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Diary by Anonymous CSUSB Student #1 (10-18-2020)

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My Experience Living in a Pandemic:

2020 is definitely a year for the books. I never would have guessed this would have happened. I was so excited for the new year because this year was the year, I was turning 21 and I wanted to experience new things but here I am, stuck at home. Living in a pandemic is honestly tough, I don't think my life has changed drastically since we were all aware of COVID-19, but I definitely don't do as many things anymore. My family is very close so since everything happened, I haven't really seen them as much as I used too. That is definitely something big that has changed that has affected me and no to mention school. Distance learning is honestly very overwhelming and stressful. I don't know what it is but I'm struggling to keep up with assignments and lectures. I think it's due to my procrastination and/or home environment that makes me lazy. I seem to still be doing okay in my courses but it's very overwhelming in my opinion. In regard to my job, I still have to go and work. I work at Target so I'm there every week for at least 5 days for four hours. My total amount of hours a week is 20 or less but since I'm still out working in a pandemic, it's still scary. I know many of my peers still probably go out and work at their jobs, so I wonder if they feel the same. The reason why I think it's scary is because there are those who don't wear masks and still get close to me or don't listen to the rules provided by the store. Let me give an example, I currently work in Halloween section and I understand that people are excited but there are signs that say do not try on the costumes. Even though there are signs, people still try on costumes and masks which means I have to pick them up off the floor and touch them. I don't find that very safe, but I can only tell people so many times. It's honestly frustrating and annoying while working in a pandemic but I need to make money to support myself and family. I may be over dramatic, but this is how I feel.

Some adjustments I've made to my daily routines would be waking up earlier to get more things done throughout the day. There's something about getting up early and being productive. I also do a lot more self-care to keep me sane and to help me relax. I do a lot of face masks, skin care, practice doing my nails, I watch a lot of Netflix, and many more things. These are my favorite things to do and I try to do self-care every week.

I was never really tech savvy but since I'm on my laptop a lot because of distance learning, I appreciate technology a lot more than what I used too. I learned a lot from this transition, but I don't think I developed any skills that I would consider new. I definitely use my computer more, but I still don't think I have advanced skills. My workspace is in my room but it's just a desk in the corner and messy.

I'll be honest, I don't think I'm doing a good job at staying connected to the campus community. I'm just trying to get by because I'm learning at home and off of campus. It's hard to stay connected through this new virtual age we're in but I'm pretty sure it's not impossible. I really hope things get back to normal even though I know the world is never going to be normal again.