

# Bangor Daily News

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## UNLOCKING AN iPhone

### AN ORDER RAISES PRIVACY, SECURITY CONCERNS

The latest round in an on-going debate over U.S. government access to cell-phone data is playing out in California after the FBI obtained a court order demanding that Apple unlock a cellphone used by one of the perpetrators of the deadly attacks in San Bernardino. Apple has so far refused to abide by the order, arguing that to do so would violate its commitment to its customers and their privacy as well as increase the risk that hackers and criminals could steal private data from iPhones.

Both the government and Apple have strong arguments. While a resolution is likely to be reached in private, it is important that this debate began in public, where citizens can see what the FBI is asking for and why Apple is objecting. In essence, the public has a front-row seat in the difficult debate over national security and the need to gather information to prevent terrorist attacks versus Americans' cherished right to privacy.

Contrast this to the years after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, when Congress gave intelligence agencies great latitude to sweep up private information, much of it about American citizens, with limited oversight. Communications companies turned over millions of records. Love him or hate him, Edward Snowden brought the U.S. government's vast data collection to the public's attention.

These powers were pared back last year after the Patriot Act expired and lawmakers replaced it with more narrowly tailored legislation.

The government's longtime concern with encryption underlies the current debate. Apple now uses encryption on all its phones to protect customers' personal information, which includes not just phone numbers, but possibly financial information, travel plans and health data. Keeping this information private makes sense, until a phone is

used to plan and carry out mass murder, which is what the FBI alleges in the San Bernardino case. Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, who allegedly professed allegiance to ISIS, are believed to have killed 14 people in a December shooting spree.

Apple argues that it can't unlock the iPhone used by Farook without developing a "back door" method for getting through the security code that Farook set. The company says that once such a back door is developed, hackers could exploit it. Turning this "hack" over to the government would be problematic because it has shown it isn't the best steward of private information. There is also no guarantee the government wouldn't use it to gather information far beyond what is on the one phone in question.

Further complicating the situation, Apple has turned its refusal to unlock Farook's iPhone into a public relations campaign. Despite high-minded language in a letter company CEO Tim Cook wrote to customers, Apple has complied with such orders before. It has unlocked phones for authorities at least 70 times, according to documents filed in a New York case, The Daily Beast reports.

Ultimately, this will likely be resolved in court. Sen. Angus King and Rep. Chellie Pingree make a strong argument that Congress should update the law to clarify what should happen in this case. We agree in principle, but Congress has shown itself incapable of resolving much simpler disputes. And, it is worth remembering, Congress authorized the data collection that Snowden revealed.

Determining where privacy ends in the name of national security is no simple task, and Congress, intelligence officials and companies holding personal data have gotten it wrong in the past. More public scrutiny could help ensure the line is adjusted to better serve both interests.

## OTHER VOICES

### A NEW AGE OF RUSSIAN DETERRENCE

Just a few years ago, in the Obama administration's fiscal 2013 defense budget summary, the word "Russia" was mentioned briefly in the context of the new strategic arms treaty. By contrast, in the fiscal 2017 summary, President Barack Obama proposes spending increases for "countering Russian aggression," including the quadrupling, to more than \$3 billion, of funds for deploying a persistent Army brigade in central and eastern Europe, with training and prepositioning of combat gear. The shift is late, and the funding only a down payment. But the recognition that Russia has evolved from hoped-for partner to serious threat is welcome.

The intent of the increased spending is to reassure allies made nervous in the face of Russia's new aggressiveness and "send a strong message of deterrence." Russia and its militia proxies are occupying parts of three former Soviet republics — Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine — and its military has taken the initiative in Syria, propping up the regime of Bashar Assad. Across Europe the Russians are waging a nasty information war, using overt and covert methods to undermine NATO and the European Union. Many Western officials believe that Russian leader Vladimir Putin is deliberately exacerbating the refugee crisis that threatens European unity, a tactic they refer to as the "weaponization of migration." Meanwhile, while the U.S. mili-

tary concentrated on counterinsurgency warfare during the past decade, Russia was making impressive advances in electronic warfare and other military technologies. Like China, Russia has a smaller defense budget than that of the United States but has been sinking resources into weapons systems that are "asymmetric," meaning that a relatively small investment can undermine a formidable conventional U.S. capability. Russia, for example, has reportedly developed a new unmanned nuclear-capable underwater drone, while China is improving its antisatellite capability. Both have leapfrogged technology hurdles, in some cases by stealing blueprints from the United States.

How to respond? Obama's budget doubles Air Force offensive cyber-operations from \$12.8 billion to \$25 billion, according to Defense One. The budget contains money for research and development on railguns and lasers, swarming autonomous vehicles, guided munitions, electronic warfare and more technology wonders that remain in classified budgets. While Western allies must continue the fight against the Islamic State and other forces of instability, they also must recognize that, through no choice of their own, a new age of deterrence has dawned. The United States must strive to hold on to technological superiority and make clear to Russia that further aggression would impose an unacceptable cost.

*The Washington Post (Feb. 17)*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Collins fights fraud

In her capacity as chair of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, Sen. Susan Collins has developed a new resource concerning scam and fraud awareness for older adults. AARP Maine hosted a news conference with Collins Feb. 17 at our state office to officially announce the release of this important publication: "Fighting Fraud: U.S. Senate Aging Committee Identifies Top 10 Scams Targeting Our Nation's Seniors."

