



Telling Our Stories: Western's Response to COVID-19

Story ID: 65

Source: "Telling Our Stories: Western's Response to COVID-19," a project initiated at Western Washington University by Western Libraries Heritage Resources division. Originally published online at: <https://mabel.wvu.edu/islandora/object/wvu:37686>

Story date 11/21/2021

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Story contribution

I think it safe to say that when we hear “covid” or “pandemic” most of us would have instant negative associations, and I’m no exception. It’s been pretty terrible. But, I also want to shed some light on how this pandemic experience has been beneficial to me. When I’m asked to talk about covid and my experience with it I usually talk about how it turned me into a hypochondriac or how it gave me social anxiety or how it made me something of a misanthropist when it comes to working with the public. I could go on and on talking about the ways it made me miserable, so I’d rather speak to the ways in which it could be seen as a good thing. Had it not been for lockdown, I might not be enrolled in Fairhaven or pursuing my passion of visual art. It was during lockdown that I took a short break from school last school year. I had finished my GURs and still had no idea what I wanted to pursue as a major or how to go about doing it. I figured since classes were online still, I could take some time to do what I love: art. I never thought I would be pursuing visual art and design until the pandemic. I also might not be with my partner. Lockdown gave us the time and space to develop a healthy relationship with each other from the start. I wouldn’t have adopted my cat. I got him as an emotional support animal because I was experiencing terrible seasonal affective disorder during lockdown. The pandemic also made me a little more independent than I think I would have been otherwise. Not being able to go home to my parents very often has given me the time and space to grow and learn. My life changed completely because of the pandemic, but what’s nice to know is that I am not alone in it. I suppose that’s another way covid has helped me. It gave me a stronger sense of community and support from the ones I love, because this isn’t something we should have to experience alone.

End of contributed text from Story ID: 65 - Anonymous