



**Exeter, R.I.**—Speed and failure to wear a seat belt seem to have been the only culprits in a single-car crash that killed the driver, a young seaman recruit. He was thrown from the car when it lost traction and rolled several times while taking a curve too fast.

Two civilian passengers walked away from the accident with only minor injuries.

Police found no evidence of alcohol or drugs in the car. ❏

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**Greenfield, N.Y.**—When you try to do 70 mph in a curve that has a posted speed limit of 55 mph, you're asking for trouble, right? In the case of a PO3, this mistake proved fatal. His Corvette lost traction and slid sideways into a northbound lane, where it hit an oncoming vehicle. Unfortunately, the driver's side door of the Corvette took the force of the crash, and the PO3 died at the scene. A civilian in the other vehicle was treated and released from a local medical center. ❏

**San Diego, Calif.**—While driving more than 70 mph in a 35-mph zone, a Sailor with a BAC of .18 lost control of his Pontiac Sunbird. He drove onto the median and collided head-on with a tree. The car wrapped around the tree in a counterclockwise direction on the driver's side, instantly killing the passenger (a shipmate) in the front seat. His BAC was .13.

The driver and two more passengers (also shipmates) in the backseat survived the wreck but not without their share of injuries. The driver suffered a serious head injury, a deep cut to his groin, a broken leg, and a broken arm. He probably will be permanently disabled. One passenger had two broken legs and a dislocated elbow, requiring 11 or more days in the hospital, an unknown number of lost workdays, and possible partial or permanent disability. The other passenger had a broken wrist, requiring one day in the hospital, five lost workdays, and possible partial or permanent disability. ❏

**Culpeper, Va.**—With icy road conditions, any sensible driver would have been going less than the posted speed limit of 65 mph. A PO3, however, decided to pass another vehicle...at 70 mph. He lost control of his car, which struck an embankment and overturned three times. He was pronounced dead from severe internal injuries upon arrival at a local medical center. ❏

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**Aiea, Hawaii**—Guests attending a wedding reception watched a seaman do a cannon-ball jump into the deep end of a pool and tread water there a while. Then he disappeared until some of the guests spotted his limp body on the bottom of the pool. They rescued him and did CPR until paramedics arrived on the scene 10 minutes later.

The paramedics took the victim to a local medical center, and doctors placed him in ICU, where he died four days later. The cause of death was brain swelling as a result of nearly drowning. There were no reports of head trauma or other physiological problems that may have caused the near-drowning. No alcohol or drugs were involved. ❏

*If a lifeguard had been on duty, this tragedy probably wouldn't have occurred.*