

Ethics, Communication and Computers



Week 12

Principles of Professional Communication

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<http://stc.uws.edu.au/popcomm/ethics.ppt>

What is Ethics?

- The ugly Australian
- Philosophical beginnings
- Nuremberg Code
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Belmont Principles

The Internet and Ethics

- Public Knowledge vs Private Information
- Research Ethics:
 - + Informed Consent
 - + Right to Privacy
- Do these principles make sense on the Internet?

Computer Ethics (Tyrell Ward Bynum)

- 1940' s Norbert Wiener and cybernetics
- *Human Use of Human Beings*
- mid 60' s ACM' s code of ethics
- 1976 Walter Maner coins the term 'computer ethics'
- 1985 Deborah Johnson' s *Computer Ethics*
- Exponential growth from here
- 1999 new ethics of the information age

The 10 Commandments of Computer Ethics

by the **Computer Ethics Institute**

1. Thou shalt not use a computer to harm other people.
2. Thou shalt not interfere with other people's computer work.
3. Thou shalt not snoop around in other people's computer files.
4. Thou shalt not use a computer to steal.
5. Thou shalt not use a computer to bear false witness.
6. Thou shalt not copy or use proprietary software for which you have not paid.
7. Thou shalt not use other people's computer resources without authorization or proper compensation.
8. Thou shalt not appropriate other people's intellectual output.
9. Thou shalt think about the social consequences of the program you are writing or the system you are designing.
10. Thou shalt always use a computer in ways that insure consideration and respect for your fellow humans.
11. (Do not be a yobbo on the Internet)



Selected papers from the Australian Institute for Computer Ethics conference, 2000.

“Bridging the digital divide in Oceania: development via the Net”

“The Discourse of Artificial Intelligence: An Ethical Critique”

“Public Education and Training In Computer Usage: An Ethico-Political Rationale”


“Does an Internet Identity Exist?”

“Usability Testing: Revisiting Informed Consent procedures for testing Internet sites”

“It is possible to teach computer ethics via distance education!”

“Mabo-Style Claims to the Radio Spectrum”

“Intelligent agents: some ethical issues and dilemmas”



“Cops, computers, and the right to privacy in the information age: unauthorised access and inappropriate disclosure of information complaints in New South Wales”

“Electronic Work Monitoring: An Ethical Model”

“Corporate voices, Personal voices: The ethics of Internet communication”

“Protecting the participant in the contested private/public terrain of Internet research: Can computer ethics make a difference?”

“The Online Services Bill: Theories and Evidence of Pornographic Harm”

“On the Impact of Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining”

“Information Warfare and Ethics”

“The Issues of Ethics in Electronic Commerce”

“Putting ‘hackers’ to work on improving system security: ‘sleeping with the enemy’, or a vision of a new computer ethics?”

“IT Research and Development: should there be control?”

