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**Insights from ‘Computer Ethics and Society’**

1) An insight that is directly discussed and I strongly agree with, is that promoting our own welfare will likely promote the welfare of those around us. The explanation of Capitalism as being Utilitarian I feel is controversial, as increasing our own personal resources may increase resources of the economy and raise standard of living, the product being sold and the advertising to do it, is often meant to convince people that they are not happy and our product will make them happy. Yet the product cannot fulfill this promise otherwise there would be no returning customers. In this way, Capitalism is Egoistic, but we tend to fall into our own trap.

2) When attempting to do good, the most difference to be made is often by affecting our direct enviornment, as spreading ourselves too thin rarely helps everyone. I agree for the most part, however, this creates polarity in happiness levels based on environments. Consider a rich and happy enviornment full of Utilitarian’s. If resources logarithmically impact happiness, the best course of action will be to disperse from our enviornment and relocate to the least happy and least resource rich environments and distribute what we have accumulated.

3) Considering the previous scenario, holding off dispersion to gain more resources and happiness to share would at first seem like a plausible counter argument. However, if personal happiness affects the happiness of others around you, then by acting later rather then sooner, we are prolonging others from being happier who could be spreading their happiness exponentially by affecting those around them, which would no doubt, cause a greater net happiness then accumulating resource and happiness in one enviornment.

4) Kant’s argument suggests that intentions matter, even if the action is the same. I agree with this and it is something that Utilitarianism is missing. There are many practices on the web where people are treated as economic units, such as advertising or bots that gather social media followers. This suggests the web is very Utilitarian. Maybe more so then everyday life.

5) Many view happiness as whatever it is that lies just outside their reach, yet is potentially achievable. It is also the ‘end’ which motivates all means. Considering this end is undefined, we are constantly climbing toward it without reaching it. An Amusing connection is the song ‘The Climb’ by Miley Cyrus (yes I am connecting a philosophical discussion to a country-pop song by Miley Cyrus). By realizing that there will always be another ‘mountain’ meaning we will never reach our end goal, we are able to pay attention to the work we are doing to get there. This brings the realization that the work creates enough happiness and fulfillment in itself. An analogy is our pursuit of a career (or research). We have an end goal that pushes us into action and to face challenges. We think that reaching success with our work will bring happiness. But the actual good that is being done, is that we have bettered our every day enviornment. We surround ourselves with likeminded people, we have healthy habits and we are working everyday to try to help ourselves and others. This seems like a fantastic way for a creature that is so consumed with thoughts of time, to affect the present while avoiding the difficulties of remaining present.