



THE SOCIETY OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY, INC.

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PLASTICS

NEWS BRIEFS

November 1991, Volume 11, No. 11

In Brief . . .

Plastics USA Likely to Be A Sell-Out . . . With more than 80 percent of available exhibit space already assigned to 270 companies one year prior to its opening, Plastics USA is expected to be a sell-out. To find out how you can be part of this "new tradition" in the plastics industry as either exhibitor or attendee, fax or mail the enclosed form today. Plastics USA will be held October 13-15, 1992 at Chicago's McCormick Place.

New Staff Director on Board . . . Susan Herrenbruck has been named staff director of SPI's Expanded Polystyrene and Moldmakers Divisions. Trained in industrial relations, Herrenbruck previously was with the American Gear Manufacturers Association where she was responsible for standards development. She also has served as labor negotiator for a Fortune 500 company and executive director of an association affiliated with the National Association of Manufacturers.

New Brochures Offer Tips on Working with Lawmakers . . . Members interested in opening up lines of communication with their federal, state or local legislators will want to read three new brochures developed by SPI's Government Affairs Department. They offer valuable tips on writing and visiting elected officials as well as on planning a plant tour. Single copies available free from SPI's Government Affairs Dept., (202) 371-5221.

Teachers Give High Marks to SPI Education Program

"I have learned to appreciate the diversity plastics play in our society today."

"The information and activities have opened all of our eyes a little wider."

"It's got everything needed to help young people develop informed opinions."

That's what some of the 100 teachers who responded to a detailed survey say about SPI's new education program *The Shaping of Things to Come*.

Developed by educators as a resource kit on new materials technology, *The Shaping of Things to Come* provides junior high school science and technology teachers with basic information about plastics and their importance to daily life.

It focuses on cutting edge uses of plastics in medicine, transportation,

building and construction, consumer products and recreation as a framework for discussing the trade-offs between political, economic, social and technological concerns and the environment.

SPI first introduced *The Shaping of Things to Come* this spring to 3,000 educators as a large-scale field test. This fall, after several months of positive feedback and continued interest, SPI has reprinted materials and is making the program available to an additional 10,000 teachers. In the last two months alone, more than 3,000 teachers have requested program materials.

The program comes with an eight-page teacher's discussion guide, a six-page student study guide, a full-color interactive wall

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Richard S. Wimbish, right, Techform, Inc., received the SPI Eastern Section's 1991 Annual Achievement Award. Stephen E. Cox, Himont Inc., last year's recipient, presented the award at ECON XVII, held October 3-6. (See story on regional conferences, p. 2.) The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Eastern Section, SPI and the local business community.



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Federal Update

Highlights from "SPI Issues"

EPA Proposes Environmental Labeling Guidelines . . . The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released product labeling and advertising guidelines that encourage marketers to "clearly and prominently state the percentage of recycled content by weight of recycled materials in the product." The EPA also says that it prefers to limit the use of the recycling symbol to indicate recycled content and recyclability, and to label the symbol as to whether the product contains recycled content, is recyclable or both. EPA will coordinate with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which also may develop uniform labeling guidelines in response to the support of a wide

range of industry and consumer groups for uniform labeling requirements. SPI testified before the FTC in July to support the agency's adoption of environmental labeling guidelines.

Senate Committee Passes Product Liability Reform Bill . . . The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee has passed the SPI-supported Fairness in Product Liability Act of 1991, which would create uniform national product liability standards. SPI is urging the Senate leadership to place the bill on the calendar for a vote and will continue to press U.S. representatives to support the House product liability reform measure, which now has 133 cosponsors.

SPI Urges EPA to Weigh Burdens, Benefits of Storm Water Permit Rule

Pollution prevention plans proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may impede small businesses from complying with the conditions required for obtaining general storm water permits, according to comments submitted by SPI to EPA's Office of Wastewater Enforcement and Compliance. SPI submitted the comments on the EPA's proposed general permit rules chiefly on behalf of processor members, about 60 percent of whom have 100 or fewer employees.

SPI said the EPA should be "mindful of the substantial burdens imposed under the proposed general permit conditions and should, in each instance in which it evaluates comments on the general permit conditions, focus upon the precise benefit achieved by imposing the burdensome condition."

In its comments, SPI requested clarification of ambiguous obligations and elimination of redundant requirements. The EPA also was urged to elaborate on practical ways to implement general permit conditions and, in particular, provide a practical discussion of the types of traditional storm water management techniques facilities must consider.

