

The rankings just came out, and to no one's surprise, Notre Dame is mediocre. Where is that school even located? All I know is that it isn't in the Silicon Valley. It's not even in Cambridge. They are a liberal arts and business school. We didn't even know that they had a computer science department. All of their kids get average consulting jobs in Chicago. No one works for the elite companies in the Bay Area. Why would anyone go there to study computer science? What are they thinking?

But did you, in your (insert Facebook, Google, or Apple) monotone t-shirt sitting in a coffee shop in Palo Alto sipping your cold pressed coffee, ever take a look behind the eyes of a Notre Dame CS student? Did you ever wonder what made him/her choose Notre Dame, what he has learned in his education, what motivates him/her?

I am a Notre Dame CS student, enter my world..

Mine is a world that begins with Intro to Engineering...I'm smarter than all of the other engineers, this crap they teach us about building towers bores me..

Damn overachiever. Go study business like the rest of us. They're all alike.

I'm going through my freshman year. I've listened to my physics professor explain for the fifteenth time Newton's Second Law of Motion, that $F = ma$. I get it. "No, Professor Livingston, I didn't show my work. I did it on my computer.."

Damn CS student. Probably got his answers from a MechE. They're all alike.

I made a discovery today. I met Professor Thain. Wait a second, this is cool. I can make fractals appear. What even is this "pointer" thing? I'm curious and engaged in class. Not because I have to be..

Or because I want a good grade..

Or because my parents are forcing me..

Or because I want to fit in..

Damn kid. All he does is play games on his computer. They're all alike.

And then it happened...a door opened to a world...rushing through my body like a Shakespeare play through a PLS major's veins, a bright screen showing the game Othello, a board with the word *int* everywhere...a love is born.

"This is it...this is where I belong.."

I know everyone here...even if I only saw them at Domerfest, never talked to them, may never hear from them again...I know you all...

Damn kid. Taking every computer in the Engineering Library. They're all alike...

You bet your ass we're all alike...we've been spoon-fed integrals at school when we hungered for the pumping lemma...the logic that you did let slip through in math class was basic. We've been dominated by business students, or ignored by the College of Engineering. Chen and Ramzi, who actually had something to teach us, found us willing pupils, but those few are like underage kids at Finni's.

This is our world now...the world of hackathons and late nights in Fitz, the community that we have created. We feel comfortable in the friendly confines of 126 and 129 Debartolo. It's where we have finally been challenged and where we stand together to meet that challenge. We code...and Mendoza calls us losers. We solve real problems...and Mendoza calls us losers. We know more than Visual Basic and MATLAB...and Mendoza calls us losers. You learn how to read financial statements, you try to suck up to everyone at Goldman Sachs, you brag about your ragers, you don't go to class on Friday, and you do it all for the money and try to make us believe that you are going to truly change the world, yet we're the losers.

Yes, I am a loser. My unpopularity is that of a genuine desire to build things that make people's lives better. My unpopularity is that of desiring to learn new things, not keep the status quo. My unpopularity is that of outworking you, something that you will never understand.

I am an ND CS student, and this is my manifesto. You may stop this individual, but you can't stop us all...after all, we're all alike.