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COVID-19 Journal | Logan Irwin

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Logan Irwin

C. Bishop

HY 201

March 30, 2020

COVID-19 Journal

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As sad as I am to be writing my first journal entry about COVID-19, I do believe this is a great way for us to express our thoughts and feelings. I do love to journal and write though, as I just began writing for The Chanticleer (the student based newspaper) on campus at Jacksonville State. Hopefully, these entries will serve as knowledgeable information to future students about a virus we don't know that much about as I am writing this. So, if you are that future student reading my entries from the library in the future, hi! My name is Logan Irwin, I'm currently nineteen years old and I am in my second semester at JSU. Classes were moved to online for the rest of the semester, and I have to be honest that really bummed me out. I was having a good bit of fun at college with my new friends and truly looked forward to class each day (shoutout to Dr. Bishop, he's a great professor and you should definitely take him if you can) when it wasn't on a screen.

Daily life has changed a good bit for me since we have been advised to remain in quarantine. I am still fortunate to have my job though, and have been able to continue working a few days a week. I work at Chick-Fil-A in Jacksonville, and we are operating through the Drive Thru only for the time being. It's super weird seeing Jacksonville so empty. Online classes started back today, and I do have to say I'm a bit thankful to be getting back in somewhat of a

routine. Hopefully, this will make the time we are supposed to be spending in our homes pass by faster. Lots of people aren't following the guidelines President Trump has put in place though. I have to say at the beginning I was still going places and hanging out with my friends but as of today, there are nine confirmed cases in Calhoun County, so my parents have really been laying down the law...(and rightfully so) it's just hard to imagine being stuck here for much longer. Hopefully, by the time this journal concludes, I'll be writing about a lot of good news and progress going on instead of boredom, fear, and uncertainty.

April 1, 2020

Today I woke up and studied for an exam I have later today. Then, I cleaned a little bit and reorganized our kitchen. My dad works at Honda, so he has been working from home during all this. He found out today he will still be home for two more weeks (until April 14th). We decided to go for a walk around my neighborhood when he got his "lunch break". We walked about a mile and half.

I read the news this morning that the U.S. has doubled the confirmed cases that China (where the virus started) had/has. They say we haven't hit our peak yet. I believe around 3,200 (give or take) have died in the U.S. so far. They expect 100,000-200,000 to pass away. I don't mean to make these entries sound so gloomy, so for some good news, confirmed cases in both China and Italy (who were both hit pretty hard) are continuing to drop which is a blessing. Hopefully, as each day passes, entries will become more positive and more exciting to read.

April 3, 2020

Today, I watched a lecture online and took notes for a quiz I have tomorrow. I also went for a run around my neighborhood in the morning just to clear my head. I enjoy running, especially to help me stay active and even just be able to think about other things. I wanted to take my dog with me, but he's a golden retriever and he's a lot stronger than me. So he drags me around a good bit. I'm thinking of ordering him a harness to help me out a little bit.

On the news, they are predicting this week or next will be "peak week" for America. At the moment, not many people are taking this seriously. Hopefully they will start soon so life can get back to "normal". Alabama is currently ranked fourth in "the greatest number of deaths per state" which is scary. I'm sure whenever you are reading this though, Alabamians still don't take things very seriously unless you mention hunting, fishing, or football. Haha!

April 5, 2020

Wow, today a stay at home order was put in place for Alabama. Unless the reason you are out is essential, you are supposed to be home as much as possible. I went to work yesterday and today, and we were just as busy as we usually are. The people who live in the dorms are being forced to move back home though, so I bet business will slow down for us soon. They emailed us a letter that we are supposed to have with us at all times, showing that we are essential workers, in case we get pulled over (for being out) or something.

When I wasn't at work, I did some of my online class work and even made a few TikToks for fun. My sister is a lot better at them than I am, but it helps to pass time by and give us something to laugh at. I have to work from 7 A.M. to 5 P.M. tomorrow, which is not going to be any fun. One day though, I think I'll look back and appreciate the fact that I was able to go

out and serve others (and hopefully take their minds of things) during a difficult time like this. I doubt I'll have time to write tomorrow, but hopefully Sunday I'll be able to.

April 7, 2020

This morning I woke up and watched my church service online. That is one of the things I miss most. I teach kindergartners at church, and I miss them a lot. They give me something to look forward to each week and they also remind me why I want to be a teacher. I also babysit some kids one or two times a week, and I miss them a lot too. It's hard not getting to see them and the rest of my family, but I know it's for the best and will help in the long run.

I also caught up on some school work, and spent a lot of time outside with my two dogs, Cooper and Julio. Yes, they are both named after Alabama football players...if that tells you anything about me and my family. *insert facepalm emoji here* I helped my mom and dad plant some new flowers and clean up some odds and ends outside. A lot of people in my neighborhood have been doing outside projects, and bringing their kids to see dog Cooper. It's nice to see them, while still having to remain six feet away. I will be more than thankful when this is all over.

