

# A Socially Distant Year

JOHN MADDEN & OLIVIA RUD-DELL  
Centurion Staff

It's been a year since the COVID-19 outbreak has impacted the world. Over 115 million people have been infected and the death toll is over 2.5 million. Looking back, it's evident that the result has been far greater than anyone had expected.

**Jan. 11, 2020:** China announces first death  
A 61-year-old man in Wuhan passed away. He was one of those being treated for pneumonia.

**Jan. 30, 2020:** W.H.O. declares virus as global health emergency  
Thousands of new cases arose in China, and the U.S. State Department issued warning for travelers to avoid travel to China. The Trump Administration suspended travel from China to the U.S. the following day.



**Feb. 11, 2020:** The virus is given an official name  
W.H.O. proposed the virus to be named COVID-19, an acronym for the Coronavirus and the year 2019. The name proposal was done without any reference to specific people or places to prevent negative stigma.



**Feb. 29, 2020:** U.S. reports first death  
Authorities announced the death of a patient being treated in Seattle. Although, at the time it was the first death recorded for COVID-19, it is believed there were others before.

**March 4, 2020:** BCCC's first COVID-19 announcement  
Bucks announced it was taking extra precautions in sanitizing and wiping down facilities for students and staff. Hand sanitizer stations were scattered throughout the campus.



**March 12, 2020:** Bucks announced temporary closing of all campuses  
Originally, the college was to remain closed until the March 22 for sanitation. However, on March 12, it was announced that classes would resume remotely, switch to an online format and eventually return to facilities after spring break.

**March 15, 2020:** CDC warned against social gatherings  
The CDC advised against large social gatherings of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks. The Trump Administration advised against groups of 10 or more.



**March 26, 2020:** U.S. led world in confirmed cases, Senate passes CARES Act  
The U.S. had over 81,000 confirmed cases and over 1,000 deaths related to COVID-19 at the time.

**Dec. 11, 2020:** The Pfizer vaccine is approved

**Nov. 8, 2020:** U.S. total COVID infections break 10 million

**Sept. 28, 2020:** Global death toll reaches 1 million

**April 8, 2020:** Bucks announced it will continue classes remotely for remainder of the spring semester  
This also came with the decision that summer I semester courses would be completed remotely. Eventually all summer classes were scheduled for online.

With the exceptions to a few classes that require hands on work, the majority of classes will continue remotely for the fall semester.

**Dec. 18, 2020:** The Moderna vaccine is approved



As the timeline shows, many governments greatly underestimated the impact the pandemic would eventually have. With more than 500,000 deaths and 29 million infections in the U.S. alone, the COVID-19 pandemic will go down in history as a disaster that officials didn't see coming.

Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

**April 30, 2020:** Airlines require face masks

**May 27, 2020:** U.S. COVID deaths pass 100,000

**June 22, 2020:** College announces fall semester will be online





# Bucks News

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Letters should be limited to 500 words. They will be edited for spelling, space and malicious or libelous statements. Letters must be the original work of the writer and must be signed. For identification purposes, letters must include the writer’s full name and telephone number.

# College Announces Layoffs



Courtesy of Bucks’ Facebook page

**GENE THORNTON & LUCAS DARLING**  
*Centurion Staff*

With the college facing a \$5.5 million budget deficit, Bucks President Stephane Shanblatt on March 5 sent a memo to faculty and staff announcing that while tuition will remain flat for the upcoming year, some employees would be laid off.

“This past year has been anything but ordinary,” she said. “While we’ve overcome many obstacles and adjusted our way of working, teaching and learning, our enrollment pictures remains uncertain. I am committed to leaving this the institution in the most stable financial condition possible.”

Shanblatt previously announced her upcoming retirement for this June, and now faces the problem

of getting the college on the best track possible before she leaves.

Shanblatt pointed out that along with staff layoffs, there will be re-organizations in Enrollment Services, Public Safety, Community Education, ITS, and Marketing. Some changes will involve staff absorbing new tasks so vacant positions do not have to be filled, and others will be internal transfers.

Individuals being laid off have been intermittent furloughs for nearly a year now, with no return in sight.

At press time, the Centurion was unable to confirm exactly how many Bucks staffers would be laid off.

“There will be six full-time staff layoffs and some allocating in the Continuing Education division, Information Technology Services and Marketing. A few PT-Under 20 staff will also be laid off,” said

Shanblatt.

