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Prompt #4

Covid-19 has been pretty harsh to everyone and I know everyone's experience with it is different but this has been my experience so far. I never really acknowledged the Coronavirus at first because I thought oh this will just be another swine flu or some new illness that we will get through as we did with all the others. It wasn't until our season got canceled that it really hit me, to be honest. My emotions definitely went on a rollercoaster ride when it happened. I felt angry, sad, relieved in a way, out of place, stressed, and empty. Now I say relieved in a way because as the season began we had high hopes and goals just as every other team did, but as the season went on we kept losing games and making history in a way we had never hoped to do. Being the first UCLA Men's Volleyball to lose to Princeton and other events similar to that. It was tough especially coming off a season-ending injury last year and having to work my ass off to even get back to playing as soon as I did. So I say relieved because this immense pressure I was feeling to try and help dig us out of the hole we dug was suddenly gone. However, being a senior and hearing your last season is canceled mid-way through is probably one of the worst things you could hear when it comes to being a collegiate athlete. My initial thought to all of this was NCAA better do what's right and give all these athletes a year back. We work so hard each and every day to try to be the best we can possibly be and knowing our fate was in the hands of the dictatorship that is the NCAA has made me feel helpless. Helpless in a sense that I could have played my last games as a Bruin and even though the right thing to do would be to give everyone

their year back there was still a good possibility that NCAA would just throw this year away and move on. Now obviously there are other things that are important that had to be postponed or canceled but nothing is as important to me than volleyball. So to have the stripped away from me so suddenly is a feeling I'll never forget and definitely use as motivation on my darker days being an athlete.

So about a week after this happens my roommates decided they're going to leave for San Diego and end our lease early. They decided to do so because they no longer needed to be in Los Angeles now that our season was over and school was moved online. So the smartest thing for them to do was move back down to San Diego to help save money instead of having to pay rent for a place they weren't going to be staying in. At first, this was a simple thing and I totally understood their decision and would do the same if I had that option. Most people now would think "oh well here's an easy fix just go back home to Hawai'i" well it's not as simple as it seems. With my dad being in the at-risk group I knew I couldn't go home because of the chances of me getting the Coronavirus while traveling back home and potentially giving him the virus. There was no way I could do that or ever forgive myself if I were to get the Coronavirus and give it to my dad. Another reason I couldn't just go home was because I adopted a puppy named Cleo a year ago shortly after my injury to help keep me busy and also for the emotional support I knew I would need while going through the recovery process. The travel rules for animals going to Hawai'i are extremely strict because of Hawai'i's rabies free status and in order to bring a dog back, they have to go through a large number of tests, get shots, and wait about four months before getting the okay to bring them. If you don't go through this process your dog will be put in a quarantine shelter which is not an ideal situation at all. Especially after having to have two of my three dogs back home have gone through that quarantine shelter and knowing many pets

go in and never make it out, I knew I couldn't do that with Cleo. So I made an easy decision to stay in LA.

As I began the apartment hunt I was super optimistic and confident that I would find a place easily with no hassle. Well... I was wrong. I wound up finding a really nice place a week before our move out date of my old apartment. So when my move in date comes and I go to my new place and follow the instructions my property manager gave me in order to get the keys. So as I get to the place and go in I look around for the office. I continued looking for a good five minutes because I was anxious to move into my new place. After the five minutes pass I realize there's no office to be found nor is there a person waiting there to give me the keys to move in. So I call the property manager and it goes straight to voicemail. At this point my anxiety starts to shoot up because one I don't have a place anymore, two what if this was a scam, and three just the unknown started to really get to me. So I use a different phone and call the property manager and he picks up. I begin speaking to him and tell him who I am but he hangs up abruptly. So I called back and this guy blocked the number. So I'm in full panic mode with what's happening so I call my parents and tell them what's going on and then begin to call the police to start filing a report. This process was a nightmare because the police officers had no idea which police station should be handling this issue, so they sent me in a circle to the same 4 police stations. After wasting a good three hours trying to start the process for the police report, a police station finally decides to send a unit out to my location to get things moving. As soon as the police arrived we began talking about my current dilemma and what could be done. After finishing up relaying the message they quickly realized that the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) was the correct police station to deal with my report. So I spent another two hours getting a hold of HPD and explaining the situation before the investigation began. Now obviously people are thinking

oh well haven't you met the guy or seen the place well no I didn't because with the coronavirus issue going on and the quarantine happening the "property manager" told me he was uncomfortable with meeting with people or showing any apartments. So we would just talk through the phone and he would show me the place through pictures and videos. Mind you this place has it's own website and everything and a template that bordered their emails so everything seemed legit so I believed it...and I got scammed. So I lose the money I paid for the first month of rent and security deposit and I don't have a place to stay.

So I begin calling some friends in the area to see if I can stay with them until I find a place. Well, after chatting with a few of them I found out that their roommates aren't comfortable with bringing someone into their apartment especially someone with a dog because landlords can be strict. So I start getting really worried and concerned thinking I'm gonna have to sleep in my car with my dog until I find a new place. But luckily find a place to stay until I find a new apartment. So the next day I call a bunch of places and start viewing apartments. Well after the 1st viewing I got into my car and the temperature light goes on which is strange because I just put coolant in the tank the night before. So I pull over and my engine begins to smoke. So I wait for the engine to cool down to pop the hood and turns out my entire tank of coolant is empty which means there's a leak and a big one. So I call the towing company to get my car towed to a shop and what was supposed to be a day fix winds up taking a lot longer because shops are closed or hours are different and this shop couldn't get the pieces in time for it to be a day fix. With everything going on I know I'm in a rough patch but considering the whole Coronavirus pandemic going on right now I know I definitely don't have the shortest end of the stick. The Coronavirus is pretty interesting due to the fact of what's happened so far with it spreading rapidly and the death rate being so high it's pretty similar to the time when Spain was introduced

to Smallpox because of the similarities regarding the high death rate. When Spain was introduced to Smallpox it devastated the indigenous people wiping out a ton of people which is similar to what's happening to the world right now with Coronavirus. I'm not exactly sure what will happen in the future with the current pandemic but I do know I'm lucky I haven't gotten it yet.

So here I am today without a home or car with some stuff in a storage unit and Uhaul trying to survive the pandemic as best as I can. With all of these things going on with my life I'm still enrolled in classes and trying to stay eligible to play in fall ball and graduate next year now that we were giving an additional year of eligibility. So I'm hoping to catch a break sometime soon and potentially lock in a new apartment this week. Although this has been a really tough time for me I'm lucky enough to have the support system I have because I honestly don't know where I would be without them.