

## NATIONAL NEWS

## Privacy Fears Delayed Airport Scanners

## Machines see through clothing

(AP) -- High-tech security scanners that might have prevented the Christmas Day attempt to blow up a jetliner have been installed in only a small number of airports around the world, in large part because of privacy concerns over the way the machines see through clothing.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the Nigerian accused of trying to ignite explosives aboard a Northwest Airlines jet as it was coming in for a landing in Detroit, did not go through such a scan in

Amsterdam where his flight began.

The full-body scanner "could have been helpful in this case, absolutely," said Evert van Zwol, head of the Dutch Pilots Association.

But the technology has raised significant concerns among privacy watchdogs because it can show the body's contours with embarrassing clarity. Those fears have slowed the introduction of the machines.

Jay Stanley, public education director for the American

Civil Liberties Union's Technology and Liberty Program, said the machines essentially perform "virtual strip searches that see through your clothing and reveal the size and shape of your body."

Abdulmutallab passed through a routine security check at the gate in Amsterdam before boarding, officials said. He is believed to have tucked into his trousers or underwear a small bag holding PETN explosive powder, and possibly a liquid detonator.

Because such items won't set off metal detectors, the U.S. Transportation Security Ad-

ministration, part of the Department of Homeland Security, has begun installing two types of advanced scanning machines that provide a more detailed picture.

These machines, which cost six figures each, screen airline passengers without physical contact. They can reveal plastic or chemical explosives and non-metallic weapons.

Last June, because of privacy concerns, the House voted 310-118 to prohibit the use of whole-body imaging for primary screening. The measure, still pending in the Senate, would limit the use of the

devices to secondary screening.

"As a society, we're going to have to figure out the balance between personal privacy and the need to secure an aircraft," said Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, who sponsored the measure. "And there is no easy answer."

Executives at the companies that make the machines insist there are ways to strike that balance.

The technology has evolved enough to produce body images that look like chalk outlines. In addition, privacy filters can blur faces.

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based subjects!

**Dear Deanna!**

I'm married but often go on weekend trips with my friends. My husband issued an ultimatum to adjust my schedule but I chose not to. He said he would leave if I chose my friends instead of going with him to his family reunion. I went on my trip. When I returned, he was gone, the house was empty and utilities disconnected. He won't talk to me and now wants a divorce and I don't know what to do? -- Tamara; Louisville, Ky.

**Dear Tamara:**

It's hard to imagine a girlie trip that's so good it would make you forsake your marriage, unless you're cheating. Perhaps your friends can give you a cozy couch to sleep on since you put them before your husband. Your decision was foolish, immature and disrespectful. Reach out to your husband and invite him to a friendly location for a huge apology, an explanation and much needed counseling to help with issues you both obviously have.

**Dear Deanna!**

I'm an older woman dating a younger man. Our relationship is happy and healthy but his mother has an issue because she and I are the same age. Her son is very mature, we get along well and everything is balanced. We're starting to have arguments because his mother tries to interfere. We aren't going to make it unless he stops listening to his mother so much. How do I handle this? --Rose Mary; Dallas, Texas

**Dear Rose Mary:**

You handle it by not robbing the cradle and date men your own age. This is still her baby boy and she's simply not willing to accept him being with someone her age. She may feel as if she's being disrespected, you're taking advantage of her son and most importantly, she's losing him. You and her son should work together and help her understand

your relationship, become friends and if she doesn't respond, then too bad and keep it moving.

**Dear Deanna!**

My father is causing a lot of pain in my family. I made the decision to date and have interracial children. He calls my children horrible racial slurs and makes jokes about them to his friends. My family has now split against me because I choose not to go around my father or participate in things if he's around. Is there a friendly way to resolve this issue without causing more pain to my children and family? --Derrick J.; New York, NY

**Dear Derrick:**

Your father is acting like a racist. He should realize that your children have his blood and he should be ashamed of himself. You're doing the right thing because no one including your family has the right to disrespect you or your children. To make a long story short, your father needs a good man-to-man visit from you. Firmly let him know you will not tolerate this behavior and if he wants to see you or the children he needs to stop this rudeness immediately.

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