

# nscquire

Official Newsletter of the Engineering Undergraduate Student Society

Volume XII No. 2

Fall 2002



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## Greg Fung - Presidential Address

Hi everyone, hope your midterms went well. The EUSS is busy as usual, working for you on several fronts. For myself, learning about our new director and spotting the impacts of the changes has been quite a handful. Also, I'm trying to streamline meetings and chair them better, so everything can be done smoother and more efficient. Of course, I'm always hatching up new ideas on things that need to be done.

I must say I've noticed a few things around the pit that's been bugging me, things destructive to our community. The lounge is a continual mess, despite Denesh's best efforts. We're not janitors; we've volunteered to do a little tidying, so throw out your own garbage! Someone ripped a

desk lamp off of a study carol. People have been stealing food from the vending machine. The EUSS doesn't run the machine; an outside vendor operates and stocks it. If he feels there is too much theft to operate the machine in our pit then he will remove it, meaning there won't be any midnight snacks for anyone!

Thanks to all who filled out surveys. The data is valuable to build a good case with faculty! If you are in 327 and 387 and didn't fill out a survey (or for anything else), please contact me: [gwfung@sfu.ca](mailto:gwfung@sfu.ca)

My priorities are to keep fighting for program quality, especially to improve co-op; bring back the old IEEE exam file; begin reaching out to

other schools so they don't think we're snobby; and say hi to our new friends at SFU Surrey. Their IT program has much in common with EnSc; hopefully we'll have an event where you can meet more like minded people, stay tuned!

See you around and good luck down the stretch. Hope you had fun at basketball and join us for Semester End Dinner. Enjoy the revamped Enscquire!

**Greg Fung**



## Bernard Smit - VP Publication

The departure of Biljana Pecelj, your former VP Publications, created a power vacuum which threatened to destabilize the EUSS council. After staging a small coup, and snuffing out all opposition (unfortunately there was none) I have established myself as your new VP Publications.

Perhaps the events are not as dramatic as I make them out, but nevertheless, I am your Interim VP Publications since Biljana has taken a coop job in Yugoslavia this semester. So who am I? I am a third year student, technically a first year, in the electronics engineering option. Outside of the regular engineering course load I occupy my spare time by playing on the SFU Rugby Team and training with the SFU Cheerleading Team. Anytime that would otherwise be devoted for sleep is instead spent with the EUSS and on this paper.

With the new "Double the Opportunity" legislation passed down

from the provincial government, SFU's School of Engineering Science is required to double their yearly intake of students, which hopefully will translate into an equally enlarged graduate class. Obviously, if BC's plans work, the engineering student body at SFU will double within the next five years, placing significant strain on the resources of our school while we wait for a rumoured ASB II to appear. On a brighter note, a larger student population has potential benefits: greater representation at engineering functions, i.e. WECC and WESST Olympics, people to drive activities and fill organizations that have lacked sufficient members and a more dynamic, diversified student body.

I feel that there is tremendous opportunity for the Enscquire to grow this semester and during the next few years. Already a fabulous team has devoted themselves to running the Enscquire, ensuring that there will be

relevant and interesting content, that the Enscquire will be published on time, and more importantly, that the engineering students will have a voice. Currently, we are looking at the possibility of moving the Enscquire to a newspaper format, as well as searching for new content ideas in order to expand the paper.

This is the first issue that I have been involved with. It has provided me with some challenges and definitely a positive learning experience. I look forward to working on the next issue of the Enscquire.

If you have any articles, ideas that you would like to submit, questions, comments or would like to work on the Enscquire, then email [enscquire-ensc@sfu.ca](mailto:enscquire-ensc@sfu.ca) to get in touch with our team.

Until the next issue,

**Bernard Smit**



## See-Ho Tsang – VP Social

Times are rough with the dreaded 325/327/383/340/305 semester. Days go by as night turns into day, and day into night. Tears are shed every morning when I have to scrape my limp, ever complaining carcass from the sanctity of my bed. My body, involuntarily driving me to yearn for a few more sacred hours of sleep as projects after midterms after homework after projects, like an everlasting void, which, no matter how fast you dig your nails in and pull yourself up, slip you further and further into the darkness...

I suppose the fact that living in perpetual torment and misery is the reason why there just hasn't been as many social events happening as I would like. Sometimes it feels like no matter how much morphine I inject, the delusions don't seem to get any better.

Aside from my incoherent ranting, I would like to introduce to you the role of VP Social (or more specifically, my strange and unusual interpretation thereof).

The tasks that the VP Social has currently undertaken include arranging or the aiding of social events such as Midnight Madness, Go-Carting and paintball. Also included in this list are the maintenance of the foosball table, the corporate rate Famous Players vouchers, and the planning of SEDs (Where none of these could ever have been accomplished without the aid of your other friendly EUSS executives). Currently, the pioneering of intercampus/faculty mingling is being considered for future events (not that we engineers are locked away in some form of dungeon and never see other people...right?)

Another future social event which I would hope may eventually become the norm are movie nights at an actual theatre (which is an attempt to segregate ourselves from the "let's rent a DVD and play it in the atrium" kind of event).

Although there is always work to be done, we need time to relax or we will burn out with more bang than a stick-of-dynamite-immersed-in-a-barrel-of-nitro-glycerine-sitting-on-top-of-a-hydrogen-bomb. Therefore, if you have any suggestions for a social event, feel free to email: [cuss-vp-social@sfu.ca](mailto:cuss-vp-social@sfu.ca)

See-Ho Tsang



## Denesh Pohar -VP University Affairs

So far, Fall 2002 has proven to be quite an entertaining semester, to say the least.

Being the EUSS VP University Affairs, I get to do interesting stuff like attempting to keep the lounge clean. More interestingly, I'm also the Engineering Science Student Endowment Fund (ESSEF) Chair, so I am part of the important task of reviewing the many worthy student endeavours that applied for funding this semester. By the time you read this article, hopefully all of the recipient projects have received their money and put it to some use.

In addition to my VP UA position, I am also the High School Liaison

Committee representative. In November, SFU will be making a number of High School recruiting visits to schools in the Lower Mainland. These visits can help raise the profile of the program, and will hopefully inspire some young minds to follow in our footsteps into our unique program.

If you have any questions or comments regarding my work as VP UA or High School Liaison Committee rep, please feel free to approach me, or send me an email at [dpohar@sfu.ca](mailto:dpohar@sfu.ca).

