

1 **Interview with Nathan Gagnon**

2 **Interviewed by Christopher Donahue**

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4 Christopher Donahue: Alright, welcome everyone. This is Capturing Quarantine: Student Life  
5 During a Pandemic. It is currently the 29<sup>th</sup> of November in 2020 it is 2:11pm. I am Christopher  
6 Donahue I am in my Chicago South Loop apartment. This is Nathan Gagnon. He is also in his  
7 Chicago, Illinois apartment. He was born in 2002, he is currently a freshman at Columbia  
8 studying traditional animation, staying in the University Center on campus. He was born in  
9 Berkeley, California and grew up in Albany, California. His mother was born in Asbestos,  
10 Quebec in Canada in '65 and his father was born in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada in '67. So,  
11 Nathan for you. What are your preferred pronouns?

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13 Nathan Gagnon: I go by him.

14  
15 CD: And how do you self-identify?

16  
17 NG: As male

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19 CD: Alright, so, to get us started off here. What was your first memory.

20  
21 NG: Okay, so this one's really interesting because I was very young, because I was like I couldn't  
22 walk yet. And I was like sitting in the doorway between my living room and my kitchen looking  
23 up at my mother, while she was like boiling water or doing whatever to like disinfect and clean  
24 my pacifier. And I was just waiting for that and looking at that. And I remember being like kind  
25 of impatient and just really looking forward to getting like my binky back so I must have been  
26 really young I must have been like less than six months or something. And yeah, that's my  
27 earliest memory.

28  
29 CD: All right. Um, so what is your most vivid memory from when you were a kid?

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31 NG: Oh, that's when I haven't thought about as much. Huh. I don't know that, like, that was  
32 definitely a really vivid one. I think one that is really fitted for me is that I remember like playing  
33 on the bed when I was a kid. And I like I was I wasn't been jumping on the bed with my brother,  
34 which is like rule number one and what you're not supposed to do. And I like either my brother  
35 like pushed me accident or I fell, but like I felt like chin first and my chin hit the ground and like  
36 split open. I had to be like rushed to the hospital. And like I remember getting like strapped up  
37 and they gave me like a weird little spray and like disinfectant and they gave me this like toy car.  
38 And it was really funny because that bad car was just really special because it was like a hot  
39 wheels, but like the wheels and like rubber on them. So it like didn't roll well at all. Yeah, that  
40 one's really distinct, I remember just like the just the injury and how it left a scar and stuff like  
41 that.

CD: So, in your neighborhood where you grew up. What was most memorable part about living in that area.

NG: Well, it was Albany is like a really small city. It's about one square mile. So it's not big. Even though it's really near like close to Berkeley and San Francisco and Oakland, which are much bigger cities but like everything was walking distance and like there'd be like a Safeway. And like the main street was really close by. And we knew our neighbors really well, and like I remember I could walk to school. It was like a block away. Well then for my like elementary school. It was a block away. But when it came to high school that was like about a mile walk to school. It was like the other side of town. But yeah, I think everyone was really nice. And it's a very calm city was not much going on. And like everyone kind of knows each other.

CD: That's great. What is your childhood bedroom look like?

NG: Oh, that's a fun one. I remember very clearly that like I had this really cheesy like wall kind of pattern. It was like these stripes that were like blue green and pink or something and I had those up until like eighth grade, which I was not a fan of when I was in middle school. And like I had this this bed cover like the duvet cover that was like some sort of like map I think like a map pattern with like little animal drawings on it's something really cute like that and one detail that was very distinct and also stuck for a very long time was that, as a kid, my mom put like these like clown letters that spelled out my name on the wall. And like I was not a fan of clowns and I don't think many kids are so, so like not long after, when I like gotten like a little older, like probably like seven or something. We're like, okay, it's about time we take these clown letters off. And they did not want to come off. They were very stubborn. So, so then for about, like, five years in my room. I had these like half ripped off clown letters like left like jumbles on the wall and that was a mess. But I think the most important detail would be that my room was always just full of Legos.

NG: Because I was obsessed with Legos. I still kind of am like, I still have that same room back at home, and it's still like half full of Legos. And now it's just also got like music stuff in it, but as a kid, it was just full of Legos and I like build stuff and I have the sets and I make videos with them and I just really have fun with those.

