Columbus Day in Columbus Circle

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<High: This is Columbus Day and you`re looking at Columbus Circle here in New York City, but you cannot see the statue of Christopher Columbus. It`s all covered up because of a unique art project. Look at this. Seventy-five feet above the street, a Japanese artist has built a living room around the statue. So far more than twenty thousand people have climbed six flights of stairs to get this close-up view of Columbus. The installation will be open for six more weeks.>

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NORAH O`DONNELL: This is Columbus Day and you`re looking at Columbus Circle here in New York City, but you cannot see the statue of Christopher Columbus. It`s all covered up because of a unique art project. Look at this. Seventy-five feet above the street, a Japanese artist has built a living room around the statue. So far more than twenty thousand people have climbed six flights of stairs to get this close-up view of Columbus. The installation will be open for six more weeks.

Welcome back to CBS THIS MORNING. We were just talking about Columbus Day.

CHARLIE ROSE: Christopher Columbus and Columbus Day and what you told your kids about Christopher Columbus.

NORAH O`DONNELL: We had a teachable moment over the weekend--

CHARLIE ROSE: Yeah.

NORAH O`DONNELL: --talking about Christopher Columbus and the discovery of the America-- the Americas, you know.

CHARLIE ROSE: Mister Miller, did you participate in-- with your children and--

JOHN MILLER (CBS THIS MORNING Senior Correspondent): I told them if you discover America, you can also get a condo in Columbus Circle. But I still can`t believe it`s a walk up.

CHARLIE ROSE: I`ve walked up. It`s fabulous. You`d want to do that.

JOHN MILLER: All right. We`re going. We`re going.

NORAH O`DONNELL: Yeah. Why is he here? And oh, yeah. We`re talking about iPhones, right?

CHARLIE ROSE: You are here to talk about Christopher Columbus or iPhones?

JOHN MILLER: Stay focused, Charlie.

NORAH O`DONNELL: That`s right.

CHARLIE ROSE: Okay. People use phrases like iCrime and Apple picking to describe the theft of iPhones and other devices. Smartphone theft has hit an all-time high this year in major cities like New York and Los Angeles.

NORAH O`DONNELL: John Miller, of course, is a former deputy commissioner of the NYPD and LAPD and says police are worried even though it seems to be suddenly less of a problem. So, John, good morning. So iPhones, lot of people have had their iPhones stolen. Is there anything different now with the iPhone 5?

JOHN MILLER: Well, there is. And-- and what`s alarming and it shouldn`t be. Suddenly the thefts of iPhones here in New York City and in other cities really have dipped. So what they are worried about is after Apple announced the release of the date for the new iPhone 5, the redesigned iPhone 5. When the iPhone theft slowed down across the country, crime analysts believe with the new product on street they are going see a surge again.

(Begin VT)

SAMANTHA LIM (iPhone Theft Victim): No one saw a thing. It happened so fast.

JOHN MILLER: Samantha Lim was sitting with friends in a New York City restaurant, when her iPhone was swiped at the table by a patron.

SAMANTHA LIM: He laterally had only been there probably for fifteen-twenty minutes before he spotted my phone, checked to see if I wasn`t looking, and it was five inches away from my elbows at the time and he just took it so fast and walked right out the door.

JOHN MILLER: In New York City the theft of iPhones is actually driving up crime in the city.

RAY KELLY (New York Police Commissioner): Crime statistics have gone up almost four percent this year. If, in fact, there were no thefts of Apple products, we actually have a decrease this year.

JOHN MILLER: Since the first iPhone was released in 2007 New York City theft of Apple products has nearly tripled reaching thirteen thousand seven hundred and eighty-two in just the first nine months of this year.

GARRY MCCARTHY (Chicago Police Superintendent): Just about every major city across the country has the same exact crime dynamic, those gadgets are valuable, as a result they help drive crime trend.

JOHN MILLER: And here is what police are worried about--a week before the release of the bigger better, iPhone 5, the thefts of iPhones ground to a near-halt. And the analysts believe the thieves stopped stealing the old phones until they could start stealing the new iPhone 5.

RAY KELLY: We know that the-- the sales are very robust as far as iPhone 5s are concerned, so yeah, we have to anticipate that.

JOHN MILLER: Across the country police are expecting a surge in thefts.

GARRY MCCARTHY: As a new product comes out that becomes the item du jour that criminals want to steal.

JOHN MILLER: Even if the victims deactivate their phones, the phones can easily be reprogrammed with a new SIM card and then resold. But what could the phone carriers do to make all the stealing stop?

RAY KELLY: That`s an easy question. We have been asking for this for years. And that is to, in essence, to disconnect the phone, make it a useless piece of junk if it`s stolen.

JOHN MILLER: And why, after years of requests, could the phone carriers be resisting the option of permanently disabling stolen phones. Because a stolen phone once reprogrammed generates a new number, a new bill, and a new way for the

phone company to make money.

RAY KELLY: This would make a significant difference because it-- it just takes away the incentive to steal one of these parts.

