



Free Press
Viewpoint

Tracking students
another step down

How far are we from a world where the government tracks everyone, all the time?

Not far enough. Texas school districts are experimenting with student ID cards containing a radio frequency responder chip that pin-points a kid’s location. One official explained the frightening aspects of this away by saying, “We’re not a government; we’re just a school district.”

In California, another district hopes to end online “cyberbullying” and other web-based abuse by having a vendor monitor students’ “social media” output day and night, reporting any no-no’s to the school.

Around the world, our own federal government scoops up the conversations of everyone from world leaders to American citizens in electronic spy sweeps supposedly aimed at catching terrorists. Here at home, more of the same.

And here in Kansas, school districts hire security firms to sweep their buildings and grounds, looking for guns, knives, drugs and more. Officials reason that having those on school property is against the rules, possibly against the law, and they have a right to enforce rules on school property.

Apparently the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable search and seizure and requires authorities to get a warrant before snooping, is old-fashioned and out of date.

But then, we give ourselves up with all the fancy electronic gizmos we love to carry around. Our cell phones track our movements wherever we go. Our GPS devices record our every location and how we got there.

The average American collects evidence that could be used by the government, the local police, a divorce lawyer or a snoop neighbor. You never know who might be tapping your phone and computer records. The government knows how to get this information, probably without you ever knowing.

How did we get to this point? There’s the badly misnamed Patriot Act, which gives the government access to everything from your bank records to your phone calls. It might be the most un-American law ever. George Orwell could not have invented a better name.

Then there are school officials, who have a legitimate interest in stopping bullies and in knowing where their students are, and who aren’t bothered by the Big Brother aspects of tracking students like this – but only while on campus, of course.

For now. The Patriot Act was written by security agencies, which had tried to get many of its provisions through Congress for years. After the 2001 attacks, they saw their chance.

Of course, they only use their new-found powers to look for terrorists. Just like the electronic snoopers. And it’s easy to believe German Chancellor Angela Merkel is a terrorist, right?

Easier even to just trust the government, right? Because “they” know what’s good for us.

Until the day we wake up, and the government has decided the price of our freedom is too high, and there’s not a thing we can do about it, because we’re so tracked and tapped and surveilled we can’t move.

Oh, but that’ll never happen, will it? Well, they’d never listen to our phone calls, right? Just the terrorists’. – *Steve Haynes*

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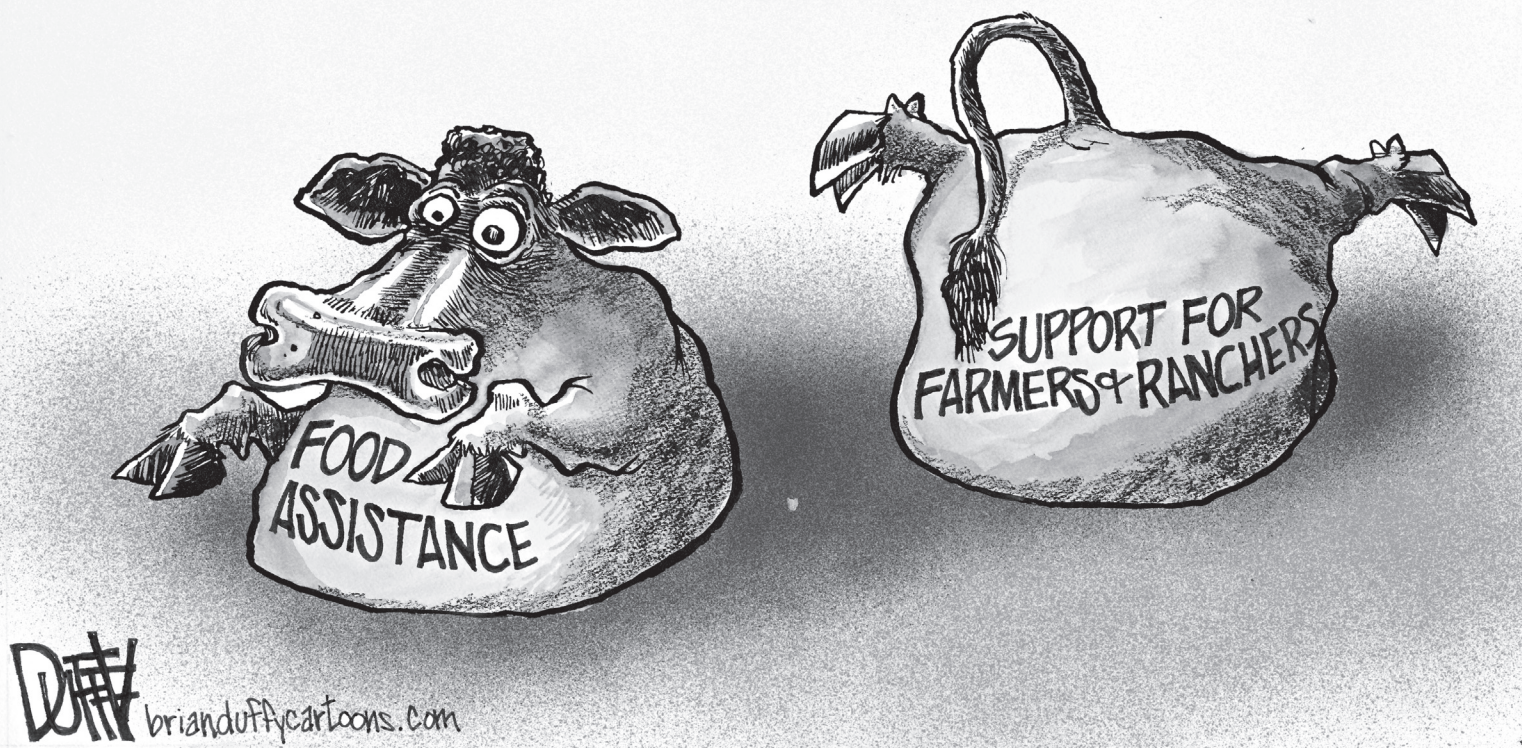
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THE HOUSE REPUBLICANS BELIEVING THAT
SEPARATING THE FARM BILL WILL ALLOW
THE PARTS TO STAND ON THEIR OWN.



