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Cardinal COVID Journal

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Pandemic

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We are all living through history right now and nobody knows when it will end. When this whole pandemic started I thought it wasn't going to escalate to this extent. I thought to myself, "Alright the media is blowing it out of proportion like a lot of things...it'll blow over soon in China." But I guess I was wrong, really wrong. So many people around me told me opposite viewpoints and I didn't know what to believe. My friends at Fisher were like...it's just like the flu and the only people that are dying are elderly people or individuals with their immune systems compromised. That scared me a little bit only because of the fact that I have an immune deficiency that makes get sick easier because I have a low amount of antibodies. Antibodies are the helpers to the white blood cells that fight off viruses and bacteria. My mom was telling me to be cautious of everything going on around you and to keep washing my hands.

When I heard that St. John Fisher might close I was obviously happy about it because why wouldn't a college student want to leave school and go home early. It seemed too good to be true. I was in Cardinal Courier once I got the email that said that Fisher was closing. The first thing I did was call my mom to see when she could pick me up. She said my dad will be out there the next day. So I went back to my room after all my classes and starting packing up only the essentials because I thought we were going to come back. I helped my friends move out the next day before my dad got there and it just seemed surreal. It was so strange to see everyone moving out when it seems as though we just moved in as first years. It seemed to go too fast. It seems unfinished...not just the academics but the athletic side too. I'm a student-athlete so when I heard the Empire 8 canceled all competitions that really hurt. Tennis season was something to look forward to all year. To have the season canceled so fast made me upset because like any good team we were close and I was looking forward to the time on and off the court with the 8 other guys.

I got home and the first thing I wanted to do was hang out with friends from high school as does anyone when they come home from college. My parents initially said no because of the virus but they eventually said yes after going back and forth for a few hours. I packed a bag because I was planning on spending the night but I hadn't told my parents yet. My mom was still working as a daycare provider and some of her parents were picking up their children so she was occupied. I went over to my neighbor's house so my friends could pick me up in their driveway. We go to Auburn to get some food at Moe's. The day we went out was the last day anyone could sit down and eat in restaurants, according to Gov. Cuomo's executive order. We sat down and ate the massive burritos we had just gotten and reminisced about high school and shared stories from our spring semester that was brought to an abrupt ending. Once we were done we decided to go see if the tales were true. The tales of the paper section in Walmart being bone dry. We go into Walmart and looking around it looks busier than usual but nothing too crazy. We see a few masks here and there but one thing we do notice everywhere we go. The older population did not care about what was going on around them. They don't practice social distancing, no masks, no gloves. They just don't have a care in the world when everyone else obviously does. When we were walking to the paper section we were joking about how bare it would be thinking "oh it's not going to be completely empty". Turns out it *was* completely empty everything from paper towels to napkins to toilet paper. All three of us were dumbfounded at the sight of barren shelves in Walmart, a spectacle we have never seen before, especially not there. After we got some snacks for the night to come we left and decided to stop at our local grocery store. We were going to see if the shelves there were the same as Walmart's. Surely

since Walmart is in a city they would be sold out of the paper products. We go into the local store and we go back and the shelves there have the same fate as the ones in Walmart. Our friend that works there told us that someone from Syracuse came down looking for stuff. Syracuse is an hour drive from Moravia. That just shows how desperate people are in these circumstances.