CD: What was your favorite Lego set

NG: Oh, I really liked the Black Pearl from Pirates to the Caribbean. There's also like some Star Wars sets that I really liked but like the Pirates of the Caribbean ones really stood out. And then the final thing was that for a while I shared my room with my brother. So, he was there with me, too and like we had to deal with each other.

CD: What was the age difference between you two.

NG: He's two years older. So right now, he's 20

86  
87 CD: All right.  
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89 NG: Um, but yeah, it's been pretty close.  
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91 CD: So, you we talked about music for just a quick little second there. What was your first  
92 favorite song?  
93  
94 NG: Oh, that one's easy. We Will Rock You by Queen  
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96 CD: Great  
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98 NG: We listened to that all the time in the car.  
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100 CD: Great. That's a great song. Um, so what first inspired you to start winning piano  
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102 NG: So my parents kind of forced me. Like, but like I was definitely like interested in music for  
103 a while. I really wants to learn drums, because like the first album that I really got into was the  
104 Call of Duty Black Ops all the soundtrack, which has like these like really good like heavy metal  
105 songs on it. Was like screaming electric guitars. I really want to learn drums and meal to play  
106 those and like I thought to be super cool to be an abandoned like I never even considered that  
107 that that as a possibility because I knew my mom would say no to drums, because like their loud,  
108 they take up space, it's like aggressive. Like she would not be okay with it long did want me like  
109 finally get some like hobby, other than playing video games so she was like, Oh, Nathan you  
110 should pick up piano And I was like five of the idea because there's there's also, there's also the  
111 song on that soundtrack that has like this really well known piano tune.  
112  
113 CD: It's the menu music right when you first pull up the game?  
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115 NG: Yeah yeah exactly the menu music and that's like super well known. So I was like, oh yeah,  
116 I can definitely try to learn that. And this other band called Avenged Sevenfold that I was like  
117 obsessed with in middle school. They also had a lot of songs with really good piano parts. So I  
118 was totally like okay with the idea of learning piano and I started that in around seventh grade  
119 and I like loved it instantly and I was really inspired to keep going.  
120  
121 CD: Awesome. So, moving right along here. How was your transition from middle school to  
122 high school. It's a big jump really, it's an important part of your life. Yeah, how was that for you.  
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124 NG: That was, it was pretty good. Like, I didn't struggle too much, but I was definitely like back  
125 when I was starting high school I was definitely like a much more shy and like socially awkward  
126 than I am now and I was not outgoing, so I had, like, just like a really tight knit group of friends,  
127 which ended up all like moving away. At the end of that year. But like for the beginning it was  
128 pretty good. I was like, just getting into, like, really heavy metal. So, I was always like wearing

129 all black. And like I was growing out my hair and stuff like that but like generally like I had  
130 friends and like since the small town like I already knew pretty much everyone

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132 CD: How big was your high school like what was your graduating class.

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134 NG: Ah, I don't know, it's maybe like 300 kids in the grade. I don't know how big that is. But it  
135 was definitely a good school and it was the only high school in the city, um but yeah, so I  
136 definitely like knew everyone in the transition was pretty smooth, and especially like my first,  
137 my freshman year. Most of my classes were really easy. Like, I remember I had like two or three  
138 classes that were like those just like they're easy but they're so boring. Like, that's tough because  
139 it's just the same thing every day. But like, it definitely wasn't a challenge. So, I had a lot of fun.

140

141 CD: That's good. What's your favorite memory from high school?

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143 NG: I think like senior year definitely takes the cake for all like my favorite high school  
144 memories because that's when I actually started like doing things because I joined theater and I  
145 took part in homecoming. So I was in like this big lip sync. Where we like it was like a dance  
146 routine that we practice and stuff like that. I don't know how to dance, but like I did my best.  
147 And we did this like little bit to like revenge. The Minecraft parody of Falling in love. Like I was  
148 super proud of that. And also, I was able to get a part in like a musical. And so I was in The  
149 Addams Family Musical, I got cast as Lurch.

150

151 CD: Nice

152

153 NG: Like it was my first time I ever audition. I actually got like a part with a solo and like lines  
154 which are just growls I got real good at those growls. So I was really happy. Being a part of that  
155 show. And that was just really special and I made so many friends. It's great.

156

157 CD: Um, so this is something that we talked about a lot before what was uh, tell me about your  
158 first time listening to Elliott Smith's self-titled album.

