CSCI 215 Social & Ethical Issues In Computing

Class 23 – Robots
Isaac Asimov's "Three Laws of Robotics"

1. A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
2. A robot must obey orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
3. A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.

Runaround
Isaac Asimov's "Three Laws of Robotics"

0. A robot may not harm humanity, or, by inaction, allow humanity to come to harm
1. A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
2. A robot must obey orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
3. A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.
Tilden's Laws of Robotics

1. A robot must protect its existence at all costs.
2. A robot must obtain and maintain access to its own power source.
3. A robot must continually search for better power sources.

Tilden reworded for Wired

1. Protect thine ass.
2. Feed thine ass.
3. Look for better real estate.
People’s complicated relationships with robots

Uncanny Valley
People’s complicated relationships with robots

Uncanny Valley

[Diagram showing the Uncanny Valley concept with examples such as The Simpsons, Snow White, The Incredibles, Polar Express, and a real person (Masahiro Mori).]
People’s complicated relationships with robots

Cruelty to Robots
• Studies show that people feel empathy for robots
  • http://www.livescience.com/28947-humans-show-empathy-for-robots.html
People’s complicated relationships with robots

Friends for the elderly

• PARO (http://www.parorobots.com/)
Discussion Point

• Is it damaging to humanity to encourage these types of relationships with robots?
• Does the good of easing loneliness and pain outweigh what it says about society pawning off the lonely?