

The Clackamas **Print**

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# Providing Security vs. Right to Privacy

## Video surveillance cameras help protect the innocent



**Cyndee Mady**  
Opinion Editor

Approximately 15 students' cars were vandalized in the parking lot between Gregory Forum and Randall Hall on February 1 of this year. Had security cameras been monitoring these locations, Public Safety might have acquired valuable leads that could have led to an arrest. At the very best, the cameras might have acted as a deterrent to the deviants who inflicted thousands of dollars in damages and countless hours of aggravation to the individuals whose property was vandalized and stolen.

This incident was not isolated, as there have been prior and subsequent car break-ins. While campus security provides satisfactory coverage, they cannot be in all places at all times. Surveillance cameras would fill in the gaps.

The tragic events of Sept. 11 evoked consciousness to America's lack of security and brought an end to a mentality that harbored indestructibility. As a result, increased security measures were activated in government buildings, public transportation facilities, stadiums, tourist attractions and various other potential terrorist targets.

Many people have emulated some of these safety measures on a much smaller, but nonetheless effective, scale. Americans can easily and affordably protect their assets at home or office with today's advanced surveillance equipment.

Sure, hit-and-run drivers, shoplifters and child abusers will object to being inadvertently "caught" on tape, but upstanding citizens should be grateful for the protection cameras provide and the added assistance in identifying perpetrators after an offense has been committed.

Remember Madelyne Gorman Toogood, who was seen on the news last year beating her four-year-old child in a department store parking lot? She was charged with felony battery to a child and received a three-year maximum prison sentence, all due to the magic of video surveillance equipment.

More recently, a concerned mother was perplexed by her handicapped child's erratic behavior and set out to find the cause. She packed a running tape recorder in her son's backpack, and was shocked by what she heard at the end of the day. Her son was enduring mental and physical abuse at the hand of the bus driver. Again, surveillance cameras would have saved this helpless child from his attacker.

Americans should be willing to sacrifice a portion of their privacy in exchange for securing their safety. It is a small price to pay for the enormous benefits that will result from adding an extra set of eyes to the picture.

## Video surveillance cameras violate our basic freedoms



**Nic Delzell**  
Staff Writer

"There's 12 months in the year, that's six months to stay out of my business, and six months to leave me ... alone." – Trick Daddy, rap artist.

The fourth amendment protects every American's right to privacy. The overuse of surveillance cameras

violates every American's right to privacy. I'm not a criminal. I don't expect to be treated like one – no one does. We may be completely different from each other, but if we don't trust each other's basic right to privacy then we are disrespecting each other's dignity.

Insecurity and lack of knowledge provide the need for surveillance cameras. Governments, private citizens and businesses use surveillance

cameras to hate and discriminate as well as invade our basic right to privacy. Keeping our nation secure is the only valid reason to videotape people's lives. However, if security personnel were properly trained and carried out their jobs, surveillance cameras would be archaic. Is society that dependent on technological aid?

The relationship between technology and human nature creates a conflict. If observers are watching a surveillance camera, but only pick one person out of every five people to scrutinize, how can they stay objective? Four other people got by without notice.

Why does anyone have to know what I'm doing? The only people who need to know what's up with me are my friends and loved ones. It's not right to "select" random people to star in surveillance videos.

If the greatest nation in the world is truly free, we need to stop assuming and stop videotaping people we don't know. Trusting innocent people to make the right decisions will end this debate. Properly detaining those who foul up will help discourage crime.

The American Civil Liberties union reports that Michigan law enforcement used surveillance cameras as a way to make threats against motorists and stalk women. Surveillance cameras can't be used to deter crime, or make choices for people. Criminals are going to do what they do regardless of whether a surveillance camera is watching.

People who are different stand out – is that wrong? American citizens shouldn't have to keep a low profile because they have a camera mounted over them.

It's garbage to assume without knowing. Didn't your mama tell you it's impolite to point your finger at someone? Surveillance cameras point fingers that record, violating everyone's basic freedoms.



I LOVE MY JOB!

SADIE MCCARTHY Clackamas Print

## Coffee cup dilemma brews perfect solution



**Shadra Beesley**  
Editor-in-Chief

personal reasons I will most likely continue to refer to them as those paper things they put on coffee cups).

To use this tactic, simply memorize this simple phrase: "Please do not put one of those paper things on my coffee cup." In most cases, save a few of the more...eccentric coffee shops around town (we all know of at least one), the person who prepares your beverage for you will most likely respond to this phrase by not putting one of those paper things on your coffee cup. Of course, if you use this tactic you must accept the possibility that you could burn your hand on the cup.

The second tactic is to learn to drive with coffee in your hand, or (more often) with it wedged between your legs. This is also useful advice

for people who do not have cup holders in their vehicles, like myself. Of course, this also introduces the likelihood of spilling coffee on the part of your attire that is the least desirable area to sport any sort of liquid.

Holding the coffee in hand does decrease the possibility of spilling, but increases the possibility of getting in an accident, which, as we all know, will basically end in wasting your entire cup of coffee.

So what is the answer? you ask. None of these solutions are perfect; all could end in burnt fingers, embarrassing stains or death.

Well for once, my answer is not "Well, I have no idea." I have the solution to this one. As a person who cannot hold an intelligible conversation before drinking coffee I know a

thing or two about how to get around with a cup of caffeine in tow.

Buy your own cup! Find one made of plastic, steel, or any material that provides its own insulation, and consequently does not require one of those paper things. The lids on these ingenious devices usually fit tightly, which prevents spilling, and many of them even have features that allow you to seal the hole that the coffee comes out of temporarily. There are several models that are built to fit in cup holders, and they are also safe to wedge between the legs. Countless other perks come with owning your own portable beverage container, like cheaper coffee, more trees, etc., but those will have to be discussed another time.

**Do you have something to shout about?**

Letters to the editor are always welcome.

Drop letters by B-104 or e-mail them to ccprint@clackamas.edu

Deadline: Friday before publication

## Student Poll

How do you feel about the use of surveillance cameras in public places?



- Justin Miracle -  
"I think that surveillance cameras are a necessary evil to protect the innocent."



- Sarah Iverson -  
"Anywhere public, you probably shouldn't be doing something private anyway, so we might as well have them."



- Michael Curry -  
"I think it's important that we find a balance between invasion of privacy and protecting our safety."



- Kamie Thrall -  
"I feel that having our actions recorded is a breach of our constitutional rights."



- Ethan Brown -  
"This idea that people need cameras everywhere just simply fuels the fire of paranoia in this country."