

Plastic tableware offers wide variety of colors

Tableware made from plastics has practical advantages that should assure it a bright future, according to Herbert S. Gausebeck, assistant chairman of chemistry and chemical engineering at Armour Research Foundation.

Plastic cups, saucers, dishes, and other dinnerware are stronger and lighter than their china or earthenware counterparts, Gausebeck pointed out. They also hold heat better and can be handled without noise.

Restaurant owners and the plastics industry developed the tableware to reduce breakage costs. Most successful so far are articles made of melamin formaldehyde resin, a tasteless, odorless compound with good impact strength and resistance to abrasion. Polystyrene, polyethylene, and the acrylic resin are also being used for tableware items not exposed to excessive heat.

"While plastic dishes cannot equal the beauty of fine china, they are well suited for everyday use and for restaurants," Gausebeck said. "They are about one-third the weight of comparable china or earthenware, but their low thermal conductivity prevents food to stay hotter longer."

Melamin-formaldehyde cups develop coffee or tea stains, but the stains can be removed by bleaching or a mild abrasive. The plastic items cannot stand boiling indefinitely, nor are they as hard as china or glass and so pick up knife scratches. One asset, however, is the lack of surface glazing, which often means unsightly cracks on the surface of glazed earthenware.

Improved designs for plastic tableware, which allow better stacking and a wide variety of bright or pastel colors, promise to make the lunch hour more cheerful in restaurants and cafeterias.

"Polyethylene bowls are particularly suitable for refrigerator storage because their slight flexibility makes water and vapor-tight closures possible," Gausebeck said, "and because their inherent chemical inertness makes them resistant to all types of food so stored."

In addition to dinnerware, a number of plastic table accessories—trays, place mats, table cloths, handles for flatware—are becoming more popular because of their ready cleansability and attractive appearance.

2 year silence ends; music flows to Union buildings

Music broke forth in the North and South Unions' loudspeakers this week for the first time since June, 1948. The sound system had been inoperative due to a broken transmission line between the two Unions.

The problem was tackled by students Fred Wright, EE, Vernon Keenan, Psych., and Joel Wexler, EE, with funds authorized by ITSA. The problem of repairing the sound system involved innumerable hours of stringing wire and the acquisition of a transformer whose impedance requirements baffled the Rho Epsilon radio technicians for two semesters. Additional funds for improvements in the system were requested at the last meeting of ITSA.

Classified Ads

WANTED—old (1925-40) electric trains, 0 gauge, Lionel, Amer. Flyer, Ives, in any condition. Don't let old ones rust away in basement or attic. Drop list of stuff and price wanted in Tech News office.

ADIRAL PHONO-RADIO — Walnut console \$80.00; pair new blond end tables. GR. 6-1452.

FOR SALE—2 new Supercussion tires, 6.70-15; unused, \$25.00. Call after 5:15—VA. 6-5010.

R. Budenholzer, new president to faculty club

Roland A. Budenholzer, professor of mechanical engineering, has been named president of the faculty club at Illinois Tech for the coming year.

Other officers elected were E. H. Schulz, chairman of electrical engineering research at Armour Research Foundation, first vice president; Henry C. Spencer, director of the technical drawing department, second vice president; Charles H. Ries, research associate professor of chemistry, treasurer; and William H. Hyde, librarian and professor of library science, secretary.

Senior Farewell bids available; semi-formal attire approved

Reservations for the Senior Farewell to be held June 8 are now on sale at the North Union ticket booth. A maximum of 250 bids will be sold for the farewell, almost half of which have already been reserved through the notice mailed to all graduating seniors. Any senior who is interested in attending the affair and has not yet made his reservation should turn in his request at once.

The farewell will be held at the exclusive Tam O'Shanter Country Club with dancing in the main ballroom and on the outside terraces. Although the affair is limited to 250 couples at present, the second floor ballroom can also be opened if the demand is great enough.

Before the social committee can justify the risk of reserving additional space, however, it must be fairly certain that it can meet its costs with extra bid purchases, which means that the affair will be planned only on the basis of reservations made before the deadline. All reservations must be made by February 24 and completely paid by April 15. If any openings are left after these dates they will be sold at about \$9 a bid.

At the last meeting of the social committee, the controversial subjects of dress and whether or not to serve a dinner were decided. Basing their decision on the

questionnaires mailed out, it was decided to have the affair semi-formal. (This was defined as formal for the girls and dark business suit

or tux for the men.) Because of the high price of a dinner, a more reasonably priced smorgasbord was decided upon.

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Methoxychlor is a recent Du Pont development. Du Pont scientists worked for eight years in the laboratory and in the field to develop its applications in agriculture.

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"Marlate" 50 is a residual insecticide and remains an effective killer of flies, mosquitoes, fleas and lice for several weeks after application. When used as directed, this insecticide is exceptionally safe to human beings, livestock, pets and crops. This has led federal experts to recommend it not only for spraying in barns, milk houses and milk plants, but also on the animals themselves.

Besides its use on livestock, methoxychlor kills many insects that attack vegetables, fruits and forage crops. It is offered to flower growers as an ingredient in Du Pont Floral Dust. It is used in moth-proofing compounds so that dry cleaners can easily moth-proof woollens while cleaning them. Many stores carry aerosol bombs containing methoxychlor for household use. It can be used with safety in flour mills, freezing and canning plants, grain stor-

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