NOT FINAL UNTIL TIME EXPIRES TO FILE REHEARING MOTION AND, IF FILED, DISPOSED OF.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL

OF FLORIDA

THIRD DISTRICT

JULY TERM, A.D. 2001

ADAM	REIVER,	* *	
	Appellant,	* *	CASE NO. 3D00-2463
	vs.	* *	LOWER TRIBUNAL NO. 98-15777
LETICIA PAZ,		* *	IKIBUNAL NO. 96-15///
	Appellee.	* *	

Opinion filed December 5, 2001.

An Appeal from the Circuit Court for Dade County, Amy Steele Donner, Judge.

Luis E. Ordoñez & Associates and Frances F. Guasch, for appellant.

Arthur J. Morburger, for appellee.

Before JORGENSON, LEVY, and GODERICH, JJ.

PER CURIAM.

Adam Reiver, the defendant below in a rear-end automobile collision case, appeals from an order granting a motion for directed verdict, and following submission of the cause to the jury, entry of judgment notwithstanding that jury's verdict. For the reasons that follow, we reverse. The jury reasonably concluded that the evidence and testimony rebutted the presumption of negligence "that attaches to the rear driver in a rear-end collision . . . in cases where the lead driver sues the rear driver." <u>Clampitt v. D.J. Spencer Sales</u>, 786 So. 2d 570, 572 (Fla. 2001). In setting aside that verdict, the court impermissibly acted as "a seventh juror with veto power." <u>See</u> <u>Edwards v. Orkin Exterminating Co.</u>, 718 So. 2d 881, 883 (Fla. 3d DCA 1998) (citations omitted).

Reversed and remanded with directions to reinstate the jury verdict.