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The (thoughtful) World Beyond the 140 Character Limits of Twitter. An Expansion of Sorts.

Prisca Kim

(3:04 P.M. Jun 25th from web)

“Due to the change in toilet paper quality, we have upped the allotted square allowance to 6 and 8, respectfully. Thank you for your continued cooperation.”
(Enforced by the Honor System)

As juniors, first year upperclassmen, my two roommates and I had managed to escape dorm assignments and found a two-bedroom, one-bath apartment to inhabit. Our fourth, Marie, my roommate-to-be, had decided to transfer out last-minute, and I was left with my own room. Our apartment had a kitchen, a living room, and a bathroom we didn't have to leave our quarters to use. Life was good. That is, until we realized the free toilet paper we had grown so accustomed to having, was only available to dorm dwellers. And we had given up that lifestyle. For the first few weeks, we purposefully carried around less in our backpacks and messenger bags, so space was available for the taking when the opportunity to smuggle presented itself. After almost a month of toilet paper trafficking, even between the three of us, there was no longer enough space in our bags. The semester had taken off, and, as Wheaton students, we decided our Gospel, Church and Culture textbooks were more important than one-ply toilet paper.

So we started buying our own.

At first, it really wasn't so bad. We agreed to take turns purchasing the toilet paper, as it was only fair, and two-ply was so much gentler on the ass. But as the weeks went by, our precious paper seemed to disappear like water into soil. Desperate to slow the use, and unwilling to return to our old thieving ways, we came up with a few ideas at our November roommate meeting:

1. drink and eat 30% less everyday
2. use napkins, printer paper, baby wipes, what have you, in lieu of the tp
3. have a set number of squares toilet occupant may use for #1 and/or #2

We went with the third option.