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Photo Credit: Genesis Carreon
Creating a COVID-19 Vaccine
BY ANNA FRITZE

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, many people have been wondering when we will finally have a vaccine for the disease. While Dr. Anthony Fauci says that there should be a vaccine by November, scientists disagree, says Dr. Sara Kayat of Al Jazeera. She says, “Most scientists would agree that it is more likely to take 12 to 18 months – and that is providing there are no bumps along the road.” This isn’t just for coronavirus; this is all viruses and diseases. For those who are informed about the process of creating vaccines, it is a common knowledge that they take longer to create than most people think.

Other countries have helped increase the speed of creating the vaccine. According to The Guardian, “This unprecedented speed is thanks in large part to early Chinese efforts to sequence the genetic material of Sars-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. China shared that sequence in early January, allowing research groups around the world to grow the live virus and study how it invades human cells and makes people sick.” Currently, 35 companies and institutions are working to create the vaccine, four believe they are ready for animal testing, and one will be entering human trial immediately.

The vaccine entering human trials will have to go through three phases, says Dr. Kayat. Phase one includes about 100 participants, and usually takes several months to complete itself. Phase two involves several hundred participants, and scientists further observe the efficiency of the vaccine. This can last from several months to several years. The third and final phase includes thousands of people across several medical facilities. This final phase looks at the efficiency of the vaccine against the disease over long periods of time and can last several years.

Regarding the development of a vaccine, The Guardian says, “Traditionally, immunization has been achieved using live, weakened forms of the virus, or part or whole of the virus once it has been inactivated by heat or chemicals.” However, I have over made and one that I will never regret. I am very sad that my time here has had to end in such a weird way; it feels incomplete. Nevertheless, this whole issue feels like it is happening for a reason.

I hope that you all enjoy this final issue of the academic year. Unfortunately, we have a much smaller number of writers and articles, but we put our best foot forward. Our current copy editor, Anna Fritze, will be taking over as editor-in-chief for next year, and I know that she (along with all the other new editors) will do a great job. I wish you all the best of luck.

Distance Learning in Minnesota
BY ANNA FRITZE

One of the biggest challenges people are facing with the coronavirus pandemic is schooling. To keep students safe, all schools have been transformed from face-to-face to online. Concordia is believed to have a pretty good setup for online schooling with Blackboard Collaborate, but even with our technological advancements, switching to online is tough. We are adults, and it’s tough to learn this way. So, what about children in grade school and kindergarten? Is this the right way? Concordia understands that this could be a very effective model. They put together a best right now to figure out the best approach for moving schools online.

Online schooling began as what was believed to be a short closure. Governor Tim Walz at first said that there would be no closing down of schools. However, 19 days later, he imposed a mandated eight-day closure for all schools. At this point, educators knew that they had to prepare to help children through this said process. Not only was school being moved online, but there was also the issue of health care workers needing child care, and many families relied on school meals for their children. Because of this, meals are still being provided for children who need them, and schools are required to provide child care for children under and 12.

While moving school to home would require a lot of online learning, some teachers are looking for different ways to educate. MInneapolis Post Superintendent Brian Shanks of the Alder-Geneser School District, saying, “We’re looking at old-school methods of providing education.” Shanks explained that this could include dropping off homework and picking up assignments via school bus drivers, as well as daily phone check-ins between students and teachers. This could help students feel a little more sense of normalcy.

While this old-school method has a want to be applied, students still do the majority of their work online. According to the Minnesota Department of Education, online learning has been a success. “Online learning is not a new educational delivery model, but it is one that is different than what most students experience in their in-class and on-campus classrooms.” Approved public online programs provide information to orient students and parents to the safety and quality of online learning, and “[technology] and people are in place to help students reach their educational goals.” Hearing this is comforting in the hope that the education system is taking extra care to pay attention to students and their parents and helping in every way possible.

