

Ethical thinking & moral codes.

Risks, continued

- Ethical dilemmas
 - Introduction of new technologies opens up a whole range of social problems and ethical dilemmas...
 - Newer versions of old or existing moral issues.
 - Some look entirely new.
- Moral Theory *light*
 - **Ethics** (philosophy/morality): set of *shared* rules, principles, & values by which people live in a particular culture or society; what's right, what's wrong. *Examples of “moral codes”?*

- Some moral theories, *just for culture*....
- Other useful theories:
 - Utilitarianism
 - When is an action right or wrong?
 - Kantianism
 - Kant believed that humans are very different from all else; occupy a special place. *Justification?*
 - Why did he believe that moral goodness can even exist?
 - How did Kant believe that people should be treated? Why?
- Questions for *you* to ponder (Kantianism):
 - How can we treat people with respect, and yet still justify punishment?
 - What gives animals and “things” value? Do you agree? Why or why not?

- So what?
 - Why do you suppose mankind came up with moral theories in the first place?
 - Conventional Law v. Natural law
- Resolving conflicts...
 - But: does the fact that something is “legal” necessarily make for a good moral/ethical argument?
 - Why or why not?
 - Real-world examples?
- Some lessons here:
 1. Morality and conventional law do not always cover the same domains...
 2. Approaching moral dilemmas is *not trivial!*



*Many problems arise because of conflict among several different **moral senses**.*

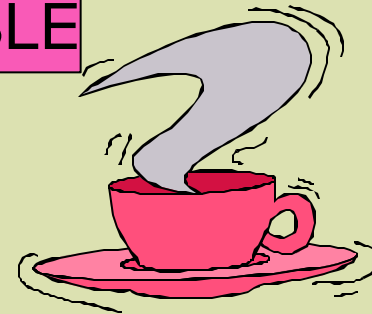
- Fairness v. loyalty; duty v. respect for life
- Realities, and culture, affect rules we adopt and the customs we follow.
- Right of the **individual** v. the right of the **collective**
 - Competing values! How do we protect both?
 - Culture plays a big role here.

What about in the US?



- Within each moral sense come various perspectives, or **value models**; e.g.:
 - Social libertarian model
 - Free enterprise model
 - Statist model
 - Populist model

QUOTABLE



OK, let's get back to risks ...



- Information fatigue
 - “The first great paradox of information glut” ?
 - “Signal-to-noise ratio” ?
 - What kinds of problems does this cause for us:
 - in our personal and professional lives? As human beings?
 - When are we best served by information?
 - What is **techno-stress** (the Black Shakes)? examples?
 - What can we do to lessen the stresses of each?
 - Marshall McLuhan’s “The medium IS the message!”
 - Technology evolves much faster than we do. Explain. Agree? Disagree? Why?