All industrial plants that may expose resin pellets to storm water under any circumstance are required to secure storm water permits under an EPA rule issued November 1990. SPI has been able to reduce the time, effort and cost involved in complying with the rule for more than 200 member-company facilities that applied for a group storm water permit under the umbrella of the association.

For more information, contact: Richard LaLumondier, SPI Technical Affairs, (202) 371-5223.

Environmental, International Issues Focus at Regional Conferences

Highlighting the SPI Midwest Section fall conference was a panel discussion that illustrated the importance of being familiar with new environmental laws, as moderator Frank Lessen, Precision Plastics, Inc., and fellow processors shared their experiences with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Pat Toner, SPI vice president of technical affairs, concluded the discussions by cautioning the group about the potential impact of upcoming clean air and storm water regulations.

At the SPI Eastern Section fall conference, participants got a glimpse of how Japanese OEMs view U.S. suppliers and processors. In addition, representatives from Japanese companies that manufacture in the United States provided insights on the importance of quality and continuous improvement. At a forum of presidents of processing and machinery manufacturing companies, participants aired their views on topics such as product liability, niche marketing and managing cash flow problems in a tough economic environment.

Education Program

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poster, six hands-on student activities/copymasters and a follow-up survey for teachers.

Companies interested in sharing *The Shaping of Things to Come* with their local schools can purchase copies for \$5 each (at cost for members) or \$10 each (non-members). (See p. 4 for ordering information; reference Pub. No. AB-124.)



News From the States

Highlights from "SPI Issues"

California

Several bills were passed during the 1991 California legislative session that, if signed into law by Gov. Pete Wilson, would affect the plastics industry. These measures include: AB 489, which would permit an employee to sue for damages when her employer's "negligence or intentional misconduct" caused prenatal injury; SB240, which would establish an occupational lead poisoning prevention program financed by industries, including plastics materials, resins and products, if they are considered sources of lead poisoning, and SB 260, which would provide a period of judicial oversight or probation and fines for corporations convicted of certain environmental and worker safety crimes. In addition, a bill that called for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions remained in committee following the legislature's adjournment and may be considered when next year's session convenes.

SPI Division & Section Highlights

SPI's Polyurethane Division has issued a call for technical papers for Polyurethanes '92, the 34th annual polyurethane technical/marketing conference, October 21-24, 1992 in New Orleans. Papers featuring all aspects of flexible and rigid foams, elastomers, laminates and RIM, including reports on marketing, end-use applications and environmental and safety technologies, will be considered. Suppliers, manufacturers, customers and end users of polyurethane products, machinery or equipment are requested to submit paper abstracts by February 15, 1992. For more information, contact: Arlene Laboy, Polyurethane Division, (212) 351-5421.

In response to continuing demand, the Vinyl Siding Institute has produced additional quantities of its Vinyl Siding Application Teaching Kit and is making them available free to public, trade and vocational carpentry instructors. The kit includes a step-by-step videotape, manuals on siding application for students and an instructor's guide complete with

written tests and transparency-ready illustrations. Since the beginning of the program in 1989, the VSI has distributed kits to 41 states and four foreign countries. For more information, contact the VSI at (212) 351-5400.

Builders and contractors can realize savings when using PVC pipe and conduit in a number of construction applications, according to independent studies sponsored by SPI's Vinyl Institute. The studies used 1991 material and installation costs and labor rates to estimate the savings advantages of vinyl in applications such as PVC plumbing pipe; drain, waste and vent pipe; electrical conduit, and electrical raceways. The studies found, for example, that chlorinated PVC plumbing pipe systems cost between 14 and 40 percent less than copper in new hot and cold water installations. When PVC was compared with cast iron pipe in drain, waste and vent installations, the savings varied from 29 to 42 percent. For more information, contact the Vinyl Institute at (201) 890-9299.

NPE '91 Conference Papers Now Available

More than 100 experts from every sector of the plastics industry presented their perspectives on a range of vital subjects, including the latest technological advances, solid waste and recycling issues, business opportunities and new manufacturing approaches, at the NPE '91 Conference, June 18-20. Conference papers are now available from SPI in a two-volume bound set that includes visual presentations.

A session on solid waste and plastics recycling opened the conference with a look at the industry's progress to date, legislative and policy issues, public opinion trends and the environmentalist's perspective. Other sessions on this key topic examined how processors can turn "trash into cash" and how suppliers and customers can produce environmentally improved packaging.