Anyways, take care, and don't forget to enjoy your time here this, and every other semester!

**Denesh Pohar**



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## Stella Li - VP Finance

First Week cheques slowly trickled in during the summer semester, but they soon amassed to a pile of over 100 cheques that I had to sign (thank God for the EUSS stamp), count, record and deposit at the bank. Luckily, some wonderful engineers invented the ATM and spared the poor teller the job of counting and verifying those 100 odd cheques.

For those of you who STILL haven't paid your First Week fees, we know who you are and have sent your First Year reps after you. You could make it as quick and painless as possible by depositing \$30 in the EUSS mailbox with your name on the envelope. Or if you are masochistic, you can wait for the First Year reps to come after you... we have ways of making you pay... muhahaha...

Here's the budget for the Summer 2002 semester. As you can see, we lost some money on Pool League, Table Tennis, App-Sci Volleyball and Paintball. Income-wise, money owed from months before finally made it into our bank account. All in all, we didn't lose too much money in the summer semester. We hardly ever make money so as long as we can minimize our losses, it's all good...

That's it for now!!

Stella Li

*\*Note that stock (printer cards, pop, merchandise) is not reflected in the budget.*

## Derek Sahota - VP Electronic Communications

While the main focus of my position has previously been the maintenance of the EUSS webpage, I have expanded the scope of my position over the last two semesters. The EUSS now has an existent data backup procedure and a more secure computer. The EUSS has also tried to take a more proactive role in keeping discussion on ensc-student focused. The addition of a members only website (<https://cgi.sfu.ca/~dsahota/euss/>) will soon allow the posting of the engineering undergraduate student directory online. I'm interested in ways which I can help to improve communication between the EUSS and the students, and amongst students. Any suggestions you may have in this regard would be very welcomed, I can be reached via email at: [euss-vp-elec-comm@sfu.ca](mailto:euss-vp-elec-comm@sfu.ca)

Derek Sahota

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Semester 02-2</b>
Pop*	\$ 2,340.00
Printer Cards*	\$ 770.00
Merchandise*	\$ 66.24
Stickers	
Beerstein	
Decal	
Patch	
Disk	
Pencil	
T-Shirt	
WECC Funding	\$ 100.00
Eric Henessey	\$ 100.00
FM Systems WestCoast	\$ 276.50
Crystal Decisions (Op-Fair)	\$ 400.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 0.05
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 4,052.74</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Pop*	\$ 1,970.13
Printer Cards*	\$ 1,000.00
Copier	\$ 305.86
Literature	
The Globe and Mail (52 wk)	\$ 153.84
Maclean's (1yr)	\$ 52.30
Events	
Pool League	\$ 80.00
Table Tennis	\$ 15.00
Vball	\$ 156.80
Paintball	\$ 56.00
SED	\$ 80.50
Food Safe	\$ 45.00
Defective PC	\$ 4.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 0.28
EUSS Usage	
Office Supplies	\$ 43.47
Printer Card	
Pen	
Stamps	
Log Books	
Supplies	
CDR and Burner (Backup)	\$ 147.66
Gifts	
Dr. Jones' Mug	\$ 42.35
APEG Beersteins	\$ 80.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 4,233.19</b>
<b>Gross Margin</b>	<b>\$ -180.45</b>

## WECC 2002: A Greatly Canadian Experience

Here we were at Regina airport on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002, preparing to step out into frigid, -25°C environment, for the first time. “Why can’t they hold this in Hawaii, for what we pay in airfare?” someone mused. “We won’t be visiting the U of Regina campus anyway.”

If WECC 2002 were held in Hawaii, we would miss out on many of Regina’s finest traditions. As a gathering and competition of undergraduates from the nine Canadian engineering schools west of Ontario, learning about our peers and their homes is definitely part of the WECC experience. For example, Hawaii does not offer Saskatchewan favourites such old-style Pilsner or Bohemian Beers. Also, the great traditional games of Hoe-down would be slightly out of place. Can you imagine animated screams of “Yeee-Ha” or “Pitch-fork” from a bunch of drunken engineers in the tropical breeze of Maui?

As a conference, WECC is very heavy in partying and drinking. What else would you expect from great partying people? However, the elaborate displays of innovation and ingenuity to the public and to our peers are perhaps the most enriching part of the trip. Where else would you get to meet so many talented people of diverse backgrounds and experiences? For me, the aspects of networking, and exchanging of ideas were invaluable. As a bonus, three local news broadcasts, and the local paper covered one or the other of the two projects I was involved in!

The first afternoon after we arrived, we wandered on foot around the hotel, getting a handle on the cold climate. A round of beers, spring rolls and an 18” pizza (!?) warmed us right up. Soon after, the crowd at

the hospitality suite picks up, and Hoe-down naturally began. I learned the ways of the game quickly, after paying my dues with generous gulps of beer. What is Hoe-down, you may ask? The first rule is: You don’t talk about Hoe-down!

Recovering from a slight hang-over, we visit several companies on Thursday. Regina, being a provincial capital, is smaller industry-wise than Saskatoon, but we were treated to informative tours at telephone and power utilities, oil refineries, and fertiliser processing plants. Ukrainian buffet, pool, and disco 5-pin bowling wrapped up the evening in a fine social fashion.

All were hyped for the competitions on Friday at the Saskatchewan Science Centre. I was more relaxed in Corporate Design, being the sole entrant. Entrepreneurial Design was competitive, with impressive projects and lively presentations. Two teams from SFU (Gregory Fung and Ivan Ho; and Ben Lake) came away tied for third place. In Explanatory Communications, Eric Hennessey and Rhiannon Coppin scored silver and bronze respectively, while the versatile Rhiannon also earned third for her editorial on climate change.

The Team Design categories were over represented by UBC, having tortured a whole busload of 40 engineers on a 24-hour one-way commute from Vancouver. The task is to use the allotted materials to meet an engineering objective. Our team of first years (Rob, Ahmed, Jack, and Di) gave valiant efforts and entertained the crowd with a powerful launcher. New this year is the Sr. Team Design category, and several teams came up with balanced and elegant airplanes using mostly

styrofoam plates, skewers and duct tape.

As usual, the Extemporaneous Debate competition drew lively crowds and was extremely entertaining. WECC debaters are creative and adventurous in their definitions, often twisting the proposition into completely different meanings. Many current issues were brought up, along with just for fun topics such as: “Be it resolved that Regina is hell frozen over.”

