When the going get’s tough...
...your ESS is here to save you...

KEGGER!
If you didn’t get the memo, or didn’t read that Fishwrap that was made of air before reading break, you probably didn’t know there was a kegger held at a lovely location beside the University. Three, count ‘em three aluminum pressure vessels filled with more hops than usual were consumed and slightly abused. It was one of those nights that set reading break in motion. You know, those days the University gives us for studying and getting ahead in school, which, always happens with me. Heck, I finished one of my term projects by Monday! pffff... I wish... next reading break will be different I swear.

If you didn’t make the kegger, then go where no man has gone before, and embark on the Bar Trek. For those that don’t know, that’s Spock and Captain James T Kirk drunk as skunks in the picture above. You will be in a similar state on July 10th. Cost is $20 and endless memories of trekking across the Victoria bar scene, the final frontier.

Looking for something more productive to do in class than Facebook? Take note of the funny quotes your profs rattle off in class and send them in to essa-com@engr.uvic.ca. Here are the latest contributions:

“Jesus Christ! That’s the value we want!” Dr. Lu in ELEC403
“In the lab, your hands will shake because you won’t know when the fire will come out.” - Dr. Bhat in ELEC410
“This is like prison, I’m going to stand behind you so no one shanks me.” - Dr. Gebalie in CENG 241
Buckham vs. Sinton
Let’s be frank. Dr. Buckham and Dr. Sinton have one major thing in common. No, it’s not that they like to dish out hard work and laugh as we all suffer. And it isn’t the fact that they both have glasses, nor the fact that they are both extremely coherent and enjoyable lecturers... what is it then? Well, I found the answer to this question last week when I was making my regular visit to Nibbles and Bytes. Dr. Buckham and Dr. Sinton are both drop-dead gorgeous. Seriously, they are ridiculously good-looking and it is so hard to concentrate when I am in their lectures. Their smug smiles are irresistible and the way their hair is styled each morning is like a million dollars. :)

Nibbles and Bytes
Back in my day, pizza slices were a flat $3. Now they are something outrageous like $3.50. I also have to pay for the fork or spoon I get unless the food I buy requires one of those utensils. Seriously, if I buy one of those four thousand calorie brownies, I HAVE to eat with my hands. I don’t get a complimentary fork to eat it with. Unbelievable. In case you haven’t noticed, the cutlery is now made from wood. Notwithstanding, I took one for my soup. To my dissatisfaction, the spoon undergoes thermal deformation upon use and the carrying capacity of the spoon is decreased significantly. Pretty pathetic engineering right there. Bring your own metal spoon to school.

You Stupid Idiot
Here’s something I learned during job training at a coop job. You can legitimately call someone ‘stupid’ or ‘idiot’ and it is entirely and politically correct. Seriously, if someone did something wrong on the job, you can walk up to them and call them an idiot. No one, not even their union can do anything because you weren’t racist, you weren’t mocking them because of a physical condition, and you weren’t implying that they had a mental condition. I can’t explain the satisfaction I felt dropping an I-bomb when that one guy decided to take his hard hat off when we were lifting a 30 tonne engine across a ship deck. Seriously, that guy was STUPID! So next time you’re out on the worksite and a welder is beaking at you, call him or her a stupid idiot. And you will get away with it. But take care, once you drop words like ‘dumb’ or ‘retard’ or such colourful words that rhyme with cluck and bunt, then you are in some deep, deep trouble. Oh and forgot calling someone a liar. There are people out there who cannot help but tell lies. It’s an actual mental condition. Seriously.

Thinking they were opening the door to their "philosophy of being a burden on society" class, the art student unknowingly stumbled upon a MECH 220 lecture...
Parking After-Hours: A Money-grab

In 2008 The University of Victoria decided to enforce 24 hour pay parking, Monday - Saturday. While the motivation was noble, the bureaucrats in the University Center who never work a wink past 4 o’clock failed to realize how stupid this made them look.

