

Thursday May 7, 2020

As my contribution to recording our lives during this COVID-19 pandemic, I decided to write a classic journal entry. I am currently a sophomore in college, undergrad and about to turn 20. This week is my last week as a sophomore, as I have been completing finals and projects while submitting all my work online as school has gone remote.

I think this quarantine has taught people so much, there are so many factors that are significant to talk about. How Tik Tok has basically taken over social media, where people are dancing, baking, producing content where everyone can relate to because we are all stuck at home. When did this start? I remember my spring break March 08-14, after that Friday everything was different. During spring break I was still going out, seeing my friends and not caring because I thought this would go away. I did not think I would be stuck at home for more than a month without any outside socialization with people, other than my family. March 30th, the last time I got to see my boyfriend in person, someone important to me. That was also when the official stay-at-home order was given by our Maryland governor, Larry Hogan.

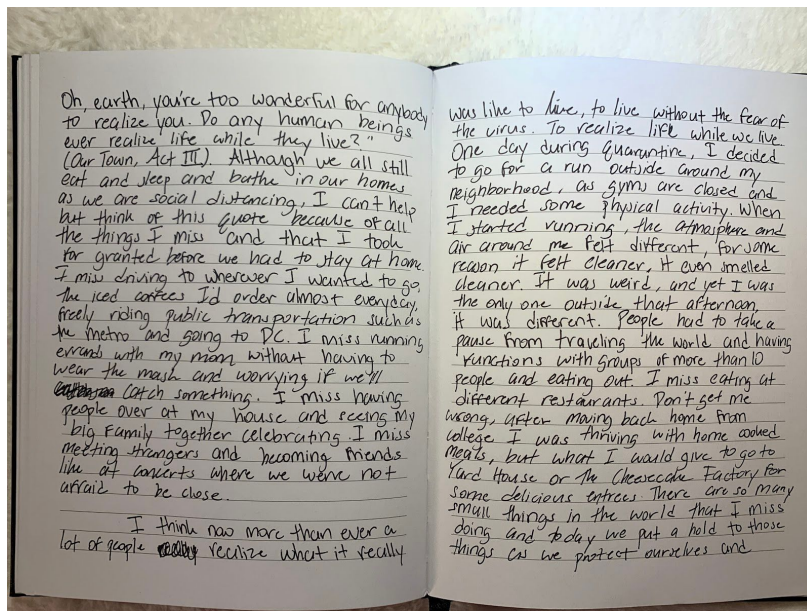
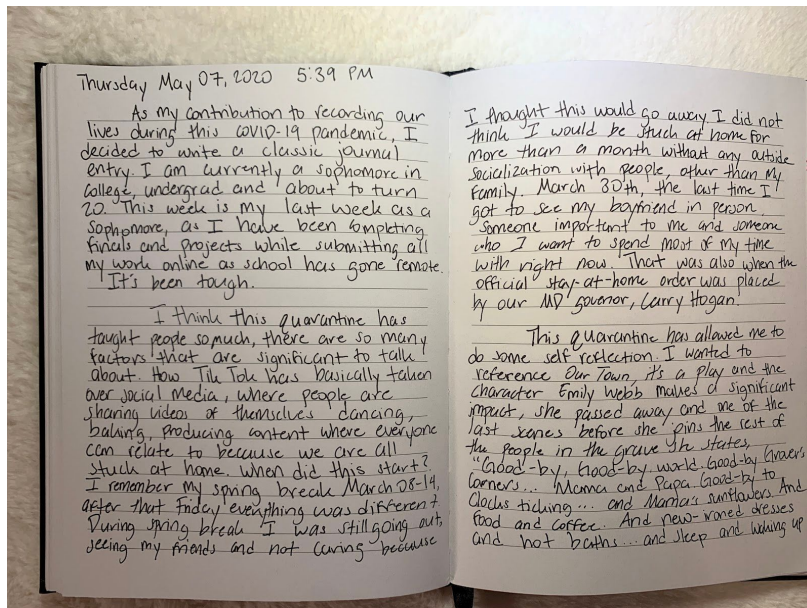
This quarantine has allowed me to do some self reflection. I wanted to reference *Our Town*, it's a play and there is a character Emily Webb, who had passed away and one of the last scenes before she joins the rest of the people in the grave she states, "Good-by, Good-by, world. Good-by, Grover's Corners... Mama and Papa. Good-by to clocks ticking... and Mama's sunflowers. And food and coffee. And new-ironed dresses and hot baths... and sleep and waking up. Oh, earth, you're too wonderful for anybody to realize you. Do any human beings ever realize life while they live?" (*Our Town*, Act III). Although we all still eat and sleep and bathe in our homes as we are social distancing, I can't help but think of this quote because of all the

things I miss and that I took for granted before we had to stay at home. I miss driving to wherever I wanted to go, the iced coffees I'd order almost everyday, freely riding public transportation such as the metro and going to DC. I miss running errands with my mom without having to wear the mask and worrying if we'll catch something. I miss having people over at my house and seeing my big family together celebrating. I miss meeting strangers and becoming friends like at concerts where we were not afraid to be close.

I think now more than ever a lot of people realize what it really was like to *live*, to live without the fear of the virus. One day during quarantine, I decided to go for a run outside around my neighborhood, as gyms were closed and I needed some physical activity. When I started running, the atmosphere and air around me felt different, for some reason it felt cleaner, it even smelled cleaner. It was weird, and yet I was the only one outside that afternoon, it was different. People had to take a pause from traveling the world and having functions with groups of more than 10 people and eating out. I miss eating at different restaurants. Don't get me wrong, after moving back home from college I was thriving with home cooked meals, but what I would give to go to Yard House or the Cheesecake Factory for some delicious entrees. There are so many small things in the world that I miss doing and today we put a hold to those things as we protect ourselves and from spreading the virus even more, for the health of the world.

Attached to this journal entry are a few polaroids I took during this time as since we can't go out and the whole world is basically closed, my parents gave my dog a haircut by themselves and it was impressive. Although, the rest of my family's hair is growing and out of control. There are also polaroids of my attempt at capturing my facetime call with my boyfriend, as it is the closest we get to seeing each other. I find these photographs as my own part in archiving my

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Quarantine Songs 🎵 to listen to

- Dream Miley Cyrus (Hannah Montana song)
- UPSIDE DOWN Feign
- Be Kind (with Halsey) Marshmello
- The Tide is High Atomic Kitten
- Younger Ruel
- Feelings are Fatal mximtoon
- better off jeremy Zucker, Chelsea Cutler
- Distant Romance Sheryl Ann Padra
- Defying Gravity Wicked Musical
- Scrawny Wallows
- I think I kinda, You know HSMTMTS
- Good Old Days Machine Gun Kelly, Kesha
- Hawaiian Roller Coaster Ride Goo & Hitch
- 24/7/365 Surfaces
- Almost (sweet music) Hozier