159

160 NG: Oh, yeah. So, um, I discovered Elliott Smith through this friend that I had and like she made  
161 a post about it on Instagram. She was like, oh, trying to learn, oh Elliot Smith songs. I was like,  
162 oh, let me check this guy out so um I downloaded like two of his albums when I was in Hawaii.  
163 And like the first one was Either/Or, which is is like most well-known album and I just kind of  
164 listen to that one in the background. It was good but it didn't like stand out to me at the time.  
165 When I was just like listening to it. While like working or doing some other stuff that on the  
166 plane back to California. I put on his self titled, and like I had to like really blast it because it's a  
167 really quiet album. And like I was on a plane. So it was like almost like drowning in like this  
168 background noise but like instantly. I was like, completely like encapsulated in it because he's  
169 just one guy with his guitar. It's like super lofi. It's really quiet. He's like almost like whisper  
170 singing and he's just got like a few layers of his voice and a few layers of guitar, but like even  
171 but even with just that you don't get bored for the album. And like I was like I thought it was

172 super cool. And one of the songs, kind of like super heavy and like grungy and these other ones  
173 were like really sad and beautiful. And instantly I was like, I can do this. Like, I'm not that good  
174 of a singer. I don't have like an impressive voice, but neither is he and it works really well so I  
175 can definitely teach myself to sing like this. And I can learn to play guitar like this which I soon  
176 learned that it was not as easy as it sounded to play like him. But it really inspired me that I could  
177 like write my own songs and record them myself just in my room with like a laptop and a  
178 microphone. And that like I could make music outside of like a metal band like because I've been  
179 struggling to start a metal band for so long. And like I knew that I couldn't do a solo project for  
180 metal bands. I didn't know how to play drums and how to play. I didn't have an electric guitar. So  
181 this, this was the way that I realized I could actually like on my own write songs record them and  
182 like maybe play shows in the near future. And it was just really important to me. And that's still  
183 like one of my top 10 favorite albums.

184

185 CD: So obviously like this was a huge turning point in it your music, who do you think are your  
186 big inspirations as an artist.

187

188 NG: Um, definitely Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails, like a lot of 90s music but Trent Reznor is  
189 like a huge one, because he just makes like the heaviest music in the world. That's what I listened  
190 to, when I'm like getting my anger out and I feel like I need to scream. And not only that, but I  
191 just think he had like an awesome stage presence and I saw him live once. And it was really  
192 incredible. There's this one smaller band that's less than one called The Lemon Twigs and they're  
193 these two brothers and they're a new band, but they make music that's like very inspired by like  
194 60s and 70s and it sounds real old. It's got like these modern like synth influences, and I'm just  
195 obsessed with them because they play everything and it sounds like this like full band like  
196 orchestration and like all these fancy arrangements and harmonies, but it's just these two brothers  
197 who are like their first album, they're like 17 and 19. Now they're in their 20s and it's just so  
198 impressive like I've seen them live and they can shred they know how to like improvise. Like  
199 they take one song and then they drag it on for like an eight minutes with all these different parts  
200 of the add on. It's just so cool. And not only that, they like have this really unique like fashion  
201 sense where they like thrift clothes and bring him like, retro stuff and new kind of like some  
202 some gender fluid stuff where they like wear like crop tops and and all these like booty shorts are  
203 all these interesting things. And I just thought it was so interesting. So it really like inspired me  
204 to like up my fashion sense and get like really special clothes drafting and now I've got all these  
205 like cool shirts and I don't know it. They really they changed me in a lot of ways, and like  
206 influenced a lot of how I am as a person.

207

208 CD: That's amazing. So describe for me the day of your first open mic at The octopus.

209

210 NG: Ooh. Um, that was interesting because it was the day before school started. So like my  
211 senior year was studying the next day and I had a really bad summer. So this was that my like the  
212 highlight of that summer. And because schools started the next day that morning, I was like  
213 taking apart like binders and like putting away papers and recycling those and at one point I was  
214 like taking a part of binder and like I don't know why I was like pulling apart like them. The

