

Transcript of Oral History Monologue by Naomi Smoron

Interviewee: Naomi Smoron

Interviewer: Self

Date: 05/20/2020

Location: Sierra Madre, California

Abstract: In this monologue, Naomi Smoron reflects on COVID-19 and shares her thoughts on how her and her family and friends have been affected and how her community and the U.S. have responded to the pandemic.

Naomi Smoron 0:00

It is Wednesday, May 20th of 2020, and it is currently 10:44. My name is Naomi Smoron, and my day to day things include working at my current job at In and Out, soccer, and school. I live in Sierra Madre, California, and it is a pretty cute place to live. I love the area, and I love how close I am to most of my family. My thoughts about the virus, were just very scared when I first heard about it, I started freaking out and telling my parents and friends about it because I was genuinely scared of what the outcome could be. But of course, because since it was early on when I did hear about it, no one really considered my thoughts. And my thoughts have still not changed about it. I'm still scared and paying very careful attention on what I do. I'm most concerned about my family and friends' safety, and how we will come back from this as a country and multiple communities. It has affected my job somewhat for the better because since In and Out is half drive thru, people are still coming in full effect. Although we have gotten some days where there's not even half the amount of people that come, but it does pick up again towards nighttime, dinnertime. It hasn't changed my employment status at all. And I'm not too concerned with its effect on my employment. But I am very concerned on how it will affect our economy because it is our- it has already taken a toll with all of the closings. It has affected my family's day to day things in multiple ways to which we do not go outside anymore unless it is for a walk because we're tired of being inside, or for groceries, or for work. I'm managing day to day activities by doing many workouts, playing in my backyard with my younger brothers, keeping up with school. And that's kind of it actually. I now only talk to friends through texting or video calls. I have visited friends for birthdays, but it was drive by rather than getting out. Some people are responding well as in respecting the stay at home orders as well as wearing masks and gloves. I've noticed other people though, who are still going out a lot and not respecting the order or what is being told to do to help. My relationship with family and friends has changed in the sense I don't really get to see a lot of them anymore as I usually would. And I'm not able to do the same things in my community as I would, for example, like going out into the little town where I live or being able to just walk around there with friends, or go see friends who live there. My family and I, as well as my friends, are self-isolating and staying at home. We aren't really doing anything unless it's a necessity, things that we like. For example, like food of groceries. My community has been pretty good as well. I see a lot more people walking and going on run so they can at least get out and get some air. I have not gotten sick, nor has my family. But I do know of someone who contracted it. He is a family friend who has a autoimmune disease and he was on a respirator for about a month or so; maybe more, I can't really tell anymore. But it was pretty scary to hear about and just think about. Like, because he has a family and all that and we know his family, it was just, it was pretty scary. I feel it honestly depends on the person on their mental or physical health. Like how they're handling the situation,

I found myself going a little crazy here and there from just not being able to do certain things as I usually would. I think it's definitely affecting people mentally because you're not- you are seeing the same people every day and you're not really able to talk about anything new. So it's kind of weird. It's like a whole shift in your life so that I feel like that would definitely have a toll on people mentally. And physically of course, people are going to take it differently. Other people who have a better situation where they can do things at their own home, I feel like would definitely help their physical aspects but people who don't I feel like it would definitely affect their physical as- aspects. I primarily- my primary sources of news has just been my local news on the TV, which is KTLA as well as some news on Snapchat, which I have confirmed, and it is confirmed that it's not like a fake news or like a news channel that you can't trust. So that's why I do stick to it. None of my news sources have changed. It's all the same, just KTLA and the Daily Mail. I'm not really sure if the media is hiding anything. Of course, they're hiding stuff. But I mean, I'm not sure how relative or how much it would help the current situation, because we still don't know much- much about the virus. So it's like, there's not much we could do. And for things that aren't virus related, I think they aren't making the news, or at least like national or, like worldwide news, because of how minimal they are compared to the virus. I feel like the virus is just taking up so much of everyone's attention that I don't think anything else would be making that much of news. For the government officials in my community, I think they responded pretty good. Given that we did get a stay at home order, I would say like, mid March, probably a little later than some other people or maybe earlier, I'm not actually sure, but I do think they're doing an okay job. I don't really have any thoughts about how local, state, or federal leaders are responding to the crisis indifferently. Because of how crazy this whole time is, they're just trying to do their best with how to handle everything, given the little information that we do have. For the transformation of my family and community, it has transformed a lot because I now cherish the times a lot more with family and friends than I did before. And it also makes me think more about their health and what they're doing, because that could also affect me what it's like a whole domino effect in my head. And I feel for the future things about are like, what we should just all know, as a community and as a country. I feel that we should keep in mind that when we do have a threat of something like this, or anything like this, really, that we should consider a lot more than what we did consider in the beginning because in my opinion, the government for the U.S. at least did not consider the possibilities in full effect of how it would really affect us as a country later on. Not even just like a few states like, a full country later on.