

THE MATHER ORACLE: LIFE IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

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Photo by Lisette Santiago

Minorities Stand Together

BY KIARA LEE

As a Latina in Chicago, I feel extremely excited for the change that all these protests and riots will provoke. Although this is a very delicate situation, I know that all this anger and pain will not be in vain.

Almost two weeks ago George Floyd, a 46-year-old black father, was killed due to "asphyxiation from sustained pressure" by white police officer, Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This is not the first case of police officers being negligent and completely racist towards people of color. But I hope this will be the last. They're not God to decide who gets to live or die. (Continued on page 16)

The Good in the Bad

BY MARIAM KHAN

The start button on the printing machine is hit constantly as hundreds of papers fly out. The phones ring like a fire alarm all while District Director, Erica Reardon, is managing to get to each and every one of them. The staffers are preparing to work from home for a couple of weeks, but no one expects it to last months- especially Congressional Aide Jessica Merritt.

"I did not see this coming," says Jessica. In early March, I remember telling my coworker that the chances of us catching the coronavirus were very low and I assured her that it was not something to worry about. However, that changed quickly and soon this became a life-threatening issue that required us all to stay home until we saw progression as a state." Governor J.B. Pritzker issued a stay at home order on March 21, 2020, which meant working from home for Jessica and her coworkers. The strict measures put in place by the governor are intended to limit and stop the spread of coronavirus despite the struggle of taking an entire office and in-person-meetings home.

As a congressional aide, Jessica's work entails meeting with constituents to assist with issues involving immigration, education, and other casework matters. Prior to COVID-19, she attended weekly meetings after work to discuss Congressman Mike Quigley's involvement in the 5th congressional district. However, Jessica's schedule and work have altered as she can no longer come in direct contact with people outside of her home. "Usually, when we pick up the phones in the office, the constituent has a specific casework category they need help with such as Social Security or Medicare and we're able to direct them to the staffer that can answer their questions.

When Jessica was asked if it was harder to assist constituents over the phone, she responded, "I think it's made our lives a little more difficult. It's really hard to understand what constituents need over the phone. It's made it tougher to be as accessible to constituents that maybe would have just walked up to our office or sent letters to us. We've taken so much more than what we usually do, especially with many constituents asking how to file for unemployment and other problems regarding this pandemic."

"I did not
see this
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Jessica



“Although the pandemic has affected us all in some shape or form, it has strengthened the human connection. We have to think of the positives to get us all through this tough time,” says Jessica.

Since the stay at home order was implemented, the state of Illinois has seen approximately 123,830 confirmed coronavirus cases and a total of 5,621 deaths. The Hispanic community and other neighboring communities have appeared to be impacted the most from the virus. Governor Pritzker informed the public that moving forward with reopening businesses is contingent on the state flattening the curve. In order to move forward to phase 3- the reopening of the economy- the region must have a COVID-19 positivity rate of 20% or less with an increase of no more than 10 percentage points over a 14 day period. As Illinois reaches that point soon, many residents ask the question, “Will everything be normal?” The governor addresses that social distancing and face masks will still be required for a long period of time.

“I mean, Congressman Quigley has said that things won’t be normal or at least in a way that we felt was normal for a while. We won’t have a full office all the time, we will probably have one or two people in each office and we’ll rotate schedules which will last for a few months. In terms of meeting with constituents, we will have to limit the people who walk in through our office doors and the outreach that we’re able to do.”

For Jessica and her coworkers, it’s been extremely exhausting. “It’s tiring to have to take on the trauma of other people all the time, it is something that comes with public service that a lot of people have to endure. But, compassion and fatigue are real so we have to keep ourselves healthy while helping others which is the same case for a lot of people in similar lines of the profession such as mental health professions.”

However, this pandemic has brought Jessica and her coworkers closer to the Congressman. The upside to all of this is that she is able to have more one on one time with Mike Quigley, who is a busy man on a normal schedule. She meets with him at least twice a week to discuss matters which is more than she would before quarantine.

“Although the pandemic has affected us all in some shape or form, it has strengthened the human connection. We have to think of the positives to get us all through this tough time,” says Jessica.



Student Athletes Adjust to Life during COVID-19

BY MARIAM KHAN

Abby Ward, a senior at Anson County Early College in North Carolina, will not be able to play high school soccer again due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Abby has been playing soccer since she was 7 years old, and has participated in the varsity level at her high school for 2 years.

North Carolina's governor decided to shut down schools, like many other states, in March to limit and stop the spread of coronavirus. Students were informed in the coming weeks that their seasons could not further continue because schools were likely to shut down for the remainder of the school year. For Abby, this meant hanging up the jersey and saying goodbye to the final season of her high school soccer career.

"My team was expecting to place in Sectionals this year. We had goals that needed to be met. I know this is an unprecedented time and there are bigger problems on people's plates, but I've been looking forward to this year since I was seven years old. It's just upsetting," said Abby. Not only are final seasons being taken away from seniors but also school activities like prom, graduation, senior night, and luncheon.

"I've been looking forward to this year since I was seven years old."

COVID Has Taken Over Healthcare

BY NATALIA AWISHA

NorthShore University HealthSystem's leadership has projected a 150 million dollar loss by September. They notified their employees on Wednesday, May 20 at 10:07 AM that they'll be taking action due to this projected loss. Due to COVID-19, they have shut down multiple departments at the hospitals, so the only departments open are the most essential ones. There is no more patient contact unless it's in the emergency room or COVID testing. My mother and sister mainly work at the Skokie location; however, they travel to the Evanston location as well.

According to the Manager of the Gastroenterology Department the hospital needs to make a 30 million dollar reduction each month. They'll achieve this through a "strategic plan." The strategic plan includes furloughs, downstaffing, and salary reductions. Furloughs are six week increments as a Leave of Absence, unpaid. As an employee at the hospital, you can still apply to unemployment, but you'll only be making about 60% of what you make at work.

"You will be guaranteed your job when you are called back," says the manager. However, my mom has been working at this hospital for over 15 years and she makes more than the rest of the employees in her department, so she'd be the first to let go if and when it comes down to that point. If they can hire someone new and pay them less, why wouldn't they? They are already losing money. Downsizing is what they are currently doing, which reduces some staff's hours. "As of right now, I am off on Friday's through Monday's," my mom said. For the employees that are still working, they will receive a salary reduction. Their compensation is being cut by 20-30%, including Medical Assistants by 10%.

Like so many businesses in the world today, the COVID pandemic has had a huge impact on them. NorthShore is calling their financial situation "dire." They will execute these temporary actions to avoid permanent loss of jobs. The manager says, "By reducing labor expenses plus increasing business volumes we hope to achieve this balance."

This is a lot to take in and absorb, and it is difficult news to hear and share. Everyone is being asked to do more, for less. However, we can trust the plan and remember that there are a lot of support resources available. We are in this together.

"You will be guaranteed your job when you are called back," says the manager.



"These were true heroes that deserve to be acknowledged for their strength and bravery even though they may not feel that way."



The Life of Essential Workers During COVID-19

BY TESNEEM AL FADHEL

As most people know, the outbreak of COVID-19 has impacted many people's day-to-day lives. Many people's jobs were lost during this time, as many businesses shut down in hopes of following the CDC guidelines of social distancing and being in quarantine.

Although many jobs were closed, people still had to get their basic needs somehow, such as water, groceries, etc. With that being said, we are left with big corporations such as Target, Walmart, Home Depot, Jewel Osco, etc. The essential workers that work for these companies have no other option but to risk their lives to keep their jobs. On top of risking their lives, some customers don't respect them the way they should, especially in times like these when people need to stick together.

Vicky Liang is an essential part-time cashier at Home Depot. She has worked there for a couple of years but it was still hard to readjust to working during a pandemic. When I asked her how she felt while working during those times, she said "although working as an essential worker, it felt very hectic and scary, it occurred to me why my job is considered essential in the first place." "During my shift an old lady was telling me that her bathroom suddenly had a major leak and asked where the supplies were. The anger in her voice made me realize that our company was aiding those in need and I suddenly realized that my job was important to help people get through this pandemic with our services," continues vicky as she explains why her job is considered essential. She also states that it is important to respectfully approach the workers because they are probably terrified of being there as it is, considering this was a time of uncertainty and anything can happen at any moment.

In conclusion, the outbreak was a scary time for our essential workers in these common large stores. These were true heroes that deserve to be acknowledged for their strength and bravery even though they may not feel that way. It is also important to respect them as some people are completely inconsiderate of their situation.

CORONA VIRUS IN MY TIME

ESTEBAN
BOADA

Corona Virus in my time

BY ESTEBAN BOADA



It has been quite a first half of the year. In the months that came nobody expected coronavirus to be the cause of a global pandemic nor did we expect a high number of casualties. During the first days of the pandemic, I had visited friends and family in New York where the dangers of the outbreak were dramatically more imminent than here in Chicago. The streets looked abandoned, large trucks were lined up outside hospitals stuffed with dead bodies, and everything had completely changed but that didn't stop the people anywhere. The parks were full of kids riding bikes, men playing volleyball, dogs running around, birds chirping. It was almost as if nobody knew of what was going on. I'm back home and settling in but I couldn't help but notice that something was just different with the world. Then the cop just had to keep his knee on the poor black man. That's when the people finally had an answer, and a loud one for that matter. There was rioting in the streets, stores being broken into, robbed, people being hurt, people being killed, police being beaten, rioters being beaten, horses being ridden by civilians, cop cars being flamed up and society as we know it just crumbled. Everything and everyone is just lost. In a world that no longer knows who they are.