Collectively, these changes will save the college almost \$2 million annually in salaries and benefits. It will include the un-budgeting of the vacant positions of Vice President of Strategic Enrollment, and their administrative assistant, Chief Marketing Officer, and several retiring staff.

Also, one vacant position, the Associate Vice President for Strategic Partnerships, will be filled to provide leadership for the Continuing Education Division.

“We have saved an additional \$1.5 million by trimming the non-salary budget,” she said.

The remaining gap will be filled with one-time funds in the hope that by the 2022-23 budget year, enrollment will begin to recover. As for the 2021-22 budget year, tuition will be held flat.

“Over the years as enrollment has slowly declined, we have reduced full-time faculty ranks through retirement and not replacing those vacant positions. However, we have not done that with staff positions,” she said.

Shanblatt went on to say that these decisions were extremely difficult, but with a severe 15 percent decline in enrollment in one semester, she needed to make hard decisions.

“The reorganization decisions will provide stability to areas with retiring or vacant leadership positions as we begin to transition to a new president.”

Shanblatt concluded the letter by saying all impacted individuals have been notified, and wishes them well.

“There will be no further changes or layoffs under my new

leadership. I thank the Board of Trustees and for your support as we work through these challenges together and for your efforts on behalf of our students,” she concluded.

Jean Dolan, Assistant Director of Marketing, Public Relations and Creative Services, had been on furlough then learned her position was being eliminated, though she was offered a different job in admissions. Dolan had been in her job since 2001 and her 20-year anniversary was coming this April.

Dolan, in an interview done before learning she would be laid off, said, “I had not filed for unemployment - and had not been out of work -- since summer of 1991, nearly 30 years ago. So, you can imagine the emotional toll this has taken.”

# A Final Sit Down with Dr. Shanblatt

**GABRIELLA PIRMAN**  
*Centurion Staff*

For the past nine years, Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt has served as Bucks’ president. During this time, the college has faced no shortage of challenges, namely reduced enrollment and a decrease in government funding.

The pandemic only exacerbated these issues. With Dr. Shanblatt’s retirement in June creeping ever closer, the college continues to face a drop in enrollment and funding.

Enrollment rates took a dip due to the pandemic, dropping 8 percent in the fall 2020 semester and 15 percent this spring, according to Shanblatt. This can likely be credited to the struggles that come with remote learning, yet another challenge introduced by the pandemic.

The budget, which has already been a point of issue due to government funding, has also been impacted by the pandemic due to this drop in enrollment.

“To my knowledge, we have never faced such a significant budget challenge,” said Shanblatt when asked about the \$5.5 million deficit.

The administration at Bucks has been working hard to tackle these challenges without negatively impacting students. Shanblatt confirmed there will be no downsizing or changes to the six academic departments.

Despite such challenges, Shanblatt said she was proud of what had been accomplished during her time at Bucks.

“Many good things were accomplished at Bucks during my tenure, but they were all team efforts, so it’s difficult to talk about them as my accomplishments,” said Shanblatt.

“Our efforts to help students

succeed, including required advising, COLL 101, and retention efforts have yielded positive results. Graduation rates for first time, full time students increased 30% in the last five years. Our transfer rates continue to be very high compared to national benchmarks.”

Shanblatt has also seen the college through many renovations, such as the campus core beautification and the construction of the science center.

In her retirement, Shanblatt plans to spend time with her family and volunteer in her community as well as spend more time on her hobbies. “Especially gardening, weaving, and international travel!” she exclaimed.

Shanblatt said that out of everything at Bucks, the students were her favorite part of her time here.

“Through your education at Bucks, you have an opportunity to transform your life and that of those closest to you. Take full advantage of the learning opportunities at Bucks, both in the classroom and outside of it. Enjoy your time as a student. Even though it’s a bit challenging right now, there are ways to be engaged, attend events, and connect with other students. Keep learning throughout your life as jobs and the world changes. Bucks has prepared you well for what’s next, so go for it,” Shanblatt said in regard to the student body.

“On behalf of all the faculty and staff, our job is to make you successful, so make us Bucks Proud!”

Courtesy of BCCC





# COVID-19 Issue

# COVID-19’s Effect on Mental Health

**WILL SUPPER**  
*Centurion Staff*

COVID-19 has changed our world. From isolation from friends and family, to not being able to shop or travel, or attend big events we once enjoyed, we had to adapt to a new way of life quickly at the expense of normalcy.

