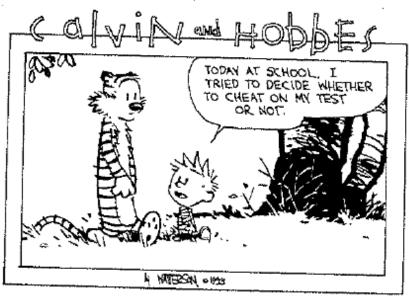
Information Ethics

Session 27

INST 301

Introduction to Information Science



I WONDERED, IS IT
BETTER TO DO THE
RIGHT THING AND FAIL
...OR IS IT BETTER TO
DO THE WRONG THING
AND SUCCEED?



ON THE ONE HAND,

UNDESERVED SUCCESS

GIVES NO SATISFACTION.

... BUT ON THE OTHER

HAND, WELL-DESERVED

FAILURE GIVES NO

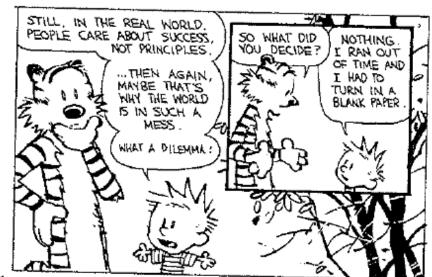
OF COURSE, MOST EVERYBODY CHEATS SOME TIME OR OTHER. PEOPLE ALWAYS BEND THE RULES IF THEY THINK THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH IT. ... THEN ASAIN, THAT DOESN'T JUSTIFY MY CHEATING.



THEN I THOUGHT, LOOK, CHEATING ON ONE LITTLE TEST ISN'T SUCH A BIG DEAL. IT DOESN'T HURT ANYONE.

... BUT THEN I WONDERED IF I WAS JUST RATIONALIZING MY UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCE OF NOT STUDYING.





ANYMORE, SIMPLY ACKNOWLEDGING THE ISSUE IS A MORAL VICTORY.

WELL, IT JUST
SEEMED WRONG
TO CHEAT ON
AN ETHICS
TEST.



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Ethics

- Goal: Increasing "utility"
 - Natural rights
 - Life, property, ...
 - Liberties ("negative rights")
 - Free speech, right to work, ...
 - Obligations ("positive rights")
 - Education, health care, clean water, ...
- Method: Rules (of thumb?)
 - The same rules apply to everyone
 - Consider everyone's interests

— ...

Some Topics

- Microfinance
- Official Secrets Act
- MOOCs
- Endangered languages