PANIC DURING THE PANDEMIC

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Young Protester Stands
next to a vandalized Bus
Stop

The Last Straw

By: Brandon Singh

ON MAY 30TH, ALL THROUGHOUT THE DAY, THE ENTIRE CITY OF CHICAGO HAS ERUPTED INTO COMPLETE CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION DUE TO THE RECENT EVENTS OF THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD. FURTHERMORE, THEY WANTED TO FIGHT AGAINST THE OPPRESSION THAT BLACKS FACE DUE TO THE POLICE FORCE HAVING RACIAL REMARKS AND JUDGEMENTS TOWARDS THEIR COMMUNITY. AT CHICAGO AND MICHIGAN, THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF PROTESTERS GATHERED TOGETHER TO FINALLY RISE UP AND STAND THEIR GROUND AGAINST THIS, AND FINALLY LET THE BLACK COMMUNITY HAVE A VOICE FOR ONCE. AS I LOOKED AROUND ME, I SAW MEMBERS OF MY SOCIETY STANDING AROUND ME, CHANTING "I CAN'T BREATHE", AND ENGAGING IN LOOTING AND DESTRUCTION OF MAJOR CORPORATIONS ALL WHILE CHALLENGING CHICAGO'S VERY OWN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

DESPITE ALL THE CHAOS AND PROTESTING THAT WAS GOING ON AROUND ME, I WAS ABLE TO INTERVIEW MANY DIFFERENT PROTESTERS, AND HEAR WHAT THEIR TAKE ON THE ISSUE IS. WHY WAS THIS CAUSE SO IMPORTANT? WHY WERE THEY HERE ON A SATURDAY WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE DESPITE THE REMARKS TO STAY INSIDE, AND THE WIDESPREAD OF COVID-19. WHAT WAS THEIR MAIN DRIVE AND MOTIVATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROTEST?

ACCORDING TO JIMMY NGUYEN, STUDENT AT VON STEUBEN HIGH SCHOOL, HE STATED THAT, "I CAN'T THINK OF REASONS I SHOULDN'T BE HERE... I WAS GROWN UP TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE ALL EQUAL AS HUMANS AND SHOULD ALL BE TREATED EQUALLY, SO TO SEE THE SHOCKING NEWS OF GEORGE FLOYD AND HOW THE POLICE WERE GETTING AWAY WITH IT WAS SICKENING TO MY HEART." JIMMY BELIEVED THAT HE HAD TO STAND UP FOR WHAT WAS RIGHT, AND IF THAT MEANT TAKING TIME OUT OF HIS OWN DAY, PUSHING ASIDE HIS SCHOOL WORK TO MAKE HIS IMPACT ON THE CAUSE, THEN BY ALL MEANS HE WOULD DO IT.

CARREY NGUYEN, BROTHER OF JIMMY, ALSO HAD SOME MORE TO SAY. CARREY IS A COLLEGE STUDENT AT DEPAUL, AND WAS PARTICIPATING AT THE PROTESTS WITH HIS BROTHER. "ALL I GOT TO SAY IS THAT ALTHOUGH I'M NOT BLACK, I KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO BE JUDGED AND DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE OF MY RACE. JUST BECAUSE I AM ASIAN, THE AMOUNT OF RACIST REMARKS AND OBJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN THROWN AT ME DUE TO THE CORONA SPREAD IS RIDICULOUS. IF I STAND FOR THEM I KNOW THEY WILL STAND FOR ME."

THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE ON MAY 25TH HAD SHOCKED THE WORLD. IT HAD CAUSED NOT ONLY AN UPROAR TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY, YET A STANCE OF UNITY. IT HAD BROUGHT TOGETHER OUR WHOLE SOCIETY FROM THE EAST COAST TO THE WEST COAST, AND IT ALLOWED US TO FINALLY FIGHT FOR WHAT WAS RIGHT. AS I SAT THERE IN THOSE PROTESTS, I SAW PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, DIFFERENT RACES, ETHNICITIES, ALL FIGHTING FOR ONE CAUSE, BLACK LIVES MATTER.

AS I STAYED THERE, I ALSO SAW ANOTHER SIDE OF THE SPECTRUM. PEOPLE BREAKING INTO STORES SUCH AS FOOT LOCKER AND NIKE, RUNNING OUT WITH GOODS, PEOPLE BURNING POLICE CARS AND PEOPLE BREAKING WINDOWS OF BUSINESSES. ALL THESE EVENTS WHICH TO THE NORMAL WOULD BE INHUMANE AND HORRIBLE WERE BEING CHEERED ON AND CELEBRATED.

"WE CAN REBUILD A CITY, BUT WE CAN NEVER REBUILD THOSE LIVES THAT ARE LOST." IS WHAT CARREY HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION. AND TO THAT, HE IS RIGHT. THOSE MATERIALISTIC ITEMS ARE THINGS THAT WE CAN PRODUCE IN FACTORIES. WE CAN STILL MAKE SHOES, WE CAN STILL REBUILD OUR CITY. HOWEVER, WE CAN NEVER GET BACK THOSE LIVES THAT WERE LOST DUE TO POLICE BRUTALITY. AND THAT'S WHY THE GATHERING WAS SO MASSIVE AND STRONG. BECAUSE IT'S FINALLY TIME TO PUT AN END TO THIS ISSUE ONCE AND FOR ALL. AFTER 400 YEARS, OUR COMMUNITY HAS FINALLY GAINED THE COURAGE TO LASH BACK AT SOCIETY, AND I HAVE NOTHING BUT SUPPORT FOR IT.



The Perfect Facemask?

By: Brandon Singh

With the widespread national and global scare of the COVID-19 pandemic, a market that has burst through the roof has been none other than the facemask market. Everywhere you go, the one thing you see almost every single person wearing happens to be a facemask. In fact, it has become a requirement by the government to wear them. Whether you're going out for food or going into stores, they have taken over our faces.

Which then raises the question for those who are interested in fashion, what is the best facemask you can get? If we are going to be told to wear a facemask until further notice, we might as well make it not only be the best looking one, but the most optimal one as well. So then, what exactly is the best facemask on the market.

Out of shock, it's actually a facemask that's not coming from a major designer brand such as Louis Vuitton, or Gucci, and it's not a mask that's being made by a pharmaceutical company. Instead, it's a mask made by a local right here in Chicago. Artist 2mad.2die has been producing custom denim products for about a year now. And with the pandemic striking, the artists has become accustomed to creating masks for his fellow friends and community.

LOOKS: As I mentioned up above, each mask is custom made. You can throw in a request for a design and he will get back to you as soon as possible to whether or not he can make it. Being a denim specialist, the masks are made out of premium denim. Yes, it does sound weird for a face mask, however it happens to strengthen the facemask, preventing anything from getting through. There are a vast majority of colors that you are able to choose, and being able to customize your own mask is something that I believe a lot of people are going to love. Having that own personal touch and adding your personality to a clothing piece that you will wear almost everyday will most definitely make your mask the best looking one on the street.

COMFORT: Now, despite the look factor, of course a major importance for the face mask would have to be comfort. As it's going to be on your face everytime you go out, you want to make sure that it feels like heaven when you wear it out. To no surprise, the comfort level is actually not bad. Each mask covers your entire mouth, nose, and jaw, and it gives you a tight fit where it won't be loose, and won't fall off. You can breath perfectly fine through the mask due to the little air holes that are present near your nose. And the side that is placed on your face is made up of a nice fabrication that's soft to the touch. The straps are elastic, and are stretchable to any face type, so you don't have to worry about whether or not it fits.

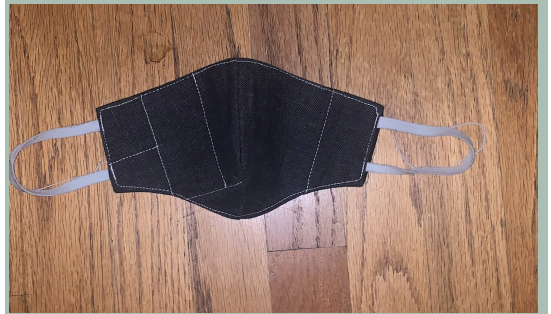
DURABILITY: As mentioned before, the facemask is designed using denim, which makes the base part of the mask stronger than any other ones. Also, it makes it very strong during any kind of weather. As an owner, I have worn this mask through the hottest days of the week, and through the rainiest days of the week. Getting wet, and being thrown on the ground and stomped on resulted in not a single rip or tear in the face mask. The quality denim holds strong through the toughest forces, and refuses to break down. The elastic bands on the side however, not so much. As they are only elastic, they are prone to being ripped off, but that's only if you stretch them to the max. As long as you use the mask as a normal mask, you'll be fine.

