

Law applies to some more than others

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There's a solid waste transfer station on Disco Road near the airport. I drive by the facility on most mornings, and my eyes are greeted by illegally parked cars on both sides of Disco as well as illegally parked cars occupying the lawn beyond the curb.

The cars belong to CUPE members on strike, and although there are nearby side streets on which to park legally, alas, that would mean an arduous five-minute walk for the hardworking -- er, hard-striking -- rank and file. Thus, Disco Road remains clogged thanks to a legion of under-educated, over-entitled trade unionists.

Acting as a concerned citizen, I called parking enforcement to see if any green hornets were going to be dispatched to issue parking tickets to the scofflaws. I expected I'd be thanked for pointing out the problem. But, not so much.

Indeed, when I informed "Jane" about the legion of illegally parked vehicles on Disco, her first question was: "Are they blocking traffic?"

No, I said. But that's not the point. They are parked illegally, and the cars are even occupying the lawn.

"Well," Jane said, "surely you don't expect me to send an unarmed officer to ticket cars in such a potentially hostile environment, do you?"

Uh, yes, surely I do, I replied. I told Jane if she felt her parking enforcement officers were in any potential danger, then perhaps they should be accompanied by armed members of Toronto's Finest. Or, does might make right?

Jane then did a 180, reinventing herself as a concerned social worker.

"Sir," she said in a tone reminiscent of how a principal would speak to a kindergarten student, "do you really think it's fair that we start handing out \$30 tickets to people who are struggling to make ends meet on strike pay?"

"Aha," I responded. "Just so I understand: If I'm illegally parked in Toronto -- but not blocking traffic -- then I needn't worry about getting a parking ticket, especially if I appear 'hostile.' And nor do I need to worry about a parking ticket if I'm unemployed. Correct?"

There was a pregnant pause before Jane finally said in an exasperated tone, "Sir, you just don't get it, do you?"

Oh, I "get it" all right. Law and order, Hogtown-style, is all about playing favourites. Clearly there's one law for Tamil Tiger terrorist supporters (allowed to march onto the Gardiner Expressway, complete with infants in baby strollers), naked Pride marchers (full-frontal public nudity not merely accommodated but seemingly encouraged) and CUPE thugs. And clearly there's another law for just about everyone else.

More than the trash stinks in Toronto these days.

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