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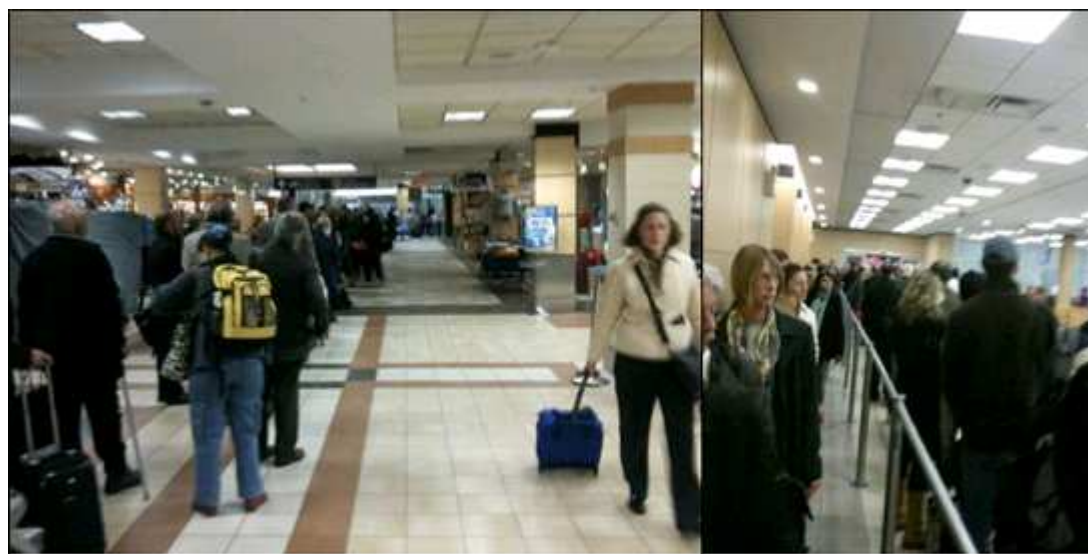
## All we like sheep – feedback (updated)

Posted by Parker on 18 October 2009 at 13:29 · [Email a comment](#)

A cautious Contrarian reader writes:

A friendly caution about [taking pictures](#) inside the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority pre-board screening area: If noticed, likely to attract unwanted security attention.

Noted — but isn't this just further evidence that the real purpose of [security theater](#) is not to keep Canadians safe but to buttress the puffed-up functionaries charged with upholding these useless, colossally wasteful procedures?



Left: Stanfield International Airport 7 a.m., October 15. The security queue extends past the Clearwater Seafoods kiosk to the Air Canada check-in counter. Right: Half and hour later, inside the CATSA security zone.

The overwhelming evidence is that airport searches do not make us safer, but they make us more sheep-like. For more discussion of the witless “security” precautions we have accepted since 9/11, see:

Jeffrey Goldberg’s [Atlantic Magazine account](#) of the ease with which smart terrorists could thwart airport screening.

John Mueller’s [Foreign Affairs article](#) contending that there reason there have been no attacks since 9/11 is that “that there are no terrorists within the United States, and few have the means or the inclination to strike from abroad.”

A Foreign Affairs [panel discussion](#) of Mueller’s thesis: “Are we safe yet?”

James Fallows’s many sensible contributions to the national “security” debate: “[Declaring Victory](#),” “[A Nation of Ninnies](#),” “[The End of 9/11](#),” and “[Civilize Homeland Security](#).”

Ben Friedman on [The War on Hype](#): “Conventional wisdom says that none of us is safe from terrorism. The truth is that almost all of us are.”

The [blog](#), [Crypto-Gram newsletter](#), and [articles](#) of security guru [Bruce Schneier](#), who coined the term, “security theater.”

Nova Scotia could contribute to the reversal of this craziness by easing up on the intrusive “security” fooferah that has infested provincial public buildings.

Update: **Contrarian** reader Jeffrey Pinhey writes:

In Rome, earlier this year, I was screened very carefully getting into a security area. Once in, I was able to buy a large, heavy glass bottle of olive oil with a nice long handle... I mean neck. I then was allowed to just carry this on to the plane with me as carry on. This was a significant weapon, at least the equal of a box cutter, even without breaking it and having the sharp glass. Yet they took away a tiny hat pin from a little old lady.

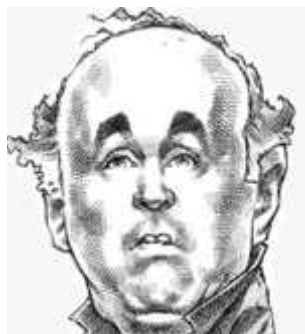


Filed under: [Canadian Politics](#), [Nova Scotia Politics](#), [U.S. Politics](#) · Tagged with: [Ben Friedman](#), [Bruce Schneier](#), [Canadian Air Transport Safety Authority](#), [CATSA](#), [Foreign Affairs](#), [James Fallows](#), [Jeffrey Goldberg](#), [Jeffrey Pinhey](#), [John Mueller](#), [security theatre](#), [Stanfield International Airport](#), [The Atlantic](#)

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**Parker Donham**

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