



## Privacy takes another hit as police track tags

A nationwide study by the American Civil Liberties Union reveals that the cops know just not whether you've been naughty or nice - but where you've been doing it.

Agencies, mostly city and county departments, are using license-tag scanners, cameras programmed to record licenses and their location, all day and all night. Located on a patrol car, on bridges or buildings, anywhere they can "see" traffic, these cameras are remarkably efficient.

Minneapolis, with just eight units, captured 4.9 million locations in the first eight months of last year. They got the mayor's car 41 times. At first, police treated the database as a public record. Anyone could come ask for a report on any tag. Later, they decided the information was "classified."

As more and more cameras appear, more agencies join the movement, more vehicles are logged, the information increasingly goes into regional data bases that can produce a remarkably detailed picture of our daily activities.

It is, the union says, "a single high-resolution image of our lives."

"There's just a fundamental question of whether we're going to live in a society where these dragnet surveillance systems become routine," said Catherine Crump, a staff lawyer with the organization.

The group says it wants police departments to delete information on all vehicles except those actually linked to a crime, but of course, that's

part of the beauty of the system. Your car might not be linked to a crime today, but who knows when someone might want to know where you've been?

People have no expectation of privacy when driving or parked on a public street, one police official noted. And that's true enough. Departments have checked licenses and logged locations for years, but until now, it was a low-efficiency game.

And true enough, we're all tracking ourselves by carrying cell phones, global positioning devices and other electronic gear. We walk on streets surveilled by cameras and pass through security at the airport.

The question the study asks is, "Do we really need Big Brother watching our every move?"

Some will say, if you're not doing anything wrong, why worry? The government will reassure us that we have nothing to fear, the scanners are only to track the bad guys. But they said that about the Internal Revenue Service.

In our view, no agency needs to gather and store this kind of information. Government agencies of all types already have way too much data stored away on citizens already. And it's not just an innocent system designed to catch bad guys.

Information is power, and when "they" have enough, it could come to the point where the citizens are no longer in charge.

No one should have that kind of power. As citizens, we need to take a stand now, before it's too late.

- Steve Haynes

## The Gardener

By Kay Melia



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In my entire 83 years, I cannot remember ever tasting kale. I may have inadvertently done so after purchasing and devouring one of those beautiful little plastic bags or boxes of mixed greens at the supermarket. But I have never purposely grown or eaten kale, which is really a "shame on me" thing. I intend to correct that mistake soon.

Surely, I'll like kale when I get around to eating some. You think? Some types or kinds of greens are bad news for a lot of people, especially those greens that may be spicy, or as they say, piquant. Take arugula, or rockette as some people call it. I have eaten arugula, and in my opinion, arugula is not only spicy, or piquant, it is peppery, highly disagreeable to the taste buds, stomach churning, and several other adjectives I dare not use. It is totally distasteful when added to a fresh garden salad.

Do you get the feeling I don't really care for arugula? I can think of no other garden vegetable that turns me off like arugula. Still, I've not yet tried kale...nor orach, nor edible chrysanthemum, nor catalogne frastagliato, which is a type of edible Italian dandelion. My late friend John Cogswell, noted rancher and cattleman for several decades, used to pick wild purslane along the creek banks of his ranch, and eat it raw by the handful. I didn't much care for that, either.

I have a daughter in Denver who loves arugula! Can't get enough of it. I have another daughter somewhere in the mountains who loves quinoa, and even knows how to pronounce it. But arugula. I sat by a lady at a luncheon meeting one time who brought her own beautiful green salad. I complimented her. She said it was arugula. I nearly gagged. She

sat somewhere else at the next meeting.

It's all a matter of taste, isn't it? Either you like the taste of a fresh garden vegetable, or you don't. A good friend from years ago detested fresh garden tomatoes. Or any kind of tomato, cooked or raw. He passed away at age 89. I couldn't see a connection there.

Growing your own fresh vegetables is the perfect way to satisfy your eating preferences. If you don't like the taste, don't plant it. Plant only the choices your family enjoys. I would never plant arugula in my garden, for fear that it might contaminate other growing things. Check that. If my Denver daughter lived here, I would try to grow some for her. But I would draw the line at planting catalogne frastagliato.

I'm getting a bit anxious to try kale. If I like the store-bought kind, I might plant some next spring, or even this fall. Bobby Flay has an interesting recipe or two on the internet for kale preparation, and I like Bobby Flay's way with a salad. Unless I find out he uses arugula in it!

