



TEACHING OLD DRIVERS NEW TRICKS

A driving course for experienced drivers only? Because veteran drivers are sometimes the worst, Fermilab's Safety Office offers a class to improve employee motoring habits.

Set up in 1971, the Defensive Driving Course (DDC) has been completed by 574 Fermilab employees in 42 classes. Safety inspector Ed Brezina, DDC instructor, says, "Our objective is to promote among all motorists an attitude of mutual understanding, courtesy and cooperation. Since initiating DDC, our vehicle accident rate has been reduced," he said.

"People are overconfident about their driving ability," Brezina said. "None of us is as good a driver as he believes; we can all profit from more knowledge and skill -- and that's what DDC delivers."

The course was developed by the National Safety Council. Fermilab DDC alumni are among more than seven million drivers nationally who have completed the program since 1964. Brezina completed teacher-training courses before initiating classes on site.

Typically, about 15 persons attend eight one-hour sessions held over three consecutive days.

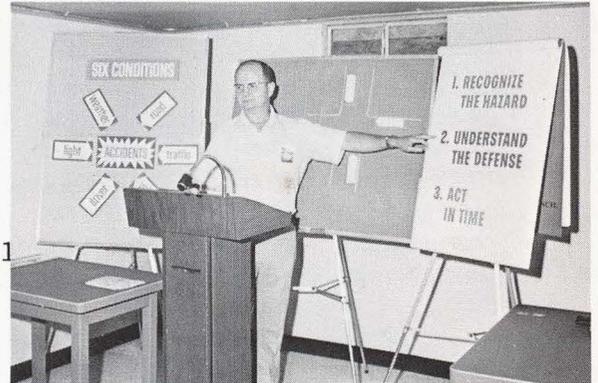
Topics covered include: preventing accidents; avoiding colliding with a vehicle ahead; avoiding colliding with a following vehicle; avoiding colliding with an oncoming vehicle; avoiding intersection collisions; the art of passing and being passed; the "mystery" crash; and avoiding other common collisions. Films, discussions and workbook assignments supplement lectures.

Since 1899, when the first American auto fatality was recorded, traffic accidents have been everyone's concern, Brezina noted. Every 12 minutes a car kills someone -- nearly 50,000 persons a year -- Safety Council statistics show.

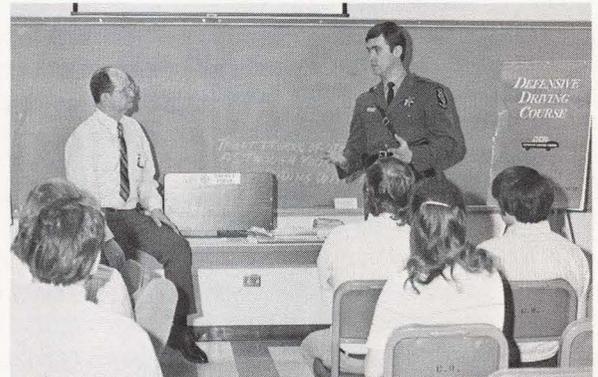
How does a driver put safe miles under his seat belt? Brezina says, "Drive defensively. Assume that the other driver doesn't know the rules of the road. Anticipate trouble; be prepared to stop, speed up or turn quickly.

"Expect the unexpected, and remember, no matter how many miles one has driven, the most dangerous mile is the one directly ahead of you."

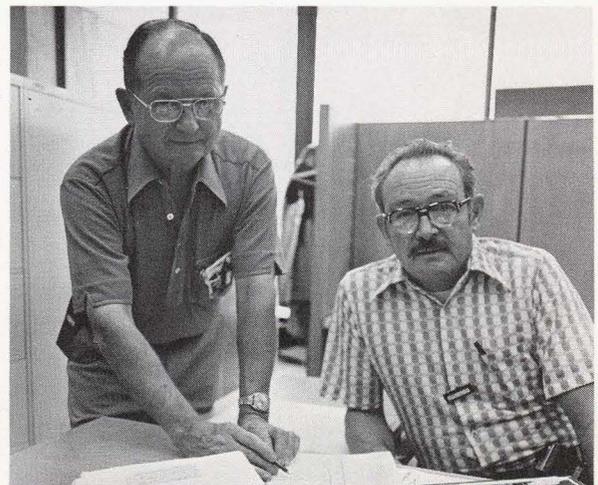
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...Safety inspector Ed Brezina conducts DDC class...