COST: So, you have an insane looking mask, that is made out of great quality, and is comfortable for your face. It leaves out one more question, how much does it cost. Well, it's actually pretty cheap, with a price of only \$10. For a mask, yea it may seem expensive, but you have to keep in mind that you are paying for the quality denim, looks, and of course supporting the artists. Also, the mask will give you thousands and thousands of uses all well protecting you from COVID-19 and other germs that sprawl about.

When looking at it from the base, it seems that this mask has it all. It has the looks, the comfort, the durability, and the low cost. So why don't we all get it. Well, supply and demand is mainly the reason. You can only make so many masks for so many people as a single person, which is why he hasn't really been active on making them. However, if you are able to get your hands on one of these masks, I guarantee you that you will not regret it.



The Cushioning used on the inside of the Facemask.



The Premium Denim Used on the outside.



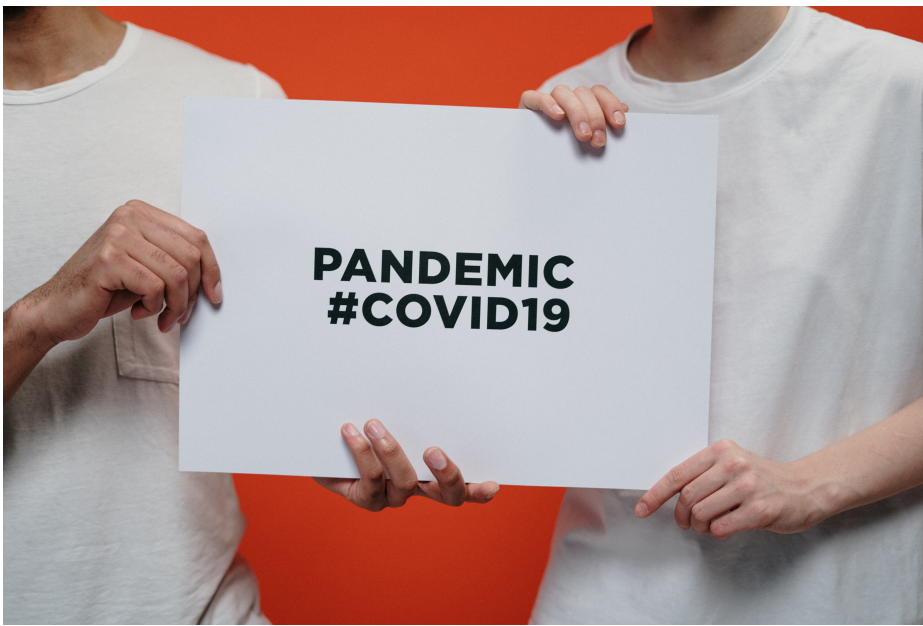
Earls BBQ Review

BY NOEL GORDILS

I tried Earl's BBQ on 4835 N Austin Ave on memorial day. I was honestly surprised at how good the food was. My family and I love BBQ, and we have tried every BBQ restaurant in Chicago. My favorite place for ribs is Gale Street Inn. Unfortunately Earls ran out of ribs when I went, but they had brisket and I love brisket. I don't really eat ribs unless they are from Gale Street. Anyway, good brisket is usually hard to find, because some places don't trim the fat off of the meat, and it just isn't good. Earls brisket was pure meat. There was no fat at all, don't get me wrong a little fat is good for that dish in my opinion but this place's brisket doesn't even need the fat. Before trying Earls I thought Smoques, a BBQ restaurant, had the best brisket. The difference between the two is, Smoques brisket has a lot of fat sometimes and other times it doesn't have a lot of fat. Like I said Earls was all pure brisket, and it wasn't a fluke because my family all ordered brisket and none of them had fat on it. According to their 4.5 ratings, across most delivery services, people seem to agree with me on how good Earl's BBQ is. I love hand cut fries and Earl's had them, but they had some seasoning on it that I could have done without. Smouques has better fries than Earl's strictly because of the seasoning on earls fries. Next time I will order them without the seasoning and I'm sure they will taste like smoques because hand cut fries are simple. I am the only one out of my family that likes Mac and cheese. I am a fanatic for it, I have over 7 recipes for mac and cheese and I have made it at least a hundred times, but Earls has really good mac and cheese. They put seasoning on it too, so I would order it without but once you get to the bottom without seasoning it's really good. Forsure better than smoques. I would recommend this restaurant to anyone and everyone I know, the 4.5 star ratings are well deserved.

Another day in
the new norm.
Masks, and
food.





Quarantine update!

What day is it?

BY NOEL GORDILS

Society is still inside for the 6th week on May 20th 2020. A “stay at home” order was issued in mid March due to COVID-19. COVID-19 has affected over four thousand people in Illinois alone. We have invented ways to stay in touch and have fun during this social distancing season. Video calls and drive by signs have brought a broken society closer together. “Social distancing is not that bad. We as people have gotten closer together during this time that we are apart” said Joesphine, a hard working mother. We asked if she was ready to go back to work, and she simply answered “Not at all”.



NASCAR IS BACK

News and Opinions of NASCAR's Return
By: Andrew Fay

NEWS & FEATURES

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Mid Week Racing is back

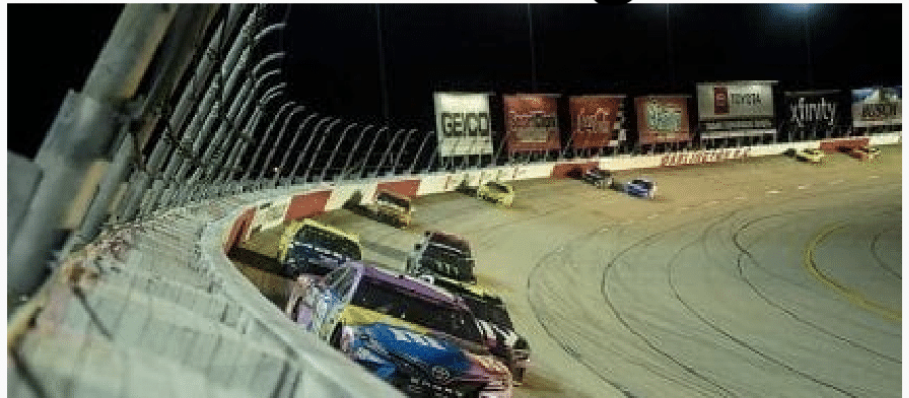
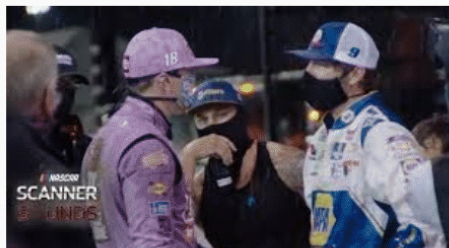


Image of Kyle Busch in purple (18) car
ahead of other drivers

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 36 YEARS NASCAR HAS A WEDNESDAY RACE. THE NASCAR CUP SERIES THE HIGHEST DIVISION OF NASCAR HAS HAD ITS SECOND RACE IN 3 DAYS ON 5/20/2020 AT DARLINGTON MOTOR SPEEDWAY AFTER ITS 71 DAY BREAK DUE TO COVID-19. NASCAR HAS ADDED A BUNCH OF RULES AND REGULATIONS TO KEEP NASCAR GOING. OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE NO FANS IN THE STAND, THEY HAVE ALSO GONE TO ONE DAY EVENTS WHILE ALSO SCANNING EVERY PERSON WHO ENTERS THE TRACK TEMPERATURES. DURING THE RACE SPOTTERS WHO TELL THE DRIVER IF HE IS CLEAR OF ANOTHER CAR OR NOT ALL HAVE TO STAY 6 FEET APART AS DOES EVERYONE ELSE. OTHER RULES ARE THAT EVERYONE AT THE TRACK HAVE TO WEAR FACEMASKS AND ONLY 10 PEOPLE PER TEAM ARE ALLOWED IN THE TRACK WHEN THEY USUALLY HAVE AT LEAST 20 MEMBERS ON A NORMAL RACE. ANY DRIVER OR TEAM MEMBER WHO BREAKS THESE RULES COULD BE FINE UP TO 50,000\$. DURING NASCAR'S WEDNESDAYS NIGHT RACE CHASE ELLIOTT A RACE CONTENDING CAR WAS WRECKED BY KYLE BUSCH BEFORE RAIN WOULD HIT THE TRACK STOPPING THE RACE CHASE AND HIS CREW CHIEF ALAN GUSTAFSON WHERE NOT VERY HAPPY ONCE THE RACE WAS CALLED AND KYLE BUSCH CLIMBED OUT THE CAR ALAN AND KYLE HAD A VERY HEATED CONVERSATION WHICH WOULD LEAD THE BREAKING SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES. NASCAR HAS YET TO TAKE ANY ACTIONS OR MADE ANY STATEMENTS YET BUT WE CAN EXPECT ACTION SOON. NASCAR HAS AND WILL BE VERY STRICT ABOUT THE GUIDELINES THEY HAVE SET. THE SEASON IS SET TO CONTINUE AT CHARLOTTE MOTOR SPEEDWAY FOR THE COKE 600



