

This cartoon criticizes a current tendency in modern society: the trend towards total surveillance for the sake of total security. It depicts a middle-aged man, the average citizen, surrounded by all kinds of surveillance devices. On top of that, the man has a bar code on his shirt and is equipped with a GPS transmitter, thus he can be tracked down and identified at all times.

Constant surveillance, immediate identification, and global tracking of everyone is often meant to give our society – or those who are in charge – a profound sense of security. Indeed, the man in the cartoon is happy. But the cartoonist means this ironically, critically, of course. Total surveillance is the first step towards a totalitarian political system, and we must be very careful employing such devices or else “Big Brother” will no longer be fiction.

I completely agree with the message conveyed by the cartoon. In my opinion, it is a threat to our humanity and an insult to our dignity to be under constant supervision, to be constantly considered a potential criminal or terrorist. To me, a part of true humanity lies in being inscrutable, in having secret wishes and desires, in living important moments of our lives unseen.

Moreover, while public surveillance has assisted the police in the persecution of the perpetrators after terrorist attacks and other crimes, it clearly doesn't help to prevent them, as the recent attacks in Paris and Orlando show. The feeling of security that politicians like to

propagate when it comes to cameras in public spaces or mass data preservation is therefore an illusion. The government has to get used to the fact that it can't control everything. Besides, as long as security systems can be hacked and manipulated, can we ever be sure we are going after the right guys?

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