Vegetarians gain some converts

I warned Ramell that I was writing about vegetarians this week.

He just smiled, shrugged and said, “Go for it.”

Ramell is the reporter for *The Oberlin Herald*. He’s a great guy, but skinny – a 6-foot, 6-inch bean pole.

When he came to town, he’d eat chicken and turkey, but he was trying to gain weight then. Now he’s decided that a vegetarian lifestyle is better for his health, so he’s given up the poultry to concentrate on stuff that doesn’t run away.

We give him some trouble at the office, but he just smiles and tells us about these great vegetarian places he visited on a recent trip to California. He said he even found a vegetarian soul food place.

Now, the girls at the office agree: vegetarian and soul food are not words that should even be used in the same sentence, let alone allowed together in a restaurant.

Whatever happened to fried chicken and biscuits and gravy? That’s soul food, too, right? But so are collard greens, black-eyed peas and cornbread. Still, it doesn’t sound right.

But remember, I said vegetarians – not just one.

My sister and I traveled down to Arkansas a couple of weeks ago to visit with some cousins



Cynthia Haynes

• Open Season

and an aunt and uncle.

We spent two nights with our cousin George and his wife Vonda. Vonda fixed us chicken breasts for supper and she and George had something else. I’m not sure what it was, but they seemed to enjoy it.

Vonda announced that they had decided to become vegetarians for health reasons after reading a book on the subject.

This was a bit of a surprise to my sister and me – here was a couple we had known most our lives telling us they were making a huge change in their habits.

Now, we had another cousin, Judy, come by to visit. Judy would like to be a vegetarian, because she doesn’t believe in eating animals. She’s the cousin with six dogs and 20 cats. However, her doctor tells her she has to eat meat because she doesn’t get enough protein without it and she has had too many bouts with cancer to risk it.

Anger at tea party misplaced

Other
Opinions

• Harold Pease
Liberty Under Fire

debt insanity.

Tea party groups began to spring up everywhere in February 2009, each with their own leaders. Three city leaders in the East contacted each other to compare notes. They liked the name tea party because they wished to emulate our founding philosophy. Uncertain what their core values should be, they invited Internet submissions from the thousands who felt similarly.

Still, there was no known single leader. My daily submissions encouraged getting back to the Constitution. The three most frequently submitted core values, and the one’s selected, were: limited constitutional government, free market and fiscal responsibility – precisely the collective views of our Founders.

In my community the leader of the movement was Julie Demos, a second grade teacher, who had had no prior political experience. She was perfect. This was the gathering of the people who wished to use the Founders’ core values in promoting good government. Between three and five thousand folks gathered at the Liberty Bell on April 15, 2009; many spoke, including myself.

We wished to attract those who wished to get back to these core values. Congressman Kevin McCarthy and House Speaker John Boehner, were denied the podium for that reason. They attended and viewed the proceedings as spectators as did everyone else. This was not a Republican Party rally.

When I was young I assumed that I would

have been with the patriots at Lexington and Concord when the British came to take their guns, or with Patrick Henry when he gave his famous speech that was highlighted by the phrase, “Give me liberty or give me death.” I would have been at Valley Forge with George Washington.

When I learned much later that only a third of the people were patriots, another third too apathetic to care, and yet another third Tories, who actually assisted the British during the war, I wondered whether I would have had the clarity of thought to have picked the right side. Would you? It comes to this: if you share the core values of the Founding Fathers you will befriend the tea party movement, then and now; if you do not, then it is likely that you would have been a Tory, then and now.

The tea party fight is not just about defunding Obamacare, which turns over to the federal government one-seventh of the economy. It is this and so many other things that have been taken over by the federal government without clear constitutional language.

It is about over-taxing one part of the population to feed the other. It is about overspending to the point that the entire economy collapses. It is about liberty itself.

Tories in the American Revolution could not see any of this and opposed liberty. Tories today, from both parties, are equally blind. Some of us value movements and people, like Ted Cruz, that actually fight for liberty. So please don’t be angry at the tea party for standing for our founding principles, instead be angry with those who demean them.

Dr. Harold Pease has dedicated his career to studying the writings of the Founding Fathers. He has taught history and political science for over 25 years at Taft College. To read more of his weekly articles, go to www.LibertyUnderFire.org.

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