With competitions mostly over, Friday night introduced us to the local nightlife. Even though Regina is a small city of 200,000, we found *The Warehouse* to be a vibrant, happening hangout of music, pool, and drinking. After being anxious all day Saturday, the formal banquet and presentations revealed the winners. By this point many faces were familiar and all were happy for the winners. SFU was well represented on the podium, although not in the usual dominated fashion. A concert at the campus pub wrapped up the festivities.

As we headed back home, the doubts we had about Regina were all gone. Cheers of “Go Riders!” still rattled in our heads from days of repetition from the hometown students. All had a great time, met new friends, and found new experiences. Saskatchewan hosted us proudly and showed us their unique flavour of Canada. WECC wouldn’t be the same without this vital ingredient.

For photos, visit <http://www.imagestation.com/album/?id=4292077985>

**Gregory Fung**

## International Conference for Women in Engineering and Science

Attending the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference for Women in Engineering and Science (ICWES12) this past July opened my eyes to many of the issues faced by women in science, engineering and mathematics (SEM). As students at

women as well as men. To the contrary, most of the electronic household appliances in use today were designed by men, even though they have been used mainly by women for decades.

Some of the most eye-opening lectures were those given by women

closing ceremonies of ICWES12 and who is senior vice-president of Petro-Canada for western Canada. Moreover, backed by a supportive government, we are fortunate to have positions such as five NSERC chairs for Women in Science and Engineering, all of whom were in attendance at the conference. Hopefully ICWES12 has inspired the African delegates to seek improvement for women entering science and engineering careers in their countries.

Although we have come a long way in achieving equal opportunities for men and women in Canada, the conference pointed out that we still have room for improvement. According to figures given at the conference, currently just over 20% of all students enrolled in undergraduate engineering degrees in Canada are women. As stated several times throughout the conference, the ultimate goal of initiatives such as ICWES12 is to achieve a female critical mass of 35-40% in SEM fields. Once achieved, the issues faced by women in SEM fields will take care of themselves, and all special initiatives can be halted.

SFU, we never feel at a disadvantage because of our sex, but I was surprised to hear conference delegates saying they felt the same way until they entered the workforce. ICWES12 not only showed me many of the issues that I will face as a member of the female minority in engineering, but it also allowed me to meet incredible women from around the world who have been successful in their careers and who now spend much of their time helping other women succeed.

Sue Rosser, a zoologist and sociologist who spoke at the conference, argued that since engineering design has the potential to affect society profoundly, there is a great need for female involvement in engineering research and design. Because our society is comprised of roughly equal numbers of women and men, proper design must involve

from African countries. In Africa, strong social and economic factors contribute to the large separation that still exists between men and women in science and engineering. In many cases, the African women said that they were the only female engineers working in their company. These lectures made me realize that Canada must have had the same atmosphere for women in engineering in the past. I also realized how fortunate we are to have some of the highest corporate positions in Canada held by women such as Kathleen Sendall who spoke at the opening and



**International Conference for Women in Engineering and Science**

In addition to lectures, I attended a student roundtable where women from universities across Canada and the U.S. discussed the various successful and unsuccessful initiatives undertaken by their university's women's organizations. I was keenly interested in hearing about these programs to help female engineering students and to bring home ideas to use at SFU. Examples of initiatives that I learned of included holding lunches for women and inviting a guest-lecturer from industry, holding industry tours for students, providing lab workshops given by upper-year and graduate students, and creating posters and workshops for high school girls to encourage them to consider SEM careers. In the past year, over 20% of the women in my year of study have chosen to leave engineering because they did not see the value of such a strenuous course load. I am hoping that initiatives giving the female students in engineering at

SFU more interaction with professional female engineers will show them the benefits of this career path and increase their desire to stay in engineering despite the sacrifices they will have to make in university. I know that my interactions with the women at ICWES12 have had this effect on me.

ICWES12 was my first conference, and I was very pleased with the feeling of camaraderie that prevailed throughout the four days. Everyone was offering information, advice, and encouragement with no other motive than to help others. For this reason, I encourage all of

my classmates to seek out conferences like this and grab the opportunity to attend them. I know that ICWES12 has given me a greater perspective on SEM fields and the conference's positive atmosphere instilled me with the belief that by helping each other, we can accomplish anything.

**Shirin Farrahi**



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## SFU Surrey vs. SFU EnSc?

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As most of you know, TechBC recently merged with SFU to become SFU Surrey, a satellite campus. What most of you don't know is that during the merging process, SFU's EnSc accreditation status with the CEAB (Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board) was possibly placed at risk. Thanks to the quick response of the EUSS and various individuals, the threat to our accreditation has been subdued.

One might wonder why an engineering program would be so concerned about their accreditation. The thing is, only students who graduate from an accredited engineering program can apply to be an EIT (Engineer in Training), leading to P.Eng (Professional Engineer) status. Without the proper accreditation, SFU graduates will never have the chance to become Professional Engineer and will not be able to work as engineers.

At the School Retreat on May 24, 2002, Dr. Jacques Vaisey reported on the progression of TechBC's Transitional Committees. The EUSS became concerned once it was apparent that TechBC's curriculum would not be fully reviewed by the committees, and that members from non-AppSci Faculties dominated the committees – even though one-half of TechBC's programs were AppSci related.

Research into the CEAB's accreditation canon revealed that any university program teaching engineering content must meet strict content requirements. Although a program's accreditation cannot be examined until it's first class graduates, the EUSS felt that if TechBC would later fail CEAB's requirements it would threaten SFU's EnSc accredited status. Dr. Vaisey and Dr. Jones felt that TechBC's Computer and Communication (C&C) Engineering option would not pass CEAB's accreditation requirements based on the C&C Engineering's course content and depth.

Memorial University (and their fight with APEGN) presents a worst-case scenario of what could happen. Memorial refused to change the name of their "Software Engineering" program. The result was a refusal from CEAB to examine the program, thus Memorial's accreditation expired, and it was several months before the situation was resolved.

In mid-June, the EUSS met with Dr. Jones, Dr. Vaisey and Dr. Saif. They agreed to look at internal channels outside the committees, and the EUSS began researching possible methods of raising awareness without blowing things out of proportion. In early July, Dr. Jones presented Dr. Tom Calvert (Director SFU Surrey) with the EUSS' accreditation concerns; unfortunately his only response was in regard to the Software Engineering option, not the C&C Engineering option.

