Begin feeling

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A few years ago, the gas station near Microsoft's main campus (the one which had been <u>run by my colleague</u> in a previous stage of his career) appeared to have suffered some problems with the LCD unit on one of its pumps. Instead of "Please insert card", it said "<u>@leace incebd cabd</u>". As a geek, I quickly determined that bit 4 got wiped out in the ASCII codes for the characters in the message. Undaunted, I set about going through the usual steps for purchasing gasoline, though it took a little longer than normal because I first had to decode the corrupted strings. And then after I thought I had finished all the necessary preliminaries, the panel said, "Begin Feeling".

Raymond Chen

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