

## Some ethical quandaries

Instructions: Read the scenarios below. Evaluate each action or situation using each of the three theories: 1) Mill's Utilitarianism (Classical Hedonistic Act Utilitarianism); 2) Kantian Ethics; and 3) Aristotle's Virtue Ethics.

1. Arnold discovers a wallet on the street. Inside the wallet is \$300, a valid credit card, and personal items including a driver's license, with a name and address. Arnold thinks, "I could really use the cash for some school books." But he calls the wallet's owner because he feels he should. When she comes to get the wallet, she says that she and her two small children are very relieved that she will be able to pay the rent and eat sufficiently this month.

2. Beth finds a similar wallet in the street, and she has heard that the post office will deliver lost wallets to their owners if you put them in a mailbox. She thinks, "I could really use the cash for my tuition, and the mail carriers may take the cash anyway, and use it for less worthy purposes. I know the person would like the rest of the stuff back." Beth removes the money and puts the rest of the wallet in a mailbox.

3. Carolyn works in a large department store owned by a corporation which she feels doesn't treat their workers very well. She has to work long hours and thinks she should have been promoted a long time ago. She has started sometimes taking items home and selling them cheaply to her friends. She knows that the company just writes off a certain percent of their stock to damages and shoplifting anyway. The extra cash really comes in handy feeding her children, and her friends love her discounts.

4. David works in the department next to Carolyn. He is a heroine addict. He also takes items home, sometimes, but he sells them on the street. David uses the cash to support his drug habit. He lives at home and has no dependents.

5. Emily, while walking on a deserted stretch of beach, notices a person struggling in the water. The closest life guard is a mile down the beach, and Emily is a decent swimmer. She thinks, "I should help." So she runs into the water, swims out to the drowning person, and pulls her in, saving her life.

6. Fred, in a situation similar to Emily's, swims out to save the drowning person. But he gets caught in a rip tide and pulled toward some rocks. Both persons drown.

The following is a checklist.

	Mill	Kant	Aristotle
Arnold			
Beth			
Carolyn			
David			
Emily			
Fred			