I saw the world before me turn to chaos. The first news of the outbreak only affected the paranoid. Since only one country was infected, we did not feel a need to worry. Everything remained the same. When more countries became infected, we still did not panic. We continued to believe that this was just a minor inconvenience to the world. We believed the virus would be contained as long as these other countries did what they were supposed to. These countries locked themselves down and quarantined their people. No one was allowed to leave their homes unless it was for essentials. No travel in or out of the country.

When the virus spread to the US, panic erupted. In order to stay alive people believed they must stock up. Toilet paper, water, hand sanitizer, milk, watermelons, masks. They continued to buy as much as they could of the things they did and did not need. The instinct was to buy, buy, buy. Lockdown broke out all over the country. Schools closed. Establishments closed. Flights became cheap. The more known cases and deaths there were, the more people bought. Soon all we would see was “Out of stock,” “Out of stock,” “Out of stock.” We were advised to only leave our homes for necessities. While many states listened, there was one who was ignorant of the severity of the Coronavirus. Virus cases and deaths increased exponentially everywhere in the country. The flatten to the curve we expected did not occur. The virus took more than lives. It took high school students’ rites of passage. No prom, no senior prank, no graduation, no summer, and possibly, no first semester of college. The uncertainty took our
peace of mind. Would we get to attend the colleges and universities we worked so hard to get into? Would we get to have the same college experience as the students before us? We are two months into quarantine and as the cases and number of deaths continue to increase, our questions still go unanswered. While uncertainty for the future consumes every aspect of our lives, all we can do now is hope that our hard work is not for nothing.