COVID-19 has proven to be quite stressful for many people as it has a drastically altered everyone’s lives. Thousands of businesses have been forced to close indefinitely, while millions have been furloughed or terminated from jobs.

For some, it took a long time to finally collect unemployment. Others still have yet to receive it. This has led to some scrambling to work multiple part time jobs, like at grocery stores or any place that is deemed “essential,” in order to bring in some kind of income to their homes.

Many haven’t experienced this level of stress in their lives, and stressing mental health has become a focal point over the past year as we live through these unprecedented times.

In June 2020, the CDC conducted a nationwide survey and found that 40 percent reported feeling more anxious or depressed recently. It also reported that 10 percent said they had considered seriously harming or taking their own lives in the past 30 days.

Other studies have shown that substance abuse is on the rise, and recovering addicts are relapsing due to their inability to attend support group meetings.



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Kutztown student Ryan Poust said he has experienced stress brought on by the pandemic. “I’ve found it especially stressful dealing with deadlines and sometimes overwhelming projects, and can’t fully devote time to them because of having other other important things such as my family and job,” Poust said.

“Life is less focused on extra-curricular activities and more on things needed to do to complete your college degree.” Though staying home while juggling multiple responsibilities can be very stress-inducing, some students have found multiple ways to practice self-care in these times.

Discovering a new hobby has become commonplace. Ryan Woodman, Temple University student, is working out and staying on the healthier side. “I’m just trying to stay focused on getting healthier and kind of chill with the drinking. I’ve found that I really like cooking and going to the gym,” he said.

Many people also said that going outdoors and getting exercise while socially distanced is a good way to deal with stress and depression. Several streaming services such as Amazon Prime, Netflix, and Hulu have gained popularity with people seeking to escape the unfortunate reality of being holed up in their homes.

# Do People Trust the COVID-19 Vaccine?



United States®  
**Census**  
Bureau

Courtesy of Wikiemdia Commons

**DAVID SCOTT**  
*Centurion Staff*

Mask-up culture will forever change the way our generation views illness, A new fear of the invisible sparked by a year unlike any other in recent memory begs the question... when will we feel safe again?

According to the CDC, over the past 6 weeks there has been a 73 percent decline in reported cases. This may have to do with the increasing rapidity of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, among others, that are being distributed across the nation.

Still, some public figures are hesitant to take it. Like Joe Rogan, who hosts a popular podcast on Spotify. Rogan said, “I would [take the vaccine] if I felt like I needed it.” Rogan may have a controversial opinion compared to the many well-known political figures and celebrities that have been speaking positively about the vaccine, but when talking to everyday people in the Langhorne-Levittown, some share a similar sentiment to Rogan. Some locals shared a similar skepticism when it came to trusting the vaccine and the govern-

ment. With the vaccines being created and distributed rather quickly, some people fear the long-term effects of the vaccine, since the virus has only been around for over a year. We live in a weird world of known-unknowns today that is even more “unprecedented” than this virus. It is known that the government can track a phone without the permission of its user and it is always unknown if you are being tracked. This mistrust of the vaccine isn’t something new but something that’s been fostered over years of abuse of power on the

part of the government. In a world where you can’t trust everything you read on the internet, why should we trust this vaccine? This is a scary realization considering that Dr. Fauci estimated that 75-80 percent of the population needs to be vaccinated to return to some sense of normality. How long will that be? One AP poll found that about 1 in 3 Americans say they definitely or probably won’t get the COVID-19 vaccine. One pro-vaccine local, Anthony Tamanini, 18, will get the vaccine if it means life returning back to normal sooner, “I understand the

fear and it seems reasonable to me, but I’m tired of living like this.” When asked about when he would feel safe without wearing a mask, he said, “About another year, maybe. I want the majority of people to get one before I can feel safe without a mask.” This echoes the opinions of doctors across the U.S. as well. When will it be safe to return to normal life again? The most realistic answer is: who knows. With the rate of new infections spiraling downwards, there might just be a light at the end of the tunnel.



# COVID Issue

## How Has Virtual Learning Been Working for Students?



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

ANDREW COATES  
Centurion Staff

COVID-19 has altered many aspects of people’s lives including the way they learn, forcing most students to study online with classes strictly on Zoom and Canvas. Some Bucks students weighed in on their feelings about the prolonged use of online education.

