

8 HOURS AT GOODSTONE AIRCRAFT COMPANY

An hour to find a Hartford chuck,
half an hour to find a key for the Hartford chuck,
half an hour hammering on the chuck
because its rotation turns out to be jammed,
half an hour cursing Goodstone Aircraft Company,
an hour walking through 2 buildings
looking for another Hartford chuck,
an hour in a bathroom reading a sports page
to keep from going berserk,
another half an hour looking for a chuck.
An hour looking for 2 bolts
to lock the chuck you have finally found
onto your milling machine table.
15 minutes of throwing tools around,
kicking cabinets
and yelling obscenities
after you discover that the jaws will not close on the chuck
that you have bolted onto your milling machine table.
The remaining hour and 15 minutes spent
shuffling about 3 buildings
in a pretense of looking for another chuck
that you know you will never find,
that you no longer WANT to find,
that you no longer have the morale or energy
to do anything with
anyway.

INTEGRITY

A company representative called us into the conference room
and handed "Ethical Decision Making" handbooks to us.
The representative told us that the company wanted
to help us be even more ethical
than we already were,
and we began reading the handbooks
that asked us to consider
involving ourselves in the personal lives
of our fellow employees
by reporting to our supervisors
such things as lying and problem drinking.

An hour later,
as we walked out the back door of the conference room
we made an immediate ethical decision
and threw the handbooks into the garbage can
as we filed past it.