**COVID-19**

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There is only one word I could use to describe college during the COVID-19 pandemic, uneventful. You go into college hearing about all the fun times and experiences you're going to have and all the new friends you're going to make but everything changed. For me, this is my sophomore year of college, so I was able to make a lot of friends and connections before the pandemic hit during spring break last year. I was lucky enough to be able to move into a house with four of my fraternity brothers which has provided me with company and entertainment throughout the pandemic so far, but I feel for those this being their first year and getting slapped in the face with an email that tells them to go home. My freshman year has been the best year of my life so far, I was able to make so many friends and had so many new experiences, the people I've met are going to be my friends for the rest of my life, and being able to have the bond I have with my fraternity brothers is unlike anything else I've ever had. We go through life together and I know many of my brothers will be in my wedding and even our kids will be friends, it just makes me sad to see that many of the new freshmen will never be able to get back what was taken from them by COVID-19.

This pandemic has been handled very poorly by the government and by the citizens of the world, a lot could have been prevented if instead of making everything political for personal gain we came together and did what we were supposed to. Whether Liberal, Conservative, Democrat, or Republican I think that we can all collectively agree that the pandemic has been spun into a political mess when politicians should be putting the people's best interest first. With the presidential debate coming up people have used the pandemic to put blame on both candidates and degrade them instead of agreeing on the fact that it isn't going to get fixed if we just keep placing blame on each other, it only makes the problem worse for everyone.

The biggest difficulty I've had during the pandemic is making sure I keep up with my schoolwork and submit things on time. A few of my teachers have a system set in place where they send out lots of reminders so that students are constantly aware as to when things are due, but a few of my teachers don’t so I'm constantly worrying about whether or not I've missed an assignment. It's also sometimes distracting living in a house with 4 of your friends and them always wanting to go out and party or go have fun but you have a lot of work to do, or an English paper to right and you want to go out with them but you have to set your priorities and make sure you have your education at the top of the list because the projects I'm doing and the papers mi writing are building g the foundation for my entire life and will help me down the road when I have reports to write for a company or a project to complete.

Overall, I think the situation at hand isn't the best or most entertaining, but I always try to find the good in the bad, ever since the pandemic has started, we've had lots of free time which gives me the opportunity to focus on schoolwork and raising my grades as well as strengthening relationships with friends and loved ones. If everyone could see the good in the bad situation that is COVID-19 I think we could come together and emerge a stronger nation than we were before the pandemic.