COVID has been around for over a year, taking nearly 500,000 lives across the country. The nation has adapted through the usage of masks and altered social gatherings. One of the biggest

changes to normal life due to COVID would be the change in the way education is being taught. Colleges around the U.S. were forced to figure out a way to provide quality education to their students virtually in the spring of 2020 when COVID first rapidly spread. Most turned to online video conference services like Zoom and Microsoft Teams. This online style of education has become the backup in most schools that were fortunate enough to continue. At Bucks, it was been the only choice of instruction for the fall 2020 semester and the spring 2021

semester. Few courses have to meet in person, such as lab-based courses, but most are administered on Zoom. Some Bucks students are growing weary of virtual education. Stephen Reinard, business major, stated that he finds online classes to be a difficult learning environment. “I feel that it is harder to learn without being able to ask a question in class to the teacher. It is just different to ask a question on Zoom, or learning without them being able to see if what you’re doing is correct or not,” said Reinard.

Kayla Horn, early education major, said she likes using Zoom for being able to work at her own pace, but she finds herself struggling to pay attention. “I’m a pretty active person, and I like to be outside doing things. I find it really hard to sit staring at a computer screen for hours a day,” said Horn. On the other hand, there are students that find the virtual classroom experience to be much more flexible and easier to deal with. Andrew Smith, engineering major, said there are a few good things about having online classes.

“I like online classes. It’s much easier not having to commute, and it’s also much better for when I have big breaks between classes,” said Smith. When asked if he felt if there was a change in how he was learning, he replied, “I’d say I’m learning better as it’s taught me to rely more on myself and at the same time, other than connection issues, it’s much easier to commit to actually going to classes.”



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# COVID Issue

## New Hobbies Are Helping Students Through Pandemic Boredom



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

**CHRIS WARREN**  
*Centurion Staff*

As we approach the one-year mark since the campus was shut down due to COVID-19, there have been plenty of opportunities to reflect on these unprecedented times.

“It’s been a year already?” most are surely asking themselves. It feels like just yesterday, we all received word that the campus would shut down indefinitely. Remember when the original plan was to be back at the end of April? Well, for all we know, that may end up becoming true- even if it is one year later.

This speaks to the uncertainty that has surrounded the pandemic, uncertainty that has made all of us anxious at one point or another. With all this time on our hands, students have been forced to get creative to stay preoccupied.

We all have our go-to time killers, video games, streaming apps, or simply swiping an hour or two away on Instagram or Tik Tok. At a certain point, however, the boredom sets in, and in a time where the cures are limited, students have been forced to think outside the box.

“I miss live sports a lot, especially live crowds,” said Xander Weinstein, journalism major. “I

miss being able to go to games with my friends and family, so I’ve been watching a lot of NCAA classics just to get a taste of what sports were like before the pandemic.”

While streaming content has become a reliable go-to for many students, others, like Bucks student Noah Vradenburg, have seen this as an opportunity to get in shape.

“I really only started exercising out of pure boredom,” Vradenburg said. “All of a sudden, I found myself working out almost every day, and I’m feeling great.”

He recommended exercising because of the physical and mental

benefits. “It has helped my mental health a lot, my self-esteem has noticeably increased, and I feel more secure in myself than I did prior to the pandemic.”

We have a lot of time on our hands with the way things are now, and some students, such as business major John DiVeronica, have used this abundance of time to try something they’ve almost never done before.

“I’ve always been a terrible cook” DiVeronica said. “Outside of a bowl of cereal, I’ve hardly ever been able to make myself something to eat. My dad helped me out a lot with getting myself comfortable in the kitchen, I nev-

er thought I’d be able to do what I do now!”

Although this past year has not been an ideal one, it’s important that we try to focus on the positives. These are uncertain times, and although we may not know when this will be over with, it’s important to recognize that getting through this will make all of us stronger.

Until things are back to normal, do what you love, tell your family you love them, and try something new.

## Students Discuss Zoom Etiquette and Appearance

**ANDREW COATES**  
*Centurion Staff*

With a full year of online classes in the books, Bucks students weigh in on how much they care about their appearances on Zoom meetings.

Bucks stopped most of its in-person services a year ago due to COVID-19’s rapid spread in the county. Two semesters later, the student body is still convening through online meeting services like Zoom.

With no immediate plan to reintroduce in-person style learning at Bucks, many students face the reality of spending another semester on Canvas and Zoom.