This is an image of Kyle Busch(Left) and Alan Gustafson(Right) breaking social distancing guidelines set by CDC and enforced by NASCAR



Spotters Social distancing in empty stands

My Thoughts on NASCAR's Return

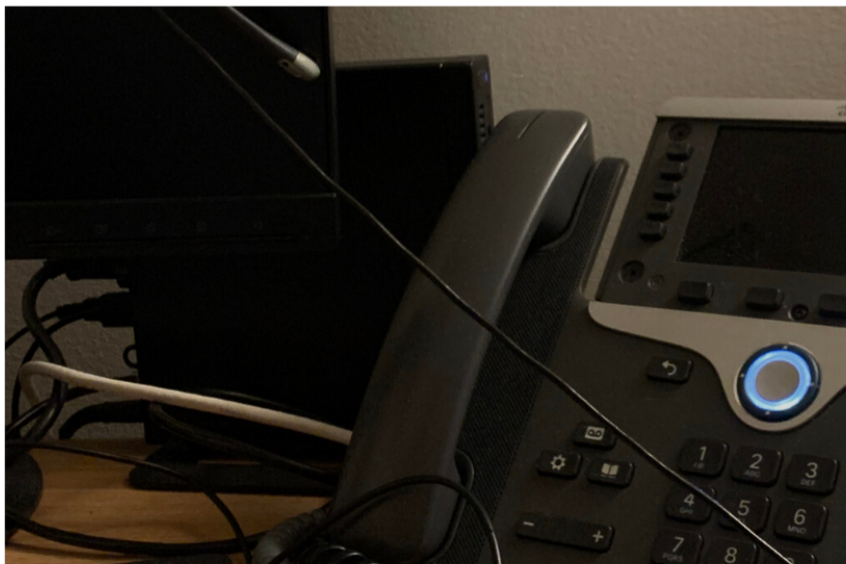
Today I write to inform you about my thoughts on how NASCAR is returning from COVID-19 and how it is doing with its social distancing and guidelines to keep everyone at the track safe. NASCAR has been back for 3 weeks now and 10 total races over the three main series and everything has seemed to go perfect for NASCAR. Everyone for the most part has followed Social Distancing guidelines. Spotters sit 6 feet apart from each other and everyone has been wearing masks. One problem is some drivers break Social Distancing guidelines when they talk to each other after the race. Drivers after the race are usually very tired and in some cases very upset with the other driver so they aren't really thinking about Social Distancing. With NASCAR being back for 3 weeks now is about when you start to find infected people showing symptoms and as of June 2nd 2020 no driver, pit crew member, spotter, or official has been tested positive which shows all the guidelines NASCAR has set out is working which include: Masks on at all times, temp checks entering the track, Social distance, and one day events. This could have some ideas that could be used in other sports that are trying to make a comeback to catch up to NASCAR. There are still some flaws that NASCAR has tried to smooth out that could lead to a positive test like: Spotters during the race well sit closer than 6 feet to talk straight and drivers after the race will break Social Distancing guidelines to discuss racing issues. At the end of the day the only way you can really show if you agree with what NASCAR is doing is you can either watch and support what the sport is trying to carry out or you can not watch and show that you don't support NASCAR and that it's either too early for sports or it's not safe enough guidelines to keep everyone at the track safe.



Joey Logano (left) and Chase Elliott (right) having a discussion while breaking Social Distancing guidelines



NASCAR racing at the Bristol Motor Speedway in front of empty stands



Mother Loves Working from Home

BY KIARA LEE

A working mother was forced to change her location of employment to her house in late March. She started working from home to practice social distancing.

The majority of workers at her job were also sent home to continue working to the best of their ability. According to this mother, she has no complaints about this new location because she has more time to do home renovations and “me time.”

“I enjoy being home a lot but hearing my mom telling me to do a million chores a week starts to get annoying after 2 months of quarantine.” said the daughter of the current working-from-home mother.

“Working from my home is worth a hundred thousand dollars just on its own – because of the freedom and because of the time saving.”

Erik Allebest
CEO OF CHESS.COM



Minorities Stand Together

BY KIARA LEE

As a Latina in Chicago, I feel extremely excited for the change that all these protests and riots will provoke. Although this is a very delicate situation, I know that all this anger and pain will not be in vain.

Almost two weeks ago George Floyd, a 46-year-old black father, was killed due to "asphyxiation from sustained pressure" by white police officer, Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This is not the first case of police officers being negligent and completely racist towards people of color. But I hope this will be the last. They're not God to decide who gets to live or die.

"There is beauty and power in unity. We must be united in heart and mind. One world, one people."

Lailah Gifty
Akita

Minorities Stand Together

BY KIARA LEE

Since the beginning of these protests, minority groups have been united to stand up for Black Lives Matter movement and I, for one, think that's so beautiful. In a society where we are used to being looked at differently due to the color of our skin or our language barrier, this is the time when we have to make a change.

It's 2020! This fight has been going on for too long and we are tired but we will not stop until all of us are heard. Every minority has struggles that involve injustice so yes, all lives matter but not every life is in danger as much as Black people do right now.

Think of it this way, "The fire department should spray down all houses in a neighborhood even though only one house is on fire...because all houses matter. Yes, your house matters too, BUT YOUR HOUSE IS NOT ON FIRE???" To say "All Lives Matter" is overlooking the oppression of current black lives that started when their ancestors were alive.



LIFE IN THE TIMES OF CORONAVIRUS

Monthly Newsletter of the Mather High School Faculty

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Is the Year 2020 Actually
the Worst Year?
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Unexpected Track Season

BY JADE TIV

This year has by far been the year of many struggles and challenges. It was around fall that a disease called "COVID-19" or coronavirus came into place and spread, which caused a pandemic. Then there's a war between Trump troops and Iraqi. Australia was being destroyed by the fire, which caused endangered species. Recently, a police officer put his knee on a man named George Floyd.

But what exactly makes the year worse? Everyone has been complaining "2020 is the worst year" or "I want to go back to 2019". But haven't

you stopped and thought about why each year is different? Or what makes a year different? It's how the people around us cause the year around you to be good or bad. It's also you who sets the year to be good. Now, people should stop complaining about the year 2020. We have to come up as strong over the years and if there's any bad situation happening, we should be holding on.

At the start of the year, there were still good memories that occurred. It's those little moments that also make a great year. We shouldn't let those bad moments get to us. Maybe something simple as a person who made a good memory such as this year making new friends. Those are still something someone should cherish.

In the media, we have seen worse conditions in the world, which cause people to be in panic, fear, and greed. Thinking that they should only take care of themselves and their own family. We are supposed to help each other that are most needed in help. It's pretty selfish how people had gone to stores and fought over toilet papers. Over toilet paper! While many people suffer the necessities they really need. Important items being resale for unreasonable prices. We make it seem that the world is ending, but it's not. We have been OVER EXAGGERATING and we are still.

When we just stop and think about it, we see that people are being chaotic and going crazy because of our situation. Yes, I understand the pain many people have gone through, but it's not the way that we should be acting in this situation. Rather than hate, make peace. Rather than greed, help those in need.

Although, there are also good qualities to the year 2020. We should be appreciating what it's happening to the environment. Like how China's pollution has gotten better, the water in lakes being clear, and many more. I honestly think this is a great opportunity for nature to heal, so 2020 isn't that bad afterall.

"If we believe
that tomorrow
will be better,
we can bear a
hardship
today."

Thich Nhat Hanh



Is the Year 2020 Actually the Worst Year?

BY JADE TIV

This year has by far been the year of many struggles and challenges. It was around fall that a disease called "COVID-19" or coronavirus came into place and spread, which caused a pandemic. Then there's a war between Trump troops and Iraqi. Australia was being destroyed by the fire, which caused endangered species. Recently, a police officer put his knee on a man named George Floyd.

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"Everything bad has..You know, has a good."

Ross Odonvan



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"We're in a fight against this virus. We don't have time for double talk. We need straight talk."



THE CAKE FROM HEAVEN

Monthly Stories From the Don Himself

CRAZY TIMEZ

During this crazy time of this Pandemic and being home for most of it I have been able to really focus on myself and plan for what I want to do with my life and actually have a plan for it. Also this staying at home gives me a feel of how college is going to be with the being home and having a lot of extra time in college.



My favourite cake of all time

BY SALIH KULASIC

Salih Kulasic Review Draft

Swirled cinnamon-sugar blend and finished with a crunchy streusel topping, the coffee cake is the best little sweet dessert that a person can have. Creamy, sweet, scrumptious little treats.

At any Starbucks location you find a piece of this delicious cake that's too good to pass up on. It has a crunchy top that's mostly brown sugar and has a crumble effect which once you bite into it reveals itself to a soft creamy middle with a bit of cinnamon that just completes the little piece of coffee cake.