At the same time the EUSS approached three student senators and requested that they represent the EUSS at the July 8, 2002 Senate meeting. At the Senate meeting, they asked about John Waterhouse's (VP Academic) priorities regarding our accreditation, he assured the EUSS that SFU's EnSc accreditation would not be jeopardized. When the motion to pass SFU Surrey's IT (Information Technology), and IA (Interactive Arts) names came up, Dr. Vaisey raised an amendment to remove "Engineering" from their C&C option title. After some discussion, the amendment and the motion passed – the VP Academic being forced to support the motion. SFU literature is now in the process of being updated and changes will soon be implemented. Even though currently SFU Surrey's C&C option still bears the title "Computer and Communications Engineering" (check the 2002/2003 Calendar on page.20) our accreditation is safe as officially it stands that the title must be changed.

The EUSS feels it is important for EnSc to establish a relationship with SFU Surrey, between both faculty and students, since our programs are similar in some aspects. We understand that they may feel some animosity toward us, as we lobbied to differentiate ourselves from them. The EUSS is currently working on our relationship with SFU Surrey's Student Society, and to make them feel welcome to SFU.

**Gregory Fung & Julie Delisle**



## New Leaf for Redmond

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“We are turning over a new leaf, one where customers get what they want,” Microsoft spokesman Natas Reficul said at a Microsoft press meeting.

The Microsoft logo is displayed in white, italicized, sans-serif font on a solid blue rectangular background.

This meeting served to unveil Microsoft’s new mission statement of industrial fairness and a competitive environment. This meeting marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Microsoft CEO Bill Gates selling his soul to the devil for more market share. He now intends to usher in a “new era of digital enlightenment with no digital restrictions” for the general computing market.

Redmond has certainly turned over a new leaf, considering not long ago they were pushing their new digital rights management system Palladium. “Hopefully we can put that era behind us and get on with what the consumers actually want,” Gates said while chatting up an enthusiastic audience. While announcing the drastic change in corporate philosophy, Gates also unveiled the new technology that had been under development at Redmond for the past several years.

Although Microsoft has only recently entered the hardware market with its XBox and soon to be released Digital Media PC’s, it is nonetheless a quality innovator. Among the displayed inventions were 6-foot wide desktop displays, and seamless wireless integration of portable and desktop devices. The newer hardware that Microsoft is developing is much more compact and less ugly than its XBox, but Bill Gates offered the following reasoning behind the massive design: “It’s true that the XBox is ungainly, but we had to make it that way so that the devil could easily open a portal into your living room.”

When asked if newer Microsoft technologies would incorporate Devil Portal™ technology, Gates indicated that there were no plans to, but there’s a proviso about its inclusion in the new EULAs. Although Microsoft EULAs have come under scrutiny of late, their ace legal team is working on them to make them even longer and more incomprehensible. “We’re thinking of releasing some of the new EULAs in Ancient Greek and Latin, but that’s only a thought right now,” said Microsoft attorney Miles Slugwart.

Microsoft chairman Bill Gates also stated that newer versions of its software would be compatible with certain versions of Linux. “We hope to have full Linux support for our hardware and software by the time our buyouts of RedHat, Debian, Mandrake and SuSE are complete.” Gates did not say whether he intended to modify the operating systems produced by those companies before their next release to make them compliant with various versions of Microsoft software, but he did say that he “hopes to make Linux more friendly to the general user and much larger in size and system requirements.”

Microsoft is hoping it can bundle its new hardware with its new version of Windows, Bloater. The market can look forward to Microsoft Linux, Windows Bloater and a plethora of new desktop hardware by the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2003.



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LIFESTYLES

In Dave Steele's Lifestyles column, we will explore the strange and wonderful world that is (or might be) life as an engineer. Dave will take us on a guided tour of his many foolish misadventures and hopefully leave us with some insight into what not to do in our spare time.

Chapter 1: Coping

I was feelin' a little stressed out for whatever reason, nobody was around, and I was surrounded by a seemingly bottomless collection of masculine toys from computers to video games and ratchet sets to He-man action figures. Itching with the burn of anxiety, I did what any good engineer would do to ease up on the tension: I got drunk and played Duck Hunt.



"Quack Quack... pause... Bang." Sweet glorious satisfaction. Die, duck, die. I am asserting my power over you, electronic duck, as I blast you with my light gun. The world is under my control again.

Duck Hunt, to me, can be very therapeutic. To be honest, I haven't played it in a long time (usually

preferring Dr. Mario to ease my woes), but boy have I been missing out. Although I'm not the type of person who particularly enjoys the thought of killing actual ducks, a little target practice never did anyone any harm.

"Heeheeheeheehee," Fuck you, laughing dog. That's right, go hide in the grass.

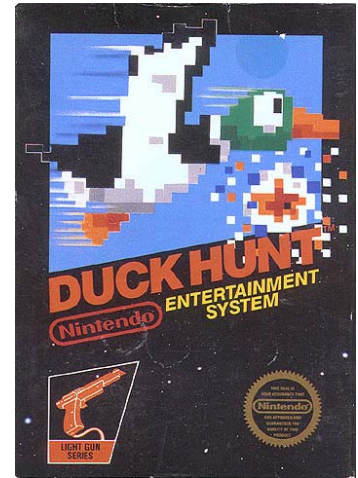
I made up a drinking game about duck hunt. It was a two-player game, but there was only one of me to play. "Oh well," I thought as I broke the rules and drank anyway. The thing about Duck Hunt is that you don't have to think, you just have to shoot. Raise the gun, pull the trigger. That's it. A simple kind of game for a simple kind of man.

"Fly Away". I drink.

Sometimes when I hold my gun, I hold it upright and forward like a cowboy. Other times I hold it sideways like some kind of wannabe homey street-kid. The ducks keep a weary eye on my piece as I slowly raise it and pull the trigger. I'll bust a cap in those fuckers so fast...

"Excellent!" Excited congratulatory notes dance their way through the eight-bit sound port on my two-bit video game system.