(End VT)

NORAH O`DONNELL: So, John, there Ray Kelly, the chief made the case. Why don`t the phone companies do something about this?

JOHN MILLER: Well, right now Senator Chuck Schumer, the senator from New York has legislation that would make a national registry of the stolen ESN numbers with the FCC and then when you try to sign up a phone, they would run the ESN number, kind of like a license plate on a stolen car. And they would say, well, you can`t sign up it`s stolen. But that`s a process that`s going to take one year, maybe two, and it`s still uncertain. What they are saying is why don`t we just make the switch now? And it boils down to according to people who have been in the negotiations, the carriers say if I do it first and just by myself then the other phone companies will still be making this money that I am out. So they are-- they are trying to get them all together. But essentially it seems to be over the money. Now the carriers don`t say that. The carriers say we don`t want to get in between messy divorces with people trying to switch off other people`s phones, frat boy, pranks and-- and other disputes. But it still seems if this was costing them money, they might find their way to the solution quicker.

NORAH O`DONNELL: Yeah.

CHARLIE ROSE: Thank you, John.

JOHN MILLER: Thanks, Charlie, Norah.

CHARLIE ROSE: The first presidential debates were held in 1960. Fifty years later we now know what Richard Nixon thought of his performance. This morning we`ll hear a new revelation from his White House tapes.

NORAH O`DONNELL: And tomorrow, we`ll talk with Ben Affleck about his new CIA thriller Argo. I`m going to watch it today.

CHARLIE ROSE: Oh, it`s very good. I saw it--

NORAH O`DONNELL: Oh, you saw it?

CHARLIE ROSE: --with Mister Licht on Friday.

NORAH O`DONNELL: Oh, very nice. All Right. All Right. That`s tomorrow on CBS THIS MORNING.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

SETH MEYERS (Saturday Night Live, NBC): Many political experts were surprised that during Wednesday`s debate, President Obama failed to mention Mitt Romney`s infamous forty-seven-percent comment. Obama elected to take the high road, forgetting that that road leads to building houses with Jimmy Carter.

CHARLIE ROSE: After the first presidential debates were held in 1960, they did not have another one for sixteen years. That was no accident. According to White House tapes that just had to come to life.

NORAH O`DONNELL: The tapes show President Nixon talking about debates with his top advisers. Bill Plante is at the White House with this story. Bill, good morning.

BILL PLANTE (CBS News Senior White House Correspondent; White House): Good morning, Norah. Well, you know, Barack Obama was not the only candidate for President to have a bad debate experience. In that first debate ever in 1960 between John Kennedy and Richard Nixon, Nixon despite of his years in the Senate and his time as vice president came off more poorly on TV than the less experienced Kennedy. And new tapes show that that poor performance lingered with Nixon for years to come.

(Begin VT)

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON (September 1960): Would be rather difficult to cover them in eight and-- in two and a half minutes.

BILL PLANTE: This is the debate that Richard Nixon could never live down.

PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY (September 1960): And which party do we want to lead the United States?

HOWARD K. SMITH (September 1960): Mister Nixon, would you like to comment on that statement?

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: I have no comment.

BILL PLANTE: Going head to head with Senator John Kennedy in 1960, then Vice President Nixon looked sweaty and uncomfortable compared to a tanned, relaxed Kennedy. In recently uncovered audio recordings, Nixon lamented that performance in a candid conversation with his White House Chief of Staff Bob Haldeman.

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON (recording tapes): Remember, even on the first debate. We made the mistake of not-- for that one. Well, or-- we got prepared. Worked like hell.

BOB HALDEMAN (recording tapes): But you didn`t have time--

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: Running the goddamn schedule so hard, we didn`t learn from the other-- we`re never going to make that mistake again.

BILL PLANTE: Nixon never did make that mistake again--not when he ran in 1968.

KEN HUGHES (Nixon Scholar): Nixon didn`t want to debate in `68 because then he had the experience of 1960 behind him.

BILL PLANTE: And not in 1972 when he was up for reelection, and his opponent, Senator George McGovern, challenged him to a debate. Historian Ken Hughes, of the University of Virginia`s Miller Center, found these tapes of President Nixon. In this never-before-heard recording, Nixon cites national security concerns as a reason for not debating.

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: It wouldn`t serve the interests of the country particularly at this time when very important negotiations are taking place in-- involving matters of very great importance to the nation and-- and which cannot be discussed-- cannot and should not be discussed in a debate forum.

BILL PLANTE: At that time the Vietnam War was a major issue. And in that same conversation with Press Secretary Ron Ziegler, the President gives instructions for a statement from his campaign, denying McGovern`s debate request.

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: What should he say? That the president-- that, uh, no incumbent President should debate his opponent.

RON ZIEGLER: That`s right.

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: The differences between these two are so great that they-- they don`t need a debate to bring them out.

RON ZIEGLER: They don`t, right.

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: How`s that sound to you?

RON ZIEGLER: Yeah, good.