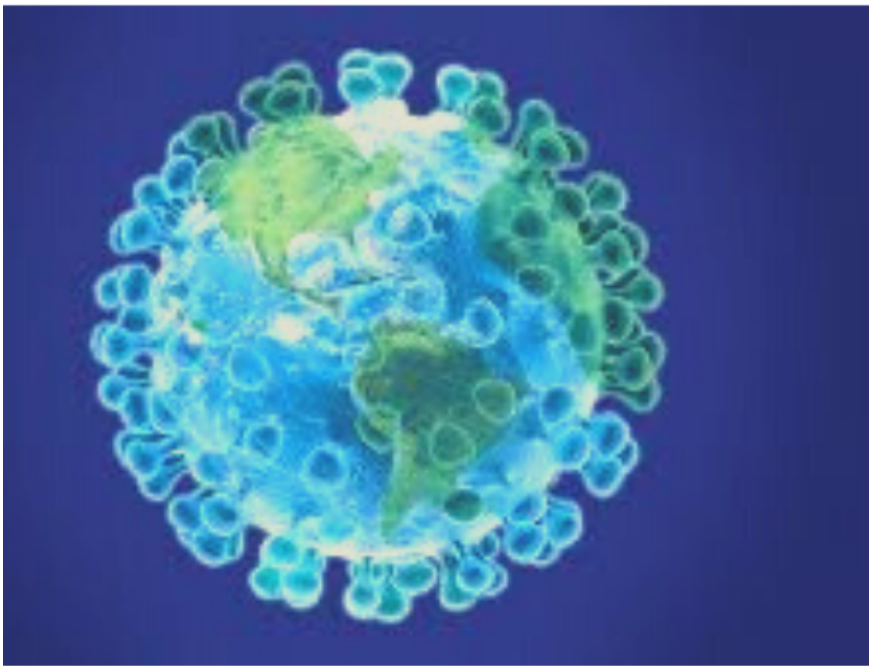
This cake originated from Germany, it was known more as a sugary bread than a cake. In Hungary, a type of coffee cake is aranygaluska, which utilizes cinnamon. According to the book *Listening to America*, Stuart Berg Flexner, it wasn't until 1879 that the term "coffee cake" became a common term.

Yes this is a sugar snack which does make it unhealthy but I would seriously recommend this if you don't mind the ingredients used. A serving is 109 grams of the cake and is around 330 calories which is kinda a lot but I would dive in for a bite of it. It costs \$2.95 plus tax which is a bit pricey but you can find it anywhere at any Starbucks.

Personally I think there should be somewhere with better coffee cakes, but I just need to find it and buy it fresh and try it. I've been to Starbucks a lot and tried other cakes but most of them are Cake Pops and don't compare to the Coffee Cake.

Ingredients Included

INGREDIENTS Enriched Wheat Flour [Wheat Flour, Niacin, Reduced Iron, Thiamine Mononitrate, Riboflavin, Folic Acid], Sugar, Light Brown Sugar, Unsalted Butter [Cream, Natural Flavor (Lactic Acid)], Sour Cream [Milk, Cream, Non Fat Dry Milk, Modified Food Starch, Gum Acacia, Guar Gum, Locust Bean Gum, Carrageenan, Whey, Lactic Acid], Whole Eggs, Whole Milk, Soybean Oil, Cinnamon, Baking Powder [Sodium Acid Pyrophosphate, Sodium Bicarbonate, Corn Starch, Monocalcium Phosphate], Natural Flavor, Pan Spray [Soybean Oil, Mineral Oil, Soy Lecithin, Dimethyl Polysiloxane], Sea Salt



This time off ive
been planning to
attended DePaul
University and study
business. Ive also
been exercising a
lot, ive been
running and doing a
lot of agility
workouts as well as
body weight
workouts. I feel
happy about it and
like this challenge
of me working
everyday. Overall
pretty happy with
this time off.



Chicago Continues to Protest

BY ALYSA IKANOVIC

This the third day of protest in Chicago, with this third day it brings peaceful protest, but also looting and vandalism. This sudden protest was sparked after the death of George Floyd, who was killed by a police officer in Minneapolis on Memorial Day. Who was innocent killed by a cop for an alleged fake twenty dollar bill. They pinned him down by the neck for what people say was eight minutes. This was the last straw for people and they knew they had to do something about police brutality to the Black community. This was the third day of protesting in Chicago.

But with the sudden and uncontrollable protesting came with people looting and vandalizing the streets of Chicago. Now people are left with burned down stores and property damage. Seeking to address the corrupt system of the nation and the looting that devastated the South and West sides, African American state legislators on Tuesday called for money to rebuild, criminal justice reforms to heal and an executive order from Gov. J.B. Pritzker to "to immediately respond to the crisis in our community." Due to all the looting that has happened recently the Mayor of Chicago Lori Lightfoot requested that Governor J.B. Pritzker activated 375 soldiers - that is just one of the several "new precautionary measures" to ensure "health and safety."

"I know that for many of you, your blood, sweat and tears went into recruiting businesses to come support the vibrancy of your communities. And I want you to hear from me. Not only do I know that I and we will be your partner in rebuilding, we will not let our city be in shambles."

Lori Lightfoot
MAYOR OF CHICAGO





Teen Drives Mother to Work

BY SHARAN SAMUEL

An 18-year old daughter drives mother to work every morning at 6am. Although traffic lessened during quarantine, many people are still going out to work early in the morning.

The daughter has been driving her mother everyday because she has much more time on her hands now that remote learning has started. Instead of the mother taking the car the full day, her daughter is able to commute around the city in the car while her mother is at work.

Life Out of The Office

BY ALYSA IKANOVIC

Before the life of Covid-19 kicked in, I had an internship that I would go to Monday through Thursday, for my law class, it was the Procurement Office of Cook County. When the whole city of Chicago was put in lockdown everyone was forced to work at home and deal with the situation at hand the best they could. So, one day I decided that I should call Rosalyn Carlton, and see how my internship lady and the whole office moved from office life to home life.

I conducted an interview over the phone and wanted to get to the bottom on how everything changed. I wanted to know how she works and what changes were made in order to work from home. She responded with, "We were very fortunate because some people aren't, and it just so happened late last year... almost everyone had a laptop. Starting late February, Raffi- who is the main boss of the office- said that there's a bug and we need to be prepared and we were all prepared to work from home using the Microsoft team... we are able to do meetings, call each other, and we can attend webinars and things."

When I asked Rosalyn what was the most difficult thing she faced from working at home, she said "For some people, and they are still having this problem, my laptop I think the screen is 12 inches... going from having two monitors to just having a little screen was a challenge...". But other than that she said that the office and herself have worked out through this situation and trying the most they can out of it.

She is expected to go back into the office at the end of August, but not everyone would be allowed back in due to social distancing. She is very excited to go back to work.

"Having a quiet day at home to write means I get work done way faster"

Jimmy Daly
A MEMBER OF THE
REMOTEVERO TEAM



LIFE AS AN ESSENTIAL WORKER

BY: SONIA SHAHZAD



Ahmad and his co-workers try to find some sanity in their work place as they take selfies together

Their Story

Ahmad Shahzad, a pharmacy technician working at the Target CVS Pharmacy in Chicago, Illinois receives an increase in customers due to the Covid19 outbreak. Ahmad has been working at CVS for the past four years and has never been placed in such a problematic environment. As his hours increase so does his stress.

His boss, Jacob, says that this is just temporary and they must deal with the influx of patients calmly. The pharmacy's usual customers just come in to order or collect medicines. They used to receive a normal amount of phone calls from customers that seemed bearable, but since the outbreak the phone calls are never ending. They are beginning to receive patients that possess Covid19 like symptoms and may potentially carry the virus. This is tough for the pharmacy as they run low on PPE. Ahmad living with a family of seven has to be extra cautious, so he doesn't bring the virus home.

"We weren't expecting this influx since we're just a pharmacy, but people are just scared right now and are trying to get their hands on anything to feel reassured. We had vitamins and pain reliever medication run out in a matter of hours. These are scary times, but we essential workers need to keep the world running," said Ahmad. While these are just some of the obstacles, the pharmacy also has to endure receiving the same pay rate.

Pandemic in the Mind

BY SONIA SHAHZAD

As the Covid19 outbreak continues in the world we soon begin to realize the impact it brings to every single community. One community that hasn't been brought into light is the mentally ill. While this pandemic sprints forward at full speed we don't realize the other runners that get knocked down. People that require therapists and psychologists are now being told to stay home. To stay home and deal with their mental illness alone. To layaway with their unsettling thoughts. During a profound interview with newly admitted mental healthcare worker Ronnie Lyall, the daunting truth about what's to come of these people is revealed.

Lyall discusses his experience first hand as he works in the Psych Ward after leaving his previous job at Jane Addams Senior Caucus. "I wasn't sure if I was going to like it, and your first thought is like an asylum from the movies. Most of our patients are normal people actually who feel depressed, and the rate of that age is pretty high in your generation and my generation." When Lyall first started, the spread of Covid19 had not yet been classified as a pandemic. He had a few normal weeks until Covid19 cases in Chicago began to rise rapidly. This sudden uprising began to limit patients from coming at first, mainly due to fear of contracting the virus.

