



Worst human experiments ever

Arif Ali/AFP/Getty Images How much is a human life worth? This is not a question anyone wants to try to answer, but it is one that requires and lawyers have had to take on this issue in the past and will surely have to do it again at some point. During the time the company has flourished on the free market, there have been defective products and accidents that have required a response - unfortunately, that has included calculating the value of people's lives. From simple beginnings, products and services have become more sophisticated, complex and dangerous. And when products become so complicated or dangerous they can kill people, over time they will. Whether due to manufacturer error or misuse, injury lawsuits and claims are required to pour in at some point, and that's when hard calculations have to be done. Perhaps the most famous and memorable instance of a large company actually actually reaching a number difficult to assign to a person's life was in the case of the Ford Pinto, a small car that developed on an accelerated schedule in an attempt to capture the largest market share in the shortest period of time. Due to a design flaw, Pinto was able to catch fire as a result of its faulty fuel system, which the company knew but chose not to fix. Through risk/profit analysis, Ford's brass came to the conclusion that it would ultimately cost the company less to simply pay victims instead of coming back and actually try to fix the problem. Naturally, people were outraged. But the case of the Ford Pinto raises a very serious question: Is it ethical or right that companies or governments actually crunch the numbers through a risk/benefit analysis to figure out their course of action, especially when lives or injuries are at stake? Surprisingly, the pinto situation would be revived in modern times, as recently as this year. Only that, one of Ford's main rivals would be the culprit. General Motors issued a recall in early 2014 - one of many, to be fair - that included 2.6 million small cars spanning several brands, many that were not even in production anymore. These cars were found to have a faulty ignition switch that could turn off the vehicle while driving along the road, causing a failure of the airbags and other safety measures. So far, 21 people are known to have died as a direct result of this defect, and GM is dealing with the consequences. It seems that GM executives knew the problem existed and yet took no action to fix it. Similar to the Ford Pinto situation, public outcry has been strong. GM has set up a fund to pay the families of the victims, who in the hundreds of millions of dollars. It will be a while before exact figures are known, but this is another example of one of a put profits before the lives of their customers. Surely no one at General Motors wanted anyone to die as a result, but at some point a call was made to ignore the issue in the name of savings. What makes it especially difficult to deal with is that the problem could have been dealt with for a very small cost – only \$1 per vehicle. Since GM effectively didn't learn a lesson from Ford, it makes you wonder how many other companies participate in the same type of practices. Perhaps Ford and GM are being mistreated especially by the media and the public because their products have an inherent level of danger in their use to begin with. If you were using a faulty coffee table, it is unlikely that you would die as a result of an overlooked defect, whereas in a car, the consequences are much more serious. At the center of the matter is this: Is it ethical to reduce a person's value down to a mere dollar figure? From a corporate perspective, it seems so. Since a corporation itself is so gigantic in scope, few people, if any, actually feel they have to take responsibility for the issues. Simply pushing problems up the chain of command has apparently become the preferred method for dealing with problems, and may end up costing organizations heavily over time. Source: Thinkstock Other industries should literally keep in mind that their products will kill customers over time, and find ways to plan for it. The tobacco industry is the main example, as they have not only added drugs to their products for customers to become addicted, but they are also fully aware that prolonged use can kill. However, tobacco companies continue to use them, albeit at consistently declining rates. Tobacco companies have even looked at the economic benefits of their products by killing people at earlier ages, in an effort to fend off lawsuits and from governments asking for money to help curb the costs of tobacco use in society. So how do they do it? How do companies actually allocate a certain amount of dollars to a person's life? A lot of it comes down to how much government agencies really think a life is worth. For example, the EPA uses estimates of how many people are willing to pay for small reductions in their risks of dying from adverse health conditions that can be caused by environmental pollution and reached \$7.4 million. The