

Christian Swenson

April 2020

I have been in quarantine with my mom and brothers for a couple weeks now. I am usually waking up around 12 every day and playing video games for the rest. COVID doesn't seem real and when I am out to get groceries everything seems normal. I am working around 3 days a week at Firehouse subs with my older brother and surprisingly there is more business than normal despite the dining room not being open. I will usually facetime my girlfriend a couple times a day but it's hard not being able to see her. It was nice at first being home but now after a few weeks it's starting to take a toll on my family. It can get very lonely and it seems like there is never anything to do besides sit around or walk Ralph (my dog).



May 2020

Being at home is awful. It is the weirdest thing to be cut off from seeing those who you use to see every day. I haven't seen my dad or girlfriend in over a month. I can't remember the last time I actually did school or woke up before 2PM. Our state lockdown is gone now, and we are finally able to go out and do most things again, but nothing seems the same. It looks very desolate. I was finally able to go to a state park with my girlfriend and dog and it was such a freeing feeling to be out and just be able to escape enclosure. It made me realize how much I took freedom for granted. Graduating hasn't quite hit me yet, but we are leaving to go do a drive through ceremony. The faculty members really went all out, and it made me think back to all of the memories and friends made through the years. I can't even describe all of the emotions and were going through me as I got out of my car walking by my cross-country coach of six years and lifelong neighbor. I was scared, nervous, sad, excited, and joyful.



June 2020

I started my summer job working for the county. I didn't really know what to expect at all. I started my day fixing a road and I really enjoyed being outside. I am starting to see the

importance of saving money and hard work. I am finally able to go to my cabin again and it is a great break from working everyday which has been wearing me out. It felt amazing being able to get in the extremely cold water and be out in the sun with no responsibilities. Thinking back on the last couple of months is a very weird feeling. It seemed to go by very fast and it almost seems like it didn't happen since I am able to go out and do most things. I just took my first adventure out of state in a couple months to Big Willow State Park in Wisconsin. It was absolutely gorgeous, and it was very different seeing people everywhere like everything was normal.



July 2020

My family and I are going on a road trip to the south shore of Lake Superior. We are staying at a wonderful cabin right on the water. The environment is very different from the north shore. There is only a few towns and they are all small but it makes the whole thing more about the nature. I left a the vacation a day early to start a whole new one across the country with my girlfriend who I will be dropping off in Arizona for school. I realized that I hate driving and that planes are my favorite form of travel. 1602 miles later with one speeding ticket and memories that I won't ever forget we arrived in Tucson. Time seemed to fly by and now I am back home and working every day.



August 2020

Just when I started to forget about COVID I get a call from my girlfriend saying she is coming home because school is online. I have lost all hope that I will be going to school in the fall and it just seems like round 2 is on the way. It seems like COVID isn't anywhere until something exciting is happening and then it shows up and reminds you of what is going on in the world. I keep getting emails about classes being online and guidelines for COVID on campus but I am still moving in to my dorm room. I am still prepared for COVID to work its way back into my life again and screw everything up.



September 2020

School is going great and I am meeting loads of new friends and it seems to be everything I could have hoped for. Time is seeming to move by really fast and then all of a sudden, I see an email saying my wing needs to quarantine due to COVID and so I am going home for a couple weeks. I am staying in the basement of my dad's house and he is going to bring me meals. I got the results back of my test and they are positive, so I have to spend even more time in the basement. I am back to feeling how I did in April except this time I have a virus that is making me feel like garbage. It seems like for the first time in months I am actually understanding how bad the pandemic is and how careful you really need to be.

October 2020

I am back at school again and it seems like it's picking up right where it left off. I have gotten in a routine of doing my schoolwork and hanging out with friends. I feel like I am meant to be here.

November 2020

I am back in my house thinking about thanksgiving and what is going to happen when families get together and spread COVID even more than it already has. I am reflecting on these past months and as all of these things were happening it really didn't seem too bad at times. In reality though it sucked. I went through the loneliest time of my life, I missed out on the end of high school, I could have a graduation, and I was kept from having a true freshman year of college. Those are memories that I won't ever get to really experience and it really truly sucks. I think that there is one thing that the world has learned from this pandemic and its flexibility. Nothing is concrete anymore and I don't think that it will ever be again.