What I like most about Duck Hunt is the little tune that it plays when you get a perfect score. I hum it to myself sometimes when I'm feeling happy. I also often find myself humming the little "you found a secret passage" tune from The Legend Of Zelda when



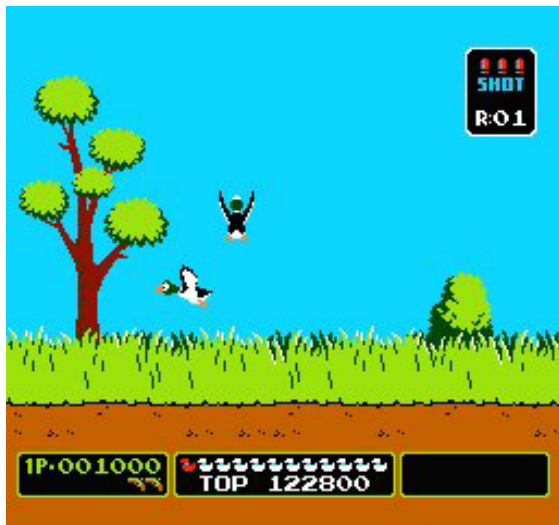
things are generally going my way.

"Bang." I shoot my gun off in the air. I am over confident.

Nothing kills a game faster than cockiness. I like to live dangerously, and sometimes that includes wasting my first shot so that I know I only have two left. Two shots, two ducks: just me, my gun, and a fist full of electronic poultry. Call me a fool, go ahead. I'll bet I get more out of Duck Hunt than you do.

"Game Over." It's late now, so I turn the TV off. Why is the room still spinning? I thought I turned it off. I lie down. I dream of shooting ducks. My mind is at peace now.

Dave Steele



## A Perspective on My Perspective

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Those who know me best understand that when I stare off into space, my mind is thinking either about really weird and random things, or about really prominent and useful things. Walking through the halls, with my eye firmly attached to the floor in front of me, I found my mind starting to wander. I realized that the first thing in my mind when I think of pajamas is flannel *but* the first thing in my mind when I think of flannel is Al Borland from Home Improvement.

In case you are wondering, I did have a strange upbringing.

As I continued to wander the halls of the school which I would spend the next five years in, my mind shifted focus to a more relevant subject: my future. With the recent downturn in the tech sector, I pondered about what I would be doing after I graduated. Sure I would have an Engineering degree, but this is not a case of what I have. Rather this is a case of who would want what I have. In other words, who would hire me? Curious, I set out to find what others had to say.

Enter Ahmad Zavari, a first year student (like myself) and while he does not know what option he will opt for yet, he does have faith that by the time his graduation rolls around, the tech sector (and the job market involved) would have recovered. He cites that there are always “ups and downs in [the] economy” and that the trends in the market are such that nothing is prolonged. He also hopes to find a high-in-demand job. When asked if he wanted job security over job salary he replied positively, then, with a smile he added, “for a few years.” Things got more interesting when asked about flannel. “What the hell is that?” was his response. Classic, genuine, printable.

My next victim was Dave Press, a Fourth Year Engineering Physics student. At first glance, I thought “Score! His graduation is soon, he must be worried.” Alas, my intuition failed me simply because Dave has it all figured out. He has plans on becoming a professor, which means more years of studying after his undergraduate degree (he wants to get a PhD), which also means that the recent ‘dip’ in the engineering job market does not have a great effect on him. When asked about the market’s possible recovery, he shared this insight, “It will recover, but not to the point it was before.” This makes sense. The boom of the late nineties saw the advent of no-name start-up companies whose IPO’s reached exorbitant prices. Now, many of those companies have folded, and those that are left are laden with debt and on the verge of bankruptcy. A prime example is Nortel Networks. They serve as a good barometer of economic trends as it seems that they downsize every fiscal quarter when times are rough and act on a hiring binge when things are good. A definite thoughtful insight, I thought to myself, but so was the next one. “A sheet,” he answered when asked about flannel. Simple, insightful, and definitely printable.

I wandered around the Pit (I do much wandering) before approaching Najla Dadmand, a Third Year Computer Engineering student. When asked about how economic events have affected job opportunities, she zeroed in on co-op, and how there are fewer options available to the co-op students. This also makes logical sense. Jobs are based on the economics of supply and demand, and as of right now, there is very little demand. Even her intuition says, “that it will be hard for the tech sector to overcome” recent events. It may also be that “all the time spent studying... may be worthless” if there is no recovery and the job market stays grim for longer than hoped. I share the same sentiments. The program is nearly five years long and even longer in some cases. All of that work to face a market of unemployment is not anyone’s idea of good fortune. However, when asked about flannel she said nothing, in a sense, anyways. Her response was, “Nothing. I don’t know what it is.” Intuitive and deep, I thought, and definitely printable.

Leaving the Pit, I made my way up a level and found myself at Steve Whitmore’s office. He thinks that the recovery of the tech sector “will take five years – at least” stating the reason for that period is due to “nervous investors” taking their money elsewhere. And who blames them? I sure don’t. Money makes the world go around, and it never seems that one can have enough. So to make an investment on a risky proposition whose upside may not be the same as it would have a few years ago is not financially prudent. I asked Mr. Whitmore what he would give to job seeking co-op candidates and his advice was this, “Find your own work. Try

everywhere... lumber companies [Slocan, etc...], cement companies.” He also stressed the importance of the resume and cover letter, both of which are vital in getting an interview and possibly getting your foot into the door of bigger and better things. He himself has felt a slight crunch. As a technical writer, he has received very few consulting jobs, which is further proof of a small demand in the tech sector. Which leads me to my next point: what would he supply me if I demanded the word flannel. “My cat’s fur is like flannel.” Interesting, unique, and definitely printable.

Riding with my carpool back to my lair in North Vancouver that afternoon, my mind still pondered the same question. Not the one about flannel, but the one about the future. What would I be looking at five-six years down the road? Sure I could continue and ask market analysts, financial advisors and even psychics but no one really knows what the world will be like in the future – not until we get there. And maybe, as an engineer (a crazy one at that), I’ll build some sort of time machine so that when the future becomes the present I can travel into the past in the hopes of saving the world.

Then again, I probably won’t...unless it was made out of flannel... then...maybe...

By: **Leonard Park**

Really.

A First Year ENSC Student *Do you want to voice your perspective?*

who really is not all that *Email them to **enscquire-ensc@sfu.ca***

fascinated about flannel. *with the subject heading*

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following SFU winners of the APEG/BC Hydro scholarship!



Shona Huang, Brandon Ngai, Dave Steele, Troy Tyler

Congrats also to Maria Trinh for earning the Gold Medal for top graduating student from our school. Besides already having her research published on several occasions, her contribution to the EUSS and ENSC-Women groups have been invaluable.

