

The Pokemon Phenomenon

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Another car's just veered off the road. The nightly TV news is getting monotonous. Cars just running off the road for no apparent reason. This one was a single vehicle accident. It hit a tree on an open stretch of perfectly straight, level country road. Another young person killed.

We've been concerned for years that using a smart phone while driving will inevitably lead to vehicle accidents, but this time the owner had installed the app which blocks all internet use of the phone in the car, including incoming calls. State Governments will legislate soon for the compulsory fitting of this app to all phones, but not everyone has voluntarily installed it yet.

No, it's not the old 'driving while on the phone' bugbear, this is something new.

I've caught glimpses of it myself, out of the corner of my eye.

It's escaped Pokemons.

The game was fun when it first came out. It was getting out and about lots of people who had been isolated for years. It was lauded as a boon to those on the autism spectrum. People who had not communicated with family for years, were now asking for assistance to get to Pokemon Gyms.

But the little critters have escaped.

Those who had reached and captured the elusive CrossStyx monster were finding that the critter was now appearing of its own accord directly in front of them at inappropriate times. And, that it could only be controlled by turning the phone off. Not even by activating Airplane mode, really off - no functions at all.

Just turning the phone on would activate the critter.

What has happened is that Pokemon's infected all mobile phones through Auto update so much so you have to stand still to use the phone otherwise the pokemons will scream at you to follow and destroy the nearest – and they are multiplying.

Part of its annoyance was that it would appear at inappropriate times without warning. If the phone was on, it could appear in the middle of a crowded train, or during a funeral service, or beside you at your office desk.

The reappearances were so sudden and so brilliantly sparkly that the phone owner would jump involuntarily. What was worse, was that they were the only ones that could see them.