Lyall says that a lot of those people just needed someone to talk to: "Patients come to the facility if they are in a severe situation... It's mostly just patients who are in a dark place and you sit with them and talk to them which is the best part because it brings the dark part out of them." Having to deal with your thoughts alone is not ideal for a person who's mentally ill, and it can eventually lead to some dark pathways. Lyall is persistent to help every person that walks into the ward. He believes that more should be done to assist this group of people. This pandemic invokes anxiety in the normal person, and one can only imagine the anxiety a mentally ill person must be feeling.

"Most of our patients are normal people actually who feel depressed, and the rate of that age is pretty high in your generation and my generation."

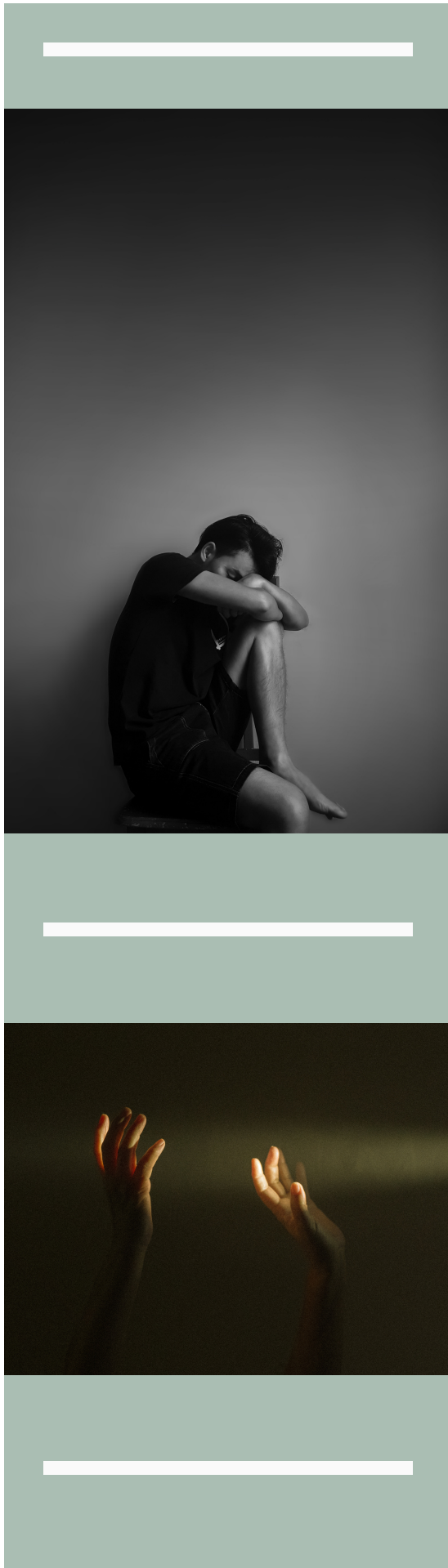
Ronnie Lyall
MENTAL HEALTHCARE
WORKER



Patients that are scared of contracting the virus avoid the psych ward and nothing is being done to tackle this dilemma. Lyall believes that virtual sessions can be possible and beneficial, but require a lot of extra time. With the pandemic going on the ward has to be even more careful, and a lot of Lyall's time goes into either treating his patients or sanitizing the environment. He just hopes something can be done for those that don't have access to mental assistance.

Along with this problem, there's a shortage of PPE for these workers in the psych ward, as Lyall expands on his experience: "The issue we began to have is with face masks and we've been trying to overcome that. There is always enough for everyone there but we never have back up masks. People are trying to make reusable masks, but the problem is taking it home and washing it, so it's a whole process. We're taking necessary precautions to keep everyone safe." Lyall doesn't usually get patients who have covid19, because extreme measures are taken before a person is allowed in the building. These measures include: checking temperatures and asking a series of questions about their psychical health to ensure the safety of the ward and its workers. After the first few months, patients began to make appointments, but there had to be a limit implemented to a certain number of people in the ward.

Lyall hopes the city of Chicago does more during phase three for its mentally ill community. He believes that this event in history should set some sort of precedent so if something like this were to happen again the mental healthcare system would have something to fall back on. An alternative solution must be made, so this community is not left alone during these scary times.



3 THINGS TO DO DURING QUARANTINE

BY Gabriela Aguinaga-HERNANDEZ

1) EXERCISE



While stuck at home with nothing to do, you probably noticed you have all this extra energy and nothing to do with it. One way to alleviate all this extra energy is to exercise. There are so many different ways to exercise that one could do. While still practicing safe social distancing, one can still go running, bike riding or even just for a walk. One of the best places to go out for a jog or walk are forest preserves. My personal favorite around the Chicagoland area are the Skokie Lagoons. These lagoons have miles of trails and place a close second to the lakefront trails. Also, great way to exercise at home is yoga. Yoga requires no additional equipment and isn't as intense as a total workout. Plus, this quarantine may be the perfect opportunity to get back into shape. Create a workout schedule, and stick to it! If that isn't motivation enough a great tool to use is Healthy Wage. Healthy Wage allows you to place bets on how much weight you can lose. This is a great way to get into shape and make money!

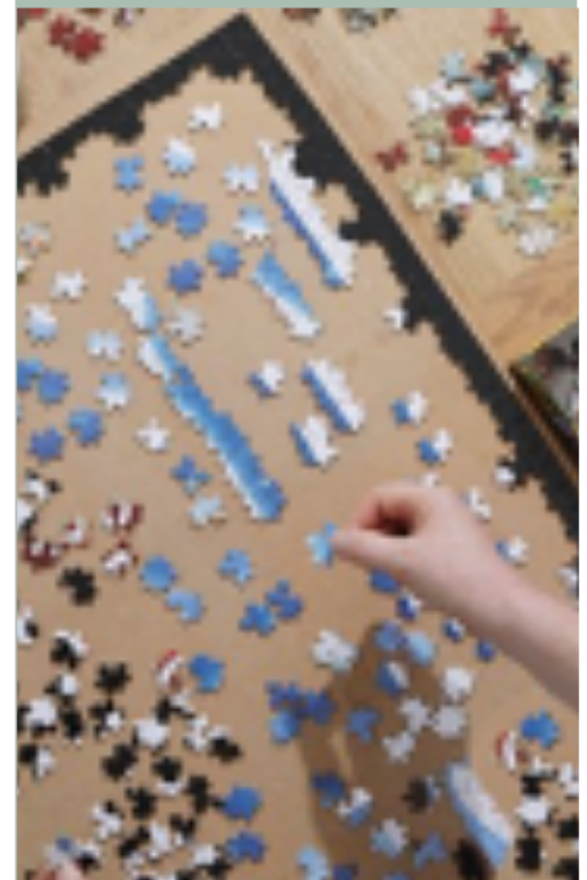


2) BINGE WATCHING TV

Before quarantine, binge watching your favorite tv show was a guilty pleasure. It would often come at the expense of getting work done or at the expense of a good sleep. However, now with all this spare time you can afford to watch those 4,6, or 8 episodes your favorite tv show guilt free.

3) READING/PUZZLES

With all this spare time you might find yourself attached to you phone, computer, or tv. A good way to take a break from your screens is to read. Pick up that action and adventure book that you always wanted to read and put down that boring old Shakespeare book that you've been forced to read. Another good way to avoid screen time is puzzles. Puzzles can take up a vast majority of your day. Puzzles are my favorite because they will take up hours without you realizing and they're extremely relaxing. I recommend throwing on some headphones with your favorite playing on while doing the puzzle. Instead of going to Target and paying \$15 or more for a puzzle, go to your nearest dollar store and stock up on puzzled. They have numerous puzzles with varying difficulties. There are simple ones for kids and more difficult ones for adults. Great activity for the whole family.





What's Happening?

BY GABRIELA AGUINAGA-HERNANDEZ

On March 21, 2020 Governor Pritzker announced an official stay at home order for the state of Illinois, along with many other states. The stay at home order came in light of the mass spread of the coronavirus. The rapid spread of the virus throughout the globe sparked fear into many people. With no vaccine, the number of infected people skyrocketed. With so many people infected and dying from the virus, many states had no choice but to issue stay at home orders. These orders forced many nonessential business, parks, and attractions to shut down. At the moment many scientists are racing to create an effective vaccine for the virus. However, many scientists are also attempting to discover the origin of the virus. It is believed that the virus was first transmitted from animals to humans. Although the first signs of the virus were in China, the virus quickly spread to other parts of the eastern hemisphere. Another major hot spot for the virus was Europe, one of the areas most affected was Italy. After this, reports of corona virus outbreaks flooded the United States. With so many major cities and urban areas the number of corona cases were through the roof in the U.S. Some of the states with the most cases are New York, California, and Illinois. Despite no vaccine breakthroughs or cure for the virus, many states are moving to reopen. Although many states have not met the requirements to loosen restrictions, they have continued to move forward with reopening.

