

Julia Godina

Leffler

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In the second week of March 2020 there were rumors of River City High School in Sacramento, California closing as the number of Covid-19 cases increased. Personally, I believed that we were going to stay open at least until after midterms, which were the following week. However, Friday 13, 2020 at 6:59 pm I received a Remind text from my statistics teacher informing the class that all WUSD schools were to be closed from March 16th to April 3rd. I was in the car with my family on our way home from a dinner celebrating my acceptance into UC Davis. I remember telling my family gleefully. I was so elated because with school closure that meant the postponement of midterms and a major statistics project. I thought that even if we were to have assignments at home that it would be easier because of the flexibility with our own schedule. Nevertheless, schools didn't reopen April 3rd.

As the weeks passed new information would trickle down. Stay-at-home orders were issued, distance learning would be April 14th, AP exams were changed, school to remain closed until the end of the year, mandatory masks, virtual graduation, canceled prom, and more. A situation I once thought wouldn't last more than three weeks was eating away at events and requiring everyone to not leave their home unless necessary. The first three weeks were easy, I had plenty of free time. The fourth I was getting slightly bored, but distance learning was the next week and I was happy to have something to do again. Although after three weeks of

distance learning and an accumulated seven weeks of not leaving the house, outside of grocery trips, I began to feel a bit of melancholy. I began to push off my school work, not study for exams, and not even want to get out of bed because all I had to look forward to was the same cycle. I felt like I needed a breath of life and energy.

Despite the mental toll of remaining at home affecting both me and my family, our financial matters haven't been negatively impacted. My family consists of retirees, auto mechanics, and state workers, all of whom have stable incomes with, to my knowledge, no decrease in pay. Furthermore, in regards to the stimulus check, in my opinion it wasn't needed for my family; however, we did use the opportunity to help eliminate some accumulated debt. Our general spending has not drastically increased or decreased, actually I am surprised it didn't decrease, but considering we didn't spend money at many places to begin with I suppose the lack of change was to be expected. Nonetheless, there were some family members who have more money now, specifically the retirees who would normally use their money for recreation.

Overall, this pandemic has uprooted the daily norms for me and for the few people I know, but to be entirely honest it hasn't ruined our lives. I am truly grateful for the fact that my family has remained safe, healthy, and with stable income because I know that many can't say the same. As the weeks have passed businesses have adapted, from letting only a couple into a building at a time to installing "sneeze guards" (plastic shields for desks, windows, etc.). Gradually, both businesses and people are pushing to reopen states. This pandemic has slowed down our world, but it hasn't stopped it and soon enough people will have enough of these safety precautions and want to go outside again. For better or for worse.