



WRONG TIME WRONG PLACE

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We've all been there, right? However, I doubt many of us have found ourselves in a compromising and nearly tragic situation like the one a Navy E-4 and his E-2 date experienced.

This young couple arrived at a party about 8:30 p.m., and, according to the E-4, his date immediately started drinking. He told her he wouldn't drink so he could be the designated driver.

At 1:15 a.m., both Sailors left the party and climbed into her car, a Honda. The E-4 took the wheel as he had promised. Once they were on the freeway, his date—again, according to the E-4—became aroused and wanted to have sex while he was driving. When he refused, she got mad and then demanded that he pull over, saying, "I'm going to throw up."

The E-4 immediately eased the car off the side of the road and helped her remove her seat belt. At this point, she reportedly initiated sexual contact, despite his continued resistance. Unfortunately, neither was paying attention to the fact the car's parking brake wasn't set. A reality check was only moments away, though.

The Honda rolled in front of a Buick going an estimated 65 mph and driven by a man who eventually would be charged with

DUI. The crash spun around the Honda and moved it into another lane, where the driver of a Saturn doing 60 mph then hit it. The force of this second collision momentarily knocked the E-4 unconscious and ejected the E-2 through the Honda's rear window. She landed on the roadway's surface, which is where the E-4 found her after he regained consciousness.

"She was lying facedown, and I first thought she was dead," he said. "She had a pulse but wasn't breathing, so I turned her on her side, cleared blood from her mouth, and pulled on her tongue, which allowed her to start breathing again," he added.

The E-4 then looked up, saw more traffic coming, and moved his date to the shoulder of the freeway. While waiting for an ambulance to arrive, he applied pressure to a wound on her forehead. Doctors at a local hospital also would determine that she suffered broken bones in her neck and spine. The E-4's only injuries were a minor cut above one eye, a sprained wrist, and a sprained ankle.

As noted in the police report of this mishap, the E-4 was cited for unsafe backing.

A lesson to be learned from this incident is one I first heard recited many years ago, "There's a time and a place for everything." ■