**COVID-19**

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Ever since COVID-19 has come upon us (everyone in the US) we as a society, in the beginning, panicked juristically. We raided stores like there was word of a Tactical Nuke being dropped. We, for whatever reason, fought over toilet paper and sold out of it completely in almost every grocery store across the US like it was gold. The frenzy has since calmed down as more information on the disease has been given and we the people, as far as we know, are getting closer and closer to a vaccine. This pandemic has been a learning experience for not only myself but for many people across the country as it taught us how to come together and that is hard to believe considering what’s going on with the BLM movement and politics as of right now. COVID-19 has caused me to lose family members, not get the college experience I was looking forward to, and not have a social life outside of social media.

COVID-19, unfortunately, contributed to the passing of my great uncle as he was a heavy smoker back in his day. This man was a strong one to say the least, he was brilliant and had stories of war and past life experiences that could leave a room either laughing or speechless. Seeing him, of all people, pass the way he did showed me that COVID-19 is nothing to be neither joked about or taken lightly.

Coming to school, as a freshman, I expected college to be a time where I could finally be on my own and flourish. Instead, it ended up being high school all over again. Ultimately leading to me not getting the college experience I have wanted and hoped for since I was about 14 years old. College is supposed to be a time where an individual can learn about who they really are and where they can see themselves fit in this world. Sounds cliché, but essentially to find yourself and be able to figure out which direction you want your life to go. COVID has since prevented any of that from happening.

As far as my social life goes, as well as everyone else relative to my age, there really isn’t one. Social media and group facetime calls now give me the same amount of excitement I would get if I were to go to party with all of my friends. This pandemic has also caused some friendships to fade not only for me but most likely for majority of kids my age.

COVID-19 style of living has become the new norm and if anyone can remember what life was like before, I pray we can move past this time in our lives and hit the resume button on life 5 months ago. The passing of family members, non-existent social lives (or online ones), and ruining what’s supposed to a huge milestone in young-adults lives needs to go away. For all we know, we could potentially never get past this and live life like this for a very long time.