

May 3rd-9th

As a student at sacramento state, this is the week before finals in the weirdest semester I have ever experienced. Campus has been closed for over a month now, and all courses are online, and recreational activities are almost non-existent. Life is different now, there is no meeting friends at school or going somewhere to have some fun with friends, instead you stay home, and try to keep yourself from being bored. A task that gets harder with each passing week where we are stuck inside. My trip I had planned to Hawaii last year got cancelled this week. The virus isn't slowing down at the rate they hoped, and therefore the stay at home orders and closure of beaches was extended, causing my flight to be cancelled, this once in a lifetime trip now gone, and no chance of getting new permits in the future, this was a hard blow. On a regular day I could go to the movie theater, mall, bike trail, or hiking trail without worrying about anything happening, however with this virus closing everything none of those are options anymore.

Social distancing is important during these times, however it doesn't stop it from feeling weird. Having to pick out deli meat from 6ft away from the counter, and the isles in the stores being one way took some getting used to. The most unfamiliar and weird feeling part of social distancing however, was when you saw family that didn't live with you, such as older siblings that don't live with you, grandparents, etc who you must stay 6ft apart from. Seeing family members and spending time with them from 6ft away is weird, but essential during these strange times.

Video games have been my main escape from boredom lately, however even video games get boring after too much time, and when you can not leave the house because there is nothing to do due to everything being closed, your next option becomes youtube or other streaming services, which is where you start to run into problems again a few days later; when you've watched all of the videos from the content makers you enjoy, and can not find any new interesting videos to watch in your recommended. This has occurred in the last few days, leaving me looking for another source of entertainment.

Streaming services such as Netflix or Disney plus are both alternatives to youtube or cable TV to keep you entertained at home during this pandemic, however as most people know Netflix might have thousands of shows, but most people will only enjoy a handful of them, and not be interested in the rest, so even though there is more on netflix than you could ever watch, you feel like you've watched everything after a few weeks. This was also the week that the season 7 finale, and final episode of the Clone

Wars series was released on Disney Plus, ending a series over a decade in the making, right when people needed more things to watch than ever. In general, after months in this restricted activity lifestyle, many people have exhausted their sources of entertainment, having caught up on all of their favorite shows, rewatched their favorite movies, and played their favorite video games, resulting in many people being stuck at home, bored with nothing to do besides work, if they are lucky enough to still have work during this time, or chores around the house, which also run out quickly when you're stuck at home for over a month, leaving many people with truly nothing to do while they are stuck at home during this pandemic.

This weekend is mothers day, and nothing is open. No restaurants are serving food for dine in, and most stores that don't sell food are closed, making plans hard to make, or cancelling existing plans. Mothers day this year had to be smaller, with just a few family members spending the day together, staying six feet apart at all times. It is difficult when you haven't seen your brother in months, and when you finally do, you must stay 6 feet apart at all times for safety while practicing social distancing.

This pandemic is unlike anything I have ever experienced, and I am looking forward to the day when life can return to a sense of normalcy, allowing people to do things outside of their house, and entertain themselves with the activities that we have all come to miss during this pandemic of 2020.