...Trooper Jim Vargas (R), Illinois State Police, speaks to DDC students...



...E. Brezina and D. Pinyan, Sr. Safety Officer, review DDC materials...

PERSONNEL NOTES: MATERNITY/DENTAL BENEFITS

Two of the most frequently asked questions about group insurance at Fermilab are: Why are the maternity benefits so low? And why don't we have a dental plan? Unfortunately, the answers cannot be stated so briefly, said Charles Marofske, Personnel Services Manager.

For the past few years, medical services costs have been increasing at an inflationary rate almost double that for other consumer expenditures. As users we have not felt the impact for the most part, since a major portion of medical costs is automatically covered under our group medical insurance. For example, the plan pays semi-private room up to 120 days at full cost. In addition, major medical also picks up a good portion of any excess costs. Two areas not so comfortably covered are maternity and physician charges. The latter are on an allowance schedule based on the service provided, while maternity is a fixed benefit.

While we personally have not been paying the bill, the impact on our insurance plan has been dramatic. In November 1976, premiums for our group medical insurance increased over 50 percent. The annual bill was increased over \$370,000, about \$275 per employee. In late 1976, we actually had claims paid or pending exceeding our premiums by over \$20,000. The full cost of the resulting premium increase has been paid by the Laboratory. Fortunately, the large increase in premiums has improved our current relationship of claims to premiums paid. However, the rapid escalation of medical costs continues and we could shortly be facing a premium increase just to keep what we have.

In recent months, the minimum bill for childbirth has been running about \$1400. Insurance covers about 40%, leaving the new parents with a bill in excess of \$850. To insure half of the current cost to new parents would probably increase the plan premium over \$10,000 per year. We are seriously considering alternative changes in this benefit in conjunction with costs, available budget and other insured benefit costs. It is unlikely that any change could be implemented until 1978.

We do not have a dental plan. Our medical plan does pay diagnostic x-ray coverage for dental exams necessitated by an accident, fixed surgeon's fee for certain specified surgical dental procedures, and hospital expenses in connection with dental work necessary, due to a disease. There is also major medical coverage under these same conditions which is described on page 15 of our Benefits Handbook.

The premium cost for a group dental plan with a \$100 deductible covering about 75% of average costs would be over \$200,000 per year. To obtain this rate, we need 70 to 80 percent employee participation. Cost per month would be about \$5 per employee plus \$10 for family coverage. There is a gradual trend toward dental insurance plans, but right now, the cost is prohibitive. We do monitor this situation in hopes of a breakthrough or possible alternative to provide a worthwhile benefit without such a high price tag.

For more information, contact the Personnel Services department on CL-6E.

'DELTA' MAGNET DEBUTS

Research Services' Cryogenics Group has built and successfully tested a fifth large superconducting magnet for experimental area use. The new magnet, named "Delta," was designed and built under the direction of Ron Fast (Research Services), with Joe Heim (Research Services) providing engineering support. Delta is the third in a series of superconducting magnets designated "Super BM109" after their conventional counterparts. Like two earlier magnets in the series, "Avis" and "Hertz," Delta has a magnetic field volume of 24 x 8 x 72 cubic inches and a magnetic field strength of 20 kilogauss. L-R are: D. Von Ohlen, K. Seino, J. Green, E. Leung, R. DeNeen, D. Garcia, H. Hart.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE VISITS FERMILAB

Visiting Friday were members of the International Working Group on Fast Reactors, a unit of the International Atomic Energy Agency. IWGFR members represented the U.S., France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R. The group visited the Laboratory during a four-day conference at Argonne National Laboratory on liquid metal fast breeder reactor flow induced vibrations. John McCook (Left) Associate Director for Administration, greeted the visitors. Laboratory Director R.R. Wilson welcomed the guests to a luncheon, after which Russ Huson, Accelerator Division head, spoke on Laboratory programs and conducted a walking tour.

