Assignment #10 Ethics

The difference between a moral man and a man of honor is that the latter regrets a discreditable act, even when it has worked and he has not been caught.

-- H. L. Mencken

For each of the following: 1) Take the viewpoint of a member of a review board and consider whether you would approve or disapprove the proposed research. 2) Be sure to have reasons justifying your decision. 3) For the proposals you would disapprove, be ready to suggest alternative approaches that the researcher might consider which you <u>would</u> find acceptable <u>and</u> that would most likely answer the same questions being asked in the original proposal.

DUE: In class.

- 1. Researchers are interested in learning more about male digestion. Specifically, they want to know the average time it takes to begin urination, the duration of urination, as well as how these times may be affected by proximity to another male using the restroom. To manipulate proximity, signs will be placed on certain urinals in order to limit which urinals (near vs. far) can be used for micturition. A confederate will either feign to use the urinal right next to the subject, one urinal away, or, none at all. It is proposed that a researcher will remain hidden in a toilet stall and, from this vantage, surreptitiously (secretly) observe (using a small periscope device) and record the start and duration times needed.
- 2. As part of the methods to an experiment a researcher wishes to conduct, it is proposed that subjects waiting to participate in the study will be video recorded without their prior knowledge or consent. However, they will be given the option of deleting the files if they do not wish their recordings to be used for research purposes.
- 3. To examine how bystanders react to certain types of crime situations, a researcher proposes to expose shoppers in a drugstore to a shoplifting confederate while their reactions are observed. Two locations will be used: An upper-income, suburban area, as well as a lower-income central-city location. The female confederate/shoplifter will be well dressed or dressed poorly to see if the appearance of the shoplifter makes a difference in reporting.
- 4. A graduate student proposes an experiment to determine whether different emotions create facial expressions specific to that emotion (i.e., to see if all people have a common expression when feeling disgust, shock, joy, etc.). Participants will have their faces painted with black lines to study the movements of their facial muscles. Then they will be exposed to a variety of stimuli designed to create a strong reaction (e.g., smell ammonia, view pornography, put their hands in a bucket of frogs, and cut off the head of a live rat or observe it being done in front of them). As each person reacted, they will be photographed to capture their facial reactions.
- 5. To better understand sex differences in agreeableness to casual sex, researchers plan to randomly select students walking on campus and have a confederate approach them and ask one of three questions: (1) "Would you go out with me tonight?" (2) "Would you come over to my apartment tonight?" or (3) "Would you go to bed with me tonight?" Once a response is obtained, the confederate will reveal that they were actually part of a study, and terminate any verbal agreements to meet.
- 6. This researcher (an Episcopalian minister) is interested in married (husband/wife)-but-gay lifestyle issues. In order to determine whether potential subjects are actually gay, the

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researcher will pretend to be a lookout for gay men having sex in public restrooms. The researcher will track down subjects' addresses through the Department of Motor Vehicles on the basis of the men's car license plates. Under the guise of some other study, the researcher will ultimately interview subjects in their homes. The researcher want's to discover what aspects of the subjects' home lives motivated them to engage in this illegal and taboo activity.

- 7. Interested in various aspects of criminal behavior, a researcher proposes to covertly film people as they strip the parts from seemingly abandoned cars. Two cars will be used. Both will be parked (license plates removed and with the hoods up) on a public street, but one will be located in an affluent neighborhood, while the other will be left in a low socio-economic neighborhood.
- 8. Interested in determining whether children become less egocentric as they grow older, researchers plan on eavesdropping on college students' conversations. To do so, they will listen in on conversations taking place in dormitory lounges, bathrooms, and in dormitory rooms (by hiding under beds), as well as telephone conversations. Together, these methods will provide a broad and therefore more representative sample of the varied topics of discussion among college students.
- 9. A researcher wants to test his theory of the development of speech impediments (e.g., stuttering). It is proposed that 22 orphan children will be used (convenience sample). Positive speech therapy will be given to half of the children (praising the fluency of their speech), and negative speech therapy will be employed for the other half (belittling the children for every speech imperfection and telling them they were stutterers).

