

Rhode Island College

Digital Commons @ RIC

COVID-19

COVID-19 Collection

6-5-2020

My Non-Linear Experiences During COVID-19

Sage Morrison

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.ric.edu/covid19>

Recommended Citation

Morrison, Sage, "My Non-Linear Experiences During COVID-19" (2020). *COVID-19*. 4.
<https://digitalcommons.ric.edu/covid19/4>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the COVID-19 Collection at Digital Commons @ RIC. It has been accepted for inclusion in COVID-19 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ RIC. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@ric.edu.

My Non-Linear Experiences with COVID-19

COVID-19, huh? I guess I'll start a little before everything closed. The first I heard of the disease was back in January or so. A customer at my job actually mentioned it to me. I didn't really think much of it. After having seen the film Contagion the semester prior, I was fairly confident in my belief that the new disease wasn't going to be all that bad. Fast forward to March. Positive cases in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. I'd be lying if I said I was calm. Quite the contrary, my anxiety levels were through the roof. I remember how everything shut down, pretty much all at once. This was the week after spring break, I'm pretty sure. This is where time starts slipping. For the second half of March, I continued working at Stop and Shop, but I took the precaution of wearing gloves, washing my hands, and using hand sanitizer. All the while, of course, I have my online courses, some of which were particularly stressful.

On April 5th, I told my manager I was taking a three week leave of absence in order to protect my family and myself from the disease in what appeared to be the peak. Those three weeks came and went, I was mostly focusing on my schoolwork, but I tried to make sure I had a fair amount of fun so as not to go insane. My friend David and I play a collectible trading card game together called Magic: The Gathering. We found an online client that allowed us to play while socially distant. A couple days before I was supposed to go back to school, my dad was exposed to the virus at his job, so I took another two weeks, hoping we didn't catch the virus. As luck would have it, we were all fine! I resumed work on May 10th.

DISCLAIMER BEFORE THIS PARAGRAPH: I do not condone or encourage the use of legal substances under the age of 21 nor do I condone or encourage the use of illegal substances ever. Cool, onto the next paragraph.

There seems to be this idea going around that being stuck at home during a pandemic is the perfect reason anyone would want to be in an altered state of perception. Early on in quarantine, I took the last of my whiskey and just had a great night. While I definitely enjoyed myself, the hangover was not very forgiving. However, I wanted something more profound than alcohol. I would have smoked some pot, but my parents would have killed me. So I contacted my friend, who will remain nameless, and got some LSD. On a Wednesday night in early May, I dropped two tabs of acid and had one of the most significant experiences of my life. I saw things I had never seen before, I had new revelations, I looked at the world around me, and didn't see how bleak everything was, but instead, I saw the hidden beauty. My only regret from that night was that I didn't have a trip sitter to keep me grounded. I felt like I was freefalling into the aether at one point. I felt kinda off the next morning, like my consciousness didn't belong in my body, but I went out for a hike with my little brother and I felt everything calibrate within me.

For most of quarantine, I was depressed. The alcohol helped me forget my troubles temporarily and the LSD put me in a good headspace for awhile, but there was always this nagging reminder that I couldn't see anyone, I couldn't make plans, I couldn't see my significant others (I'm polyamorous, for context). It wasn't until recently, when David and I met up for a band rehearsal, that I started feeling happy again. I've slowly been coming back into contact with my friends and it's been so liberating to go out and hang out with people again.

So, I guess that's all I really have to say on this matter. Everything has been such a blur that I don't really remember things in a linear fashion, but instead in related groups or anecdotes. This is certainly a time we're living in.