

Opinion

Security Since 9/11

What's your view?

By Robert Ripson-Lion's Eye Staff Writer-rlr283@psu.edu

We have just passed the ten year anniversary of for most of us, the single most defining moment of our lives. That day will forever be emblazoned with our memories and souls. Memorials have been placed, for some; wounds have healed, others, not so much.

Within a week of that event, President Bush announced to the world: "You are either for us or against us." With that decree, many measures were put into place in an attempt to secure our liberties and to protect us from future disasters which may be plotted against the United States. Within six weeks after the attack, one such measure, which sparked some controversy, was the Patriot Act. The official title of the USA PATRIOT Act is "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism."

With this act, the role of government within our daily lives was expanded immeasurably. Of the One hundred thirty two pages of dialogue in which the United States government is allowed to survey electronic communications, there are whole subsections in which any means of messaging is subject to monitoring. The language is evasive as to the extent in which this monitoring is to be accomplished.

Twitter, Facebook, cell phones, email, Skype and the antiquated methods of communication, landline telephones and citizen band radios are subject to monitoring. They are supposed to go through official channels such as subpoenas and grand juries to acquire permission to proceed with these endeavors. However, if certain individuals use language that is deemed a threat, those methods may be overlooked.

Homeland Security was established, along with the Transportation Safety Agency. Homeland Security implemented color codes to heighten our awareness of potential threats as they may appear imminent or not. Yet, even with this system, the question was asked: "What are we supposed to do?" I think that question is still being asked.

The TSA implemented regulations which made flying across the country almost unbearable. Almost to the point of having passengers scrutinized to their last layer of clothing. Oppressive measures which in the last year or so have been relaxed to some degree. Now, more recently, there are machines that can scan you as if you were in the Arnold Schwarzenegger movie, "Total Recall." In this movie, one is scanned right to the skeleton in an effort to thwart weapons of any kind from being transported in public places.

Should this kind of effort be implemented? Does this infringe upon Second Amendment rights, the right to bear arms? How far do we need to go as a nation to feel "safe?" Are you willing to give away some "freedom" to "feel" secure? Can we ever return to a pre-9/11 mentality where, in relative terms, where there isn't a care in the world?

It's your call.

How To With Matt...

Make Your Road Trip Stress Free

By Matt Rodgers
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The Labor Day weekend has come and gone and the days of summer are over, unfortunately. During everyone's vacation, traffic issues more than likely plagued each and every one. Everybody has a list of stupid things they witnessed, or were involved in. It drives everyone batty. Here is a list of things that everyone should practice to make their, and our, commutes a little easier each day.

1. Seatbelts, Safety 1st.
2. TURN-SIGNALS. If you are turning the wheel of your car hard left or right, your turn-signal should be ON. It lets the people behind you know why you are slowing down, and for anyone ahead of you who is waiting to turn across your lane of traffic, that you are turning.
3. While in traffic, Turn signals are signals. The signal that you want to get over, NOT that you are getting over so move out of the way. WAIT until a proper gap in that lanes traffic catches up with you, than get over.
4. While merging onto a highway it is very beneficial to get up to the speed of traffic before merging. Cutting someone off only causes a domino effect of brake lights. Short on-ramps are an exception because they don't allow you much time to speed up.
5. Approaching a weave-lane off ramp, turn your turn signals on EARLY, that way on ramp cars can act accordingly.
6. When in stagnant traffic, CREEP, don't push and break. It's better for your car, and if like minded drivers around you do the same, the traffic will move, and not just sit in the baking sun.
7. The LEFT lane is for passing!!! If you are not moving faster than the cars to your right, you are in the WRONG lane.
8. When in cities or in an area with One Way streets, you CAN turn left on a red light unless otherwise stated on a sign.
9. Tailgating. Nothing can be more important than risking yours, an others lives, so do not do it.
10. DO NOT flash lights at

people in front of you in an attempt to get them to speed up. You will probably hit the next red-light at the same time anyway, so Chill. If the car that is getting flashed is in the process of doing # 6, proceed at will.

11. NO TEXTING, CELL PHONES, EATING, READING, MAKE-UP, HAIR, etc...
12. Driving a dump truck or any towing truck, STAY in the right lane at ALL times.
13. You CAN turn right when there is a sign saying Wait for Green at an intersection. It would say No Turn on Red if you couldn't.
14. Does your radio need to be so LOUD? If so, at least turn it DOWN or hit the att button before entering a neighborhood. Especially at night.
15. Insert anything that drives You CRAZY...

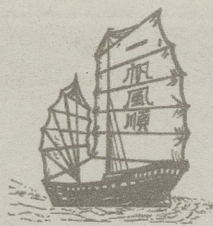
Please, don't be that guy or girl!!!



*Nuf said....

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The Lion's Eye



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