215 metal rings from the plastic part to recycle and actually cut to my fingers on it. Um, so that was  
216 like really funny timing and then ended up being fine because I didn't really have to use those  
217 fingers for song. I had to play. But it was just like, really funny as I showed my mom and she  
218 was like, "Oh, Nathan not on the day of your open mic." And like I was bleeding and stuff. And I  
219 just ended up like getting a bandaid and it was no problem. But yeah, and this open mic was  
220 interesting, it was like the last open mic that the Octopus was doing because I had been planning  
221 on playing there for a really long time. I want to do like a full show. Like my family friend Dave  
222 knows the owners and like we're really close to them. And I wanted to play there for a while and  
223 I was hoping I could get like a real gig and play like five songs like a few originals, a few covers,  
224 something like that. But I didn't feel it ready so I had to practice them enough. But then I found  
225 out that the open mic was actually shutting down because they couldn't afford to keep it open. So  
226 that was the last open mic, they're doing, and I was like, okay, forget it. I definitely have to at  
227 least play this open mic. This place is really important that I've been to a few shows there. So, I  
228 practiced this one Elliot's mess on really really like diligently to make sure I was solid with it.  
229 And then I went that night and I was able to sign up really early and play that song went really  
230 well. Everyone seemed to like it and it was a cover like I it would have been nice to play on  
231 original, I think, but I'm happy that I played that one because it's an important song to me. And I  
232 also met like made some friends there. There were some other kids around my age, that played  
233 open mics that were musicians of assembling like singer songwriters that do acoustic stuff and  
234 like really some stuff on SoundCloud so I got like their information. We still talk sometimes and  
235 kind of share like music stuff that's very fun. I really enjoyed it.

236  
237 CD: Yeah, what's The Octopus like, like as a music venue.

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239 NG: Oh, it's this small like Cafe bookstore type place. So, they have like a piano in the corner  
240 and they sell like coffee and cookies and like pastries and then they've got like bookshelves  
241 everywhere and like a small setting area so like I think more like during the day it's more just  
242 like a cafe with books and they might sell some records to and during like the evening, that's  
243 when they have concerts small shows of like local artists, sometimes they have touring bands and  
244 musicians, but it's definitely pretty chill. It's not a big place like it's like the size of someone's  
245 living room. And yeah, and it's really nice or it was really nice.

246  
247 CD: Yeah. So, what were your, what were your ambitions, when you graduated from high  
248 school.

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250 NG: Um, I definitely wanted to like focus on animating in college. Because like music wasn't  
251 really like pursuable enough, because it's not like reliable as a career like I can't be like, "Yeah, I  
252 want to be a rock star." So, I definitely like focused on animating. And I really wanted to get  
253 better at it and like, move on from just Legos and do stuff like armatures and claymation and  
254 puppets. But I also really wanted to like keep doing my music and I wanted to like work on it as  
255 much as possible in my free time and like record stuff and write an album and ideally like data  
256 like albums released or something for that. I'm not even close to that happening yet.

257

258 CD: What's your, what's your preferred type of animation, like what style?

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260 NG: Definitely like stop motion is what I'm most comfortable with. But recently I've been  
261 learning to do like drawn animation with a tablet and I'm definitely most comfortable with  
262 Legos, but I really want to get to use armatures and like figurines and stuff like what, Laika does

263  
264 CD: Yeah. Um, alright so now getting into some of this pandemic stuff. When did you first  
265 become aware of the coronavirus?

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267 NG: Um, probably in January of this year, like maybe December, but it was probably at first  
268 through, like, I hate to say it memes, like probably just like jokes about it. Well, I got first. I  
269 probably heard like something like short thing about it, like how it was starting up in China and  
270 like no one was really worried about it. And it was more just like little jokes about it, saying like,  
271 oh it was going to die out quickly would like how wasn't great. And I think because there had  
272 already been like not so great things that year, because they're already been like the threat of  
273 World War Three. So like 2020 is already not off to a good start. So that was already like the  
274 jokes were already starting in January. So yeah, that's definitely like when I first heard about was  
275 like early January through like Instagram posts and like YouTube videos and do mainly just like  
276 jokes.

277  
278 CD: So what happened when you shut down when your school shut down last spring.

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280 NG: Um, originally, we shut down like right before spring break, saying that'd it'd be like, the  
281 two weeks of no school before spring break, then spring break, and the school is going to come  
282 back and that was announced on March 13 and like, at that time, everyone was really happy. We  
283 were like yeah no school. This is gonna be super fun. It's like a long spring break. And like we  
284 were we were ecstatic. And we thought it was gonna be fine. And then eventually school was  
285 like hey guess what school's is not coming back. And that's when we started to get more  
286 bummed out because we realized that we weren't gonna be able to see each other again and we  
287 weren't gonna have a graduation and like nothing like the typical like end of high school  
288 experience was going to happen anymore. So that's when we started get much more bummed out.

