial, maiden, original, pioneer, prime adj. core meaning: preceding all others in time < America's first space flight> ant: LAST

first aid n. Emergency treatment administered to injured victims or

sick people before professional medical care is available.

first base n. 1. Baseball. a. The first of the bases in the infield counterclockwise from home plate. b. The fielding position occupied by the first baseman. 2. Informal. The first stage or step <a reform bill that never got to first base> — first baseman n. first-born (furst'born') adj. First in order of birth: ELDEST.

-first'-born' n.

first class n. 1. The first, highest, or best group of a specified category. 2. The most luxurious and expensive class of accommodations on a train, ship, or aircraft. 3. A class of mail including letters, post cards, and packages sealed against inspection.

first-class (furst'klas') adj. 1. Indicating the first, highest, or best

group of a specified category. 2. Of the foremost excellence: FIRST-RATE <a first-class mind> — first/-class/ adv.

first cousin n. cousin 1.

first-de-gree burn (fûrst'di-grê') n. A mild burn causing redness

of the skin.

first edition n. 1. a. The first published copies of a literary Work

work type and distributed at the same time. h. A. Work printed from the same type and distributed at the same time, b. A sin printed from the same type and distributed at the same type and distributed at the gle copy from a first edition. 2. The day's first press run of a newspaper, first floor n. 1. The ground floor of a building. 2. Chiefly Brit. The floor just above the ground floor.
floor just above the ground floor.
floor just above the ground floor.
first-hand (furst/hand') adj. Received from the original source.

first-hand (furst' nana') uan Received and Source constant source constant evidence — first'hand' adv. first-out (furst'in' furst'out') n. A method of inventory first-in, first-out (furst'in' furst'out') n. A method of inventory furst-in, first-out (furst'in' furst'out') n. A method of inventory furst-in, first-out (furst'in' furst'out') n. A method of inventory furst-in furst-i accounting in which the oldest remaining items are assumed to have

First International n. An international organization formed in 1864 by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels to associate the trade unions

of all nations.

first lady n. 1. often First Lady. The wife or hostess of the chief executive of a country, state, or city. 2. The foremost woman of a giv-

en profession of and.

first lieutenant n. A commissioned officer in the U.S. Army, Air. Force, and Marine Corps ranking above a second lieutenant and below

a captain.

first-ling (furst/ling) n. 1. The first of a kind or category. 2. A firstborn offspring.

first mate n. A ship's officer ranking below the captain. first name n. The name occurring first in a person's full name. first night n. 1. The opening performance of a theatrical production.

2. The performance presented on a first night.

first night er (ni'tar) n. A member of the audience on a first night, first offender n. One convicted legally for the first time.

first papers pl.n. The documents first filed by one applying for U.S. citizenship.

first person n. 1. a. A category of linguistic forms, as verbs or pronouns, designating the speaker or writer of the sentence in which they appear b. One of the forms of this category. 2. A discourse or literary style in which forms in the first person are used.

first-rate (fürst'rāt') adj. Foremost in quality, rank, or importance.

-first'-rate' adv.

first sergeant n. The highest-ranking noncommissioned officer of a company in the U.S. Army.

first-string (fürst'string') adj. 1. Being a regular member, as of a football team, rather than a substitute. 2. First-rate.

first water n. [Prob. transl. of Ar. ma', water luster.] 1. The highest degree of quality or purity in diamonds or pearls. 2. The foremost rank

First World War n. World War I.

firth (furth) n. [ME furth < ON fjörðr.] Chiefly Scot. A long, narrow inlet of the sea : FJORD.

fisc (fisk) n. [OFr. < Lat. fiscus.] A kingdom's or state's treasury. fis-cal (fis' kəl) adj. [OFr. < Lat. fiscalis < fiscus, treasury.] 1. Of or relating to the treasury or finances of a nation or branch of government, 2. Of or relating to finances. —fis'cal·ly adv.

fiscal year n. A 12-month period for which an organization plans

the use of its funds. **fish** (ffsh) n., pl. **fish** or **fish-es**. [ME < OE fisc.] **1.** Any of numerous cold-blooded aquatic vertebrates of the superclass Pisces, having the class of the superclass Pisces, having fins, gills, and a streamlined body and including: a. Any of the class Osteichthyes, having a bony skeleton. b. Any of the class Chondrichthyes, having a cartilaginous skeleton and including the sharks, rays, and skates. c. Any of the class Agnatha, lacking jaws and including the lampreys and hagfishes. 2. Any of various unrelated aquatic animals, as a jellyfish, cuttlefish, or crayfish. 3. Informal. A person <a strange fish> 4. Fishes. Pisces 2. — v. fished, fish-ing, fish-es. — vi. 1. To catch or try to catch fish. 2. To look for something by feeling one's way : GROPE. 3. To seek something in a sly or indirect way < fishing for compliments > - vt. 1. To catch or try to catch fish in. 2. To catch or pull in the manner of one who fishes < fished the car keys out of my pocket>

fish and chips pl.n. Fried fillets of fish and French-fried potatoes. fish-bowl also fish bowl (fish'bol') n. 1. A transparent bowl in which live fish are kept. 2. Lack of privacy. fish cake n. A fried cake or patty of chopped fish.

fish crow n. A crow, Corvus ossifragus of the coast and rivers of the eastern United States.

fish er (fish 'ər) n. 1. One that fishes. 2. a. A camivorous mammal. Martes pennanti ofnorthern North America, with thick dark-brown fur. b. The fur of the fisher.

fish-er-man (fish 'ər-mən) n. 1. One who fishes as an occupation of sport. 2. A commercial fishing vessel.

fisherman's bend n. A knot used for securing the end of a line to a ring or spar, made by two turns with the end passing back under both.

fisherman's knot n. A knot used for joining two lines, made by securing either end to the opposite standing part by an overhand knot, fish-er-y (fish'ə-rē) n., pl. -ies. 1. The industry or occupation of

ă pat ä father ë pet ë be hw which i pit ā pay âr care îr pier ŏ pot ō toe ô paw, for oi noise



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