April 9, 2020

Today, I didn't have to work so I hung out at home with my family. We took my dog Cooper for a ride, and he really enjoyed it. My sister was kind of bummed out today, because she has been dealing with the fact that she won't be going back to school. She's a junior in high school. So we did our best to cheer her up by hanging out with her and did some puzzles and

stuff. It's been kind of hard for her to not see her friends, and I know she's tired of hanging out with me...as sad as that is.

Even though I work at Chick-Fil-A, my mom and sister wanted some ice cream from there. So we took Cooper with us to go through and get some desserts. I got a frosted coffee with some chocolate, my mom and sister got ice cream cones, and Cooper got an ice cream cup. My best friend Kaitlin was working the window when we went through, and she gave him like, four dog treats when we got there. He really likes car rides and ended falling asleep when we got home.

April 11, 2020

Today I had to work in the afternoon. It wasn't too bad, because all my friends were there. Today I had my first strange "Covid Encounter". I was working at the window, taking payments and handing out food. A lady (she was super nice) handed me her cash as her form of payment, like normal. When I went to hand her change back to her, she asked me if I would put it in a cup instead of handing it to her and having to touch her hand. I did like she asked, and watched her begin to wipe off each coin with hand sanitizer, and spray Febreze (Not Lysol, Febreze) on each dollar that I placed in the cup. Super weird, but you can never be too safe I guess?

I wrote another article for The Chanticleer this weekend. Dr. Bishop even gave me a shoutout in our lecture video for the week! I enjoy writing because it takes my mind off this virus. The stay at home order hasn't even been in effect that long, and I feel like I'm already becoming stir crazy. People that are coming to Chick-Fil-A are driving me nuts. No offense to

you if you are reading this one day and you were one of those people. It just seems like everyone is extra paranoid right now, but that isn't an excuse to be extra rude to the essential workers. Some days are tougher than others, but it will get better!

April 13, 2020

Yesterday was Easter, and we didn't get to have church. That makes me really sad. Celebrating the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is one of my favorite times of the year, and I am so sad we had to miss it. Although we were not able to gather together and the church was empty, Hallelujah, so was the grave! I hope that if you are reading this one day, you know Christ and His boundless love for you. If not and you wish to know him, please find a way to get in touch with me. I would love to talk more about our Savior with you. If you can't find a way to get in touch with me - shoot me a message on Instagram @logan_irwin (shameless plug) I doubt my username will change.

Tomorrow is my Mom's birthday. It's been hard to get her things, because I had to order it all online. We got her some Kendra Scott earrings and a bracelet, a Joanna Gaines book and candle, flowers, balloons, a cake, (not ordered online, btw) a new apple watch band, and a new scentsy warmer. I hope that she will like all of it. Maybe I will use my chef skills and cook her a fancy dinner, who knows?

April 15, 2020

I was off work today thankfully. It has been crazy busy since we have been drive-thru only. I hate that all it seems like I am talking about throughout this journal is work, but that's

really all I've been doing. No matter how rude some customers can be, I am more than blessed and thankful to have this job. So many people (including my dad) have been laid off or had to retire early, file for unemployment, etc. I really do appreciate the business we have, just wish some people were a bit nicer.

I started re-watching One Tree Hill today on Hulu. If you are reading this and haven't watched it yet...oh my gosh. You have to! It's on Hulu and it will change your life. I went for another run today at Choccolocco Park with my mom, sister, and my cousin Cori. It felt good to get some fresh air and have a tiny bit of social interaction while maintaining the six feet distance. People were fishing, running, walking their dogs, and some even had their kids there with them. I know people are enjoying this time with their families. I sure am. That is one of the only good parts about COVID-19...

April 17, 2020

Today at work, I had another strange COVID encounter. This one was technically more than strange. I was with my friend (we'll call her Jane) outside taking orders on the iPads when all of a sudden, I hear a woman screaming. I look up to see this woman yelling at Jane for what seems like no reason. I asked the family I was with to wait a moment, and walked over to see what was going on.

This lady was raising heck (if you know what I mean) about us being outside taking orders. She was absolutely livid. It pushed her so far over the edge that she decided to call 911. On Chick-Fil-A...for doing essential work. She didn't call the police station, FEMA, fire station, etc...she called 911. She said her next call would be to Fox News. I'm hoping that I'll be getting

my close up on the day they come. That just made me sound so rude probably, but it's crazy! She was SUCH a "Karen". Like look Karen, if you're that concerned about it, here's an idea - STAY HOME?! Okay, rant over. It was quite comical to say the least.

