

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted my life in the subtlest yet, most astronomical ways. Before the pandemic I was a happy person who enjoyed school, hanging out with big groups of people, and spontaneity. I was always on the move, either I was going to see friends, my boyfriend, or going around town by myself. During quarantine, I would stay in my room for days on end, only leaving when I had to eat or get water. I wasn't happy, but I also wasn't unhappy, I became this emotionless shell of a person. I didn't think about anything during the day, but at night my mind ran rampant with cumbersome fears, anxious worries, and a deep sense of dread. I tried to pull out of it by convincing myself that when I got to college it would be better, I would be living in a dorm, I would be meeting people and I would finally get this sense of belonging that I was yearning for. My mom came into my room one day and she said to me, "We need to talk about college. I don't think you're going to be on campus at all this year, we might have to come to terms with the fact that you might not be going." She left my room and I laid back down in bed, paralyzed, staring at the ceiling hoping to wake up out from this nightmare. Fortunately, my sister and I figured out a living situation where we were off-campus but still in California. Moving to college after the quarantine was exciting, I was anxious for school to start hoping that it would change everything. Our second week in California, my parents had just left and my sister called me and told me she was in contact with someone who had COVID. She and my other roommate's test came back positive but my other roommate and I came back negative. I knew they weren't at high risk for COVID, but this still wasn't at all how I thought my college experience would go. Overall, this pandemic has left me with an empty feeling that I have now become accustomed to. Even if a vaccine was discovered tomorrow, we are never going to be able to go back to any semblance of life before Corona.