Visual Ethics in Accident Reporting

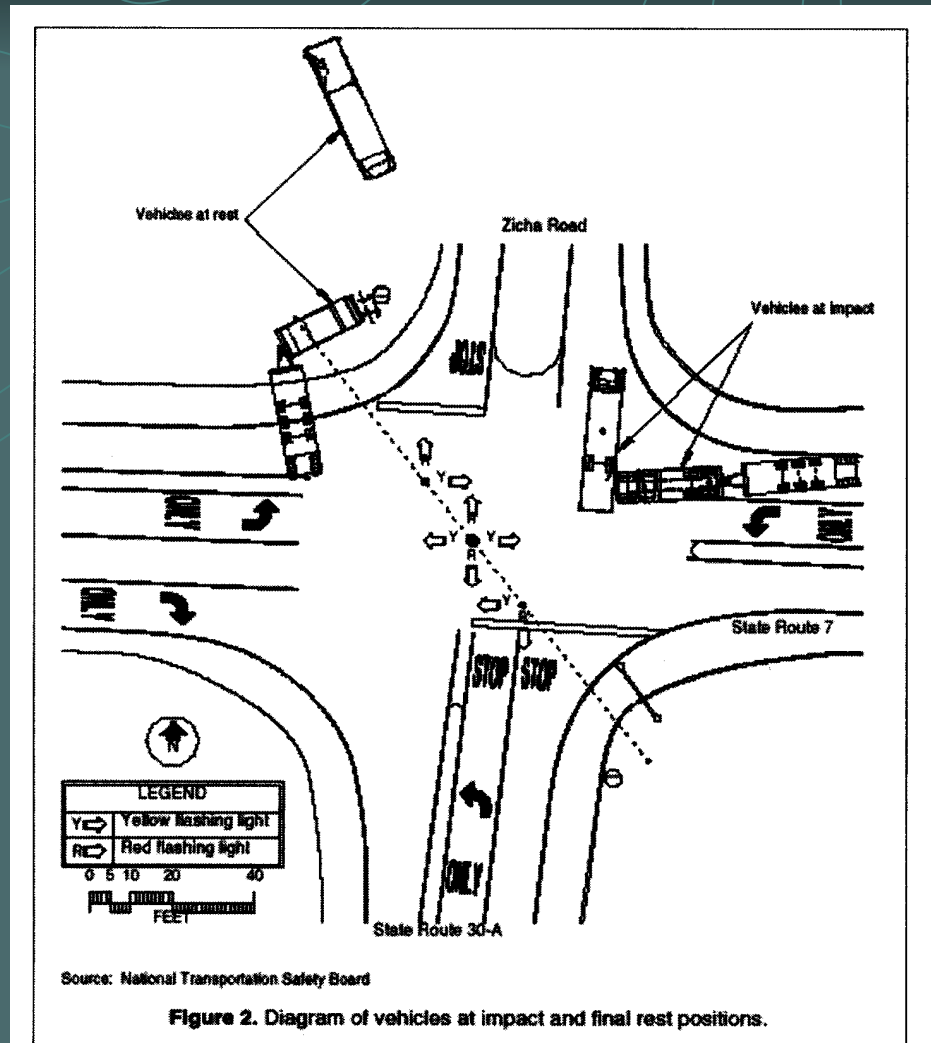


Figure 15. In this map of the New York collision between a school bus and a dump truck, the vehicles come to “final rest,” but no mention is made of their human occupants.

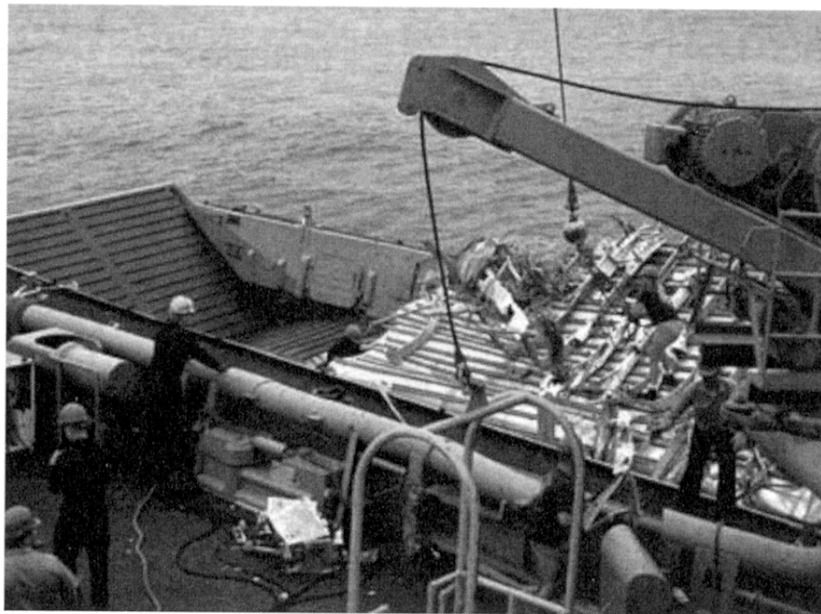


Figure 1. The only photograph of human beings in the accident report on TWA Flight 800 depicts the salvage crew. The victims are invisible in the 425-page document.