April 19, 2020

Today I went on a three mile run. I went with my cousins Cori, Bailey, and Olivia. My sister Morgan and my cousin's boyfriend Trent came with us too. We met at my Nanny's house and ran across the street on the track. We took my Nanny's dog Memphis with us too. He's named Memphis because my Nanny loves Elvis. We were able to maintain the six-foot social distancing rule easily, because I was way ahead of them while we were running. Haha, just kidding. Maybe...

I cleaned out my closet when I got home from running. Yes, I was that bored, I got rid of a good bit of stuff though, Hopefully this will make room for all of the new clothes I'm buying during quarantine. I've become addicted to online shopping. Anyways, on a happy note, I found some old games while cleaning out. My Mom, Dad, sister and I played Apples to Apples, Jenga, and Monopoly for a good 3-4 hours tonight. We laughed a lot, even though they were pretty upset I was winning everything.

April 21, 2020

I watched a good bit of lecture videos today. I took so many notes that my hand was starting to cramp up. No offense to any of my professors, but I am so ready for this semester to be over. All of my teachers have been great and I have no complaints, but the online classes are

really no fun for anyone. Spotty Wi-Fi and lots of lecture videos and long lists of notes to take do not match. I know some students have it worse than me though, and I feel super bad for them. They moved all of our summer classes online too, which is a bummer because I am taking two. I hope two will be easier than five though.

Some good news, they announced that there will be summer and spring commencement dates for JSU! That makes me super happy for all of my older friends. I am glad they get to experience this special time in their lives. Now I just hope we can have a football season. I don't know if the South will survive without football. We just have to keep taking it day by day I guess. If we continue to follow the rules and guidelines, hopefully a football season will be in the works.

April 23, 2020

Today I did a bit of house hunting with my friends in Jacksonville! I am so excited! We are looking to rent a house to make our work and school situations more ideal. I think this summer I am going to try and work full time, to give me some extra money. Since we are all from around here, we will have an advantage throughout the summer to find a house.

I also went for another run today around my neighborhood. I ordered Cooper a harness so he can start coming with me again. He's getting kinda bad about yanking me everywhere we go outside of the fence. Like I seriously think he could rip my shoulder out of its socket. After my run, my mom asked if I wanted to go get ice cream. (Really, Mom?) I rode with her to get some for her and my dad, and I told her to get me one, but I ended up giving it to Cooper instead.

April 25, 2020

Today I had to be at work at 6:30 A.M. On a Saturday. Not the most fun thing I have ever done, to say the least. We were pretty busy this morning, but super busy when lunch hit. I was glad I got to leave at two, because it was still super busy then. I made desserts and bagged today, so I didn't have much interaction with the public, which I was thankful for.

When I got home from work, I did a bunch of laundry, started to watch Parks and Rec (terrible show by the way, The Office is 10 times better) and ended up falling asleep. My friends at work have been begging me to watch it and let's just say I'm not impressed yet. We had fish and shrimp for dinner, and I helped my mom cook it. It was pretty good. I went for my run a little later tonight, but it felt super good outside so that was fine with me. I played baseball with my neighbors for a bit, then took a shower and now I'm about to go to bed. I'm super tired.

April 27, 2020

Well, this is my last journal entry for COVID-19. What better way to start it off than by having to be at work at 5 A.M.? I feel bad for people who have to wake up at 4 A.M. everyday. Let me tell you, I was NOT feeling it. I opened today for the first time, and they told me I did so well that I will probably be a regular opener now. That might have been a mistake. Just kidding! I'm thankful for the opportunity.

We had to get the coffee ready first. Then pour the cold brew coffee base, lemonade and diet lemonade. After that, we brew all the teas to get the day started. Next, we put the ice cream machine back together and get it filled. That's probably my favorite part. After that, we stock everything up, log the screens in, and get the cash drawers ready to open at 6.

I have enjoyed keeping this journal. It gave me a way to express what I was feeling, what I did, and how I did it. I'm going to print out a copy for myself to have to show my kids one day. I might even keep it going until this thing is over, who knows? I think it was a great idea, and I'm glad I took advantage of it.

I covered the time span of March 30-April 27, 2020 while writing this journal. Almost a complete month of quarantine thoughts and feelings. I was living at home in Alexandria, Alabama (about 15 minutes from campus) with my parents during the time of this pandemic. As soon as I submit this journal, I will be a sophomore in college. I can't believe freshman year is over! It flew by so fast. My name is Logan Irwin, and I am a secondary education (ELA) major who is on track to graduate in the spring of 2023. I'm doing the best I can to get that date to Fall 2022. Whoever you are reading this, freshman, senior, professor, faculty, friend... never give up or lose sight of your dreams. Your goals and ambitions matter, and if you feel as though no one believes in you, know that I do. God bless you!