289  
290 CD: Yeah, that's, that's a tough transition to really kind of realize that there's not, it's not coming  
291 back. Yeah, how did you feel at that time graduating high school, you know, with this whole  
292 pandemic going on.

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294 NG: It was it was strange. I mean, we had like a sort of graduation ceremony where we like one  
295 at a time like passed the school with masks on, and like surprisingly we shook hands and we got  
296 our diplomas, but it was a, like a quick like get in, get out kind of thing. I didn't have time to  
297 hang around and see my friends like it was still nice because I still like got to wear my  
298 graduation robe and I decorated my cap with like an album cover and I saw some friends the next  
299 day, and like distanced, of course, but it was it was a weird feeling because it didn't feel like I'd

300 really graduated and it didn't feel like summer had really started and it was just really anti  
301 climactic like nothing happened. And it was not satisfying.

302  
303 CD: At what point to the pandemic really set it?

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305 NG: I think just like around in March when like when they're like mandatory masks. Was  
306 required like when they're saying like, you have to wear masks have to stay six feet apart and  
307 like Especially at first when my parents were really paranoid like every time we went grocery  
308 shopping and be like gloves, mask and then as soon as we came back, we'd like wipe down  
309 everything we bought, which I don't know if that actually helped because we kind of stopped  
310 doing it. So hopefully we don't still need to do that. But yeah, that's what I really felt like this is  
311 the end of the world. And it was definitely scary because like we would just stay inside all day.  
312 And whenever we went outside would be super careful and it was it was weird.

313  
314 CD: What was the situation like at home like what was, what were people doing around you?

315  
316 NG: Um, I mean, my dad like works a lot and my mom doesn't. So, for my dad was definitely  
317 like stressful and he was getting really sick of it because he's used to traveling for work.  
318 And he had, his offices in San Francisco, and he'll a lot of times, like fly to other places like  
319 England, and I think he had a trip to Spain and like Japan lined up. So, for him, it was really hard  
320 to just be in his home office all day on like video calls and Zoom and he was just so sick of it.  
321 So, we, we didn't get, like, much like real context. My dad would just kind of get him like  
322 coming into the kitchen during lunchtime like getting us out of his way like making a sandwich  
323 or whatever. So that was definitely stressful but at the same time, my mom and my brother were  
324 there and they were just kind of chilling. We didn't have much on our plates and school work  
325 was like so light at the time was like nothing happening and we were just like, a lot of times  
326 bored. We watched a lot of TV and a lot of movies and it wasn't that bad. Especially at first. We  
327 weren't too sick. I like had some photography projects that I could work on that were really,  
328 really fun. But it was certainly are just being around each other for so long and always like  
329 seeing each other and like only being able to text my friends, I felt like I was always on my  
330 phone.

331  
332 CD: Oh yeah, how did the how did that I'm staying inside and doing all that quarantining. How  
333 did that change their relationship with your parents and your brother?

334  
335 NG: I'm definitely like got a little sick of seeing my brother sometimes because he takes up a lot  
336 of space and he's, he's like, Yeah, I don't know how to say it best, but he definitely like needs a  
337 lot of attention. Sometimes, and he's like loud. My mom is very calm and I can never get tired of  
338 her and she's very sweet. But yeah, my dad definitely was like very pent up and sometimes he'd  
339 get like really impatient and he'd just be very tired and like sometimes he'd be easily annoyed.  
340 So sometimes, we'd have to like deal with him, and just like, be patient with them and sometimes  
341 he'd get like angry making food and It was definitely strange my parents definitely like argued  
342 more during quarantine and they definitely had some rough moments, but overall I got along



343 with my parents just fine. And me and my brother never really fight we just like to have  
344 disagreements, or like get annoyed by each other sometimes

345  
346 CD: Yeah. How did it change your plans for your summer?

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348 NG: Oh yeah, um, I think I had like probably one or two concerts plan. Those are canceled.  
349 Excuse me. Um probably like I there were plenty things that I wanted to do with friends because  
350 um. So yeah, we're, we're going to go to Canada again because my family always goes to  
351 Canada. So, we were going to do that. And that obviously didn't happen. I think my friends  
352 wanted we wanted to go like camping together with all the friends I've made in theater. So that  
353 didn't happen. And generally, like I would have probably done like a bunch of open mics and  
354 stuff like that and try to done like some gigs and go to like local shows and that didn't happen.  
355 All sorts of, like, things like that. Like, I wasn't able to just have fun, really.