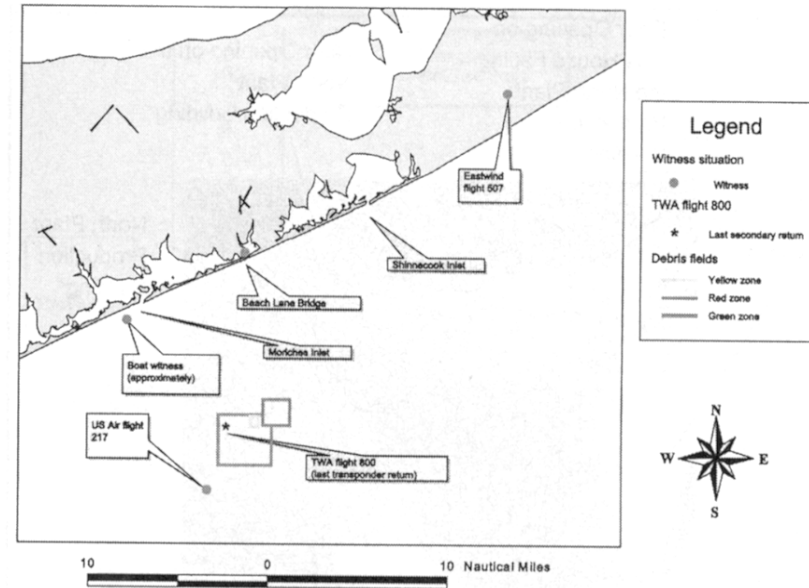


Figure 2. Locations of key witnesses to the Flight 800 explosion are depicted merely as circles instead of human figures.



Figure 1. Exterior crush damage of school bus.

Figure 14. This photo wouldn't be so cruel if its caption referred to the 52 passengers who survived the accident instead of redundantly verbalizing what is visually apparent.

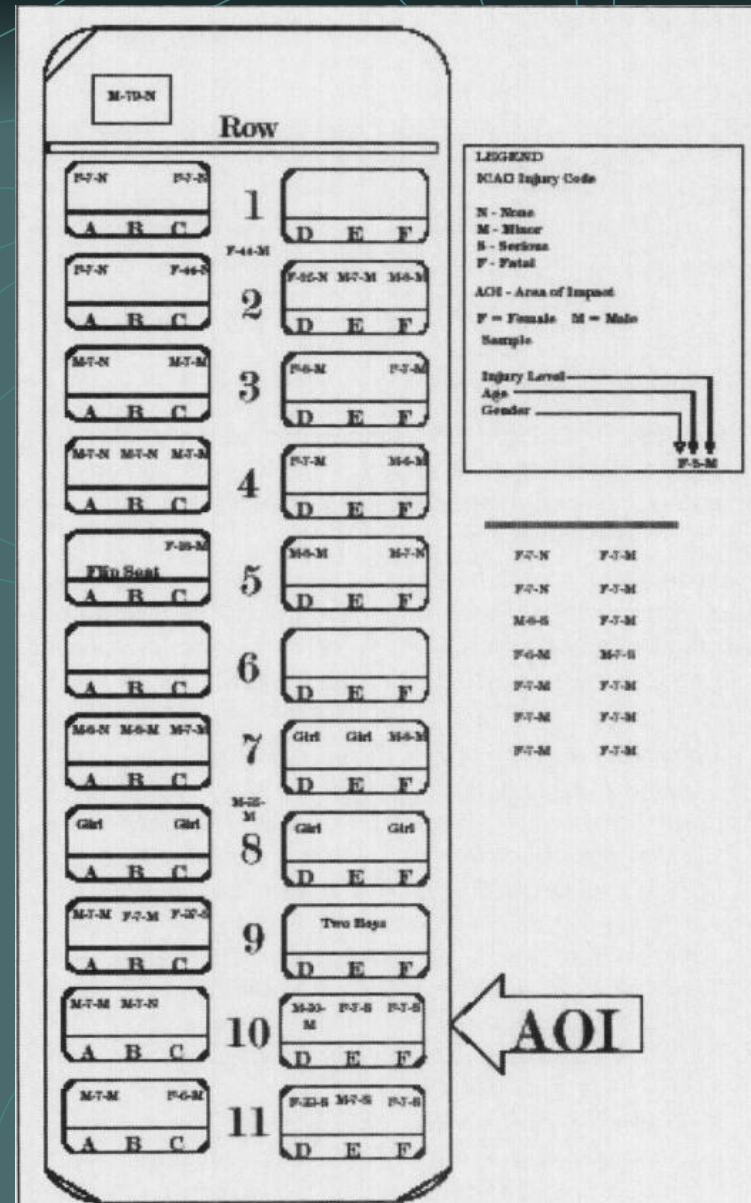


Figure 4. School bus seating and injury diagram.