"We are all in
this together
and we will
get through
this,
together."

Antonio Guterres
UN SECRETARY GENERAL

CHINA: HOW THE BIRTHPLACE OF COVID-19 REFUSES TO REST

BY: LISSETTE SANTIAGO

China, the world's first epicenter of the Coronavirus pandemic, received international praise for its successful efforts at slowing the spread of the virus- yet now, it faces nothing short of scorn as the government turns its attention to Hong Kong and neighboring countries in its grapple for domination.



BEIJING- THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS VOTED 2,878-1 TO IMPOSE A NEW AND RESTRICTIVE NATIONAL SECURITY LAW IN HONG KONG, IN THE WAKE OF NOT ONLY THE PANDEMIC, BUT PRIOR MONTHS OF PROTEST IN THE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS FORMER BRITISH TERRITORY- PROTEST THAT ERUPTED FOR THE VERY REASON OF CHINA'S CONTROL.

THE NATIONAL SECURITY LAW, BELIEVED BY SOME TO BE THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR HONG KONG'S AUTONOMY AND FREEDOMS, ALLOWS FOR CHINA TO DRAFT, IMPOSE, AND ENFORCE NATIONAL SECURITY LAWS ON HONG KONG. IT ALSO CALLS FOR THE PREVENTION OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN HONG KONG THAT COULD THREATEN CHINA'S NATIONAL SECURITY.

THE SPOKESMAN FOR CHINA'S STATE MEDIA STATED THAT THE MEASURES WERE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO "PREVENT, STOP, AND PUNISH" ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE HONG KONG PROTESTS THAT BROKE OUT LAST YEAR AS A RESULT OF THE DESIRE FOR GREATER INDEPENDENCE FROM MAINLAND CHINA.

After Britain ended its control of Hong Kong and gave it to China in 1997, the agreement or Basic Law of “one country, two systems” granted Hong Kong the rights to have its own government and operate under a democratic, capitalist system much like that of the west. While the Basic Law includes a provision that declares for national security laws to prevent hostility or “treasonous” and “subversive” activities against China, Hong Kong never actually enabled such laws due to public dissent amongst Hong Kong residents.

By passing the new national security law, China’s National People’s Congress (NPC) has essentially changed the Basic Law without consent from Hong Kong, increasing the pre existing tensions between both sides.

Internationally, China’s national security measures are being met with sharp reprimand and appall. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo referred to the law as a “disastrous decision” and stated that “no reasonable person” can assert that Hong Kong is the same autonomous city as before. The United States and allies such as the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada have issued criticism, while some, including the U.K. have threatened to extend the visas of Hong Kong citizens if China does not roll back its restrictions.

The takeover of Hong Kong by China’s Communist Party is merely one way in which it is taking advantage of the Coronavirus pandemic to make significant power grabs in the region. In the past week alone, China has announced a 6.6% increase in its military budget. In a statement on Tuesday, President Xi told the military to “prepare for the worst case scenario,” referencing the potential for turmoil in Hong Kong in the near future.

In the Himalayas to the west, China is entangled in a border dispute with India, starting when Chinese troops crossed several points of the border and damaged Indian structures.

To the east, China holds interest in retaking its successful neighbor Taiwan.

And in the South China Sea, China sank a Vietnamese vessel and encroached Malaysian oil rigs- a move that drew action from American and Australian ships.

Most consequential for the fate of Hong Kong are the actions that China is taking to consolidate control from within. In carrying on the ideology of Communist Party founder Mao Zedong, the NPC is carrying out strategies of mass propaganda, regulations, and restrictions of freedom of speech, which may be considered a ‘threat’ to national security.

At the outbreak of COVID-19, the repercussions of free speech were as evident as ever. The Chinese government punished doctors who persisted on reporting COVID cases. Reports about ill health-care workers were blocked and labs were reported to destroy samples of the virus. In the months that followed, doctors were ordered to remain silent- but some refused.

Li Wenliang was one such doctor who defied the orders of the government before he unfortunately contracted coronavirus and died.

In December 2019, he began messaging fellow doctors, urging them to wear protective clothing to avoid infection.

Days later, Doctor Li was summoned to the Public Security Bureau, where officials forced him to sign a letter that accused him of “false comments” and the “disruption of the social order.”

Following Dr. Li’s death, there was such an outcry on Weibo, China’s social media site, that the government could not immediately wipe out the thousands of comments, the majority of which referenced “freedom of speech” and an “apology” for Dr. Li.

The Chinese government recognized the grave mistake they made in the treatment of Dr. Li and several other doctors, and rapidly changed their strategy. The State Media began sending out praise to first responders and creating stories about the heroism of the country’s people in fighting the virus.

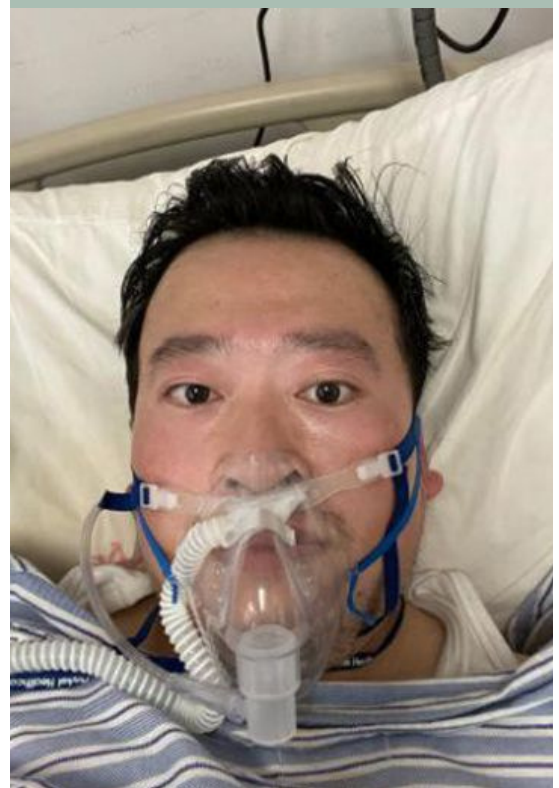
“Passivity is fatal to us. Our goal is to make the enemy passive.” -Mao Zedong, founder of Chinese Communist Party

And again, the state media and NPC regained the people’s trust. The Chinese social media site Weibo received more attention, but not for outrage at the NCP- thousands expressed humor at the news of Britain’s Boris Johnson contracting the virus, and even more comical humor at the news that the United States had surpassed China in confirmed infections.

Being proud of one’s country is one thing. Yet nationalism and resentment for the rest of the world is another; it is a dangerous ground that has led to so much pain and disaster in the past, and paired with an authoritarian regime that fuels the fire, it spells a recipe for disaster.



Dr. Li before and after
hospitalization for COVID-
19



EID DURING QUARANTINE

By: Hassan Mohammad



The Tariq family enjoys a hearty picnic with some close relatives in their backyard to celebrate the auspicious day of Eid-al-fitr, the Muslim religious festival of “Breaking the Fast” which marks the end of Ramadan.

It is a tradition of Muslims all around the world to celebrate and visit their family members during Eid. But, unfortunately, with the social distancing regulations and measures implemented by the government to stop the spread of the Coronavirus, many religious celebrations and observations have also been limited for the greater good. Many activities such as the Eid prayers and big family brunches weren’t encouraged.

But with self-protective measures and a good amount of observed conscientiousness, that didn’t stop the Tariq family from enjoying their Eid. Following all the social distancing rules and staying relatively apart from one another, they enjoyed their Eid day with cheers and laughter. “Eid is all about family and celebration. And though these are depressing times, we should do our best to stay happy and lift each other’s spirits.” said 21 year old Zehra Tariq. The family enjoyed a barbecue with aromas of spices and corn filling the air.

I HAVE A 38% IN
LAW

By: Hassan Mohammad

Oh, and I'm writing this
at 4:30am...

Let me tell you, my schedule is so messed up that I have not attended online classes in a good 3 weeks. I sleep at 6am and wake up at 4pm, and I haven't tried any attempt at fixing this because, frankly, I'm too afraid to.

I don't want to face some of my teachers right now because I haven't been doing any work for their classes since quarantine started. And, as an example, I have a 38% in Law (I'm sorry Mr. Kailin). It's a whole F!! I had never had a B in my life before Corona and now I have an F. And a week before writing this, you'd find me not caring about school at all.

But can you blame me? Yes, you can. And you should.



For the first half of quarantine, grades didn't even count so whatever work I did was basically just extra credit which I didn't really need. I was living my best life, scrolling through tiktok for 8 hours a day, doing anything and everything school prevented me from doing. I watched 72 episodes of a show in 3 days. Do some basic math and that's 24 episodes a day (Go watch Haikyuu. It's amazing). I had never been a worse enemy for my 20/20 vision until now.

And when grades started to count, I was too ignorant to care and so, work kept piling up and I kept procrastinating and I took the AP exam preparation lightly because all this freedom had gotten to my head.