356  
357 CD: Yeah. So how did you stay connected with those friends, even though you probably do other  
358 things that you wanted to?

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360 NG: Yeah, we, we got like Jackbox games we had game nights a lot over zoom where we played  
361 like Quiplash, Faking It, and stuff like that Monster Seeking Monster. So that, that's how we  
362 stayed connected and we had a group chat. But yeah, mainly it was through game nights and like  
363 zoom calls and stuff like that. Like every now and then we do like some sort of like meet up in  
364 person with masks and like socially distance like one of my friends who do have a band that  
365 actually worked. They did this like socially distanced concert, where they were like across the  
366 street in their front yard and they had masks on while they were playing which I really salute  
367 them for even like singing they had masks on, and then we were like, completely like the other  
368 side of the street, watching socially distanced, masks on, and we were able to hear like their,  
369 their short set list of songs I played. I think they played it twice, too. It's fun. Yeah, so that was  
370 nice and other little things like we did like a distance musical student production where we did  
371 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee and we just like recorded our parts and sent them in  
372 and then someone added them together and were able to watch that on YouTube afterwards. So  
373 that was really fun. And I was like, I was able to practice my music and I got better at singing  
374 through that and got to bond with these people as well.

375  
376 CD: Nice. How would you describe your mental health before the pandemic?

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378 NG: Before the pandemic. I think it was the best I've ever been. Because theater. Like I made so  
379 many friends and I felt like so connected with people and I was just having so much fun. And I  
380 was getting better at music and acting and dancing. I was like learning these new things and  
381 having all these new experiences and like hanging out with people and it was just so fun. And I  
382 was getting along so well and my school is going pretty well too. So, before the pandemic hit. I  
383 was doing really great and I was really happy and like it was definitely like a highlight of high  
384 school. So, like even right when the pandemic hit I was like, still like on that kind of high and  
385 still doing really good from all that,

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CD: So how did that change, what happened as the pandemic went through?

NG: Yeah, like, once I think the turning point was once they announced the high school wasn't coming back, that's when things started get worse because then I like I started to get really sick of being at home and I started to lose motivation for working on music and schoolwork and like, yeah, that's when I really started to lose motivation general and wasn't as inspired to do the things that I liked or the things that I didn't like and I still spoke with my friends, but we are all just like bummed out more and more and like getting really tired and just kind of sad in general.

CD: What were some coping skills that you use to deal with all the anxiety and feelings of depression and all that?

NG: Definitely like watching movies, listening to, like, my favorite albums, every now and then I'm like, write a song. Sometimes that would help or just generally like when I was motivated working on music would be really helpful. And sometimes just distracting myself with homework was nice. I think that helped and like I still spoke with my friends and like when I was having a rough day as I talked about it and like we talked to each other about our problems.

CD: How did, how do you think the pandemic influenced your art, both with an animation and with your music.

NG: Oh well, definitely give me time to finish my animation, because I had this one really big like Lego Batman video that I was working on. And I had started it really long time ago, but during the pandemic, I was able to, like, kind of like finally finish it, and gave me like take that push to finish it, and ended up being like a nine-minute video which is not easy to do.

CD: That's a lot of animation right there.

NG: It was a lot of photos. That was nice. I was able to finally finish that I and I think I finished a few other videos too and just got some other work done. So that was nice and terms of music. Sometimes I really wasn't as inspired because I felt like there wasn't really anything I could do and like it was definitely like that dilemma were like, oh, I have so much free time, I should be using it to work on music and animation and like I could be doing so much. But then like you just don't feel motivated and that just made me feel even worse because I felt like I was wasting all this time I had. But that being said, I did get some songs done. I think I wrote one song, but like not having senior prom and stuff. And I was really proud of one and that one got good reception by my friends. So, my art it didn't struggle too much like it. I definitely still was able to create some things that I was really proud of.

