Bonnet deployment device for a vehicle

The bonnet 14 is raised to increase the amount of space between it and components located under it, to increase the energy absorbed during collision with a pedestrian, by a powered deployment cylinder 40 activated by a pedestrian impact detection system 48 and acting on a hinge plate 24. The plate 24 has a slot 26 with a neck preventing movement of a hinge pivot 16 under normal operating conditions. The cylinder 40, when actuated, forces the plate 24 upwardly so that the pivot passes the neck into the lower part of the slot 26. The plate 24 has either side relief slots at the neck to aid deformation.