For more information on student programs from the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, please visit <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/maps/scholarships.html>

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## Stereotyping Exists Among Your Own Race

Being raised in a city where there is a thriving Chinatown, one would think that a Chinese person, regardless of where they were born or raised, would not be subjected to stereotyping or prejudice in Chinatown. However, this is not the case as I have found time and time again.

Even though I can speak fluent Cantonese, I am still greeted in English in most, if not all, the Chinese stores in Chinatown. The only ones that speak to me in

Cantonese are those that I frequent.



A common scenario played in a cyclical loop is when I go for dim sum with my mom. I am greeted with a

"Welcome! How many?" while others are greeted with "Gey daw wai?" – "how many" in Cantonese. After I tell them two in Cantonese, they realize I CAN speak "their" language and proceed to show me to a table while asking me what kind of tea I would like.

Then comes the dim sum carts. "Shrimp dumplings, beef balls," in broken, heavily accented English. "What else do you have?" I reply in flawless Cantonese. I am then greeted with a rapid listing of the dozen different dim sum they have sitting on their trolleys. If I could not speak Cantonese, would I have been limited to shrimp dumplings and beef balls? Or would they gesture to me to look at all the selection they have and I point to the ones I fancied?

Either I am greeted in English or they ignore me completely and

just talk to my mom. As soon as I speak up in Cantonese, they sigh in relief, telling my mom that they thought

I was a "tou sang" and a "jook sing" or "heung jien". This is usually followed by my mom proudly saying that I AM a "tou sang", born and raised in Vancouver, that I speak fluent Cantonese, and that I can read and write in addition to Chinese brush painting and playing the guzheng. It is embarrassing at times, especially since Cantonese is a "loud" language, but I smugly let my mom carry on with her bragging; not because I enjoy her listing my non-"tou sang"-like accomplishments to the entire restaurant, but because I think that the stereotype in which "tou sang"s cannot do or say anything Chinese should be refuted.

However, I wonder if they would still treat me like a "tou sang" if I dressed in those "yeah" styles you see most new immigrants in and/or I was a size 0 or 2. Probably not.

A person's appearance is the cause of stereotypes. Their race is usually a determining factor in how you would act towards them. For example, while I was in Japan, white guys tried to pick me up in Japanese or talked about me in English and Japanese guys would talk to me in Japanese, neither of them knowing that I was fluent in English and had less Japanese skills than a child in kindergarten. But then, I assumed non-Japanese guys spoke English and that most Japanese did not speak any English and I was proven wrong time and time again.

How people stereotype me due to



my appearance will be something I will have to endure although I wish it would not be by people of the same race.

Originally written for *Banana Blog: the voice of the jook sing generation* ([www.bananablog.net](http://www.bananablog.net)), a forum to discuss the unique lives of Chinese-Canadians and the social challenges they face as they straddle two different cultures.

### Dictionary:

**Jook sing** – Cantonese for "hollow bamboo".

*It is used by Chinese to describe other Chinese who do not act entirely Chinese or Caucasian. Used interchangeably with heung jiew/ banana by some.*

**Heung jiew** – Cantonese for "banana".

*When applied to the context of a person, it means the person is yellow on the outside (looks Chinese), but white on the inside (acts Caucasian). Used interchangeably with jook sing by some.*

**Tou sang** – Cantonese for "born here".

*It is used to describe Chinese who are not born in Asia (Hong Kong, China, Taiwan). Also known as CBC, Canadian Born Chinese, in Canada. It is assumed by most Chinese that tou sangs are heung jien.*

Stella Li



**Ask Daniel & Cheryl**

**Q1: "How do you get to the top when you are at the bottom?"**

A1: "Take the stairs, not the elevator. Know that it didn't take a split second for you to fall into the pit of the pits so it will take a lot of time for you to climb back up. If you stay focused, you can get to the top with diligence, perseverance and consistency. But if you resort to shortcuts, you are bound to meet distractions along the way and might possibly be diverted into another wrong direction."

**Q2: "My older sister has a serious sleeping disorder. She has tried reading the most boring books to bore herself to sleep! But now she throws tantrums and makes the whole house go to sleep just so she can get complete silence. She would wail and walk around the house opening and closing drawers, closet doors and cabinets. It drives me insane! What can I do to help her? More importantly, what can I do for myself?"**

A2: "First of all, make sure she doesn't start using sleeping pills or she might become dependent of it. You might consider getting her to see a doctor. If not, get her to drink warm milk before heading for bed; this will relax her. Give her a couple more cushions and burn vanilla scented candles or incense. This warm smell will also make her less anxious about sleeping. Get her to wake up at an appropriate fixed time each morning and do a little workout. This will eventually fix her body clock to sleep and wake at a fixed time."

**Q3: I'm an engineering science student. I came into the university by being one of the top students in my high school. Now, because I am not doing as well, I am being looked down upon by some of my peers. Does this mean I am a lot dumber than them?**

A3: First of all, I'm not going to make you feel better by telling you that you are a bright kid. I will, however, tell you that your situation is not an uncommon one. There are many arrogant pricks in engineering science that think they are God's gift to engineering. So what if they can crunch numbers better than you? That doesn't necessarily make you a dumber kid. It just means that you may not be able to absorb the content as quickly as them. It also means that you will have to work harder to understand the material. When you truly look at the big picture, there is more to life than just achieving a high GPA. Perhaps you excel in other areas such as English, and Literature. You're just different from them, not dumber. As far as being looked down upon, just think of it as they have no having self-esteem, and that by looking down on you, it satisfies their low self-confidence. As the old cliché goes, "be the bigger person and walk away" because you should know that you are already above those pricks. I hope that helps you man, and don't think about it too much because when you graduate with those pricks, you'll be just as well educated. Take care.

**Q4: Is it really easier as we progress through the years of engineering science?**

A4: My dear friend, you have been greatly misled. Ha ha ha. To be

honest, the material gets quite a lot tougher, specially when you encounter courses like ENSC380 and ENSC325. The reasons that people say it gets easier are:

1. You get used to staying up late at night, working in the hell hole known as "the pit."
2. You get used to the fact that you are always behind and that catching up is only a dream.
3. You learn to relax more about grades and workload.