CD: That's great. And I'm sure that was you said that at least writing the music was a good way to cope

429 NG: Was yeah, yeah. All like doing art and things like that definitely helps like keep me busy.  
430  
431 CD: Um, how do you feel that your mental health status has changed since the summer. You  
432 think it's gotten better or gotten worse or?  
433  
434 NG: Oh, it's gotten way better. I think like school has stressed me out. But I've also made a lot of  
435 friends and I have a girlfriend, too. So it definitely helps. But yeah, I've been like a lot of friends  
436 and like I have a lot of people to hang out with, and talk to. And generally, it's like not as much  
437 of a bummer as when I'm stuck at home. Feel the same like somewhere new. And like seeing the  
438 city really refresh everything and like, up until going into lockdown. Again, I was able to go  
439 places and like eat at restaurants. Go thrifting and stuff like that really brought my mood up and I  
440 was able to do new things and like get new experiences.  
441  
442 CD: Yeah. So what kind of what kind of media and stuff did you look at well to, like, you know,  
443 that was to comfort you, so like movies or music or TV?  
444  
445 NG: I found myself watching a lot of like really classic movies that I hadn't seen before, like it  
446 like all these like greatest movies of all time. And I just somehow hadn't seen like Shawshank  
447 Redemption and Goodfellas, Her, Fight Club. Bunch of Scorsese, some of it, I didn't really didn't  
448 like but that's besides the point. Um, I, yeah, I definitely noticed myself finding like a lot of  
449 really like classic movies that I just somehow had missed and I had a lot of fun watching those.  
450 And the music was probably some more of the same stuff like Nine Inch Nails, Neutral Milk  
451 Hotel, Pink Floyd, stuff like that. I probably did discover some new like I discovered like the  
452 Flaming Lips and a few other bands like Alkaline Trio, stuff like that. But it was mainly like the  
453 same music that I just like listen to when I'm feeling down.  
454  
455 CD: So, what do you use for news sources?  
456  
457 NG: Probably just like Instagram and like it's definitely not the best news source but like i  
458 definitely just use. I don't really watch the news. And my family doesn't stay super up to date,  
459 like every now then on like big events like when I was like in the California fires and like Covid  
460 was starting out, they'd watch the news, but my family isn't super, especially since my families  
461 like they from Canada, so they don't keep up with like American politics that much. And they  
462 don't understand it all. So it's not something we talked about as a family, but sometimes my  
463 brother will tell me some stuff, because he's a little more involved. And I learned a bit from  
464 him and I learned a lot from my friends because I have some very political friends. We get  
465 generally like I I don't keep up with it that much, it's more, it's kind of like what I learned. Like,  
466 while being on the internet on Instagram and YouTube and while talking to people I know.  
467  
468 CD: Yeah. So how did you react to the killing of George Floyd?  
469  
470 NG: I mean, I was definitely like outraged, kind of like, in a way, I wasn't surprised because stuff  
471 like that happened before. And there had already been similar ones before him and that year I

472 had been learning a lot more about the injustices in the police system and the criminal justice  
473 system. So I was already like starting to really like hate the police. But this kind of like really  
474 sunk in like how it just was not right and this like things had to change. And yeah, it was  
475 definitely like it was tough. It was it was hard to see all these people dying from police officers  
476 these like innocent black people.

477  
478 CD: So, what are the Black Lives Matter movement look like in your area?

479  
480 NG: There are definitely protests and there are also those like raids and stuff, which was kind of  
481 scary. And I wasn't involved because with Covid and just like my parents fearing for my safety  
482 and their safety. They did not want me going. So. I definitely didn't ever go and didn't really do  
483 much activism. But we saw a lot of it was on the news. It was all over social media like  
484 obviously everyone like posting all these things on their stories and stuff like that. But yeah, we  
485 saw a lot of it through the news, because that that was a time when we were watching the news a  
486 little more and trying to stay up to date because so much was happening. But yeah, there  
487 definitely was lots of activism protests in my area, especially more like SF, Oakland, because  
488 Oakland has a very large like population of people of color.

489  
490 CD: How do you think social media impacted the Black Lives Matter movement he talked about  
491 a lot of posts, posting on stories.

492  
493 NG: Yeah, I think I was lot of just performative activism just people just posting just because  
494 like everyone is just sharing the same stuff and I just got kind of sick of it at a certain point. Like  
495 when it was like posting the black squares and stuff like that, just things that like did nothing but  
496 it was just people trying to show that they cared, which I think like, at that point, it's better to just  
497 like just not do anything. And at a certain point. Like it doesn't make much of a difference, but  
498 there were also people who are like sharing like legitimate resources and I was really nice when  
499 people actually like put effort into it and we're trying to like make a difference with their posts,  
500 but generally social media like it help to inform you, but it also like got a lot of people using it  
501 like trying to make a difference when really, they weren't doing anything or just trying to make it  
502 look like they cared.

