

THE UPEI CADRE

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Ray Keating
Editor in Chief

Something funny happened to me on the way home the other day. I went out to the parking lot to jump in the car, and found myself standing there looking perplexed, rather than driving away. My car was not where I had left it.

Several things ran through my head as I stood there. At first, I considered the possibility that I had simply parked somewhere else and simply forgotten where it was. But then I realized I am not that dense. Then I considered the possibility that it had been stolen; but then I realized no one steals minivans. I finally considered that it might have been towed, but couldn't imagine why it would have been. None the less, I wandered over to the security office and made an inquiry. It went something like this:

Ray: *Have you been towing cars today?*

Security: *No.*

Hmmmmm... I wonder where my car could be... back to the perplexing stolen theory.

Ray: *Are you sure?*

Security: *Yes, I'm sure. We called to get one pulled out that was stuck in the mud, but none to be towed away.*

Ray: *Who does the towing for the university?*

Security: *Cooper's, but it's not there.*

Ray: *OK*

So I head back to the newspaper office to try and figure out what to do next, and I decide to give Cooper's a call myself... just in case.

Ray: *Hi, is this Cooper's towing?*

Cooper's: *Yes.*

Ray: *I am just wondering if you towed any cars from the UPEI lots this morning?*

Cooper's: *ummmm... no.*

Ray: *Oh.... Hmmmm.*

Cooper's: *But this is the admin office... you'd have to check with the tow line.*

Ray: *OK... do you have their number?*

Cooper's: *Yes, just a second...*

So I get the other number and I give them a call...

Ray: *Hi, is this Cooper's towing?*

Cooper's: *Yes.*

But I Digress...

Ray: *I am just wondering if you towed any cars from the UPEI lots this morning?*

Cooper's: *Yep.*

Ray: *Did you tow a Dodge Minivan?*

Cooper's: *Yep.*

Ray: *OK... are you aware that security has no idea you did this?*

Cooper's: *Well they called for it.*

Ray: *Hub?!?!?*

So as it seems, security called for a tow truck to get a minivan out of the mud next to the lot where I was parked. But the key here is that they didn't say that, they said they needed a tow truck in Lot F. The Cooper's guy comes in, sees a van stuck in the mud and decided to be benevolent, and pulls him out. He then looks around and sees my van...

complete with a ticket for parking outside the lines (I know... my bad) and decides that's the van needing towing. Just for good measure, the Cooper's guy also decided to tow a Neon that had a ticket on it. Must have been a slow month down at Cooper's... they needed a revenue boost.

All of this ends OK really, Wayne Squarebriggs from UPEI Security drove me down to pick up the car from Cooper's, and no one suggested I should pay, but it left me wondering just what was up with the communication between security and Cooper's. How can they just roll onto campus and start towing cars away without anyone noticing?

I just shook my head and walked away.

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