

WITHOUT A TRACE

With recent outbreaks of theft occurring on school grounds, administrators, police department take action by investigating; students voice their opinions on theft

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His pants hung from one of the pipes in the ceiling, his shirt in another locker and his pens from his backpack went completely missing.

Alex Yao, freshman, became another victim of theft.

"I usually put my backpack in the locker room," Alex said. "When I came to get my backpack, I noticed a pocket was open, but I didn't realize that all my pens were gone."

Although Alex found his clothes, he

still considers it theft.

"If your going into someone's else property and taking their stuff that is consider stealing," Alex Yao said.

Alex does not serve as the only victim of theft. School Resource Officer Joseph Pacheco received five other reports regarding cell phones getting stolen during gym and Weight Training classes and after school during sport practices the past few weeks.

"It's a shame that people are having their items stolen," Officer Pacheco said. "If they have any leads on it, let me or one of the administration know about it."

Due to the recent thefts, Officer Pacheco and the administration instruct that gym teachers lock the door to the locker rooms and keep track of who walks in and out of them. Teachers

also now require students to lock up personal items like phones and laptops in their gym locker.

"I think the biggest thing students can do is secure their items," Officer Pacheco said. "Every report I have taken, none of the items were secured in a locker."

Several students had their clothes hidden in another locker, according to Danny Zuccarelli, freshman.

"If there's lockers with no locks on them and there's clothes in them," Danny said, "they go into that locker and take the clothes and hide them."

Danny also did not secure his possessions in a locker, leading his iPhone to get stolen.

"I was a little mad at the person whole stole my phone," Danny said. "I was thinking 'why are they that desperate to steal a phone?'"

Alex believes that the school needs to do more to prevent thefts.

"It ruins the school reputation," Alex said. "I do not think the school is handling the stealing well because they

haven't found who's doing it."

However, Danny thinks that the school is handling the investigation to the best of their ability because they started investigating his case when he went to student services.

"When I went to go fill out the report at student services, they asked me of the kids who lockers are around me and they talked to those kids," Danny said.

He adds that the administration also contacted the police department as a way of handling the situation.

"The police department called my mom," Danny said. "Her heart sank because she didn't know if it was a good thing or a bad thing."

Alex hopes the administration will catch the students involved in the thefts and knows that at least one of them resides in his class.

"I think it's someone that goes to gym first period," Alex said. "It could be other people too because I know other people got their stuff stolen and they were in different periods."

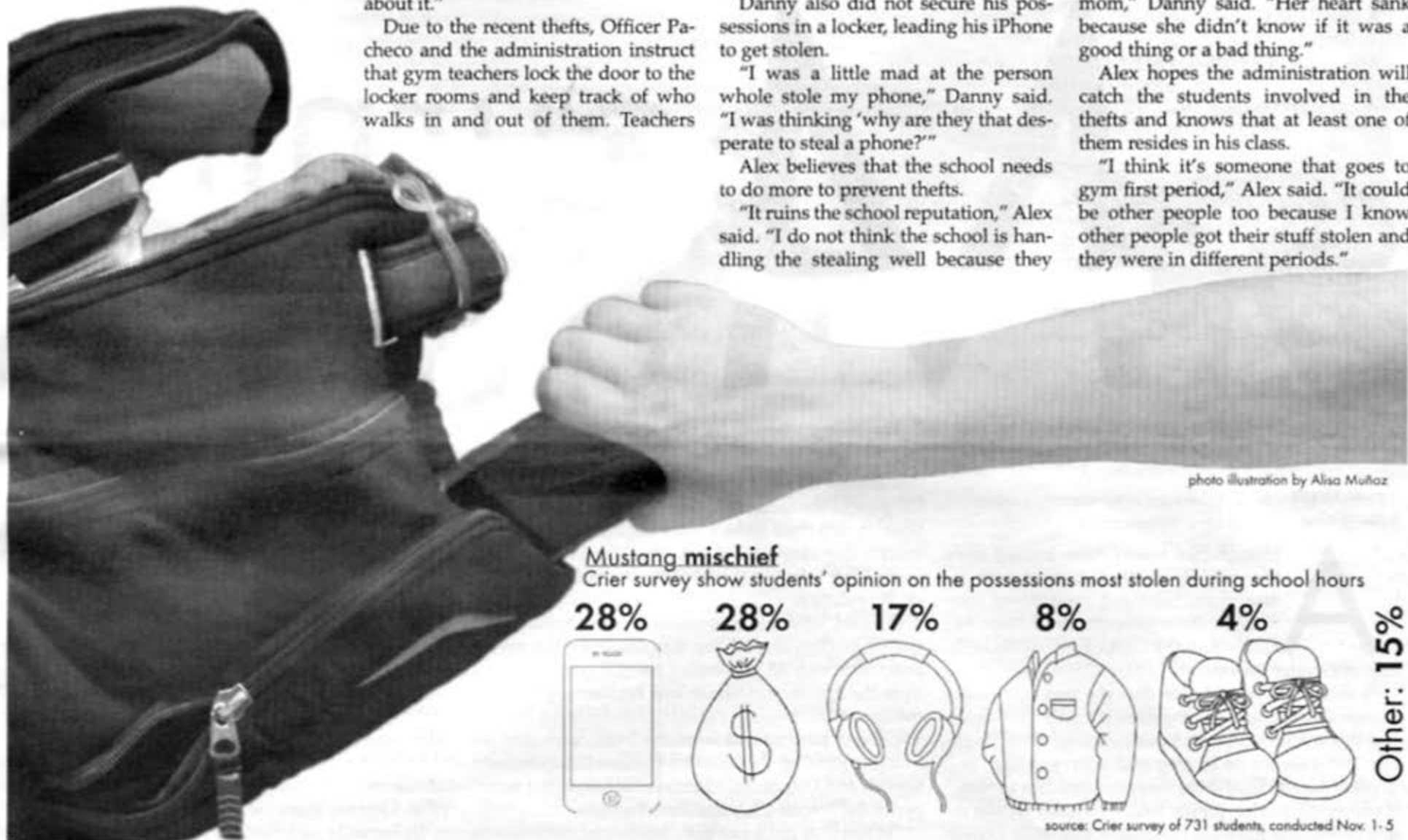


photo illustration by Alisa Muñoz

Mustang mischief

Crier survey show students' opinion on the possessions most stolen during school hours

28%



28%



17%



8%



4%



Other: 15%

source: Crier survey of 731 students, conducted Nov. 1-5