MORGAN'S RAIDERS: VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS AGAIN

Fermilab's 1977 summer volleyball league concluded recently with Morgan's Raiders capturing the championship trophy for the second straight season. "A total team effort and utilization of all players" produced the victory, said team captain Joe Morgan (Purchasing). The Raiders defeated Pat McDonald's "D.T.'s" 15-8, 15-6 in a Sept. 19 playoff to take league honors. Receiving the trophy from H. Ecker (R), recreation manager, are (seated, L-R): T. Callans, J. Collins, J. Morgan, and J. Jensen. Standing L-R are: R. Severson, D. Bamford, C. Hines and L. Sedlacek. Not shown: K. Hess, C. Mau, C. Tallaver.



DIRECTOR'S MEETING OCT. 5

Laboratory Director R. R. Wilson will conduct a fall director's meeting Wednesday (Oct. 5) at 9:30 a.m. in the Fermilab auditorium. He will report on current laboratory topics and answer questions. All employees are invited to attend.

CL STOCKROOM REOPENS

The Central Laboratory stockroom has reopened. After being closed from Sept. 6 to relocate to the Catacombs, Central Stores resumed business Monday, Sept. 26.

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SITE-SEEING GUIDELINES

Like to bring visitors to Fermilab? Everyone's welcome . . . but groups of ten or more must make advance arrangements with the Public Information Office. To coordinate group visits and to provide appropriate accommodations for visitors a master schedule of on-site events is now maintained in the headquarters of the Administrative Division. Employees desiring to bring ten or more visitors should forward their requests to the Public Information Office (Ext. 3351) at least two weeks in advance. In this way, group commitments will not overlap and everyone will be accommodated within the resources of the Laboratory.

Fermilab's Public Information Office offers guided tours for 10-40 persons Monday through Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Guided tours are available by advance reservation with Shirley Burton in the Public Information Office. She also handles technical or other special-interest tours with a staff member as tour leader. Again, advance arrangements are required.

For less than ten persons, self-guided tours using a free brochure are offered 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, beginning at the reception desk in the Central Laboratory Atrium. The Atrium level and the 15th floor of the Central Laboratory north and south areas are the only areas open to the general public. Literature and a guest register are also located at the reception desk.

For tour reservations or other information, stop in at CL-1W or call Ext. 3351.

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ROARING '20's RETURNS

"Speak Easy Night," an all-Laboratory party roaring 20's-style, will be sponsored by NALREC Saturday, Oct. 8, from 8:30 p.m. to midnight at the Village Barn. "The sights, sounds and even prices of the 20's will return," says Jesse Guerra, chairman. Twenties costumes are encouraged. "Jack the Bear" dixieland band, featuring Roy Rubinstein (Physics) on saxophone, will provide music. Also, a dance marathon, mock funeral procession and kangaroo court are scheduled. Access to the "speak" will be through a secret-panel phone booth--after customers say the password (?) and pay \$1 admission. Free snacks will include peanuts, pretzels, hardboiled eggs and cheese and sausage sliced to order. A cash bar will offer 15¢ beer plus "bathtub gin" and other "hootch" at three drinks for \$1. Co-chairmen with Guerra are S. Nila, J. Baaske, E. Levallie, B. Brown, K. Schuh, and J. Pasetsky.

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YOGA STUDENTS WANTED

A few more Yoga students are needed to hold a 5 p.m. class that will meet Thursdays. Men and women are invited to the class taught by Bernice Bolly, a professional instructor from Aurora. The class will meet for eight weeks in the Village exercise room, 16 Potawatomi. Cost will be \$16. Mrs. Bolly is also conducting a noon class starting today (Sept. 29) in the auditorium. To sign up, or for more information, call Helen Ecker, Ext. 3126.

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