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Course may alter drivers' attitudes

Statistics indicate the emotions of young persons in the 16- to 25-year-old range affect their driving behavior. Young Americans in this age bracket have far more than their

share of fatal accidents and 90 percent of the problem drivers (four or more moving violations in a 12-month period) are in this age bracket. Researchers from Texas A&M

University's Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) have developed a program under the direction of Dr. Myron Koehler to help these bad drivers stay alive long enough to become good old drivers.

largest metropolitan areas in the state. "The problem with simply their licenses is that 50 to 60 percent of the offenders continue to drive," Edwards said. "The suspension is to get them off the road, but the concept, in itself, doesn't work very well."

"We were in a pickle, we needed a way to effectively solve the problem driver's problems."

Therefore an eight-hour course was developed to discuss attitudes and how they affect performance on the road, Edwards said.

A mini-computer attached to a movie projector, slide projector, tape recorder system, packaged in a package, combined individual attention from the

instructors. "Part of the bad driver's problem is the lack of knowledge, common-sense driving techniques, but the biggest problem is attitude toward the car and how it fits into the driving environment," Edwards said.

The bad driver sees himself as an integral part of the traffic around them and are self-centered in their driving behavior, he said. "This is the driver that speeds, doesn't yield the right of way and runs through signs. The course has got to convince them that their perception of driving and the world in general contribute to the probability of an accident. They need to understand that driving beyond design limits of the road greatly increases the chance of an accident."

As part of the concept, after four or more such incidents that result in a ticket, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) will petition the local Justice of Peace Court to suspend the license of the violator. The J.P. can, as an alternative, send the offender to the A&M-developed training program, which is being conducted by the DPS in the seven

largest metropolitan areas in the state. The program is designed to change these attitudes, Edwards said.

"It's a very positive, supportive face-to-face program in which instructor and participants are equals," he said. "There's no place where they're treated as bad guys or even referred to as violators or problem drivers."

"The results we have so far indicate that for the 12 months of training there is a significant decrease in the number of accidents as well as fewer traffic citations, less property damage among trainees. Also, a majority of the bad drivers in this study evidenced a significant improvement in their attitudes toward driving."

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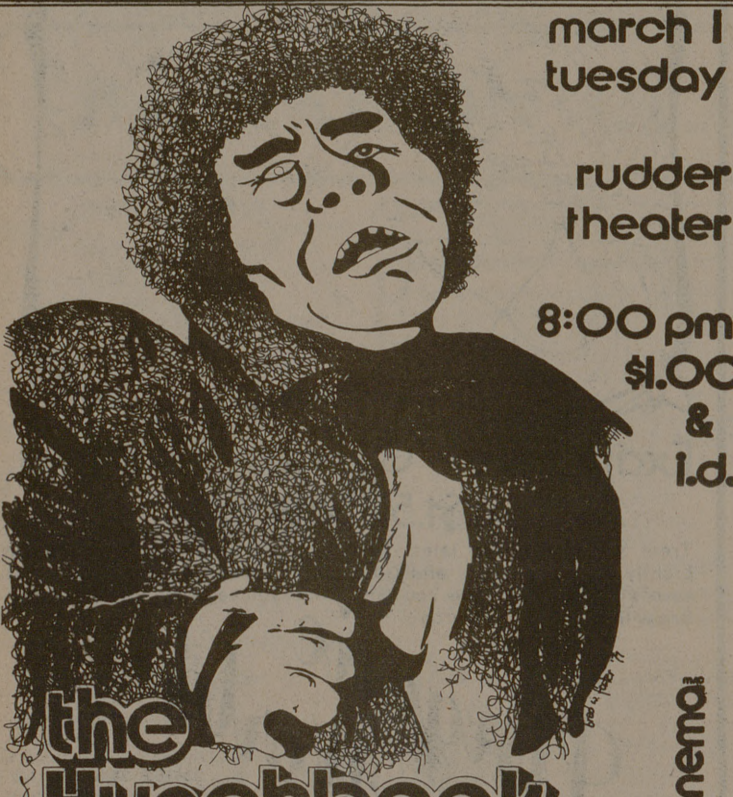
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9:30 - 11:00	CIA and Covert Action	224 MSC
12:30 - 2:00	FBI Counterintelligence Programs	224 MSC
4:00 - 6:00	Recent Record and Current Domestic Intelligence	THEATRE
6:00 - 7:00	Reception	205 MSC
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2		
9:00 - 11:00	Lee Harvey Oswald	224 MSC
1:00 - 3:00	Garrison Case in New Orleans	224 MSC
3:00 - 5:00	Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King	224 MSC
8:00	Who Killed JFK?	AUDITORIUM
9:00	Reception	205 MSC
THURSDAY, MARCH 3		
9:30 - 11:00	Hughes, Rockefeller, and the Syndicate	701 Tower
12:30 - 2:00	Yankee/Cowboy Conflict in the Kennedy Administration	701 Tower
3:30 - 5:00	James McCord and Dorothy Hunt	701 Tower
8:00	Yankee/Cowboy Theory of American Politics	601 Tower
9:00	Reception	205 MSC

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<p>THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL</p> <p>Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee</p>		
<p>FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL</p> <p>BREADED FISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL</p> <p>"Yankee Pot Roast Texas Style" Tossed Salad Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING SPECIAL</p> <p>ROAST TURKEY DINNER Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread - Butter Coffee or Tea Giblet Gravy And your choice of any One vegetable</p>

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