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Drake, Benjamin - Covid-19 Journal

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COVID-19 Journal

By: Ben Drake

Monday, March 30, 2020:

Today I started online classes. Usually I would have two classes on Mondays, Theatre and U.S. History, so I worked on those. My U.S. History Class talked about the Post-WWII America, so I watched my professor's lectures on that and read the corresponding pages. My theatre class met virtually on Collaborate Ultra to discuss the play, The Shape of Things. After that I contacted two of my friends from on-campus, Katie and Jaclyn. I asked them if they would like to play some virtual Dungeons & Dragons if I could find a way to make it work. They said they were interested. After that I had a virtual meeting with one of the on-campus RSOs I am a part of. After that meeting I begin to research different ways to do virtual D&D. I decided on Skype because it was easy and free. I also began to make maps and lore and the story for the campaign while I watched Tiger King on Netflix, which I highly recommend!!!

Tuesday, March 31, 2020:

Today was the second day of online classes. On Tuesdays I have three classes: World History, Geography, and Psychology. There wasn't really anything to do for psych except study for our test, which I did. I also listened to my history professor's narrated PowerPoint and watched the film he posted about the Opium Wars of 1839, as well as doing the assigned readings. I have also started on the Chapter 10 Assignment for my W. History Class. After that I listened to my Geography professor's lecture. After that I learned a new magic trick as that is a new hobby I have picked up since the shelter-in-place. I am now up to 12 card tricks. I also have continued working on materials for my D&D campaign.

Wednesday, April 1, 2020:

Today I watched lecture videos for my U.S. History class and worked on a few different assignments for different classes. I also had to attend a live session of class for my theatre where we discussed the last chapter and our upcoming test. Then for the rest of the day I did different things which is different than normal because I would normally have to go to a few different meetings.

Thursday, April 2, 2020:

I did a map quiz today for my Geography class and did a few more D&D things. I started applying for jobs so I can work so I have a source of income which would be great, but it is really hard to find a job since a lot of places aren't hiring or are close because of the current situation.

Friday, April 3, 2020:

Today I finished the lecture videos for my U.S. History Course and did a short assignment for it as well. After that I watched some tv shows and then finished my D&D prep for tomorrow. I'm really excited to start but I'm nervous how it's gonna go because I've never done it virtually. But hopefully it goes smooth.

Saturday, April 4, 2020:

Not much really happened today. I played D&D with my friends and it started off a little rocky but after a while and I learned how to work everything it went well. I also got a job where I worked before, I started college so that's pretty great. This Saturday was kind of boring. I usually hang out with my girlfriend on Saturday's but with COVID-19 we can't so kind of a bummer.

Sunday, April 5, 2020:

Today was my mom's birthday we couldn't go out to dinner and do anything really special because everything is close which sucks. But I did go to Meijer and buy a cake and some ice cream and then I went to Lowe's to get her some flowers for her birthday. After we celebrated, I worked on Discussion Posts and Assignments. I also attended a church service that was streamed online which was kind of different but cool at the same time.

Monday, April 6, 2020:

Today I had another virtual meeting for the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) we had nominations for the executive board tonight and I am really invested in that, especially the Communications Coordinator Position because I will work very closely with them next year since I am the Residence Hall Association (RHA) Communications Coordinator. I also did the lecture videos for U.S. History and finished reading the autobiography of Malcolm X. Great book.

Tuesday, April 7, 2020:

Today I started back at my old job. I did dough which I never did before because you have to be 18 which I wasn't before I quit. It was pretty easy, but it was also boring. After I got off work I worked on homework and watched some videos. I also got an email from the Speaker of the Senate about a virtual meeting tomorrow, so I am excited for that.

Wednesday, April 8, 2020:

I found out from President Glassman today that EIU is still gonna pay their student workers, which includes me as I worked in the food court so now, I am going to get two paychecks so that's awesome. Quarantine is really getting to me. I hate being cooped up in the house. I like being out and talking with people because I am an Extravert. I also had my virtual Student Senate meeting which was very long because we had multiple people come to us to present various fee increases for different things on campus which we will vote on next week.

Thursday, April 9, 2020:

Today I had another D&D Session virtually which started off better than the last one. That lasted a little while and was really fun. It offers me an escape from the world that is really needed. After that I worked on different assignments for school.

Friday, April 10, 2020: :

Today was pretty uneventful. Did some homework but other than that nothing really interesting happened.

Saturday, April 11, 2020:

I had to do dough again which I am getting better at. It is still taking me a long time to do it, but I feel like over time I will get faster. My managers say my dough isn't terrible so that's pretty cool. I'm proud of myself for that. I also caught up on some coursework and then kind relaxed the rest of the day.

