

**CIS 490/590**  
**Computer Ethics**  
**Spring 2013**  
**Exercise #2**

**FREE EXPRESSION: Consequences and Limits on Networks**

DUE on Thursday April 18, 2:00 p.m. (beginning of class)

**This assignment is graded and will be handed in.**

**Deliverables: Bring two printed copies of your answers to class.** You will hand in one and use one for discussion during class on Thursday.

The purpose of this exercise is to understand the concept of free expression as given in a citizen's right in the US Constitution, what the consequences are when played out on the Internet, and what limits are proposed. We will practice on a particular case.

After reading and understanding the ideas presented in lecture and in the suggested readings, please read the case for this exercise called "Rape in Cyberspace". It is found on Wikipedia at the following URL:

< [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A\\_Rape\\_in\\_Cyberspace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Rape_in_Cyberspace) >

You might also read the original article by Julian Dibbell in the Village Voice in 1993 at:

< [http://www.juliandibbell.com/texts/bungle\\_vv.html](http://www.juliandibbell.com/texts/bungle_vv.html) >

Or the following *Virtual(ly) Law: The Emergence of Law in LambdaMOO* by Jennifer L. Mnookin:

< <http://jcmc.indiana.edu/vol2/issue1/lambda.html> >

Please answer the following questions in ONE page maximum<sup>1</sup>:

- 1) Describe in the first paragraph what Mr.Bungle/Dr. Jest did to raise ethical issues.
- 2) Describe in a second paragraph the ethical issues that are raised by the article.
- 3) In following paragraphs discuss what happened to LambdaMoo after the event.
  - Do you agree or disagree that Mr. Bungle/Dr. Jest should be banned and why?
  - How did technology play a role in the original problem?
  - How did technology limit the solutions available to the designer?
  - What other non-technical solutions might be possible?

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<sup>1</sup> Paper format is single-spaced and with 1" margins, 12 point Times font. At the top, please state your name, the Exercise #, and the date. The paper must follow professional standards for format and citation. It must have excellent spelling and grammar.

**Policy on Graduate Student Grading:** Since this is a combined undergraduate/graduate class, graduate student answers on exercises and discussions will be held to higher expectations of quality.

**Policy on Late Assignments:** **All assignments are due** at the beginning of class on the date due. Since we will discuss the assignments at that time, you must be present in class to receive credit. Late assignments will not be accepted. If you think you have a legitimate reason to argue for an exception from this rule, make sure that you communicate it *prior* to the due date.

**Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism:** Assignments constitute a large part of evaluation; hence it is crucial that they reflect your individual or group work. Any traces of plagiarism, i.e. copying someone else's work, will be dealt with according to the University regulations. On the other hand, I encourage you to share ideas and discuss the material in the lectures and textbook with other members of the class.