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The Change of COVID-19

COVID-19 has changed everyone's lives one way or another with how they work or go throughout their life. This virus came in very surprising and change my life dramatically. When we first heard of COVID-19, it was only small news and no one ever thought that it would affect the world this dramatically. In one week, it absolutely changed how the United States runs and it affected my life in so many ways more than one. It forced upon something every student does not want to go through and I truly don't know when everything is going to go back to normal. Honestly, I don't know if things will ever go back to the way it used to be for a long time. This virus hasn't just changed my life, it also changed the life of my family and it won't ever be the same again. This virus has changed my life in aspects of my graduation with also my post-graduation plans being canceled and also times where I can't spend time with my loved ones anymore.

When I was in my early years of high school, I decided to do a more exotic sport that is called Crew or Rowing. I always took Rowing as an important part of my life, but I felt like I wasn't reaching my full potential. This was my 7th year of rowing and I decided to take this year very seriously from my training to my diet. This being my final year I wanted to make it my fastest season I've ever had and I wanted to win a national race. Over time I started to see results and I started to become one of the faster guys on the team. It became very apparent this year that

I was set to have the best season of my life. Sadly, with COVID-19 taking that away from us, the potential of this season was lost. One of the wasted parts of this season is which we were ranked number one for our season and this is the fastest UCLA has been in 20 years. In all of my years of rowing, I never thought I would be this quick and be so close to winning something that matters. That aspects also bring alumni to come to talk too fast athletes since we are doing so well. The season also brought us athletes unable to talk to alumni of the program here at UCLA which can be wasted opportunity for a job in the future. The alumni didn't get to see what could have been at our national race. This brings up how I wasn't able to finish my final competitive season going down the racecourses at my upmost potential. This being my last year of college, it really saddens my heart realizing that I won't finish it how every senior has in the past and I don't get to cherish this special moment. It makes me sad every day to think about what it would have been like. The rowing season was just one of the things on the list that brought this year to a standstill.

One of the many special moments in a person's life is graduating at a ceremony to show all of the hard work that person has gone through. Not getting to enjoy the final moments of my college career with my friends is also another big aspect that I missed. I remember at the beginning of the year, all of my friends counting down the months until we are all finally done with school. Now since we are finally here my friends or family don't get to see me walk onto that stage. This ceremony is not just big for me, it is also big for my parents as well. I'm a first-generation college student and this is a big moment for my parents. Both of my parents went to college and didn't finish so its huge for them to see me graduate especially at a school like UCLA. This also brings up another facet to graduation is not being able to at this prestigious

school like UCLA. UCLA has the reputation that it has, this is a very genuine and special object of being a UCLA student. This is one of the special favorite moments of my life and that is spending that last moment at UCLA. I didn't get to spend my final moments at UCLA doing the regular aspect of my life. I didn't get to enjoy the campus for one last quarter and getting to walk up Jane's steps one last time is a special facet to UCLA life. I didn't get to spend it in an actual classroom listening to my last lectures and that's the commodity that I'm going to miss. Graduation being canceled, this also left my post-graduation plans being suspended as well.

After graduation was also to be another special time since it would be the first break before my career. I never really got to travel the world all that much with the farthest place I've ever been being Georgia. I wanted to explore more and see the world I never got to see. It's crazy how my first big travel plan was canceled due to something completely out of my control. One of the more crazy aspects of this as well as to go with my college friends on these trips. This probably would have been one of the most single happiest times of my life and now I don't know if I'm going to be able to experience that. This was probably one of the only times where I can spend a month just truly enjoying traveling. This was going to be my very first traveling experience with just seeing the world for myself. I wanted to go see all parts of Europe to truly understand all the history I've learned over my past years of college. Then after this trip, I was going fully invest in a career, but that is starting to look bleaker. I started to talk to employers to try to get a headstart with a career in the future and sadly no one is hiring due to this pandemic. At first, I thought maybe that my resume just wasn't good enough, but I decided to ask why and most people told me they can't hire during this pandemic. So life feels like it is at a standstill

with unable to further my future as a person. This pandemic has affected my future career and it has also shown to be troublesome in my parent's work as well.

This virus has also changed the home setting a bit because we have to be tighter with money since the household income is down. My mother is a manicurist and since that isn't an essential worker, she has to go on unemployment to be able to get any income. Since that has happened she has been in the house not treating quarantine life well. Another aspect of my mom not working is that she can have me in LA anymore since she can't pay for me to live there. I really did like living in LA especially because that's where all of my friends were. Also living on my own is just better for me in general. We are also very close to be unable to pay for the rent of my apartment due to my dad's work being affected by COVID-19. My dad is a general manager at a Suburu Dealership which means that he has to keep working during this time which especially bad for sales. With sales being especially low during this time, my father's pay has been cut in half which changes how our family spends money and how significant we have to change things. This pandemic has taken a toll on my dad since he has been working especially hard due to the pandemic. Since sales are low within the United States, the business has been struggling to make a profit. This is also harder on him because he has a low amount of staff since salesmen don't want to work during a pandemic. To make up for this, I actually have to come into work on a memorial day because they are especially low on salesmen. Since business has been bad, there has been a noticeable change within my house due to not having any more expendable money. The only thing we can use our money on now is just-food and that's it. We can't go out anymore to get food or to spend it on a movie because that's how tight money is. Money being tight isn't even the worst part of this pandemic, the worst part is not being able to

see family. This has impacted the world as we know it with people being much more aware of being clean and how this has shown the distinction between people.

Many people throughout the world are struggling financially to stay afloat in this time of disarray. This almost reminds me of one of the themes in *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes. This theme is how there is this separation between classification and value. This is seen within the character of Sancho with how wise he is and how he gives Don Quixote advice, but since he is lower on the social ladder, no one wants to take him seriously. Sancho can be related to some of the people in the United States. There are many lower-class people who aren't taken seriously who any much more on to react due to COVID-19.

Now since COVID-19 is especially dangerous to the elderly, we have been unable to see my grandparents during this time and sadly one of the worst things in life has happened. On April 19th this year, my grandfather died in his home from a stroke. This brought much sadness to my heart knowing I didn't get to see him one last before his death. My grandfather was an important part of my life and its sad to see him go. One of the absolute worst parts of COVID-19 was not being able to see my grandfather before his death due to trying to keep him safe. I never would have thought that during this time, my grandfather would die from a virus and not being able to see the ones he loves. He was also a very Christian man and family was everything to him. My grandfather was probably one of the most religious men I know and the thought of him spending his last easter, not with his family, saddens my hearts. At least when he died, he was able to become as close to god as he has ever been. One of the last parts of this, my grandmother is left alone during this pandemic. My grandmother was the person there at my grandfather's death and now she has to spend the rest of COVID-19 alone in her home. Being forced at home

is already worse enough but being alone during this time sounds completely unimaginable. One of the worst parts of this is that we can't even go comfort her due to the risk of infection.

COVID-19 has affected my family and me more than I ever would have thought.

This virus has made me reflect on how to spend every last moment with family because you don't know what might happen and certainly, I couldn't have predicted this virus that has changed the world. COVID-19 completely changed my lifestyle when it came to everything. It changed my day to day life with school. It changes my senior year to a way that no 4th year would want to spend it. It changed the economics of my family and made it drastically worse than what it was before. It changed my family with the loss of my grandfather, and we all know on our minds that we didn't get to spend more time with him.

Biography

De, Cervantes Saavedra Miguel. *Don Quixote*. Penguin Classics, 2018.