

Masks for Life (if no one else does)

Beyond the dozens of abrupt celebrity deaths, disastrous gender reveal parties, and millions of prom rejections over Zoom, the greatest disappointment of 2020 is undoubtedly the rise of the coronavirus and the mandated lockdowns afterward. Though lunatics continue to say that these events are all connected, orchestrated by some deep state government, the difference between COVID and other disasters is that the virus could have been easily prevented. So many tragedies were out of our control this year. The virus was not one of those.

Oftentimes people leave the task of handling disease to the capable hands of physicians; however, COVID is not something as controllable as the flu. With infection rates still on the rise and no sign of a vaccine until 2021, it is of the utmost importance to take individual responsibility for the health and safety of those around us.

Though the idea of having to be considerate to the health of others may be difficult for some, all that medical experts ask is that whenever the need to go outside arises, one would travel with a mask on at all times. Masks alongside social distancing are the greatest tools that the average person has to combat the coronavirus. The sole purpose of a mask is to filter what we breathe out. This method of prevention relies on the wearer protecting others, and with enough people wearing masks, the benefits become universal. Even if one is in perfect health, mask wearing is a must as self-diagnoses are not a clear indicator for the virus. One could appear fine but become an asymptomatic carrier or even show severe reactions two weeks later, presenting a clear danger to loved ones all the while.

Half a year has passed and even in the state of California, cases continue to fluctuate without much change. People continue to argue for independence without accountability when it comes to wearing masks, and many are forced to suffer because of it. Though complete

prevention is impossible, an impact can still be made in trying to stem the spread. Wearing a mask is one of the only guarantees in these trying times and its importance is arguably on the same level as hand washing. If we do not learn this now, I suppose that future generations will when comparing this epidemic to the Black Plague for their history assignment: both disasters, in hindsight, with simple solutions.