By your question, I am assuming that you are early in the program. Don't worry, your first and second years are relaxing. Just try to keep up with your school work as best you can, and really try to have some fun. Other than that, good luck and take it easy.

Got Questions you want to ask Daniel & Cheryl? Drop them off in the ENSC office box with title "Ask Daniel & Cheryl" and look for them in the next issue of ENScquire.

Daniel & Cheryl



## FOOD FAVOURITES

It's a late Sunday afternoon and you had spent your entire weekend buried behind your books. You consider treating yourself to a good meal and you decide not to go for the same old stuff. But you also don't want to shell out too much or go out too far. Sometimes we waste too much time deciding on the right restaurant, but Enquire's here to help out. We now present to you our first food column: we have compiled a list of some of Engineering Science students' favourite restaurants. Read on to see why they are on this list and definitely visit them to have a try yourself.

Julie Chao

<b>KEY:</b>	
Price:	Who to go with:
\$ < 15	P Pals
\$\$ 15-25	F Family
\$\$\$ 25-40	D Date
\$\$\$\$ > 40	

Restaurants:	Cuisine	Ambience	Attire	Price	Take	Specialties/Features
Alboiz 2168 Marine, West Vancouver (604) 925-6066	Persian	Comfortable,	Casual to semi-formal	\$\$	P F D	Eat: Sultani Kabob, KashK Badomjion Drink: Doogh
Anton's 4260 Hastings, Burnaby (604) 299-6636	Italian	Friendly, fun environment	Semi-formal	\$\$	P F D	\$13.95 pasta dishes that leaves you leftovers for another 2 or 3 meals
House of Tofu Soup 4563 North Rd 1, Burnaby (604) 420-5254	Korean	Comfortable	Casual	\$	P F	Big tofu soup bowls starting at \$8.40
Indian Oven 2006 4th Ave West Vancouver, (604) 730-5069	Indian	Comfortable, warm, cozy	Casual	\$\$	P F D	Naan, tandoori, catering: make naan in clay oven right in your home
Japolo 3355 North Rd #218, Burnaby (604) 420-8978	Japanese	Friendly, comfortable	Casual	\$	P F	10% off for SFU students, great lunch boxes
Louheed Wonton Restaurant #110 3495 North Road, Burnaby (604) 421-9191	Chinese	Busy yet quiet	Casual	\$	P F	Dim sum dishes from \$2 to \$3; fried rice/noodles starting at \$5.95
Matsuzushi #204-403 North Road, Coquitlam (604) 931-3713	Japanese	Cafeteria-like, very Japanese	Casual	\$	P	In junction with a mini-mart; \$5.45 tempura udon, \$1 Korroke,
Minoas Greek Tavern 3823 Kingsway, Burnaby (604) 430-2545	Greek	Romantic, set in old mansion	Casual to semi-formal	\$\$	P F D	Great selection of wines, excellent lamb dishes
Rhino's Pub & Grill 541 Clarke, Coquitlam, (604) 937-3488	Pub	Fun, tavern, live music on certain nights	Casual to semi-formal	\$\$	P F D	Wednesdays: 5¢ wings and \$4 Sleeman specials



## High-Tech Stuff Proves Painfully Frustrating

*Reprinted with permission of the Georgia Straight*

Lately I have been modernizing my electrical playthings, getting up-to-date on the technology, and I guess I shouldn't be surprised that Big Mama Thornton and the Pickett-Parham Apollo Syncopators sound about the same in stereo as they do in mono. What does surprise me is that modern appliance design seems to be dominated by people with a deep and abiding hatred of the human race upon which they are bent on wreaking a lasting and painful revenge.

I got my first warning of this a few years back when a roommate purchased a cordless telephone. One time while I was using it, I tucked it into my shoulder while reaching for pen and paper. The line disconnected, because the switch was precisely placed so that your cheekbone would depress it if you placed the receiver against your face with more than a couple of grams of pressure. Somewhere, not long ago, one or more designers looked at what they had created and started laughing, then laughed even harder when they decided not to trash it but instead to send it on to production. I imagine that every night they chuckle themselves to sleep as they think of how many people at that very minute are staring at their silent phones, stupefied.

Some improvements on past designs are not so funny. Contemplate for a moment the lowly light switch. If you have ever lived in a house or apartment built with light fixtures more than 50 years old, it's no surprise if you cannot remember ever flicking a switch and it did not work (as opposed to the bulb being burned out). We expect toggle switches to work, even those a half-century old, because they always do,

always have, and it seems they always will.

Now look at the sound system, VCR, television, or computer made five to 15 years ago, with its sleek, stylish, easy-touch, spring-loaded electrical switches. If you have lost your remote, or in the case of the computer boot it up on a regular basis, you can no doubt point to at least one jammed or broken switch. At the now-gone Vancouver Press Club, the 1990s-manufactured television was turned on and off and the volume adjusted with expertly wielded pens, while at my current watering hole they use chopsticks on a similar model.

It is not as though this is fresh news. A decade ago, the empirical evidence was overwhelming that spring-loaded electrical switches do not work very well to begin with—have you ever pressed a switch, then had to press it again a moment later?—and they utterly fail or break within months of the warranty expiring. A subtle and psychologically frustrating feature of the spring-loaded switch is that in the case of slow-acting electronic appliances, like computers, printers, photocopiers, et cetera, one is left in doubt for a time about whether the switch failed to connect or the microchips are cranky and having trouble waking up. Usually, after half a minute or so you press the switch one more time, and a few seconds later curse the machine for turning on and then instantly turning off again.

Now, if engineers build a bridge and it falls down, they alter the design and see how much traffic the new version will bear. If a toy for children tends to burst into flames when the batteries are inserted, engineers will go back to the drawing board and reduce the problem to poisonous fumes. But it is now going

on two decades that everyone in the world has been aware that spring-loaded switches are a regressive, unreliable substitute for the toggle switches they replaced, yet engineers continue to insist on incorporating them into the design of electronic appliances, as if some central Soviet presidium were insisting on it for ideological reasons.

Sadism? Or stupidity?

The new stereo from my recent buying spree has been set on a towel, and not because it brings a certain roundness to the upper-register notes. Things like stereo cabinets used to have short, hard-rubber projections or legs so that they would sit level on a flat surface. Even if the demise of the turntable as a mass consumer item has made exact levelling unnecessary, I would think that a flat bottom would be considered simplest and most convenient. The designer thought differently, and so without the towel, the stereo slides and twists when you push the buttons on the cassette player.