There is an issue with day time parking at the University of Victoria, and we are in the midst of a heated debate about climate change. I think it’s not stretch of the imagination to understand why parking needs to be more tightly controlled during the day. What the expensive educations of the stiff suited, white collared, administrators failed to show was the application of pay parking after classes have ended.

Ask yourself, who on their own accord comes to the school after classes are done? UVic parades itself as a revolutionary mover on behalf of climate change, and I won’t dispute that it has done a great job of being just this, unfortunately it has fallen flat in the way of being an educational institution. It has fallen flat in more ways than one, but one of these reason, a reason constantly grunted about in the Mech Design Lab at late hours, is parking. The reality is that those students coming to the school at late hours are coming to learn. The University of Victoria is impeding this learning by asking students to either pay for parking or deal with a less-than-stellar Victoria Bus System.

I fail to understand why students, who are coming to the school to learn and think, are forced to pay to do so, when traffic and parking are no issue after 6 pm. If the University might be able to provide more insight to this rather than just filling their pockets, I would be impressed.

In the News

Have you read about what North Korea is doing these days? Oh yeah, no big deal, just threatening the entire world with war and destruction if anyone tries to do anything to stop their nuclear ambitions. Yeah no big deal, they just told the wimpy United States of America that they would erase them from the world “once and for all” if they intervened. Pretty ballsy eh?

Now I typically like to take this kind of stuff with a grain of salt. Really, what on earth are they thinking? I know what’s going on. The USA made that all up. How else would the garner support for their cause? It’s all a conspiracy... It still hasn’t even been proven that North Korea has the capability of mounting nuclear material onto a warhead carrying rocket. You would think that a tremendous threat as stated above would have come along with a big show of such force. Yeah...

So ask yourself this. Would you just leave North Korea alone? Or would you intervene and try to stop them from producing... whatever it is that they are accused of producing? What would happen if the entire world just left them alone and conducted business as usual? Condemning their actions is a hollow threat and sending out warships to ‘monitor’ domestic shipping is irritating and a blatant act of pre-war tactics.

I like looking at it this way. If you irritate your body-builder friend, he will obviously flex his muscles at you. If you don’t notice him. He will sit alone quietly and flex his muscles at himself.

Thoughts anyone?

RABBITS, BUNNIES, FURRY UVIC NATIVES...

Okay yeah sure... you’ve all seen the rabbits, and it comes to no suprise when you see one, or two, or fifty, or even two humping each other. Right. Big Deal. WELL, about a month ago, I was happily riding my bicycle along near the centre cafe with jolly thoughts of school lingering in my brain when, from out of a rabbit hole, two rabbits, one dirty grey and the other brown, ran out in front of me. I had no time to react. The dirty grey rabbit then decided it would be a good idea to continue his collision course with my front tire. The unthinkable ensued and I ran the damn thing over. Being a guy who weighs in at a very lean 200 pounds, I knew this rabbit was KIA. Like, out for good, ten bonus pounts. It didn’t help that there was about thirty students in the immediate vicinity. They clearly saw what happened. I didn’t look back and merrily continued on my way.

About 3-4 business days later, I was riding along (constipated by a midterm) and I saw this dirty grey rabbit chillin’. When I got closer, I noticed what looked like a BRAIN on the back of it’s neck. The rabbit looked at me with sterness in it’s eyes and was probably thinking, “if I didn’t have this massive cyst of puss and blood on my neck I acquired after you ran me the **** over, I’d chase you down, bite your toes off, and knaw on your knee-caps.”

I quickened my tempo and rode to my midterm and tried hard to forget about those piercing rabbit eyes. For the next couple weeks, every time I rode past ‘his’ spot, he just stared. The rest of the rabbits in his area just munched on grass taking no notice. But he just stared me down. The nightmares are just starting to go away now...

If you take away anything from this anecdote, let it be this:

Ride carefully, and if you do hit a rabbit, turn around, and make sure to finish it off. Lesson learned.
Engineering Safari - Episode I

G'day mates, an' welcome t' tha first eva episode of Campus Safari! T'day we'll be observin' the elusive an' mysterious engineer in its natural 'abitat. Blimey, I 'ope you're all as excited as I am!

