



Apple Picking Trend Becoming More Popular in Major US Cities

ELLEN LI
News Editor

As the season transitions to fall and holidays approach, a favorite pastime of some American families is apple picking on local farms. However, thieves across the nation are cashing in on another trend of "Apple picking" by stealing Apple products.

According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), 30 to 40 percent of robberies in several major cities involve cell phones. On a related issue, according to a crime statistics report released by the New York Police Department (NYPD) in September, Apple thefts have jumped 40 percent from last year, meaning that one in seven crimes in New York City now involve Apple products. This unprecedented growth in Apple picking outpaced other major crimes in the city, including murder, rape and robbery.

At AHS, of the 30 to 40 electronic items reported lost or stolen each year, about 70 percent of them are Apple products, according to Assistant Principal of Student Services Chris Takeshita.

"It is sad that some people have to steal to obtain the item they want, and it is unfair to the victims," senior Vivian Lin said. "[However], people should be more responsible with

their devices. If they own it, they should be able to take care of it and watch over it."

According to ABC News, the victims of Apple picking were generally focused on their cell phones, inattentive of their surroundings and looked as though they would not put up a fight. Furthermore, the victims were being targeted in public locations like

fast-food restaurants, coffee shops and the streets.

However, the NYPD is trying to combat this issue with their "Anti-Apple Picking Campaign," which was instituted on the launch day of the iPhone 5. This program records a product's serial number with its corresponding owner information so that valuable electronic items can be retrieved in the event that it is lost or stolen.

"The theft of Apple phones and other hand-held devices drove the spike in robberies in larceny this year," Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly said in a post on the NYPD's Facebook page.

"Individuals alert to their surroundings are less likely to become victims, and Operation ID will help those whose property is lost or stolen to get it back."

This increase in stolen Apple products and cell phone thefts has led to action from the government and major wireless carriers. In April, FCC Chairman Julius

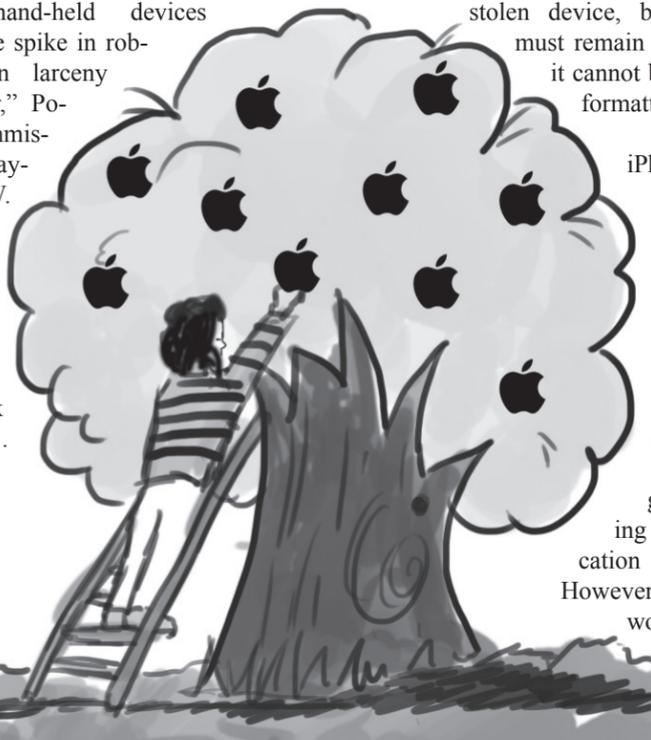
Genachowski announced the creation and implementation of a database designed to prevent the use of stolen smartphones; it is expected to launch in coming months. This registry would allow a cell phone user to report their stolen device, and their carrier would block the device's usage.

Consumers can also fight back against thieves by installing device recovery apps, such as "Find My iPhone" by Apple. This app and similar apps can track a lost or stolen device, but the device must remain turned on, and it cannot be wiped or reformatted.

"['Find My iPhone'] can be bypassed by thieves with a bit of knowledge," senior Jia Yu said. "Apple should integrate a system that always runs in the background recording the global location of the device. However, such a system would greatly decrease the battery life, not to mention other concerns such as privacy issues."

Nevertheless, apps like "Find My iPhone" can still be an invaluable tool in the event of theft, but police caution people to remain alert of their surroundings to prevent future incidents from occurring.

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO



Utah Homecoming Cut Short by Short Dresses

DIANA LI
News Editor

Homecoming is an annual tradition celebrated by high schools across America that is an undeniably major event. However, after much anticipation for their Homecoming dance, students at Utah's Stanbury High School (SHS) were disappointed when dozens of girls were turned away from the Homecoming dance due to dress-code violations.

According to the school's website, "[d]resses should be at or near knee length." Left up to subjective interpretation, dresses of varying lengths were deemed inappropriate while others passed inspection.

Some Alhambran students feel that SHS' ban was unjustified.

"It's not fair if the dress code wasn't specific and people already spent their money buying their outfits for the dance. Even though [a make up dance was held], it's just not the same," senior Lucy Wang said.

In protest, many students showed up at school in their formal attire the following Monday. SHS Principal Kendall Topham issued an apology to those who were not allowed entrance into the event; a replacement dance was scheduled for those who were not admitted into that Homecoming festivity.

"It's good that [the administrators] held a makeup dance," junior Anissa Orozco said. "They should have made the dress code more clear to begin with [...] to avoid these kind of problems."

SHS plans to rewrite its school dress code in order to prevent future problems that may arise.

MOOR graphic by SHARON XU

Common Core State Standards to Unify Education Systems

CAROLINE REN
Copy Editor

The world of standardized education will soon change for much of the United States. Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which have been adopted in 45 states, including California, and three U.S. territories, are expected to be fully implemented by the 2014-2015 school year.

The California State Board of

Education guides the implementation of CCSS in California for all students, from kindergarten to high school. The standards are internationally benchmarked, which means that they are compared to the practices of high-achieving education systems in other nations.

"Because the standards are the same state to state, if a student moves from California to New York, the expectations and goals

international educational consultant Beverly Flaten said.

However, critics of CCSS fear that the federal government is taking charge of an issue traditionally managed by state governments. An additional concern is the cost. CCSS is estimated to cost California \$760 million and the nation \$30 billion.

Another criticism is that publishing companies, such as Pearson, will profit up to eight billion dollars. In June, elementary and middle school students across New York boycotted Pearson's trial tests, which contained errors and were much longer than usual state standardized tests. New York has a \$32 million contract with Pearson, which begins in 2012.

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“In the past, each state developed its own standards and adjusted them as they saw fit.”

-Beverly Flaten

stay stable. In the past, each state developed its own standards and adjusted them as they saw fit," in-

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