Teachers generally ask students to turn their cameras on during class so they can see that the student is actively participating. Students’ learning environments range from their beds to their kitchen tables, and occasionally can have beaches or ski slopes featured in the background.

Students from across the county weighed in their opinion regarding how they feel about their appearance on camera.

Mike Pietrangelo, business major, said he cares about his appearance on Zoom depending on the occasion. “If I have a business meeting, I will make sure I look presentable and professional,” Pietrangelo said.

He went on to say that he does not worry too much about his appearance in class. “If my hair is messed up, I’ll usually throw a hat.”

Tiffany Williams, a business administration major and working mother, said she works overnights and she is not concerned with how she looks on Zoom since she is just waking up after working a night shift.

“If I really do not want to be seen, I sometimes will sit in an area in my house where the light is behind me, so it blurs my face, and I am just a shadow. I have



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

tried to change the background, but I could not figure it out,” said Williams.

On the other hand, Kendra Mason, medical assistant major, said she is not usually concerned with her appearance, but she still wants

to at least be presentable.

“I like to at least have my hair done and I usually throw on a t-shirt. I like to have dim lighting when I’m on there so it’s not too bright but not too dark. I want everyone in the class to be able to

see me but I also don’t want to be the one with the brightest background,” explained Mason.

Gianna Buch, early education major, said she does not normally care about her appearances on Zoom because all of her classes

start after work, therefore she is already “somewhat presentable.”

The general consensus is that students are not terribly concerned with their looks.



# COVID Issue

## How The Centurion Withstood COVID-19

ANGELA LEAMON  
Centurion Staff

The Centurion’s Editor-in-Chief, Alyssa Moore, has been almost single handedly putting together the student newspaper since the paper resumed publishing last fall amid the campus shutdown prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the school shut down due to COVID-19 in the spring of 2020, the Centurion team briefly stopped production of the paper and were only loading stories onto the Centurion website – [www.bucks-news.com](http://www.bucks-news.com).

Moore, like most, hoped the virus would pass relatively fast; hoping they would be back in business by the fall.

Tony Rogers, the advisor of the newspaper, reached out to Moore and the rest of the team in the fall 2020 semester asking to start the newspaper up again.

“I thought it was going to be easy because I am doing it from my bed and I don’t have to go all the way to campus... but it was actually kind of hard,” Moore said.

She had to do everything from memory. Thankfully, the software programs they used at the school were available to her at home.

“It does get overwhelming. Work, school, the paper, emails... that determination to make something good [is what] pulls it all together,” Alyssa said.

She gets help through emails with Rogers and texts to Sarah Siock, the former Editor-in-Chief of the Centurion. Moore joined the Centurion team during her first semester at Bucks, the fall of 2019. She started as an editor under Siock.

Both Rogers and Siock have been like mentors to Alyssa.

Before going to college, she was debating between being an

English or journalism major, but something in her gut went for journalism. She stuck with it and she’s happy about it.

Her strength is writing, which allowed her to like the traditional news reporting and writing end of journalism.

“I really learned a lot more than I could’ve ever thought at Bucks. So, I am going to be really sad to leave the Centurion, it has been a great learning experience for me, no matter how many technical difficulties it’s thrown my way,” said Moore.

Happy with her experience at Bucks and with the Centurion, Moore is transferring to Temple University in the fall of 2021 as a journalism major. She hopes to be a part of the newspaper there as well.

For students who are on the fence about joining the newspaper staff, it seems really intimidating, but the more involved determines how much everyone has to do.

Moore said, “Getting involved in the paper, as I’ve seen people come and go, will either make or break your major.”

If you are thinking about journalism, try it. Even if you are in the journalism field, joining the Centurion staff will help you explore the program more and figure out what fits you best as a journalist.

Bucks might still be closed in the fall of 2021, but the Centurion will be up and running as long as they have the people working behind the scenes. Moore and Professor Tony Rogers are very accessible and personable. Moore can be reached at [buckscenturion@gmail.com](mailto:buckscenturion@gmail.com) and Professor Rogers at [bucksjournalism@gmail.com](mailto:bucksjournalism@gmail.com).

COVID-19 has taken a toll on all of us, but the Centurion staff have been working tirelessly to make an interesting and informative paper for everyone to enjoy.