FDA reached the figure of \$7.9 million, and the Department of Transportation, \$6 million. These figures were developed with the aim of justifying the regulations that companies demand growth. The value of human life has also been determined by the courts in different situations, in the form of due damages. So is it ethical for companies to allocate a dollar figure to people's lives and make business decisions based on this calculation? No, but it's going to happen. Whether it is the result of one of a accident, a failed system of fire suppression, or ignition of defective vehicles, companies and their lawyers will continue to struggle with what it costs to pay for the deaths. It's not ideal, nor is it fun to argue. The main difference, ethically speaking, is when companies really have control and the opportunity to fix problems that could kill the line. It may end up costing a little more in the long run, but it's a smaller toll on production budgets than it is in the public image or consumer reputation, which sometimes can't or can't be repaired. More from Business Cheat Sheet: November 4, 2009 2 min read Brought to You by Touring and Tasting Rooster Hill Vineyards Penn Yan, New York Inspired by the Beauty of Lake Keuka and Your Wine Country, Amy and David Hoffman swapmed their briefcases for farm equipment and started Rooster Hill Vineyards nearly a decade ago. They planted the vineyard of the Savina Estate in Cabernet Franc, Riesling, Pinot Noir and Lemberger, equipped the winery with state-of-the-art equipment and opened a picturesque Tuscan-style tasting room overlooking the spectacular lake. Here wine lovers can discover the impressive wines that make up the Rooster Hill portfolio. Wines such as the Semi-Dry Riesling Estate, which won gold medals in major competitions for three straight vintages, most recently in the 2009 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. A delicious floral traminette, a Cabernet Sauvignon, and the Cabernet Franc Estate 70%/Lemberger 30% mix, have also won recent awards. The cobbled terrace of the tasting room offers an ideal environment for an introduction to these wines and others. Twilight tastings are offered during the warmer months and live music and pizzas are served from an Italian baked italian oven on several summer nights. Guests enjoy a taste of Tuscany, Keuka Lake and fine wines from Rooster Hill Vineyards. What to buy: '07 Finca Gewürztraminer Catherine Vineyard Mature sweet wildflower, crispy, creamy, with honey accents; spicy light finish \$15.99 '07 Estate Semi-Dry Riesling Rich Ripe Stone Fruit, Apricot, White Peach, Honey, Lemon Drop \$15.99 '07 Estate Cabernet Franc 70%/Lemberger 30% Lush, blackberry, cherry, spice layers, hint of pity, vanilla, smoked bacon \$19.99 Contact: 315,536,4773 www.roosterhill.com 489 Rte. 54 S Penn Yan, NY 14527 Tasting Room Open Mon-Sat 10-5; P.S. 11-5 The independent and trusted guide to online education for over 22 years! 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stop talking and start doing. -Walt Disney Your job is going to fill a lot of your life, and the only way to be really satisfied is to do what you believe is a great job. And the only way to do a great job is loove what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't site down. As with all maters of the heart, you will know when you find it. -Frank Sinatra Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that no one will know if you did it or not. It's his own reward. Everything else is in God's hands. -Mahatma GandhiNo is that so intelligent, it's just that I'm left with longer problems. -Albet EinsteinVostè was born to win, but to be a winner, you have to plan to win, perpenditor and expect to win. -Zig ZiglarDe times, things can't go their way, but the effort has to be there every night. -Michael JordanCreure on yourself! Have faith in your skills! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot succeed or happy. -Norman Vincent PealeVMat poor are they who have no patience! What wound has ever been healed, but by degrees? -William ShakespeareThe only thing that has to do with good advice is to convey it. It is never of any use to oneseff. -Oscar WildeThe one who is not brave enough to take risks will achieve nothing in life. -Muhammad AliThey are faite so they they are faite stor and beingining is everything. -Norman Vincent PealeVMat poor are they alva to work of superior people. -John D. RockefellerOur income is like our shoes; if they are to small, us and pinch us; but if its too big, they make us stumble and go on a trip. -John Locke Love and work are the pillars of our humanity. -Sigmund FreudRegla N 1: Never lose money. Rule NO. 2: Never forger tuel N 1. -Warre BuffettThe obstacles are ethose flaging eggs. -Cocc ChanelMain neglect the details. When everynoe's mind is bored or distracted the leader must be doubly vigilant. -Colin Powell Advocates of capitalism are very likely to appeal to the sacred principles of freedom, which are embedded in a single maxim. The lucky

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