

Staff Editorial | Should Apple Comply With the Requests of the FBI?

On Dec. 2, 2015, 36 people fell victim to a shooting in San Bernardino. Of the 36 victims, 14 were killed, 22 were injured and attackers Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik died during a gun battle with the police. Over the past two months, the FBI has been investigating the attackers' potential connections to terrorist organizations. On Feb. 16, the FBI took its investigation to the next level by officially requesting Apple's help to unlock the security system of Farook's iPhone 5c. Apple would ultimately have to create a new version of its iOS smartphone software, a "back-door" that Apple believes is too dangerous in the hands of the wrong people. The software may seem like a means to combat terrorism in the United States but creating this software would have the ability to endanger the nation's safety as a whole.

According to the official FBI website, the requested software would allow the government to unlock the terrorist's iPhone in order to ensure the safety of American citizens. Some believe that the information stored inside the phone will provide information about how terrorist groups communicate and dates for potential future attacks. If Apple were to comply with the FBI's demands, this could lead to closure and justice for the families of the victims. However, Apple CEO Tim

Cook stated in an online letter to customers that complying with the FBI's demands would put personal information at risk.

If this software were to fall into the hands of hackers, they would have the power

can citizens' confidentiality, Apple must not comply with the demands of the FBI.

Additionally, the FBI cannot guarantee that this software would be limited to the San Bernardino case, according to Cook. If

ise that Apple has guaranteed its customers with its safe and state of the art technology.

On the other hand, the FBI has stated that unlocking this phone could potentially lead to the prevention of future terrorist attacks that could save dozens of lives in the long run. This statement, however, is all speculation; there is no guarantee that there is any information on the phone in the first place. Years of research and technology have built up Apple's security system to the utmost immunity from hackers and creating this technology could potentially lead to the downfall of all the research that has been established. Apple should assist the FBI to a certain extent in its investigation without creating an insecure and unpredictable software but, at the end of the day, it's vital that iPhones remain as trusted smartphones rather than as dangerous government surveillance tools.

On Feb. 29, the New York Court ruled with Apple, stating that the government cannot force Apple to create this software for the FBI. According to the New York Times, Judge Orenstein ruled that the government could not use the All Writs Acts, a 1789 law authorizing the federal courts to issue all writs necessary or appropriate in aid of their respective jurisdictions, to extract information from a device. Apple will not be forced to create any program for the FBI, a win for American citizens and their privacy.



to unlock any iPhone in someone's possession, a risk that would undermine our utmost safety and privacy. The FBI's request for this software would ultimately contradict Apple's promise towards customer privacy. For the sake of Ameri-

the software allows the FBI to hack into Farook's phone, the FBI may further request use of the software for future cases. The FBI, having the power to see into anyone's phone, would invade any privacy that we as Americans have. This would also break the prom-



A Regrettable Republican Response

ANGELA YANG  
Editor in Chief

On Feb. 13, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia was found to have passed away at the Cibolo Creek Ranch in Texas. While conspiracy theorists have been having a field day with the circumstances of his death, media coverage almost immediately jumped to speculation about Scalia's replacement on the Supreme Court. While it is no secret President Obama must inevitably appoint a new justice, one thing has ultimately disappointed (yet, not surprised) me: the Republican response to deny Obama's appointee.

"The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice. Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said, just one hour after news of Scalia's death broke, according to Politico. While this is an unsurprising response, given the long-standing tensions between the Republican and Democratic parties, it was appalling how quickly McConnell issued this statement. Instead of taking the time to mourn a respected and prominent intellectual who served his country, McConnell decided to seize the opportunity in an effort to further his party's agenda. McConnell doesn't stand alone either — various Senate Republicans have vowed to delay Obama's appointment until the new president is in office.

It seems that McConnell is ignoring the president's constitutional responsibilities, specifically to "nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, ... appoint ... Judges of the Supreme Court," as stated in Article II of the Constitution. While I am not surprised, I am ultimately disappointed to see Scalia's death turned into a battleground between the two parties.



'Moor' School Spirit Starts With Us

JACQUELYN LOI  
Staff Writer

The role of school spirit plays a significant role in both academic achievement and general happiness. As of late, Alhambra High School's Associated Student Body (ASB) has made the promotion of school unity and pride one of their primary goals. However, while ASB is certainly a leading factor for the promotion of school spirit on our campus, we push the challenge of such a large goal solely on ASB when instead, we need to meet them halfway as a collective student body.

While ASB's efforts to advocate school spirit should be acknowledged, there is only so much ASB can do if our own student body is not doing its part to support AHS. Most of the rallies that ASB holds garner a small amount of people, an apparent lack of school attendance that is also found at sports events. In comparison to the large population of students that the school contains, the student attendance at school events is discouraging and something that needs to change.

Having said that, creating a sense of school spirit does not only involve going to sports

games or attending rallies. School spirit can also be shown by participating in school spirit weeks, dressing up in our school colors each week for Blue and Gold Fridays or even just helping to promote, like and share social media links such as ASB's Facebook page and Instagram account. ASB plans spirit weeks, rallies and events all to better a student's high school experience, so the student body should embrace and respect that by making an effort to participate.

School spirit evokes feelings of enthusiasm, promotes a positive learning atmosphere and establishes an encouraging student body. The sense of community that school spirit can bring to our campus should be the common goal we strive for as students. However, this is something that cannot be attained unless we all work together to achieve it. Thus, we should try our best to make ends meet and cooperate with ASB to create a school environment that shows how spirited Moors can be.

MOOR graphics by LESLIE HWANG



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During the college application process, strong grades, leadership in extracurriculars and solid scores on standardized tests are factors that colleges look for in prospective students. With today's emphasis on social media, obtaining information about other people is very easy to do.

With an applicant's personal life open to admissions officers, it is not uncommon for an applicant to be evaluated through his or her social media accounts. In fact, according to the Chicago Tribune, a study by Kaplan Test Prep showed that 31 percent of college admissions officers checked social media accounts when evaluating an applicant. As a result, many students become overwhelmingly concerned with their social media accounts, going as far as restricting what they post to avoid looking inadequate to colleges and changing their social media names to avoid being found online. This worrying over colleges hounding students' social media profiles should not exist. Colleges are not prohibited from examining an applicant's social media account, but they should not be relied upon as a valid representation of a student.

The posts made on one's social media accounts do not measure the quality of an applicant. What one posts online does not show the abilities, talents or skills an applicant has. Just like one cannot judge a book by its cover, colleges cannot and should not judge a student by their digital profiles. The content on these profiles is not a true reflection of the student and can be misleading. Thus, they should not be used as a means to evaluate any aspect of an applicant.

