

# Letters.....



Dear Editor:

I would like to complain about an incident that happened last week.

On March 18th, I parked my car illegally in front of the Vet College office. I had already been towed away last fall which cost me \$25, but this time I parked there anyway because of the extremely bad weather. At 5:00 I found that my car had been towed away.

I phoned my parents and we went to the car pound where my car had been taken last fall, only to find it no longer existed. I phoned UPEI Security to ask them where my car had been taken and went to the place in question; an abandoned service station. My car was there, completely exposed to vandalism since the area was not fenced or protected in any way. After waiting a while, it was clear nobody was likely to show up. I needed my car and was afraid of vandalism so I took it home.

A couple of hours later, Mr. Flynn, the owner of the towing service, phoned me and demanded \$30 immediately or else he would find my car the next day, tow it again, and charge me sixty dollars. I told him I could not pay that night but would try to pay him the next day. The next day I went to security to see if, indeed, this man had a right to tow me from a legal parking spot; apparently he did. Later, I phoned Rob Kelley the Student Union President, to see what my

options were. Mr. Kelly advised that my best option was simply to pay Mr. Flynn and then try to appeal to the Parking and Traffic Committee of UPEI.

However, at around 2:00, as I was leaving to pay Flynn's Towing, I found my car missing again.

I went to Security and asked them to contact Flynn's to say that I was coming to pay the \$60 that I now owed them.

The first thing Mr. Flynn did when I handed him the sixty dollars was to raise his fees to seventy. When asked why, he simply said that the car was hard to tow the second time.

Next, when I went to my car I noticed that he had tampered with the steering column. It was scratched and the metal was pulled out in some places. Apparently he had to take the steering wheel off to change the wheel's position before towing. Finally, he did not just put my car in his lot, he used his tow truck to push it into a snowbank. I asked him to pull it back on the road. His condition for doing so was that I forget about the damage done to my steering column. It took me an hour and a half of shovelling and the help of four passers-by before I got my car out.

I did a small survey of the different towing services operating in Charlottetown to compare with Flynn's methods and rates. The cost of towing a car from UPEI to downtown

ranges from \$18 to \$20 and none of them ever needed to tamper with a steering wheel to get a car out.

Mr. Flynn has shown a complete lack of justice and fairness that I would expect from an employee of the university. He even threatened to charge me \$200 if he ever towed my car again. Also, he has displayed incompetence by claiming the need to damage my car in order to tow it.

I think the University should establish straight and more civilized policies concerning this kind of infraction and if necessary take a good look at the other towing services in town.

signed,

Patrick Lemieux

*Mr. Lemieux: According to the Security dept. the university has no contract with Flynn's towing, but says it uses it because it is the most reliable. However, it does seem that that company is also the most expensive in town — all other towing companies I checked with charge \$18, with only one charging \$25, to tow from UPEI to downtown.*

*According to the Community Legal Information Assoc., a tow truck operator does NOT have the right to find your car and tow it back to the lot because fees are unpaid. Once the car leaves the lot, it seems the towing company can only sue for the amount owed them. That is why most tow operators disable the car somehow, like by removing the battery, so people can't just drive away without paying.*

*I suggest you contact Legal Information about the matter of damage to your vehicle and they can give you more advice.*

In response to the "Bios Strike Back" article I must say that it shows that the Bios have a great sense of humor. It proves that the only way to take the punishment we Engineers have give them over the years is to lash back with equally fine entertainment. I hope this sets an example for the other members of the University Community that others may follow.

We take this article in the good humor that it was intended and congratulate the Bios on a fine job, but don't expect you'll get away that easily. I hope that the Engineers will retaliate with equal or better humor, if it is at all possible.

(Name withheld by request)

# THE GEM

The gem cannot be polished without friction,  
nor man perfected without trials.

— Confucius

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We have room to welcome many, many more.

THE GEM loves feedback. Get your letters, comments and complaints to us through the SU office in the Barn, campus mail, or stuff 'em through the hole in our door, rm 401 Main.

We cherish typed and double spaced submissions. For legal reasons, submissions must include the author's name. However, names can be withheld from publication on request.

Deadline for submissions is MONDAY.

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