Dear Diary, What Has COVID-19 Done to Me?

March 12, 2020

Today was, to put it in simpler terms, amazing. Today was the first day of TSA (Technology

Student Association) State Competitions. I could have spent the day focusing on competitions

like Structural Engineering and Technology Problem Solving, but instead of worrying so

much about that, I decided to lollygag around the city of Athens and spending time with

friends. We were only two months away from graduation, and everyone was going to their

respective colleges. Nobody wanted this moment to be stressful or depressing; rather, it was

going to be a highlight of our last moments as high school students. We played games for

hours, talked about a million topics, and laughed our heads off from start to finish. Bless,

even in the car, we were giggling and chatting away. This day will be always be treasured

among us, and hopefully, we can share similar moments in the near future.

March 13, 2020

Well, it looks like things took an unexpected turn. Around 6:45 in the morning, my best

friend called me saying that he was feeling sickly and was not sure about coming to Athens

again. When I heard this, I immediately thought of the rumors I heard about something

named COVID-19. I immediately told my friend to stay home and rest, and since I was

hesitant to go as well, I decided to go home and miss out on the competition. On the way

back, I talked to my father about the situation, and was given a tragic statement: “This might

be your last day of school.” It turns out that my father was right. Later that day, I received a

call from the Walton County School District stating that all county schools would be closed

for the next week. I was suspicious of this statement but ultimately shrugged it off. I mean, I

was not going to complain about technically having a week off school.

April 1, 2020

I do not know why some people my age worry so much about this COVID-19 pandemic

because I am enjoying myself right now. It’s only been a month since the quarantine started,

and I have free reign to stay up late, wake up late, and do whatever I want in my free time

aside from a homework assignment and test every now and then. In a nutshell, I get to do

everything a senior wants to do during their last moments of high school, plus some added

bonuses. Yes, I do have to social distance and wear a mask whenever I go outside, but is that

really so bad? I mean, it feels like school ended two months earlier, and the school is already

making plans for graduation and other big events. Surely, this pandemic is not too bad. We

just have to stay at home for a little while, and hopefully, medical experts will find a solution

to this problem.

May 5, 2020

So, I just took my exam for AP (Advanced Placement) Physics 1, and I have to say, that was

the most terrible online experience I have ever had. At noontime, I sat down in front of my

computer, skimming through the labyrinth of notes I made before the exam opened. Due to

COVID-19, the AP Exams were adjusted to be held online with less material, and the exams

were cut down to only fifty minutes. Because of how easy online classes were, I thought there

would be no problem taking the exam. Oh, how I was so wrong. They gave me somewhere

around twenty-five questions, and I could not even answer ten of them, so I have effectively

wasted ninety dollars on a ludicrously difficult test I had no chance of even passing. I have

already had some problems with CollegeBoard in the past, but this is just icing on the cake.

Ironically, I signed up to take three more tests just like this. Great. Am I even going to

survive the exams, let alone submit them before they are invalidated? I guess I will find out

soon enough when the dust settles.

May 17, 2020

And… my summer plans went down the drain in an instant. Last year, I was recruited to

become an assistant director at Camp Rainey Mountain (CRM), but today, I had to call it off.

With the recent news regarding the spread of COVID-19, my family became ever more

skeptical about my decision to work at summer camp, and I understood this. For weeks, I

contacted my superiors and begged to hear more details regarding safety protocol and other

important topics, but the only answer I got was silence. After understanding the weight of the

situation and the concerns of my parents, I finally decided to resign from my position and

called my lead director to tell him of my decision. That call was mentally taxing on me, as I

underwent a phase of depression for some days afterward. I had worked at CRM for four

consecutive years beforehand, and I gave the staff my word that I would return as a director

for the camp. Now, I have not only betrayed them, but I have betrayed myself. It was my duty

to continue serving the Boy Scouts of America, and everybody recognized that I was

passionate about that obligation. But here I am, spitting on my word because of a stupid

pandemic. I do not know what else to say aside from the fact that this summer will be the

worst one in quite some time.

July 4, 2020

I know the Fourth of July is supposed to be a time for celebration and happiness, but I have

never felt so bored in my entire life. Roughly four months have passed since the quarantine

started, and everyday life has quickly mutated into a state of isolation and loneliness. At first,

everything seemed like paradise because of how I could do whatever I wanted in my spare

time. But now, that freedom has turned into slavery. Aside from certain exceptions like my

high school graduation, everyday life is just a repeated cycle of waking up, eating food, doing

something (or absolutely nothing), and going to bed. I feel like nothing more than a zombiejust

sitting around and vegetating while the days pass by, hoping for a way to break out of

this prison. I have become so isolated that games are not fun to play anymore, and trying to

do anything worthwhile has become near impossible. In an attempt to combat this feeling, I

have tried exercising and reading, but nothing really seems to affect my current condition.

Will I ever get to see my friends again? Will I be able to go outside without having to wear a

mask or social distance? Will I ever be free from this never-ending cycle of boredom?

August 17, 2020

After half a year of being placed under house arrest, I finally get to go to college. Although

the registration process for housing and courses sucked, I have long awaited the time I get to

move on to another chapter in my life. I’ve packed everything I need for campus life (or at

least most of it), and I understand how my courses will be throughout the semester, so I

should be pretty prepared in terms of breaking into college life. COVID-19 still reigns

supreme in the state of Georgia, but hopefully, my time at UGA (University of Georgia) will

be a breath of fresh air compared to how things have been. Go Dawgs!

September 26, 2020

I know my freshman year of college is not supposed to be that difficult, but it has been pretty

tough in recent times. It is only a few weeks into the semester, and I have already been

swarmed by seemingly endless piles of homework, and since every class is online, I have

been rather lacking in my studies. Additionally, because of the pandemic, I am still forced

into the same state of limbo I have experienced for so long, which consists of wearing a mask

in the burning heat, locking myself in a room half the time, and denying myself social

interaction we humans crave. It has not been all that bad, though. I found a couple of friend

groups that get together and hang out, and there are a couple of familiar faces here at UGA.

We all must be six feet for the sake of everyone’s safety, but it is way better than isolating

myself from the world. Not to mention, I love Ultimate Frisbee, so I kind of have an excuse

to go out and live for once. There’s still time left in the semester, so hopefully, things will

warm up aside from the weather. I do not know why, but it feels like a desert in Athens right

now.