This informative resource is designed to inform and help protect older adults from some of the most pervasive and malicious scams and frauds.

As part of AARP Maine's work to raise awareness about consumer fraud and identity theft, we collaborate with federal and state legislators, law enforcement, community partners, agencies and organizations. AARP Maine believes that through enhanced collaboration and communication, we can raise awareness about these crimes and work together to empower Mainers and their families as fraud fighters.

Identity theft, investment fraud and scams rob millions of Americans of their hard-earned money every year. Collins is working tirelessly in her role on the committee to not only raise awareness, but to crack down on these criminals. AARP Maine applauds the senator's efforts, and we look forward to further collaboration with her office on scam and fraud prevention.

**Lori Parham**  
state director,  
AARP Maine  
Portland

### Rural veterans' care

According to a Feb. 17 St. John Valley Times article, there is a danger that the Access Received Closer to Home program that serves rural veterans will disappear from the Cary Medical Center in Caribou if federal funding lapses in August. If this happens, it would be bad for veterans who would have to travel long distances to obtain medical care covered by the Veterans Administration.

I hope the program will remain in Caribou for the good of local veterans and this issue is brought to the attention of Maine's political leaders.

**Irvin Dube**  
Madawaska

### WRITE TO US

Letters must be 250 words or fewer and include a full name, town of residence and daytime phone number. OpEds may be 700 words. Letters may be edited or rejected for clarity, taste, libel and space. If a letter or OpEd is published, submissions by the same writer will not be considered for 60 days.

Letters may be sent to letters@bangordailynews.com. OpEds may be sent to OpEd@bangordailynews.com or P.O. Box 1329, Bangor, ME 04402-1329.

### Public education

The Maine Legislature and governor have shown a lack of support for public education, so it is time for Mainers to exhibit genuine support for public education. Our public schools provide education for all our youth regardless of their abilities. I and thousands of Mainers have received a good public education that has served us well. Educators do the best they can

while our legislators and governor make educators' tasks more difficult. Test and retest, which takes away valuable learning time. Paperwork and more paperwork, which interferes with appropriate preparation time. I think it is time for the governor and legislators to go into our public schools and see what our educators are faced with day in and day out. It would be a valuable learning experience and would hopefully lead to newer, more logical rules and laws to assist, rather than hinder, the educational process.

I also ask that parents be more attentive to their child's education by making sure that homework is completed and that support is in place on a regular basis toward their school. Educators have a very difficult task when the Legislature and governor seem to do everything possible to make their responsibilities more difficult to achieve.

**Richard Leonard**  
Veazie

### So long, Family Ties

The announcement in the Feb. 1 edition of the Bangor Daily News that Roxanne Moore Saucier would no longer write her Family Ties column for the newspaper came as a regretful warning. This paper is losing a unique contribution and a local icon. Her column has informed local historians and future genealogists for 30 years and will be greatly missed.

For many, this is one more nail in the coffin for a local paper that once tried to meet the needs of all its readers. Understanding this area's local and family history is no easy task, but Saucier did just that.

**Carol B. Smith Fisher**  
Camden

## .COMMENTS

**Editorial, "From Susan Collins, a refreshing reluctance to rush judgment on the next justice":**

Call me old fashioned but shouldn't the Senate at least know who the nominee is before they announce why he or she is unfit to serve?  
— Emilio Lizardo

These are [the] same elected officials who swore to make Barack Obama a one-term president before he was even sworn into office, throwing all citizens under the bus. This is not my parents' GOP. Disgusting.  
— rplantlover

Too bad both sides were posturing before Justice Antonin Scalia was buried.  
— Brucef156

Yes, let President Barack

Obama do his job, then let the Senate (elected by the people) do theirs and stall his nomination. Balance of power.  
— Clarence Sinclair

This obstructionism by the GOP and tea party should motivate the electorate to take action against them by returning a Democratic majority to the Senate and House.  
— Frank

Stalling is not the job of the Senate. It is to advise and consent, not advise and obstruct.  
— maineiac123

Sen. Susan Collins is doing her job pretty well. We didn't elect her to be a partisan, political drone, or party-line hack. We thought she would consider each situation, weigh the options and act in a manner she feels has the best interests of the state and the

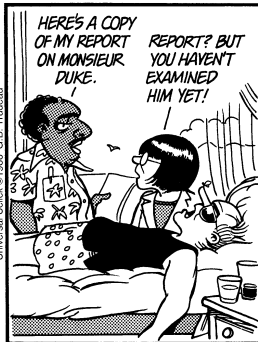
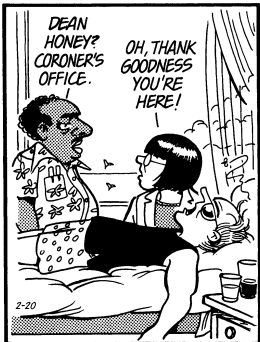
country in mind. We may not always agree with her, but that is what she is doing. If people want a demagogue, an ideologue or a party hack, they best look elsewhere next time they vote.  
— westword6

The knee-jerk reaction from the GOP is typical, and they painted themselves into a corner before rational thinking took hold. Sen. Susan Collins is to be commended for showing more sanity than some of these knuckleheads.  
— sdemetri

It's a nomination, not an appointment. And I haven't heard anyone say President Barack Obama can't nominate someone.  
— Rulz

Kudos to Sen. Susan Collins, brickbats to Mitch McConnell.  
— Gopher63

## DOONESBURY



## GARRY TRUDEAU