Presenters also discussed breaking into new markets through high-performance plastics, innovative applications and injection molding techniques. Others focused on improving a company's competitive edge through enhanced training, management and quality control and productivity-increasing techniques.

Cost of the NPE '91 Conference Papers is \$75 plus \$10 shipping/handling. (See p. 4 for ordering information; reference Pub. No. AC-103.)

Alex Seres

Alex Seres, founder and chairman of the board of Incoe Corporation, died August 20 at age 69. Seres developed and produced the first commercial sprueless bushing, a technique that revolutionized injection molding and became a standard of the industry.

SPI Publications & Events

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 • **To Order:** All items listed with a publication number may be ordered by
 • calling 1-800-541-0736 (only Visa or MasterCard accepted as payment)
 • or by sending a check payable to SPI to: SPI, P.O. Box 753, Waldorf, MD
 • 20604. Please include postage/handling charges listed in box below.

Operation Clean Sweep Program Materials. Learn how your company can target a zero loss of resin pellets into the environment through SPI's comprehensive education program. See enclosed flier for details.

Facts & Figures of the U.S. Plastics Industry—1991 Edition. The authoritative single source of information on resins, markets and economic data. See enclosed flier for details.

Plastics & You. The Fall 1991 edition of SPI's award-winning four-color magazine features articles on how polymers increase the safety of fertilizers and pesticides, a plastic pancreas for diabetics, plastics in bridge applications, resins with recycled contents and more. Single copies, each: \$2, members; \$4, non-members. 2-100 copies, each: \$1, members; \$2, non-members. 101+ copies, each: \$.75, members; \$1.50, non-members. Pub. No. AB-128.

Plastics Engineering Handbook. Covers the major innovation that have occurred in the plastics industry since the last edition was published 15 years ago. Includes analysis of new technologies such as gas-assisted injection molding, computer automation, the latest sophisticated controls and newest

composite materials and processes. \$69.95, members; \$79.95, non-members. Pub. No. AB-125.

1991 SPI Membership Directory & Buyer's Guide. The most comprehensive publication of its kind, the directory provides a detailed listing of products and services in the U.S. plastics industry. Indexed by geography, process, service and end product. \$90, members; \$180, non-members. Pub. No. AA-108.

Pultrusion: Selected Papers from Composites Institute Conferences. Comes with a computer-searchable index. \$150, members; \$200, non-members. Pub. No. AF-179.

1991 Vinyl Windows Certified Products Directory. An important tool for architects, construction specifiers, building owners and builders engaged in specifying windows for new construction, replacement or remodeling. Lists certified manufacturers and products under the SPI Vinyl Window and Door Institute's Certification Program. For a free copy, contact the Institute at (212) 351-5400.

February 2-9
Spray Foam '92 Convention & Exhibition—SPI Polyurethane Foam Contractors Division. Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact: Sandra Sievert, (202) 462-7462.

February 3-7
SPI Composites Institute 47th Annual Conference. Cincinnati Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact the Institute at (212) 351-5410.

February 19-22
SPI Molders/Moldmakers Divisions Annual Conference. Camelback Inn, Scottsdale, Ariz. Contact: Drew Fleming, (202) 371-5246.

Date Change

The Pennsylvania legislative reception will be held December 9, 1991 due to legislative calendar changes.

SPI Travel Office Offers Lowest Fares, Best Seats

Using the latest software technology, SPI's Travel Office provides the most advanced Quality Assurance Programs available to help guarantee the lowest airfares and most desirable seating.

- **FareFinder** reviews reservations both before and after ticketing, searching for lower fares and re-books reservations at the lower fare when found if it matches the traveler's preferences.

- **SeatFinder** compares seating preferences with your booked seats and current availability, re-booking preferred seats or better seats as they become available, right up to departure.

- **QualityCheck** guarantees the integrity of each reservation by auditing each record 60 times, searching for inaccuracies. Incorrect reservations are sent back to the agent for correction and the record re-audited until all checks are passed.

For reservations or information, call 1-800-441-3617. (In Va., Md., D.C. and Canada, call 202-371-1778.)

For More Information . . .

Additional information about any item in this issue of the newsletter may be obtained by contacting Margo Ross, Editor, SPI, 1275 K St., N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 371-5209.

Postage/Handling Charges

Total Price of Order	Domestic Fee	Overseas Fee
\$0 - \$10	\$ 2	\$15
\$10.01-\$50	\$ 4	\$20
\$50.01-\$100	\$ 8	\$25
\$100.01+	\$10	*

*20% of total or \$30, whichever is greater