

Anti-terrorism law breaches privacy

ISAIAH CREEL
Staff Writer

The new anti-terrorism law does far more harm than good. The foundation of America is the rights of its citizens, the bulk of which have traditionally been immigrants.

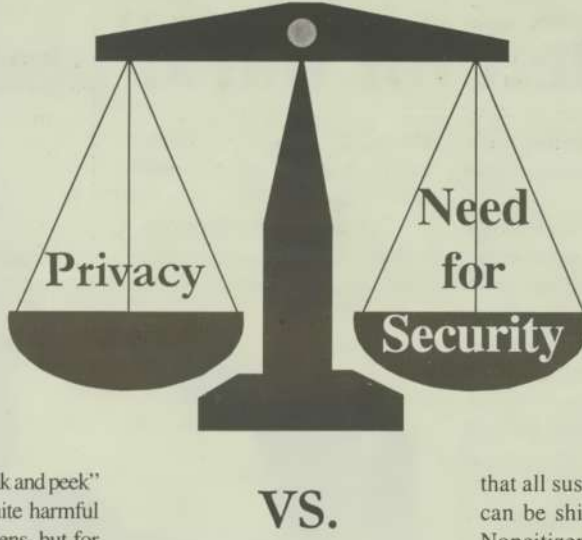
By giving law enforcement agents the authority to conduct secret searches of homes and businesses just on suspicion, our freedom is not just limited, but outright breached. Without any warning, a special forces unit could come into your home and ransack it, merely on suspicion of an extremely broad range of charges. My home could be searched just for writing this article because I am badmouthing the government. It may not be that extreme, and my freedom of press is not in jeopardy, but it is nonetheless frightening.

Law enforcers can now hold non-citizens for as long as seven days without charging them or beginning deportation. That's quite a leap from the original 48 hours. My friend's mother came here from England and it is possible for feds to throw her in jail for nothing other than being English.

The Bill of Rights' Fourth Amendment states, "The right of people to be secure in their persons, houses,

papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation and particularly desecrating the place to be searched and the persons and things to be seized." The anti-terrorism bill, however, also gives enforcers access to private information through e-mail monitoring. They have created an extremely controversial system called Carnivore, which retrieves e-mail addresses through advanced technology. The real question of safety is whether or not it obtains more than e-mail addresses, such as home addresses or other "secure" information. This information, when used in conjunction with the "sneak and peek" authority, could prove quite harmful not only to innocent citizens, but for the law enforcers who will make countless mistaken judgments.

This new bill is not only ridiculous, but also demeaning to the foundation of America.



Security cannot be overlooked

LUKE MAHAN
Staff Writer

If there is anything we need in America today, it is security. Overwhelming and unrelenting control is what the American people are asking for subconsciously. If we have any hope of securing the land of the free against future terrorist attacks or anything that threatens our liberty, we must take necessary action.

I think one aspect of our battle against the Taliban that is all too often overlooked is immigration. We need to get our deportation system lubed up for smooth operation so that all suspected al-Qaida agents can be shipped off immediately. Noncitizens also figure into the equation. Mass investigations should take place concerning resident aliens, because who knows what they are up to if they are not registered voters? I would be

happy to give my own mother, who remains a citizen only of England, up to investigation, as long as I know that something is being done.

One method of government control under debate is the use of Carnivore by law enforcement. Carnivore is a system used to monitor e-mails and Internet use. The disagreement over using this system is whether it actually gets more information than just e-mail addresses. But the way I see it if you've done nothing wrong, then there is nothing to worry about. Especially if it helps to get rid of any would-be saboteurs.

Congress apparently is thinking along the same vein, since there is a new federal law which broadens police power, enabling them to search houses without immediately telling suspects that their houses have been searched. Law enforcement can also detain noncitizens for up to seven days without charging them. This is totally rational and necessary, since reasons for imprisonment are overrated anyway.

The government shares my opinions, and you'd be best off doing so too.

Are you more concerned with privacy or the need for security?



Michael Coffey

"It depends on the circumstances. If people are going to lose lives and stuff, I'm concerned with security. You only get one life."



Kylee Sallak

"Security, definitely security. It's scary to think at any point in time something can blow up."

Photos and quotes compiled by Salena De La Cruz and Maggie Jirasek



Casey Flynn

"I want privacy. But I want security measures to be taken so stuff like this doesn't happen."



Michael Todd

"Privacy. People just have a right to it. I feel privacy is a form of security."



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