An inigma of nature, tha engineer only requires an astonishing five hours of sleep per day! 'Aving a strong aversion t' sunlight, groups of engineers, or "streams," will congregate indoors to protect their pale skin from harmful UV rays! This may make spottin' one a tad difficult!

Crikey, 'ere comes one now! This is a real spot o' luck this is, but we must be cautious. Engineers frighten easily and aren't accustomed to human contact; the presence of a non-engineer may be enough to throw tha little fella into a tizzy!

Oh didgeridoo, he's spotted us! Lucky for me I brought along a frosty adult beverage for just this situation.

'Ere ya go little fella! Ya see, engineers are known to drink copiously regardless of the time or place to try and escape form their 'orrible, 'orrible lives. That's it, drink up ya poor bastard.

Well, it's best we be gettin' a move on before more engineers spot this little transaction or we'll have a full blown kegger on our hands, we will! Until next time, I'm Some Australian Guy and this has been Campus Safari!
Monday, July 6th, 2009

Bar Trek

In case you missed that little note of the first page, here’s some extra information for you. The Bar Trek will commence at 4:30pm at your local Felicita’s THIS FRIDAY!! Don’t miss out, some of my fondness memories of clubbing are with these pubcrawls. Seriously, first time I hit the bar scene here in Victoria was way back in the stone ages of Legends and Diegos, and I had barely even discovered what “drinking to excess” was. Rest assured, by the time I had hit Lucky Bar, Tequila shots actually tasted good and $5.75 was ‘cheap’ but $1.50 service charge at the ATM was a complete rip-off. Good memories there.

Back on topic, the crawlin’ will start at Felicita’s; at some point, the usual stop at Soprano’s will be made to exercise the vocal cords while we still have them; and somehow everything will climax at Plan-B. A couple other clubs will fit in between.

For tickets, march yourself into the ESS office and badger an Exec member. Don’t forget your twenty bones.

Food for Thought

How would you measure the surface area of a human? Why, on earth, someone would want to do that is beyond me but think about it. Something engineering has taught us very well is how to approach a problem such as this. So if you think you have the answer, bring on over a case of beer, and let us talk.

Transformers

If you haven’t seen it, skip class, and go. As an engineer, you should be obligated to go watch this. I shouldn’t have to describe the amazingness of the special effects of this movie. I would venture to guess that probably somewhere in there, a coop student helped do some of the stunt design. One can only dream.

Tofino Recap

On a wonderful Friday night 10 ‘geers ventured up towards the Pacific Rim National Park. The Engineering Surf Trip, which unfortunately coincided with deadlines for assignments, project and midterms, was still a great success. The swell was great, and getting destroyed repeatedly by crashing waves is humbling. Campfire stories were many, and sleeping on the ground makes one appreciate the comfort of their own bed. This trip was a reminder for those who went, how awesome a sport surfing is and how easily we could throw our expensive educations away to sit amongst the waves.

Foosball Raffle

Attention Foosballers: You know who you are. The table in the ESS will soon be no more. On July 24th, the table that many of you spend your life on, will be raffled off so we can get a new one.

$5 gets you 7 raffle tickets while $10 gets you a whoppin’ 20 tickets.

Date of the Raffle: Friday July 24th (second last Friday of school)

Buy tickets online or in ESS office.

 transformers

If you haven’t seen it, skip class, and go. As an engineer, you should be obligated to go watch this. I shouldn’t have to describe the amazingness of the special effects of this movie. I would venture to guess that probably somewhere in there, a coop student helped do some of the stunt design. One can only dream!
A long time ago, universities and government joined forces to subsidize the cost of post secondary education. They did this because it was strategic; universities could offer a more affordable education and the government had a more educated population. As time went by, the cost of a university education rose drastically and eventually, the government could no longer support universities in the way it had previously done. When students had to begin covering the difference in the quickly escalating cost of their education they began to whine, complain and protest. Enter present day.