Gun Sales Surge in Minnesota and Across the Country
BY HALLE MARTIN

Feared began circulating around the coronavirus, toilet paper, canned goods, and hand sanitizer flew off the shelves as consumers started a spree of panic buying. What seems to have initially seemed like bizarre doomsday preparation has turned into the new normal. Now, quarantine essentials have surpassed paper products and non-perishables as many Americans have been investing in self-defense.

Across the nation, there have been reports of increased gun sales and permit applications. The FBI reports that 210,000 background checks, and FBI data is showing over two million guns purchased in March 2020. To legally purchase a gun, one must have obtained a permit to carry or a permit to purchase. MPR News reported these with a 20 percent increase in gun permits sought during the first three months of the year, according to Minneapolis police, while Brooklyn Park reports a 22 percent increase in purchase applications just for March.

Typically surge like these follow major shootings or political debates, but with the current pandemic, Americans fear for their safety and their freedom. With in-person classes canceled, some are worried that their second-amendment rights could be next to go, while others fear that police forces may start to treat black and brown individuals as criminals, have weapons or have guns at home.

Gun stores are seeing unusually high traffic coming through the doors and are struggling to keep up with customers. Minnesota39;essentials have surpassed paper products and COVID-19 related layoffs and absences. Some shops have been forced to shut down and move to online sales under government restrictions, while others are carrying on as essential businesses. With枪 store shelves empty, shopping ranges have closed. This is especially concerning for first-time gun owners account for most of the sales.

The National Rifle Association has directed first-time gun owners to their YouTube channel where firearms education and training are available. Engineering, maintenance and storage. Officials are reminding gun owners to proceed with caution. Guns should be safely secured and stored away. Having guns in your home leads to higher chances of suicide and domestic violence, and improperly stored guns are more likely to be stolen than used in self-defense.

Tensions are high, children are home from school, and medical centers are already struggling to keep up. With this in mind, please make sure that you are taking extra precautions if you are considering buying a gun or have guns at home.
Staying Sane During Quarantine

BY HALLE MARTIN

It is week-who-knows-what of quarantine. Some of us are loving it, while others are struggling to keep their sanity. Maybe you’ve already lost it. Shelter-in-place looks a little bit different for each of us, and some are not getting used to it. Sometimes, it seems like we’re living in a completely different world.

There are celebrations and inspirational figures telling us to spend this time doing something we’ve always wanted to do but have never had the time: get fit, learn a new language, read a book... It’s like something might be different out there. It could be, or it might be the last thing you want to hear. While we are all in this together, we are all affected differently, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution to this COVID-19 stress.

If you are stuck at home, you might be sleeping well past noon or finding yourself struggling to stay awake. I don’t know about you, but sometimes when I wake up, I want to change the time. The economy is unable to recover quite as quickly, unlike the decade-long Great Depression.

We’re all facing a unique challenge that is exposing a relatively quick rebound once the virus is contained. The International Monetary Fund warns that the recession could outstrip even if global policy makers don’t act fast. Currently, the IMF is expecting a 5.9% drop in global GDP. One chart I’ve seen compares the spread of the virus to the Great Depression. It will be even harder for them to recover, especially if a vaccine isn’t found anytime soon.

The sooner we can get this virus contained, the sooner we will be able to return to some semblance of normalcy. It’s going to be a long road ahead, and it’s going to be rough.

As you are all well aware, COVID-19 has been making money during this time as people are buying more cleaning supplies as a precaution. However, companies are starting to adapt to this new normal, and many are looking toward the future once the pandemic is over. The government is working to provide stimulus checks to those in need.

As for those who are making a profit, particularly in the medical device sector, who already had subscriptions, and thousands of companies like pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and cleaning supplies. The people who bought the supplies in bulk, so much of these supplies have been made at ridiculous prices with the hope that they can save or make some money in the future.

It’s a time when we need to think about others, and we need to be kind to one another. It’s also a time when we need to be mindful of our mental health. Shelter-in-place and social distancing might not seem like an introvert’s dream and, okay, maybe not even a dream. As we are all stuck in our houses, the government is doing its best to provide stimulus checks to those in need.

