

SORRY PAL—IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY

(A Tribute to Rich Felder's Random Thoughts)



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With Rich moving onward from his seminal column, I offer a humble tribute to one of my favorites: "Sorry Pal—It Doesn't Work That Way," originally appearing in CEE, 26(4), 175 (Fall 1992).

Dr. Cooper, I have missed the past 3 classes (1 to study for a midterm, 1 because my alarm didn't go off, and 1 because I didn't get out of bed. I'm not much of a morning person). Is there any way you can send me scanned copies of the lecture notes and hopefully videos of the lectures for these 3 dates?

Dr. Cooper, myself and my thermodynamics group were wondering if you were available sometime tomorrow to supervise an experiment we need to do for our class. We were wondering if we could use your lab, and if there was any way you could get some strong acid. If you are unable to do this we understand, but would greatly appreciate if you could.

Dear Dr. Cooper, I was wondering if it would be at all possible to get additional points on my final exam with consideration for the cheerful attitude and style that I have brought to your class. Thank you for being such a wonderful professor in this course, you're definitely the best teacher I've ever had. With undying respect, gratitude, and admiration, Alvin Wimbish

Dr. Cooper, my group and I hereby attach our laboratory report. We have submitted it to you a day early so that you can give us feedback on what we can improve before we submit it to you tomorrow afternoon for a grade. We don't have much time to make any edits you suggest, so be sure to return your review to us by 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Professor Cooper, on behalf of the organizing committee I am excited to invite you as Keynote Speaker for the annual Conference of the Moon! This conference will take place June 14-19 in the beautiful Capella Valley nestled on the banks of the Sea of Tranquility on the Moon. If you are able to join us, please reply with (1) tentative title of your talk, (2) your social security number, (3) your credit card number (including the 3-digit code on the back), and (4) the password to your wireless router. Sincerely yours,
The President of the Moon

Dr. Cooper, I know today is the second day of Spring classes and my enrollment period opened this past October, but I have to take your Pretentious Fluid Mechanics class to graduate and it appears the class is full. I trust in the competency of the ChE department as well as yourself and assume something is already being done to remedy this situation. Please confirm you have a plan in place for me.

From: CEE Editorial Board

To: Rich Felder

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Rich, we would like for you to commit to writing a column in every issue of *CEE* from this point through Spring 2017. Yes, this is almost 30 years. Unfortunately we will be unable to pay you. However, rest assured that your column will be the first thing every ChE faculty member will read when opening a new issue of *CEE*, and that the topics you discuss will become water-cooler talk in ChE departments all over the world. Don't worry, though—you don't have to be funny. □