BILL PLANTE: But Nixon can`t resist saying that if there were a debate, he`d win.

KEN HUGHES: Nixon, as far as he was concerned, was a champion debater and he would completely destroy George McGovern if given a chance.

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: Of course, having a debate wouldn`t concern me a bit, because--

RON ZIEGLER: No, you`d clean-- clean him up, but the only thing of it is--

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: --this guy doesn`t have any flair at all.

RON ZIEGLER: No, you`d kill him. But the only problem is then, I mean, he automatically elevated.

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: It`d give him a lot of free time.

RON ZIEGLER: Gives him prestige.

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: Well, it isn`t just the prestige. I don`t want to give him all that--

RON ZIEGLER: TV time.

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: I-- I just don`t want to give him all that coverage.

RON ZIEGLER: Right.

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: You know, on prime-time.

RON ZIEGLER: Right.

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: Let him get his own prime-time.

RON ZIEGLER: Sure.

(End VT)

BILL PLANTE: Don`t you love how Zigler was the yes man there but there were no more debates, of course, until after Nixon had resigned and Gerald Ford took over. And Ford was trailing Jimmy Carter, he needed a boost, so he agreed to a debate in 1976, sixteen years after the first one and today no candidate can really avoid debating. Charlie, Norah.

NORAH O`DONNELL: Bill, you know, I love President Nixon saying, of course, let him get his own prime-time. But did-- did President Nixon have a legitimate reason for denying those debates in 1972?

BILL PLANTE: No, no. Come on, this doesn`t pass the laugh test. I mean, the national security argument was one that Lyndon Johnson used too because of Vietnam War going on, but surely Presidents since then have debated and they have known lots of national security secrets and haven`t spilled them out there. The only thing that really makes sense to a sitting President is he doesn`t want to give his opponent equal footing and that`s exactly what Nixon was also saying.

NORAH O`DONNELL: All right. Bill Plante, thank you. Very interesting. It is now seven forty-four, time now for your local weather.

(LOCAL WEATHER BREAK)

NORAH O`DONNELL: After a lot of hype the rumble in the air-conditioned auditorium went on this weekend. We`ll hear what Bill O`Reilly and Jon Stewart said. And why thousands of people couldn`t see it, on CBS THIS MORNING.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

NORAH O`DONNELL: Now this is some way to end a race. NASCAR`s Tony Stewart triggered this twenty-five car pileup on the final lap of Sunday`s race at Talladega. Woof. Some how, Matt Kenseth made it through all the cars and smoke and took checkered flag and thank goodness no one was seriously hurt.

CHARLIE ROSE: Last week`s presidential debate had the biggest television audience for a debate in twenty years. And there was also a huge demand this weekend as Bill O`Reilly and Jon Stewart met for their Rumble in The Air-Condition Auditorium.

NORAH O`DONNELL: Many viewers had trouble connecting to the live internet stream of that online debate. Organizers say their computer servers were overloaded. So in case you missed it, Stewart brought something along to help him overcome a nine-inch height difference.

(Begin VT)

E. D. HILL (The Rumble 2012, Saturday): He is standing a hobbit-like 5- foot-7-inches tall, Mister Jon Stewart.

(Crowd applauding)

JON STEWART (Host, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, The Rumble 2012, Saturday): I have come here tonight to plea to the mayor of (EXPLETIVE DELETED) Mountain.

BILL O`REILLY (Host, The O`Reilly Factor, The Rumble 2012, Saturday): We don`t have any beef with private companies providing whatever they want. That`s the free marketplace. But when you get a Sandra Fluke saying I am entitled to my birth control paid for by the taxpayer that`s insane. All right?

(Crowd applauding)

JON STEWART: Why is it that if you take advantage of a tax break and you are a corporation, you are a smart businessman but if you take advantage of something that you need to not be hungry you`re a moocher. What kind of business is that?

E. D. HILL: If the U.S. were burning what famous person would you save and why?

BILL O`REILLY: I would save Oprah. She`s worth about a hundred billion. Who would you save?

JON STEWART: My family.

(Crowd laughing)

JON STEWART: Oprah is a great answer, too.

E. D. HILL: How is it that the two personalities such as yourselves who are almost

polar-opposites, politically, share a willingness to come together when Congress can`t? What advice would you give Congress?

(Crowd applauding)

BILL O`REILLY: Wait, wait, wait, . And what would you like for Christmas, little boy?

(Crowd applauding)

BILL O`REILLY: Get out.

(End VT)

CHARLIE ROSE: So if John Boehner would go and sit in the President`s lap, we would have no problem with the fiscal cliff.

NORAH O`DONNELL: Exactly, they tried to play golf and that didn`t-- that didn`t work. They`re certainly--

CHARLIE ROSE: They need more intimacy.

NORAH O`DONNELL: Exactly. All right. It was supposed to be happiest day of their lives but two couples got married Saturday, will remember this instead. Look at this. This is the-- the craziest story of the day. We`ll show you the giant reception brawl caught on tape on CBS THIS MORNING.

END

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