

## Enforced Parking Fees At UPEI

by Aldera Chisholm

The free ride is over. Commuters to UPEI were informed early in the semester that paid parking would soon be implemented. During September and October the Security department has not been enforcing the new parking system. This is to allow users to buy permits and become accustomed to the new system. Some people have already rushed to buy their passes, while others are still reluctant to cough up the money. As of November 1, if you are parking on campus without a permit you will pay -- literally.

Enforcement will take the form of warnings, tickets, and finally, your car will be towed. This combined cost of a ticket and a tow will far outweigh the cost of a parking permit. For those people who drive infrequently there is an alternative to buying a regular permit. There is a one day pass available for one dollar at the security building; this is ideal for those people who only drive on stormy days.

As of now, all parking lots are marked "reserved for permit holders only." Many people have been wondering about the fate of the visitors half-hour parking lot. This lot has been abused for years by the University community -- many student who are attending only one class use this lot on the assumption that security will either not notice or not care. Rumours have stated that this lot will be converted to meters, but this is not true, at least for this year. This lot will remain open for visitors without permits for up to one half an hour. Security has stressed that this parking area is meant for visitors, and not students. They will be closely monitoring this lot along with the others on campus.

Many students are familiar with the present system of warnings, tickets, and fines for illegal parking on campus. The new parking system will be similar, but with a stricter attitude. If you have been lulled into a false sense of security by the previous two month reprieve, wake up! You may be seeing a warning on your windshield in the near future.

## Chemistry at the Mall

by Steve Ellis

Have you ever seen spaghetti dance? If you were at the Charlottetown Mall on Saturday, October 21, you probably have. Students and professors from UPEI's chemistry department assembled a display to promote chemistry awareness as a part of this year's National Chemistry Week. Though the material in the display was tailored for a younger audience, both young and old took part.

Other than dancing spaghetti, there were several other wonders of nature for all to view. The "Oscillating Reaction" kept the spectators "oohing" and "ahhhing", as it cycled its colour from clear to yellow to blue, and back to clear over and over again for no apparent reason.

The keen chemists also gave the public a taste of the world at -176C. In a demonstration, they showed how you can actually make a carnation shatter into a thousand pieces by submerging it in liquid nitrogen and then striking it against a hard surface.

Chemistry Society president and fourth year honours chemistry student Kelli Miller had this to say about the day's events.

"I think things went pretty well; lots of people came to see the display. We got to talk about what chemists do... we got kids involved without scaring their parents, and we had fun!"

Miller believes that this kind of communication between academia is important for two reasons. "A: a lot of people don't know what chemistry is or what we [chemists] do. And since we touch on almost every aspect of life it's good that people get a better understanding... B: to get kids -- our future -- interested in chemistry."

Everybody got to take home a little part of National Chemistry Week. The first fifty children who stopped by the display were given a helium balloon with the National Chemistry Week emblem on it. Other free hand-outs were National Chemistry Week pins, flyers containing experiments that could be done at home or at school, and other educational literature.

National Chemistry Week ran from October 15-21.

## Election, election, wherefore art thou election?

by Dawn Murray

It was brought to my attention that Student Union by-elections ended on Thursday, October 26. I had not even realized that the elections had started. Given, I did see a few posters calling for nominations, but I did not see was any sort of call to vote. "Perhaps it was just me," I thought. So I did an informal poll of people in the hall. The general responses were "what election?" and "when did it start?"

There is a lot of talk about student apathy. I do not feel that I am apathetic. I feel that I have been uninformed. I recognize that it is my duty as a voter to seek out information, but it is also the duty of those holding the information -- the student union -- to ensure that it is readily available. This is easily done through ads in the paper and radio station and posters across campus calling students to the polls.

In years past at election time I have seen campaign posters and sign plastered on walls advertising general meetings. I did not see any posters of this type this year. Are events such as the SU general meeting being advertised at all, or are the ads only in select areas, such as the Pit? Not all students spend time in the pit. I feel that such an important issue should be brought to the entire campus.

One student who voted did not know who they were voting for, she just happened to see the voting booth and stopped. The person operating the booth had no idea what ballots were supposed to be given out. If the people working in the election process do not know what is going on, how can the average student be expected to?

It is not just the voters who are "apathetic", it is the campaigners. I only saw one candidate's poster on campus, and that was in the Barn. Unless I am grossly misinformed, there was more than one candidate in the election.

So, the moral of this story is -- before you slam students for being apathetic, check out the "due process."



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