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Exotic for President
BY ANNA FRITZE

This is the exotic for President thing. Joe is 6’4’’ and looks like Jimmy’s Pro Billiards. I expected to be greeted with a cloud of cigarette smoke and a cluster of men in suits. Yet, I walked into a game room that felt like a college dorm room. Instead, the pool hall was well lit and rather empty. Around twenty pool tables sat in rows under a ceiling with exposed beams and a skylight. A small bar sat in the back left corner opposed a row of pool tables next to the door. The cloud of cigarette smoke seen in films about pool halls was replaced with a “no smoking” sign on the front door and an adjoining cigarette shop. The cluster of suited men was replaced with four or five everyday people in everyday clothes playing casual games of pool throughout the room. However, I did not go to Joe’s Pro Billiards on a Saturday evening to play pool. I went there to play foosball.

In the back right corner of the room were four T3000 Tornado foosball tables. Those tables are the kind that great foosball players buy for their company, and they will set a foosball enthusiast back $2,200 for a non-coin operated version. There were other types of foosball tables that you could purchase, but the one that drew me to Joe’s Pro Billiards was the T3000 Tornado.

My Experience as a Collegiate Esports Player
BY AIDAN FARLEY

As far as I can remember, I have been an avid gamer since I was a child. My childhood playing console games on the original Xbox and free Flash games on my parents’ computer were my introduction to gaming. I used to watch my brother and friends in local multiplayer games, and being on the esports team was not as enjoyable of an experience as I had hoped it would be. I found that the pressure of being required to perform at the expected level and being required to spend a tremendous amount of time practicing turned the fun I would have otherwise been having into a job. My favorite hobby became a frustrating job that I wasn’t being paid for. While it is the dream of many video game players to make it into the esports world, the money in this world is not always to be found. In any case, it’s a tough call when trying to decide if you should play on the esports team or not. Maybe you should play because of the benefits of being on the team and being exposed to new opportunities.

Tiger King, the new Netflix docuseries, has captured the attention of viewers around the world. The show is about the notorious owner of over 700 exotic animals, Joseph ‘Joe’ Exotic. The show has been watching and talking about on social media. It has been a hit on social media, and fans are eagerly awaiting the release of the second season.

The show is about the lives of the animals that Joe Exotic owned. The show has been praised for its portrayal of the animals’ lives and the conditions they were kept in. The show has also been criticized for its portrayal of Joe Exotic’s personality and his treatment of his animals.

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The spring semester began just the same as any other across the nation. Schools, programs, and sports were in full swing through most of the spring semester. However, with the ongoing suspension of the season, the NCAA is being forced to consider how the rest of the season will play out. Some have suggested simply starting from where the schedule left off or it deemed safe to do so, even if it means there are no fans in attendance. Others have favored more creative approaches that would either see a shortened version of the final month of regular-season games or just starting the playoffs based on the standings when the schedule was suspended. Some have even suggested that the rest of the season should just be canceled.

In an interview with ESPN, Houston Rockets Owner Tilman Fertitta expressed his belief that the rest of the season should continue at some point. Fertitta said, "When we come back, we want to play in front of the fans, but I don't think we're going to be able to play in front of the fans because it's not going to be the right thing to do... I think it would be great to start playing basketball whenever the doctors and the NBA tell us it's alright. You know, it would be a shame not to play basketball and finish this year." According to Sports Illustrated, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver has stated that the league will not attempt to make any decisions regarding the rest of the season until at least May 1st.

Though there is much uncertainty surrounding the NCAA schedule, there seems to be even more doubt about the fate of the NHL season. The NHL regular season was originally scheduled to conclude on April 4th with the Stanley Cup Playoffs to follow soon after. Fan and media alike have proposed similar ideas to those suggested for the NCAA about how the league should handle the rest of the season. The NHL has even announced a hypothetical plan to play an abbreviated version of the Stanley Cup Playoffs, with all games to take place in states and cities with lower population densities like North Dakota. In an interview with ESPN, Los Angeles Kings defenseman Drew Doughty expressed doubt that the season would ever resume, saying "I don't see how this season is going to return. I really don't... I think the NHL would have to make some kind of decision on that soon, and it seems like it's pretty tough to resume the season or the playoffs." NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman has also publicly acknowledged that canceling the rest of the NHL season is a realistic possibility. Whether or not the NHL and NCAA decide to continue with their seasons at some point, it is likely that final decisions on either will not come until May at the earliest. Even if the seasons were resumed, players would need some amount of time to get back into shape before real competition could begin.

