Calvin and Hobbes

I read this ethics book you got me.

What did you think of it?

It really made me see things differently. It's given me a lot to think about.

I'm glad you enjoyed it.

It's complicating my life. Don't get me any more.
General Procedure for Ethical Analysis

• Step 1: Clarification
  • clarify the facts
  • identify stakeholders
General Procedure for Ethical Analysis

• Step 2: Identify the Question
  • understand ethical questions/issues
    • Should who do what? How?
General Procedure for Ethical Analysis

• Step 3: Preliminary Analysis
  • Mom test, TV test, Smell test
  • Legal considerations
  • Religious considerations
General Procedure for Ethical Analysis

- Step 4: Theory-based Analysis
  - Kant
  - Utilitarianism (Act or Rule)
  - Social Contract
Kantian Analysis

- Universal Rule
- look for self contradiction or defeat
- Person as end, not means
- look for deception, lack of respect
Utilitarian Analysis

- identify stakeholders
- associate consequences with stakeholders
- weigh the consequences
  - for particular act or of general rule
Social Contract Analysis

- consider rights and duties of stakeholders (positive and negative)
- look for violations of rights or failures to meet duties
Procedure for Ethical Analysis

- Step 5: Decision and Implementation
  - decide on an ethical course of action
  - implement that action
PEEKER Scenario

- Lynn’s proactive use of PEEKER
- Ted’s use of PEEKER to assist police
Western Ethical Theories

- Kantianism
- Social Contract Theory
- Utilitarianism

- Arose during the Age of Reason/Enlightenment, around the 1700's
Eastern Ethical Theories

- Confucianism
- Taoism
- Buddhism

arose about 2500 years ago

Forms of Virtue Ethics
Virtue Ethics

- Virtue: a positive intention
- Happiness comes from living a life of virtue
- Virtue is developed by repeating appropriate acts
- Virtue is recognized within a community
- Some virtues:
  - benevolence, courage, fairness, generosity, honesty, loyalty, patience, respect, tolerance
Strengths of Virtue Ethics

• Provides motivation for good behavior
• virtue is about right intention
• outcomes, somewhat unpredictable, are secondary
• a complement to utilitarianism
Confucianism

• Virtues
  • Honesty, truthfulness, faithfulness, reverence
  • Respect for knowledge of ancestors and elders
  • Importance of duty to one’s community, respect existing hierarchy
Confucianism

- respect for interpersonal relationships is key
  - friend, family, boss, community

- Golden Rule
  - What one does not wish for oneself, one ought not to do to anyone else; what one recognizes as desirable for oneself, one ought to be willing to grant to others.
Confucianism

• acting for social benevolence and harmony is an important ethical consideration

• personal rights not as important

• opposite of Western “barbarism”, based on respect for personal power and individual rights
Taoism

• Respecting (being part of) flow of nature.. Tao
• Selfless, helping
• Simplicity, moderation
• No strict ethical guidelines, situational
• Balancing opposites, futility of purity, yin-yang
• Loyalty to others and country
Buddhism

• Interdependence

• any action result of countless factors

• Agent responsible for intention, action, consequences.. karma

• Everyone suffers; reducing suffering is a primary aim

• Wisdom, generosity, compassion, non-violence
Western Virtue Ethics

- Aristotle
  - prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance
- Religious texts
  - faith, love, endurance... righteousness
- commandments... vice lists
Virtue Analysis

- What virtue can/should the actor demonstrate in this situation?
- What will be the affect upon the actor’s reputation of the action choices?
Weakness of Virtue Ethics

- Almost any action reflects some virtue or other
- How to choose among competing virtues is often not clear
Moral Psychology

- What does the article tell us with respect to how many moral decisions are made?
  - elephant and rider
- What is the role of ethical reasoning?
Moral Psychology

- Foundations of Moral Minds
- Care/Harm
- Fairness/Cheating
- Loyalty/Betrayal
- Authority/Subversion
- Sanctity/Degradation
Moral Psychology

• Politics
  • liberals
    • focus on first two foundations
    • fairness is equality
  • conservatives
    • utilize all five foundations
    • fairness is proportionality
Scenario

• By a new law, East Dakota State Police installs web cameras connected to speed guns on all overpasses

• Software can read license plates and often match drivers faces to owner images on license

• Automatically issue speeding tickets; speeding is greatly reduced on freeway

• FBI asks for access to videos to search for terrorists
Scenario

- Ethical Questions
  - Should EDSP allow the FBI access to videos?