Sunday, April 12, 2020:

My day started off with virtual church and then after that I worked on two essays that were for my final test in theatre. The two essays took up most of my day but after I did all of that I finished the weekly assignment that I didn't get done during the week.

Monday, April 13, 2020:

So just a normal Monday working on U.S. history. After my schoolwork was done, I had another NRHH meeting the Communications Coordinator Position election was over to next week, so I wasn't that stressed about today's meeting. It was a really long meeting but also really fun.

Tuesday, April 14, 2020:

Today would've been the annual Thomas Hall Luau back on campus but obviously that can't happen. It was a real bummer because I was really looking forward to that. I worked on some homework and then I went to work and made some pizzas.

Wednesday, April 15, 2020:

I'm getting really behind on online classes. I've realized that me and online classes don't mix. I'm trying my best, but I feel like I'm struggling. I worked on different classes today and had another Student Senate meeting.

Thursday, April 16, 2020:

Another virtual D&D session today. Went a bit longer than planned but that doesn't matter because it was really fun. I didn't really work on homework today which I regret. The only school related thing I did was a Geography quiz. I hope tomorrow is more productive.

Friday, April 17, 2020:

Today was pretty uneventful. Just more of the same. I am really losing a lot of my motivation to finish my schoolwork, but I'm almost done. I am not going to give up.

Sunday, April 19, 2020:

I worked all day yesterday, so I didn't have time to do an entry by the time I got home. Worked on a critique for the movie *Fences* with Denzel Washington and Viola Davis. It was pretty good. I also finished my weekly assignments for my various classes. After that I had to close at work.

Monday, April 20, 2020:

Today was the last of the NRHH Elections which meant the communications coordinator election. I was really stressed for this, but I was glad to see the person I thought would make an amazing CC won. I cannot wait to work with them, and I have a meeting schedule with them later this week.

Tuesday, April 21, 2020:

Another really uneventful day... I am getting really bored at home. I miss having a bunch of stuff to do on campus. But now it's just homework and work and not much else. I hope this quarantine ends soon but I know it probably won't.

Wednesday, April 22, 2020:

Today was my last Student Senate meeting so another sad moment. I wish I could've ended it on campus but oh well. We are gonna do a virtual game night Friday so that's gonna be fun. Besides that, I did school and that was about it.

Friday, April 24, 2020:

Today was a busy day. It was a lot of fun. I had a meeting with the NRHH CC, and we talked about various things coming up that I have been working on by myself because there was no NRHH-CC yet. After that I did some homework. Then I cooked dinner and went to the Student Government Virtual Game night and had a blast.

Saturday, April 25, 2020:

I did dough again today getting a little faster and better. After that I went home and worked on homework. Another normal day in quarantine.

Sunday, April 26, 2020:

Today I started my Theatre Research paper which is kind of boring. If we continued on campus, we were going to do a scene from a play of our choice and I really wish we could've done that. It sounded so fun.

Monday, April 27, 2020:

Today I did my normal U.S. history lectures and I also started to wrap up my World History essay. Tonight, was also the last meeting for NRHH so that is kind of sad. We listened to presentations from people on campus so we could vote on awards. It was another long meeting but kind of fun.

Tuesday, April 28, 2020:

Today I really felt homesick. I miss my room on campus, I miss campus, I miss the library study rooms, and the dining halls, and most of all my friends. I really hope we get to go back in the fall. I'll be really bummed out if I'm not able to. I was supposed to have my RHA advisor meeting today, but she was caught up in a meeting, so we rescheduled for tomorrow.

Wednesday, April 29, 2020:

I feel like I'm slowly catching up on all my work and I've come up with a few different strategies to help make sure I don't fall behind. I didn't have a student senate meeting this week, so I just worked all night. I trained on delivering so I'm excited to do that on my own tomorrow. I also had my meeting with my advisor today and that was really fun. It is always fun to talk to my advisor. We always joke and mess around.

Thursday, April 30, 2020:

Today I worked. I delivered on my own today which is the first time I did that. It was pretty exciting, but stressful. Made some tips. It was also payday, so I indulged and rewarded myself for getting through a very hard semester. I bought *The Call of Cthulhu*. It's a tabletop RPG(TTRPG) kind of like D&D set in the universe of H.P. Lovecraft, a horror writer. It's the first TTRPG I played, and it is also my favorite. I convinced my family to play it when it gets here.

Friday, May 1, 2020:

Today I was on Facebook and I saw a message from President Glassman that said we were most likely gonna have face-to-face classes in the fall. That is the best news I've had in a while. I have been very nervous for a while that I wouldn't get to go back. But now that the University has said they are gonna try my spirits have been lifted. I also finished my research paper for theatre and did some other assignments.