The NCAA and COVID-19

The realization that collegiate athletes would suffer first occurred following the decision of numerous schools and conferences to halt spring sports from competing from championship events, many of which were already on-site for these events. Student-athletes were having their dreams ripped away from them across the country. Just one day after the basketball season was canceled, the NCAA announced a similar suspension on March 12th.

On the NBA side of things, the regular season was originally scheduled to wrap up on April 16th with the playoffs scheduled to follow soon after. However, with the ongoing suspension of the season, the NBA is being forced to consider how the rest of the season will play out. Some have suggested simply starting from where the schedule left off or it deemed safe to do so, even if it means there are no fans in attendance. Others have favored more creative approaches that would either see a shortened version of the final month of regular-season games or just starting the playoffs based on the standings when the schedule was suspended. Some have even suggested that the rest of the season should just be canceled.

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Music During the Pandemic

BY ANNA FRITZE

The coronavirus has affected the music world in many ways. While quarantine has been a boring, lonely isolation for most, many musicians have been able to do things like bring entertainment and joy into the lives of people doing their part and staying at home. By now, many users of Instagram and other social media have heard of Together, At Home. This is a sort of encouragement for people staying at home by musicians who have been trying to bring some live concerts on their Instagram so fans can watch at home. People like John Legend with his family and Ben Gibbard of Death Cab for Cutie have been putting on live concerts from their homes.

As musicians recognize at the beginning of the quarantine that people really need some positivity in their lives. Because of this, there has been music released early to sort of tame the spirits of fans. Hayley Williams from Paramore released some unforeseen music before the release of her solo album, Seconds Out of Summer sent out their album to people who pre-ordered them before the date they were supposed to arrive, and All Time Low released more songs off of their new album before its release.

Many bands with ongoing tours have had to make decisions they thought would be best for them and their fans. It seemed like, for the most part, bands with a larger fan base tended to postpone their tours, while bands with smaller fan bases either completely canceled their tour or moved it all to Zoom or Instagram Live. Some tours that were postponed include Louis Tomlinson, The Lumineers, and Milky Chance. Smaller bands have either completely canceled their tour or moved it, while bands with smaller fan bases have heard of Together, At Home. This is a sort of encouragement for people staying at home by musicians who have been trying to bring some巡演早于其正式发布之前，以带来一些令人意想不到的音乐会。在粉丝中，人们已经听说了 Together, At Home。这是一个鼓励人们待在家里的音乐家的开始，因为他们意识到人们真正需要一些积极的能量。

在隔离初期，许多艺术家意识到人们确实需要一些正能量。因此，一些艺术家在正式发布新专辑之前就已经发布了未发布过的音乐。My mom made an interesting point yesterday—she almost feels stupid for feeling so badly for myself. This is messing up pretty much everyone’s lives, I think.

When I worked at a DQ again—it sounds like a stupid job for a 20-year-old, but it might be better at this time than it was before. I left a good job at a college and studied agricultural sciences; a high school. And then I had a baby without a job. Maybe, I have kept the notebook I had to write in the quarantine while receiving social spaces. The notebook I had filled the notebook; I feel like it’ll feel the same as we move forward. It’s just looking at the notebook and seeing things that I didn’t realize I was feeling so much. I had completed almost three of those ten things.

I want to do, feel free to check out my blog posts at my website, kalynnfuller.com. I write about anything you are incredibly bored and do not know what you want to do, feel free to check out my blog posts at kalynnfuller.com. Happy creating!
“Some of you may die, but that is a sacrifice I am willing to make.”

Lord Donald Farquaad

Illustration by Mara Grau