

# Car Out of Control

On Nov. 9, 1994, a most unusual incident occurred in West Haven, Conn.

Geoffrey Mayne pulled his car up to an intersection and thought he noticed a problem with his brakes. He shifted the automobile into park and got out to check his wheels.

With no one at the driver's seat, the vehicle suddenly slipped into reverse and took off backward at high speed. The steering wheel spun, and the car began to circle around and around in the middle of the busy intersection.

The police and fire departments were called. The car kept circling at high speed, blocking morning rush-hour traffic. Almost two hours passed with no end in sight.

Finally, the authorities devised a plan. They positioned tractor trailers to block traffic. Then they simultaneously drove three front-end payloaders – the type used for earth moving – into the out-of-control auto. With the car pinned, firefighters broke the driver's side window, reached in, and turned off the ignition.



The car, as you would guess, suffered extensive damage.

Like a runaway car without a driver, people without self-control are a hazard to themselves and everyone around them. In the end, they are pinned only by painful necessity – debt, divorce, sickness, depression, unemployment, total rejection.

How much easier it is to stay at the wheel and thereby save oneself the pain and expense.

– Beecher Hunter