And when I finally started to pay attention to all the work I had been missing, these waves of stress hit me and I finally realized: I need to catch up.

Hi! I'm the valedictorian (not to boast or anything) :) And I can't afford to lose the reputation I have made up for myself for the mere excuse that I can't control myself. So I'm slowly catching up and trying to get my 38% up. But this isn't what this editorial is about.

Truly, these 2 hours of homeschooling for a month has messed me up wayyy more than 8 hours of regular school in 4 years and I doubt I will ever forget the stress I'm experiencing right now.

I realized the importance school has to me, and probably to all of us, not just in terms of providing us an education. School is a proper environment to learn and it's made up in a way so we can focus and keep our heads in the game. It's a haven from all the little distractions that you would never even have guessed would bother you at home. There's no one to stop what you're doing at home. You can do whatever you want. School is a designated learning environment, and we have been taking that for granted.

"School is a designated learning environment and we have been taking that for granted"



Share your tale with us!

FDue dates in school made me strive towards a goal and made me complete my work in time. It reminded me to check my grades and actually care about what I'm doing. I had goals when I was in school. Now due dates are easy to avoid since you're not looking at your teacher's disappointed face everyday your work is late or something. But maybe we need that to be responsible.

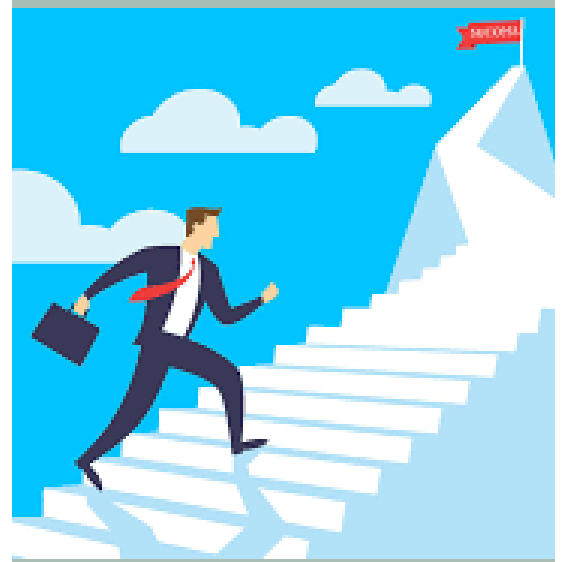
I realized that if I was left to my own freedom and did whatever I wanted to do in the system which I live in, I'd be digging myself a hole. And as I'm experiencing right now, climbing out of that hole comes with extreme amounts of stress and anxiety. It's like I'm tackling months of deadlines and projects in a week.

I was thinking how I had nothing to look forward to by the end of the year. No prom, no graduation, no six flags. Why should I care about doing my work? Why not stay in the hole? Well that's because it wasn't just about me. It was about everyone who had supported me and taught me and helped me get to the amazing position I was in. I couldn't throw that away for some end of the year pleasure. I had to make smarter decisions and not let the people around me down. Because if I did, I would be a disappointment and I don't want that.

Now it's 6:14am and I feel so good that I'm finally done.

Maybe we need a bit of limitations in our freedom when we're young to help us survive in this system when we're older. It somehow sounds so dystopian but I guess it isn't such a bad thing after all.

"Maybe we need a bit of limitations in our freedom when we're young to help us survive in this system when we're older."



Share your tale with us!



A changed world

BY ALEXANDRA BOGDANOV

The CoronaVirus is a deadly/ body damaging virus that does not see the type of person you are. There is no privilege, race, gender, etc. when it comes to Covid19. The virus is spreading extremely fast and is wiping people out left and right. Doctors and scientists have not been able to find a vaccine, so there is currently no cure. Covid-19 can be cripplingly painful, and no one wants to see their loved ones going through it. We're all afraid, and it's important to stay educated about this deadly disease. People of all ages can be infected by the CoronaVirus. But, older people and people with pre-existing medical conditions are at higher risk and appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. Those medical conditions being asthma, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, high blood pressure, and young disease. Though, this does not mean the young cannot become ill. It's been reported that people as young as infants have suffered due to the illness. It's important to keep our elders safe by shutting down schools so students don't bring anything home.

Starting in 2020 a deadly, worldwide virus called Covid19 has been spreading to people of all ages.

Symptoms being: fever/chills, cough, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, loss of taste/ smell, sore throat, congestion/ runny nose, nausea/ vomiting, and diarrhea.

So far 6.14 people all over the world have caught the virus.

There are currently 1.83M U.S. cases and 108k Illinois cases.

Lastly, right in our town of cook county there are 77,925

cases.

The virus is very easily spread and does not see race, gender, age, or economic class.

Though mostly affecting the older generation, especially elders with past health issues such as cancer or lung problems.

A person can become infected by coming into contact of six feet (two arm lengths) to a person with Covid19. You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. You may also get infected by touching a surface/ object that has the virus on it, and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes. It's very important to make a habit of not touching anything on your head, the germs will find an entrance into your body!

There is currently no vaccine to protect Covid-19. The only way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed to the virus. It's good to wear a mask and gloves when in public. Make sure to clean and disinfect everything you touch. You should also wash your hands with soap and water very often for 20 seconds, or when unable to reach a sink use an alcohol based sanitizer that contains 60% alcohol.

There have been recent protests against the current lockdown restrictions. Quarantine is necessary in order for the number of people infected with Covid19 to drop. If something as important as school has to be shut down then so can something as unnecessary as a massage parlor can be shut down too. It's extremely necessary for us to follow these rules in order for us to heal as a nation! It will benefit us in the future.





Home alone without our Mom

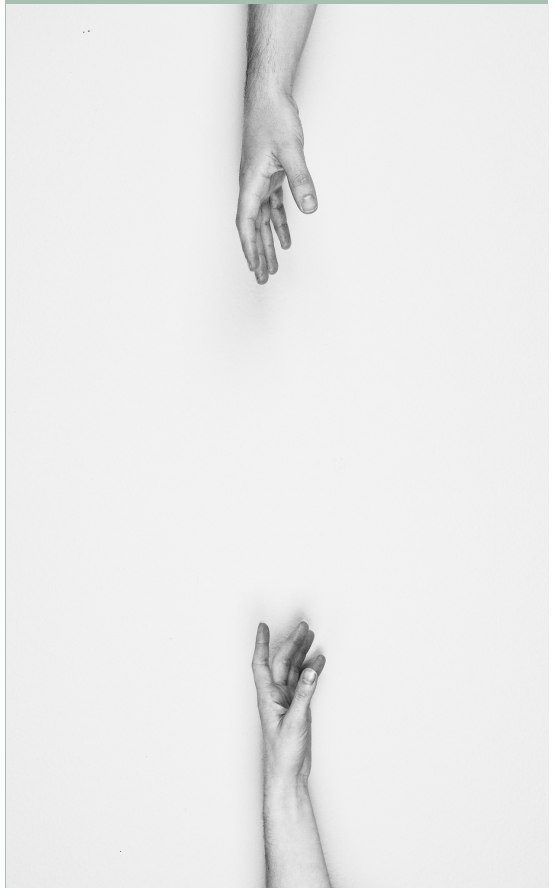
BY TAREK ALNATSHEH

January where my mom went to Jordan to have a nice vacation for two months , but because of covid19 they closed the Airports and canceled all the flights from Jordan to Chicago.

Since my dad already doesn't live here and my mom is stuck in Jordan . My four siblings and I are home alone without our parents which is kind of hard for a lot of different things and one of them is food since all of my sisters aren't good at cooking so we either order the same food or we eat overcooked.

My mom said "I'm scared and I really don't want this thing to take a long time and I missed my kids and I have been four months now ," she confirmed that she will come as soon as they open the Airports . my little brother said after I confirmed to him that I'm not telling mom what he said. " To be honest I am fine, this new life without mom is awesome " my little brother said after I confirmed to him that I'm not telling mom what he said.

"I'm scared and I really don't want this thing to take a long time and I missed my kids and I have been four months now."



I needed to
save money
for college.
Now that's
changed"

Future College Students Struggle During COVID- 19

BY TESNEEM AL FADHEL

Mariam Khan, a senior at Mather High School, will be headed to the University of Michigan in the fall of 2020. Mariam's seasonal job closes during the winter time for obvious reasons. However, Mariam was not capable of working even after her job finally reopened. For many seniors, this is a struggle because most seniors usually save up during their summer going into their freshman year of college.

Saving up for college is very important, especially for those who plan to dorm. They would need money for their dorm shopping, their school supplies, tuition and personal spendings. Although most jobs have opened up or will be opening up again soon, many people are afraid of working, especially if their jobs include getting in contact with other people. This can be exchanging money, handing out food/items, or any other form of physical contact.

"Before coronavirus took over our lives, I planned to start working in April all the way through August. I needed to save money for college. Now that's changed, I don't know when I will be returning to work and that scares me because I need to save for college," says Mariam. This was meant to be a time for incoming college freshmen to figure out their financial situations and prepare, but that was taken away from them, making it a lot more difficult to figure this out. Most of them do hope for schools to bring down their tuition costs.