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**GOD SAYS**

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

—John 17:24

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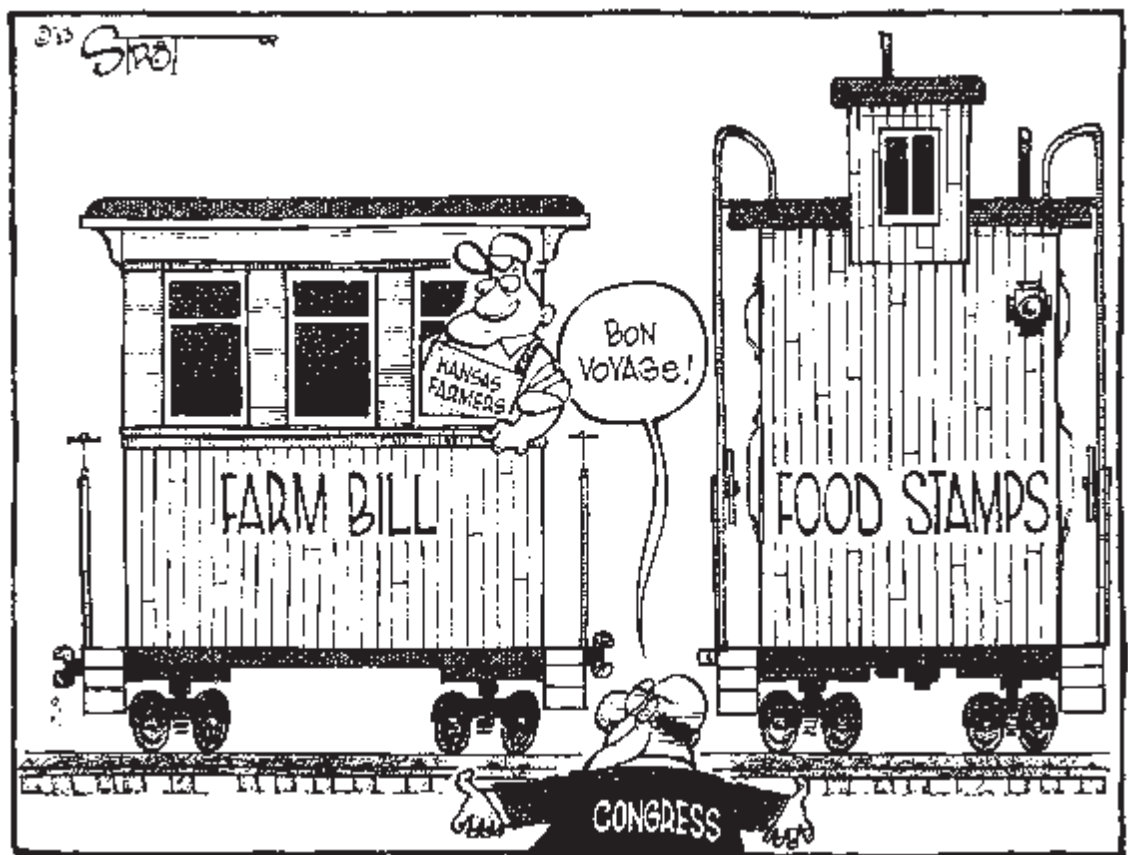


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## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Nothing compares to the sight of watching a child do well.

Last weekend we were in Denver for a family get-together. Part of the time was spent by a swimming pool.

This is not to say we were lounging by the cool waters, rather we attended the Jefferson County league swim-team races. Up against the foothills on a crystal clear morning our family showed up with hundreds of other spectators.

Ava McCormick, my twin

brother's granddaughter, was our reason for going.

Ava is in a tough period of life. She will make the transition from elementary to middle school this fall. Also, she has not shown the McCormick trait of wanting to have the spot light shown directly on her, yet.

But watching her compete in events that required her to achieve prior success to place and that pushed her to do better than ever before filled all of us with great pride.

## Doctor makes decision to stay in county after disagreement

Letter to the Editor:

The hospital and I had a disagreement over a recent management decision concerning the clinic. During this last month, I had some serious concerns about whether I would be able to remain in practice here. I have been here for 14 years and I had never thought about leaving before.

Administration and I have

## Letters to the Editor

agreed to disagree and politics/procedures are being addressed. As a result I am going to remain in practice here. The people of this county have been so supportive of me as well as the clinic and hospital. I did not think it right to leave such a trust. I also feel this county will be getting

two excellent physicians with the recruitment of Dr. Megan Brown and Dr. Dallas Walz. I did not want to leave them in a lurch prior to their completion of residency.

Sincerely,  
Mary Beth Miller, MD  
St. Francis

## California couple appreciates generosity of Sainty resident

Letter to the Editor:

Kudos to Keith!  
We were on a road trip and stopped at St. Francis to see our cousins, Bob and Norma Gross. We pulled into the carwash bay and a gentleman asked what a car from California was doing at St. Francis.

After a conversation about our cousin's family, Stacey, Meghan and the late Sally (Priest), he filled the coin box and we received a free carwash.

That is the type of hospitality and generosity I remember from my childhood days in Kansas.

Thank you!  
Allan and Roxy Games  
Calimesa, Calif.  
(Sorry we don't remember Keith's last name but he runs the carwash!)  
Editor's note: Keith's last name is Dankenbring.

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