Courtesy of Alyssa Moore



Wordsmiths

– Spring 2021 –



Lynn Levin



Grady Chambers

FRIDAY, MARCH 12 • 7:30PM  
Lynn Levin & Grady Chambers

**Lynn Levin** is a poet, writer, translator, and teacher. Her most recent poetry collection, *The Minor Virtues* (Ragged Sky, 2020), was listed as one of Spring 2020’s best books by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Her poems have appeared in *Boulevard*, *The Hopkins Review*, *Artful Dodge*, *Rattle*, on Garrison Keillor’s *The Writer’s Almanac*, and other places. Her previous poetry collections include *Miss Plastique*, *Fair Creatures of an Hour*, and *Imaginarium*. She is the translator, from the Spanish, of *Birds on the Kiswar Tree* by Odi Gonzales and co-author of *Poems for the Writing: Prompts for Poets*. The 1999 Bucks County Poet Laureate, Levin teaches at Drexel University. Her website is [lynnlevinpoet.com](http://lynnlevinpoet.com).

**Grady Chambers** is the author of *North American Stadiums* (Milkweed Editions), winner of the inaugural Max Ritvo Poetry Prize. Recent poems have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Boaat*, *32 Poems*, *American Poetry Review*, *The Sun*, and elsewhere. Grady is a former Wallace Stegner Fellow, and he lives in Philadelphia.



Maggie Smith



Cleveland Wall

FRIDAY, APRIL 16 • 7:30PM  
Maggie Smith & Cleveland Wall

**Maggie Smith** is the author of four award-winning books: *Lamp of the Body*, *The Well Speaks of Its Own Poison*, and *Good Bones*, named by the *Washington Post* as one of the Five Best Poetry Books of 2017, and her most recent *Keep Moving*. The title poem of *Good Bones* was called the “Official Poem of 2016” by Public Radio International and has been translated into nearly a dozen languages. Smith’s poems have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Tin House*, *The Believer*, *The Paris Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Best American Poetry*, and on the CBS prime-time drama *Madam Secretary*. A Pushcart Prize winner, Smith has received fellowships and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Academy of American Poets, the Ohio Arts Council, and the Sustainable Arts Foundation.

**Cleveland Wall** is a poet and teaching artist who performs with poetry improv troupe No River Twice and with musical combo The Starry Eyes. Her work has appeared recently in *River and South Review*, *Schuylkill Valley Journal*, and *Monday* journal. She is the author of *Let X=X* (Kelsay Books) and many small, handmade chapbooks.

All events are free and open to the public and will be broadcast on the Bucks County Community College YouTube Channel: [youtube.com/user/BucksCCC](https://youtube.com/user/BucksCCC)  
Contact: Ethel Rackin, [ethel.rackin@bucks.edu](mailto:ethel.rackin@bucks.edu) • The readings are funded by the Cultural Programming Committee.



## Sports

# Losing Fans Takes Away from the Game

**MICHAEL TARAPCHAK**

*Centurion Staff*

Can you remember the last time you watched a game with a large crowd in attendance? Those days seem like just a dream to many sports fans.

Whether it be a college game to support your school, or a diehard fan with season tickets, we're all missing the lively atmosphere of a game.

