

Transcript of Interview of Collin Mullen by Juliet Bussell

Interviewee: Collin Mullen

Interviewer: Juliet Bussell

Date: September 19, 2020

Location (Interviewee): Cambridge, Massachusetts

Location (Interviewer): unknown

Transcriber: Angelica S Ramos

Abstract –In this interview Collin Mullen discusses how his life changed when COVID hit his home town in Boston. He talks about his schooling and his job as a bartender. He also discusses family life and how his perspective on the pandemic had changed.

Juliet Bussell 00:03

This is Juliet Bussell here with interviewing Collin Mullen for the history archives project. It is 11:25am on Saturday, September 19 2020. Collin, do you consent to this recording this interview?

Collin Mullen 00:23

I do.

JB 00:28

Okay. So what is a little background on where you're from? What's your normal life, day to day life? Like?

CM 00:39

I'm so I am from Cambridge, Massachusetts. It's where I'm living right now. Currently, I'm staying with my family. And day to day, you know, I've been in classes since this all went down through the was the spring semester. And then I did summer one and two, now finishing up for the fall. So that's most of my time. And then otherwise, I just work at a at a bar.

JB 01:18

Okay. And how did the pandemic change your daily life when this first started?

CM 01:25

Um, so I guess the biggest thing was just the classes immediately just shut down. And there is just, you know, some kind of shut out from people for at least a couple of weeks. And then, yeah, things were just really slow, for a couple of months, probably three months, until I was able to get back into work. But, um, yeah, day to day, I guess, just a lot less contact with, like, you know, my friends and stuff face to face, and things like that. Which is, you know, a lot more caution and how I'm going about my life.

JB 02:12

And how did you cope with those changes?

CM 02:18

Um, I guess. I feel like I don't know, I just kind of rolled with the punches. I'm probably not any better or worse than the average person. It wasn't, you know, wasn't the greatest time but you know, it was only a couple months. So it was only just in the last maybe, you know, month or so. But I've really started, you know, getting stir crazy with all the changes that I've made. But, you know, in the immediate aftermath. Yeah. Just just kind of going with the flow. Hoping that things get better at some point.

JB 03:11

Yeah. Were you surprised at all about the level of caution or the lack of caution of people rounding?

CM 03:20

So I think, you know, in Cambridge, where I'm from, I was, you know, pretty happy with how people, you know, we're really serious about wearing masks, and, you know, all of that. So that was, you know, encouraging. I guess I was kind of surprised when I actually went back to work. Where we're requiring that customers like wear masks, and there was some kind of pushback from them on that. That was kind of surprising. But um, I mean, I guess like, deep down, I kind of understand where they're coming from, but because, like, you know, they're going to be eating kind of a mask on and you're eating but I don't know, I feel like a lot of it's just kind of like a almost symbolic show of like, solidarity that

JB 04:20

Yeah

CM 04:21

they care about other people, we care about them.

JB 04:25

And taking on that note, how is your community affected? And what changes? Did you notice?

CM 04:35

Um, so I think Cambridge was had relatively high rates. We had some people there was like a Biogen conference. towards the beginning of all this was a super spreader event. We had some people that lived in Cambridge, that works there. So, I guess, you know, the infection rates were, I guess, kind of high, relatively Cambridge. And then I guess the other major change is there's been a lot of like, kind of hard to explain. They're called shared streets in Cambridge, just to try to encourage people to get out, you know, do exercise, though. They just kind of lined the streets with like, traffic cones and everything. So cars can't go that fast. And they give like, you know, half the streets to pedestrians, which, you know, I'm all for in a time like this. There's a lot less traffic out. So you might as well let people use that space. So that was one good change in my community as well.

JB 05:52

And it's actually being so high in your community. Do you know many people who would go down the virus?

CM 06:01

Yeah, I actually don't know anybody to go. Yeah. Which is kind of surprising.

JB 06:10

And going through this whole pandemic, how has your perspective changed from the beginning until now?

CM 06:19

Um, I guess that I would say, the biggest change, in my perspective, it's probably been, like, you know, how, like, a group effort can kind of go a long way. Like, if everybody was wearing masks this entire time, and like, actually, social distancing, we probably would be in better shape than we are now. Not saying that we're in, you know, as bad a shape as we were at the beginning. But I just feel like if, maybe, if it wasn't such like a polarizing issue that got tied in, with, like, you know, politics and everything, that this whole thing could have been handled a lot better. And, uh, you know, maybe for future things like this. This could be a good example.

JB 07:23

Okay, well, that's it. Thanks, Colin.

CM 07:26

Great. Thank you.