

I feel deeply sorry for the loved ones that were lost from the SHU community directly from COVID-19. The tragedy of death can feel even worse in a time like this where it's almost as if we can feel it through all of the fear we are presented with. That being said, throughout the quarantine, I have realized, as I am sure much of us have, that COVID-19 was not as serious as we initially thought and did not warrant the response that our country enacted.

Any disease that can take a life warrants concern and needs to be addressed, however the response from the US government hurt many more lives than the disease itself ever would have been able to. Unfortunately, President Trump, despite his greatly commendable efforts to do what he needs to in order to take care of his country, has wrongfully been on the receiving end of so much of the blame for the overreaction of our government and our country's shutdown; although this was obviously because of the advice he was receiving from unreliable advisors like Dr. Anthony Fauci, who has lost all credibility after his numerous lies. He has lied to the American public and reversed his previous statements on the dangers of COVID-19 so many times that nothing he says can be trusted anymore.

At this point (the end of May, ~2.5 months into quarantine), the real concern of mine is for the small business owners who have lost their livelihoods and/or large amounts of money as they were forced to shut down after being lied to that it would be dangerous to remain open. These people are the real ones in danger, and are being taken advantage of by the large population of lazy individuals who don't need to work anyway; those who are content with collecting unemployment and stimulus checks and who continue to react with hostility when the government tries to reopen the country, threatening to take away their free monthly support.

The very vast majority of lives we have lost to COVID-19 were of the elderly population or those with underlying health conditions, a population that would be in danger of any other disease we see year after year. I would like to believe that it's common knowledge at this point to know that the COVID-19 death numbers have been falsely inflated with unrelated deaths. I understand this is being done in order for our governing officials to retain credibility, but I believe the smarter and more respectable move is to admit where we were wrong, open everything up, and move on while taking proper precautions with our personal hygiene. Looking forward I hope we can all learn something valuable from this situation.

Online classes went pretty smoothly though. SHU did a great job, especially compared to the efforts of other schools I've witnessed.