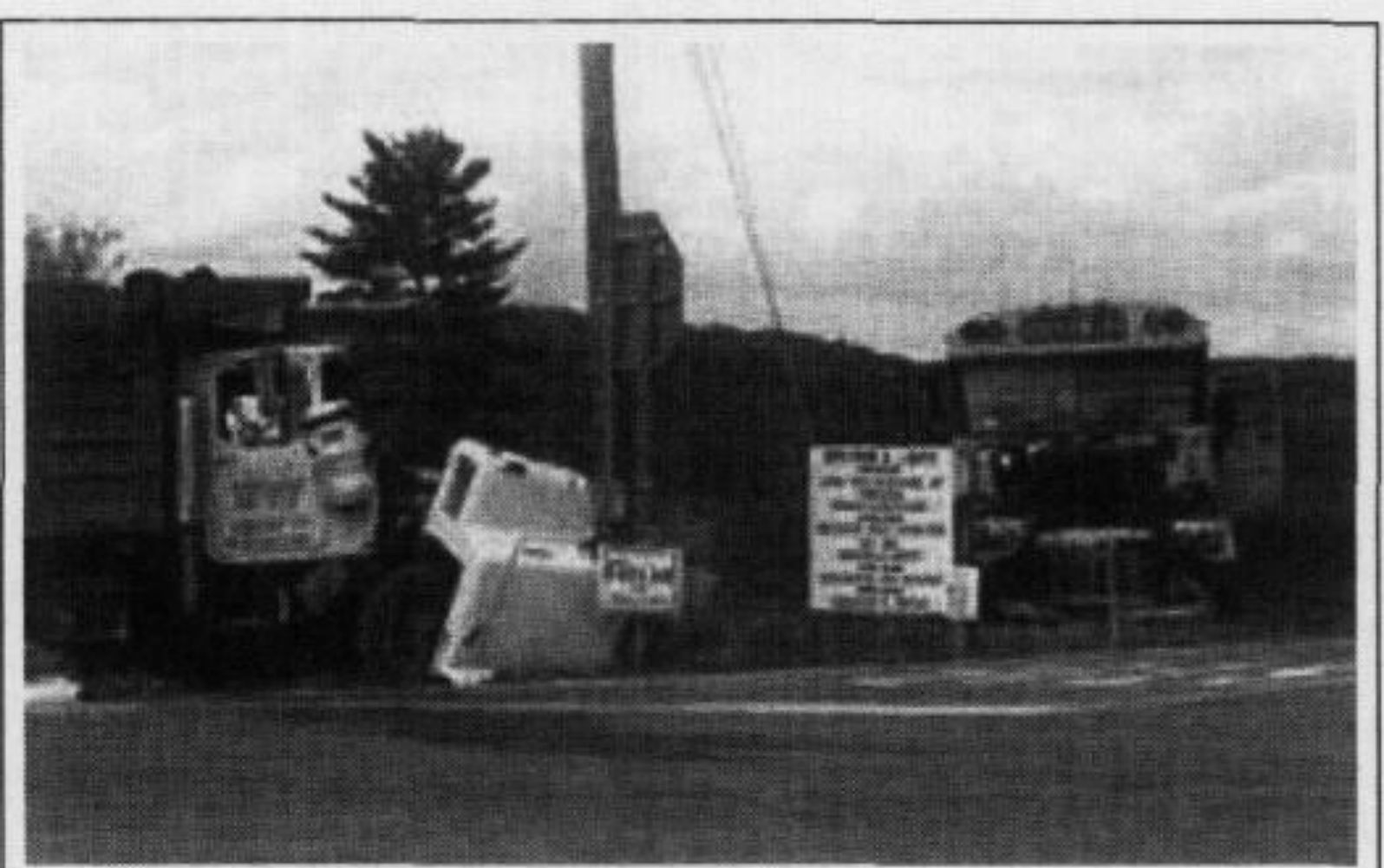


Figure 3. Final rest positions of vehicles.

The ACS Code of Ethics

www.acs.org.au/national/pospaper/acs131.htm

- Tom Worthington (1993) says that he used the Code in order to make difficult decisions:
 - + Protecting private information
 - + Reporting unethical business practices
 - + Dishonest salespeople