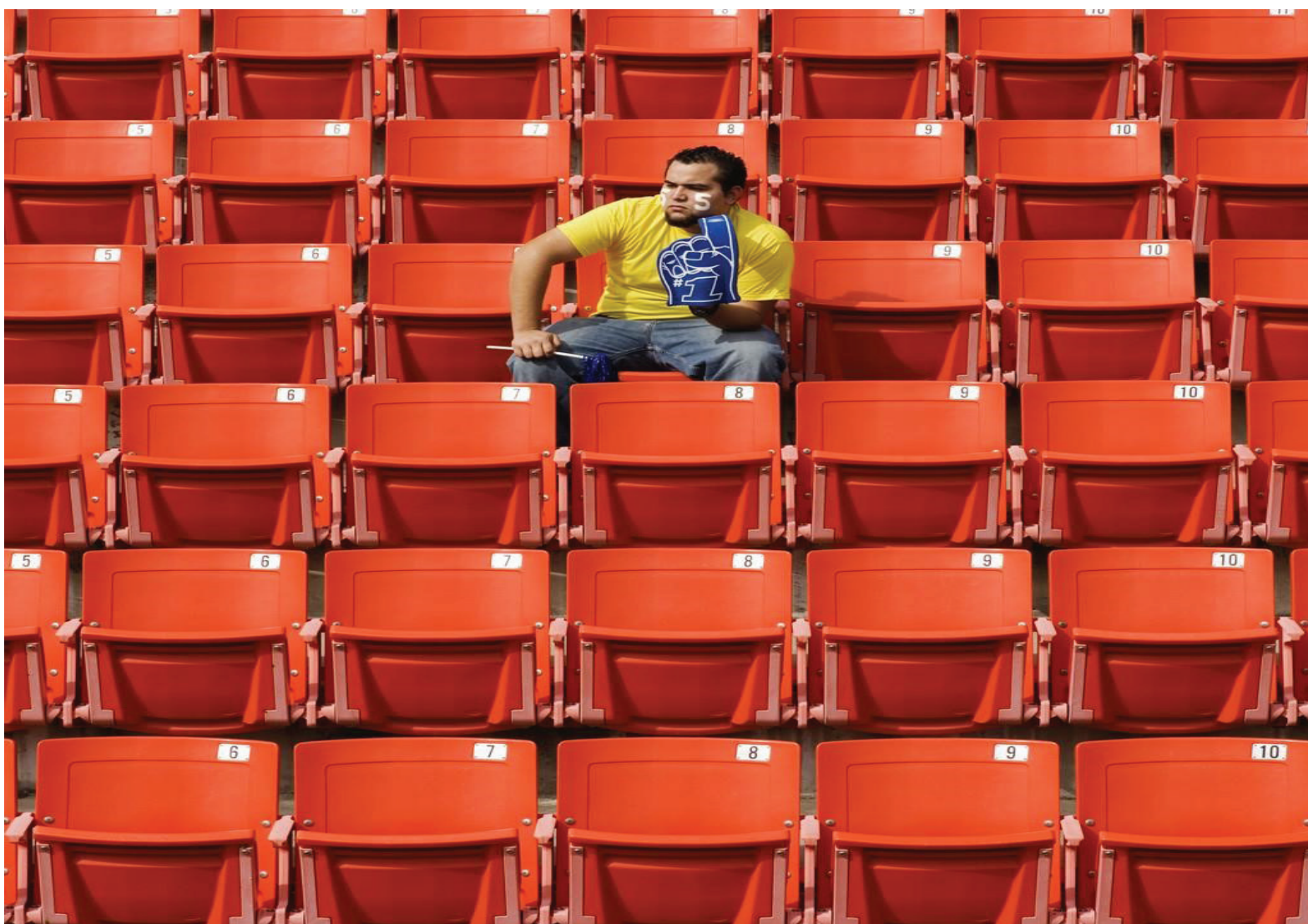
It's hard watching big plays happen with no reaction from the crowd, and pumping fake noise into the audio doesn't seem to help. Watching the game from home just doesn't carry the same excitement as before.

"I just don't think it's as exciting the watch anymore," said Ryan Tarapchak, 16. "I understand why fans aren't allowed, and I think it's a good idea with COVID-19 going on. But still, I'm just looking forward to sitting down and hearing a big crowd cheering and getting excited."

"Not only do I find myself enjoying it less, even the players themselves seem to have less excitement," said Rishi Patel, a diehard Eagles fan. "I feel like not having fans makes home games borderline pointless. For some teams, having a crowd of fans can really help motivate them. Overall, I just really want fans back in the stadiums, COVID-19 has just truly been a problem."

Luke Sisco, 19, is not a big sports fan, but he still misses the feeling of being at a game with friends and supporting his school.

"Even though I don't know what is really going on in the field, I still enjoy participating in the



*Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons*

rallies. Not being able to attend my school games has been hard, I really enjoyed cheering for my college as well as spending time with friends."

It seems that not being able to attend games has affected not only the diehard fans, but also the casual fans. Sports games have always been the home of excitement, and taking that excitement

away really dampers the mood around the world of sports. We can all agree that packed stadiums are just more enjoyable for everyone.

Fans and players are definitely pulling to have crowds allowed back into stadiums, teams want the fans back. According to DallasNews.com, "The Cowboys will lose an estimated league-high \$6

million if no fans are allowed in stadiums this year." That is a large amount of money to lose in just one year.

Due to games not having as many fans, it's also causing a large loss in jobs. Without a ton of people at the games, there's no need to hire concession stand workers. COVID-19 has truly affected the sports world as a

whole, from fans to players to employees.

Currently, the NFL is working hard to find a safe and professional way to allow fans back into the stadiums. With all the safety protocols it's definitely an up in the air question for if crowds will make it back in time for the 2021-2022 season.

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