My VCR also has the dished-bottom problem, skidding off the television like a frozen hockey puck when you try to put a cassette in, and not having a lot of excess towels, I have resorted to weighing it down with a metre high, five-kilogram lamp that is just enough to hold the VCR in place without buckling the cabinet. When in my youth I looked



forward to the high-tech world of the 21st century, it never occurred to me that old towels and clunky lamps would be necessary to enjoy it.

The cabinet of the computer I use at work was designed by someone who thinks other human beings should be pinned to huge soda crackers with giant splintery toothpicks. The disk slot has an inviting depression that seems to say, "If you use your finger to push the disk this far, it will engage." But if you do, the disk pops back out. Before the disk will drop into place, you have to jam your finger right into the slot until the plastic edges give it a short, sharp pinch. Somewhere the designers and perpetrators of this petty trick are getting a weird sort of warm glow when they call to mind that all over the world, every minute of every day, hundreds of people of all races,

creeds, nationalities, and walks of life are muttering, "Ow! Dammit!"

Mere incompetence and shoddiness cannot explain all of this. It has to be a deliberate expression of deeply felt contempt for consumers. There is no solution to this problem that I can think of, though I offer myself the consolation that those feelings of hatred toward me are at least sublimated into relatively harmless practical jokes. These misanthropes might instead become serial killers or espouse extreme political causes, and I try not to wonder whether or not they already have. What does disturb me is the possibility that a lot of them are automobile designers and traffic engineers. It would explain a lot of things. •

Verne McDonald

Illustration by Rob Filbrandt

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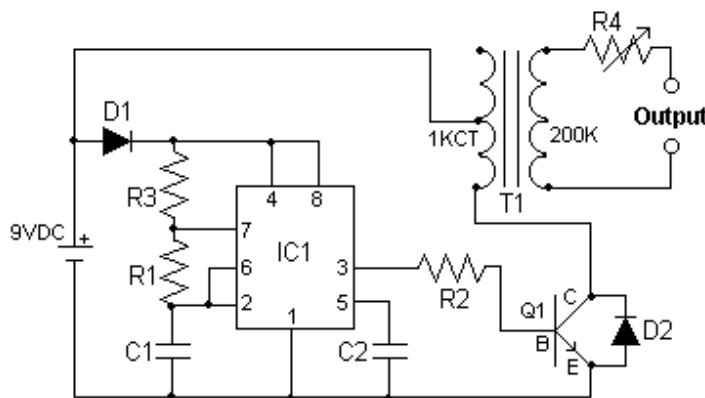
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## Stella Li's Do it Yourself

### Black Box

Ever wonder what you could do with all those electronic engineering skills you've acquired over the years?? Well, analyze this:



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#### Parts:

R1,R2: 1K  
R3: 47K  
R4: 1M Variable (optional)  
C1: 0.1 or 0.47  $\mu$ F  
C2: 0.01  $\mu$ F  
D1: 914 or INJ4148  
D2: 1N4005  
Q1: TIP 31  
IC1: 555  
T1: Miniature Audio Transformer  
200K to 1K CT INPUT

Submitted by T<sup>2</sup>.

*\* For educational purposes only. The Enquire assumes no responsibility for what you do with this knowledge.*

## When Pumpkins Invade...

Fall has arrived... and along with colder weather and colour-changing leaves, pumpkins invade our homes and supermarkets in forms of jack-o-lanterns and cheap squash.

Here's an easy (and delicious) way to get rid of those pesky jack-o-lanterns before they turn into an oozing lump of compost on your front porch...

(For those who want to attempt baking pumpkin pie without the fuss or hassle of collecting all those ingredients, might I suggest a frozen pie shell and a can of E.D. Smith's Pumpkin Pie Filling (Ko).

And for those who have been banned from their kitchen by the fire department, might I suggest a quick trip down to the local Safeway/Save On Foods to pick up one of their fresh pumpkin pies. Been there, done that. ;) Just pop the pie in the oven for a few minutes before serving and voila! A warm pie, "fresh" from the oven. Just make sure you discard the evidence.)

### Pumpkin Pie

Ingredients:

Filling: (All Recipes)

4 cups	fresh pumpkin, cooked and mashed**
1 can (14 ounce)	sweetened condensed milk
2	eggs
1 teaspoon	ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon	ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon	ground nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon	salt

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C.)
2. In a large bowl, combine pumpkin puree, sweetened condensed milk and eggs. Add cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and salt. Mix together with a wire whisk until thoroughly blended. Pour filling into unbaked pie crust.
3. Bake in preheated oven for 15 minutes. Reduce the heat to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) and bake another 35 to 40 minutes or until a knife inserted comes out clean.

#### \*\* Pumpkin Puree:

Bake cut pumpkin for about an hour or until soft. Scrape flesh off skin and mash or puree in a food processor.

### Pastry: (Ko)

2 cups	plain (all-purpose) flour
125g (4 oz)	cold butter, chopped
	iced water

1. Place the flour and butter into a food processor and process until the mixture has formed rough crumbs. (Do not over process as the dough will become too sticky.)
2. While motor is running, add enough iced water to form a soft dough. Remove from the food processor and knead lightly. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes before rolling to prevent the pastry from shrinking when baked.
3. Roll out pastry on a lightly floured surface or on a sheet of non-stick baking paper until 2-3mm (1/8 inch) thick. Line the desired tin/tins with pastry, easing it into the shell without stretching it. Chill pastry in tin for 5 minutes.

### Directions for baking the shell: (not used in this recipe)

1. Blind bake the pastry by pricking the base and sides of the pastry with a fork. Cover with a sheet of non-stick baking paper and fill the tin with baking weights or dried beans or rice. Bake the pastry case in preheated 190 degrees C (375 degrees F) oven for 5 minutes. Remove weights and paper, and return pastry to the oven for another 5 minutes or until light gold in colour.

If using the pastry within 3 days, store the cooked shell in an airtight container. To keep the pastry shell for longer, wrap in plastic wrap and freeze for up to 3 months. Thaw and re crisp the pastry in a 180 degrees C (350 degrees F) oven for 3-5 minutes before using.



#### Sources:

Ko, Naomi. Pumpkin Pie. Via email.

Paula. Creamy Pumpkin Pie. *All Recipes*.  
<http://pie.allrecipes.com/az/CrmyPmpkinPi.asp>

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