Like everyone else at this institution, I value the education I’m receiving. I value it because at the end of the day it makes me a smarter, more valuable, and a better individual. Getting education is about me, just like it’s about you. Neither of us are here for anyone but ourselves. Despite this, many students have convinced themselves, because they managed their way into University, they have the inherent right to a free education.

If I asked you, as you read this article, if you support lower tuition, what exactly are you supporting? Most students who argue the case of lower tuition do not understand what they are asking. When a student pickets the government on behalf of lower tuition, they are in fact asking for a larger government subsidy into their education.

Do you know what your education really costs? I doubt you do. The reality is most students don’t. The government very heavily subsidizes a university education. When students protest the case of lowering tuition they are in fact asking for a larger government subsidy into their education.

For me, however, what I find to be most comical, is that students have the nerve to protest without looking at the facts. A course, say Mech 141 or CSC349A or Elec 250, costs $1631 per student for the University to run. If there’s 60 people in a class this equates to approximately $100,000 to run a course. The question is why does it cost so much for the University to run a course?

The answer is simple, bureaucracy. What I find ironic, as I mentioned, is how short sighted students are in their protests. Students protest on the lawns of the Legislature and Parliament, trying to draw dollars out of the lint-filled pockets of the government, all the meanwhile they could’ve stayed at home. I’m in my fourth year of a degree whose basis is problem solving. I shake my head at all the students who missed the problem entirely. The problem isn’t that the government is under-funding post secondary education, the problem is that post secondary institutions are incredibly inefficient.

If students really cared about the cost of their education they would march to the President’s office and begin to demand to see the institution’s financial breakdowns. They would request the unions’ workers that change locks for $150 a pop be paid less. They would request that the high school drop out dishwashing being paid $14/hr be paid the industry standard $10/hr. They would request that the nine coop coordinators be turned into three. Before we stipulate that taxpayers in this country pay more for an education they are not taking, we should first insist on reform from within the institution. University students are like kids who can’t budget their allowance properly and yet still ask daddy for more money when they run out.

If you pay $6,200 in tuition, the government covers the other $12,400. Do you still feel like complaining about the cost of your education? The results are in and it could get a lot worse. The Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Development allocates 2.3 billion dollars per year of taxpayers’ dollars to distribute to universities and colleges.
Over the past year and a half I’ve had the privilege to serve as the President of the Engineering Students’ Society. During this time I’ve learned a lot about people and even more about myself. Even though my term is not done, I’ve already begun to pass on a lot of the leadership responsibilities to some of the younger members of the council and my involvement is very rapidly decreasing. I have begun to focus more on my studies which have been neglected since my 2A term.

Through this and several pieces to follow, I hope to pass on some wisdom, some insight and some novelty about what its like to be el-Presidente of the ESS. I hope this series is as unbiased as I can possibly make it, though I’m not going to make any promises because everybody’s got an agenda. This series may come across as arrogant in its honesty, for which I’m sorry, as that is not my aim.

To begin I have to reach way back in the memory stores to my 2A term. Young, naïve, I stepped up to the role of Director of Corporate Relations. I was happy to be part of the ESS, and rumour has it I was the first person to actually do anything with the position of Dir. Corp in some time. As a team, the ESS saved Bug Push, ran a wicked set of events, with some failures, and just generally had a great time. Unfortunately the semester took its toll on my grades, as I began a habit that has stuck with me until recently, putting the ESS before school. In retrospect I don’t really regret this, after all there are several A Grade students in every year, and there’s several ESS members. Each of these is no more exclusive than the other, and work similarly hard, though they offer different skills. Over the next few semesters I managed to pull up my GPA to a reasonable level, though never to a level I believe I am capable of achieving.

The first thing I learned was not to take things personally. As a member of the ESS you invest a lot of time and effort into the things you do. Needless to say, when you meet failure its hard to take, and its hard not to take it personally. My first failures I took personally. Students are busy, and even though you invest your heart and soul into organizing an event or advocating on their behalf, they will always put themselves first. After my first failure I had to figure why I was involved in the ESS. And so comes the most offensive of my submissions, I was not involved for the good of the common student. While it would be very noble for me to say this was why I was involved, it wasn’t.

