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The 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, also called the CoronaVirus, has affected nearly everyone on the planet and every corner of the world, hence the classification as a pandemic. Ideally everyone would be aware of the state of emergency we are in and take precautionary measures to stop the spread of the virus, however that's not the case. Due to the negligence from the government and private citizens, the pandemic has become extremely serious and has had a large impact on how the rest of the year is going to go, not to mention how many people will meet an early grave.

As a homeschooler, I was already used to the home life of schooling, and watching my friends try to work out and adapt to my lifestyle was humorous. With the forced shelter in place orders from my state's governor, graduations for my friends and end of the school year events were taken from them. This is one of the most prevalent complaints I've heard and is an example of the state the world is in. Not only are graduations and social gatherings cancelled and prohibited now, many plans this year are ruined, and future ones are jeopardized.

My plans have been hugely affected by this pandemic. Prom with my friends, my spring break beach trip, my visit to Mickey Mouse, and most importantly just small gatherings over the summer. My family has been on the stricter side of how people have gone about this emergency, so while many people I know continue to socialize, I have taken it upon myself to stay at home which is incredibly difficult and demoralizing.

While many plans and escapades have been destroyed, self reflection has been a surprising element to this quarantine. I've learned how important social interaction is to my mental health and attitude. Being forced to spend so much time away from friends and extended family is very tough on the mind and heart. My parents have compromised immune systems, so it would be dangerous especially for me to hang out with friends. I have a fear of missing out, so seeing people spend time together without me is difficult. A friend's poem reflects on my feelings appropriately, "It was another cold winter at home. Mama had just taken the family dog—my best friend, Skippy—out back... She returned with dinner. I cried into the night, not remembering what warmth sleep held for me. There was no light at the end of this tunnel."

Although I'm having a tough time with the lack of social interaction aspect of self quarantine, we live in a day and age where entertainment has never been easier to seek out. From the newest shows, to playing online games with friends, if there is a brightside to this pandemic, it's the endless supply of things to do from home. Staying connected is important during these times as we can go months now without seeing friends and family, so phone calls, video calls, and text communication are vital to achieving this.

The most similar occurrence in American history to the Covid-19 pandemic, is the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. The flu hit at the end of World War I when people were travelling home to all parts of the world. Before World War I, world travel was not common among average people. Up until that point viruses had been mostly contained to one area, but with the mass congregation from the war, it made it nearly impossible with the medical technology at the time to stop the spread, leading to over 500 million infections and between 17 and 50 million deaths.

There are many stories from the past that reflect on the current situation. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control website has many entries on personal accounts from the Spanish flu of 1918. One story is from Ethel Hubble Harter, who in April 1918, had both parents contract the virus. While both survived, the delirium and stress it brought to their lives is worth noting and thinking about when precautions and laws are being passed in order to deal with the current scenario. Many of these stories mirror Covid-19 and its impact on the world today, so it's important to respect and follow the rules and regulations being created in order to keep as many people safe as possible and reduce the overall deaths.