Seeing the smiles and satisfaction on the faces of students when you’ve done something for them or on their behalf is still incredibly pleasing, but it is not the fuel on which I was driven. It is hard to lay down your blood, sweat and tears for the same people who serve only their own interest.

While most students parade behind the notion of too much schoolwork or preoccupation with other tasks, the reality is most students could easily support you with just a little reorganization of their schedules, but they don’t, they can’t be bothered. Realistically one can’t hold this against students, in our capitalist society we live to support ourselves and our own interests. Most students won’t lift a finger if it doesn’t benefit them in some way. Even when it does, they have to be convinced; we are so apathetic and self-centered as a generation that thinking about consequences has become a chore. I can count on one hand the number of students who are so genuinely kind that they will do whatever it takes to support your cause. Very quickly you find out who your true friends are.

Instead my relationship with the ESS was one that was mutually beneficial. I was involved because I liked working with the ESS team, organizing events purely to organize events, facilitating a change on behalf of students, more to see that I could produce results than for students. I fully admit that I like the notion of being a representative of the students; I like that profs. recognize and address me by my first name in the hallway. In fact, I believe that in my time as ESS President I was able to change the way the ESS was seen. I believe I changed the minds of Faculty so that they now see the ESS as a representative group of the students, not simply a party machine. This is what I set out to do, and this is what I accomplished. My relationship was mutually beneficial because I was involved in the ESS for my own reasons, but at the same time I believe that my work was beneficial for the student body.

This is the end of my first entry, I’ll be back with more insight, and more positive insight in future ‘Wraps.

-Sean

Editor’s note - Your eyes don’t deceive you, your president is also a closet pro-cyclist.
Editorial
I have to apologize for my lack of Fishwrapping in the last few weeks. I had a bad case of the midterms and assignments up the whazoo... but wait, you all did too so I shouldn’t be complaining of that. In any case, hopefully you enjoyed this little number. There’ll be at least two more Fishwraps to look forward to in the final month of school.

Just as an aside for you mechies, start getting excited about Mech 400. We are having a blast on this project. It’s hard and takes a considerable amount of thinking but it really shows you what you’ve learned in the years you’ve been at school. When you get to this class, try to imagine what it would have been like to attack a design problem when you were fresh from high school. I just looked at a lab report I did for CHEM 150. Let’s just say that I’ve come a very long way in how I present technical documents. Apparently in first year, a single sided, one page lab report was acceptable. Now anything less than 20 pages is laughable.

Those were the days...

Fergus

WHAT GOT DONE THESE PAST FEW WEEKS
- BI-PARTISAN GARDENING GOT DONE
- A NEW PLANT MYSTERIOUSLY APPEARED IN THE OFFICE
- PUB CRAWL WAS PLANNED
- MERCHANDISE WAS ORDERED
- SLURPEES HAVE BEEN FLOWING VERY WELL
- MIDTERMS SLAUGHTERED US ALL
- LAB REPORTS SLAUGHTERED US ALL
- THE OCCASIONAL ASSIGNMENT CREPT UP BEHIND
- THE ORIGINS BEHIND SNARF WERE REVEALED
- SEAN FINALLY REALIZED HOW LONG CHICKEN FINGERS ACTUALLY TAKE TO BAKE IN AN OVEN
- DAYDREAMING OF HOW AWESOME THE SECOND HALF OF AUGUST WILL BE
- OH YEAH, FOUR WEEKS LEFT OF SCHOOL NO BIG DEAL...

SUDOKU

If you’d like to add something to the Fishwrap, or submit something utterly ridiculous, or even have your own column for complaining or ranting, hunt me down in the ESS or email at essa-com@engr.uvic.ca. Also, if you have any questions, complaints, or comments regarding Fishwrap content, keep it to yourself because I don’t want to hear it.

Of course I’m kidding... (or am I?) Seriously, try it, send me in something. You’ll see what happens...

FergusFergFergFerg
Seeniebabywalshie
Flashymcgordony