503  
504 CD: Yeah, how, how did you feel about the whole thing? Like, you know, was it did it change  
505 how you talk to certain people or certain people in your in your life?

506  
507 NG: I don't think so, because most of my friends didn't like repost the same thing five times or  
508 anything, but yeah, like I definitely wasn't super involved in social media around that time like  
509 everyone was saying like, you have to repost this and repost that and I just kind of like ignored it  
510 like every now and then I'd like sign a petition, but like, sometimes it was hard to see if that  
511 really did anything. I'd like sometimes like useful resources, I would like, keep in mind, but a lot  
512 of times it felt like it was just kind of like pointless for all these posts and I wasn't very involved  
513 in the social media aspect of it.

515 CD: How did it you know go over with your friends and your family did you kind of all agree, or  
516 did you have some disagreements there?

517  
518 NG: I think we all agreed pretty much like we realized like, it was also like I think for my  
519 parents, they were definitely like learning about this, some it was kind of new to them and like  
520 for yeah for something like the older people, my family it was more eye opening. It was  
521 definitely like just like a freaky time. It was like scary to think of all these like these riots and  
522 like these police like in the right gear and stuff and when they're like beating crowds and it was it  
523 was it was scary and really uncomfortable to see, but I think all my family like family and  
524 friends all agreed on it and like, there weren't any arguments about it ever which I'm really  
525 thankful for.

526  
527 CD: That's good. Um, how did you decide that you're going to come to Columbia?

528  
529 NG: Um, I think I discovered it just while looking at like schools, with originally I was looking  
530 to do foley in school. So, like sound effects for movies and video games and stuff. So me and my  
531 mom were looking for a good schools for that and Columbia was one of the ones we stumbled  
532 upon I thought was really cool and I knew Chicago is a city that I'd really want to see and it just  
533 looked like a really good school, especially for like kind of artsy people like me and creative  
534 minds. So it was one of my top two choices. And I only applied to two schools, which was  
535 definitely risky, but I was very, very confident that I'd get into Columbia. And the other school  
536 was Concordia in Montreal. But it's funny because I originally looked for foley and both of them,  
537 but I ended up going for animation because it was what I was much more comfortable in and  
538 actually has a sense of like forming portfolio was not nearly as hard and not as stressful. I don't  
539 have to like learn new things for it. And yeah, I didn't get into the other school, but I got into  
540 Columbia, so Columbia was obviously where I had to go and I was very happy with it. And  
541 yeah, I think it was a really good choice. And I'm proud of this place.

542  
543 CD: Yeah hopefully sometime you still get to go into the Columbia foley studio because it's  
544 cool.

545  
546 NG: I'm sure it is.

547  
548 CD: Um, how did you decide to, well, I guess you talked about that as you said you picked  
549 animation, just because it was more comfortable. So how, how have the Covid 19 protocols  
550 affected your first year college so far?

551  
552 NG: It's been a weird. I mean, like, obviously not, I have like maybe three in person classes and  
553 like the in person classes didn't really feel like they are giving me much more than distance  
554 classes. And like, I'm glad to be in my dorm because it's nice to kind of have my own space, but  
555 it's it's definitely been weird, like I like sometimes like all these like canvas discussions can get a  
556 little repetitive and like assignments are definitely like not as fun to do. And it's just like, I find it  
557 really hard to pay attention in class. Sometimes, especially when it's the teacher doing some sort

558 of like tutorial in like a program like Blender or Harmony, where it's like he's animating and then  
559 we're supposed to follow along. I find it impossible to switch like my screen from like zoom, to  
560 the program like I can just never follow along. I just kind of have to like watch him and then just  
561 like afterwards, try to figure it out. So that's been tough. A lot of the classes like serious program  
562 work definitely takes a long time for me to actually like finish these assignments. And the other  
563 classes feel like there's just kind of not much happening. But generally, I've been doing good.  
564 I've been maintaining all As, and I've been keeping pretty good relations with my teachers and  
565 friends. So it's not it's not a bad time.

566

567 CD: How do you feel your workload has been. Do you think it's, you know, is it more or less  
568 than you expected?

569

570 NG: I think it's about what I expected. Some animation like animation takes a while to do which  
571 I kind of knew getting into, but it's definitely like it's not fun, sometimes having to work like for  
572 hours on one assignment, but most of my other classes, the workload is really light. And like, it's  
573 usually just like a few like little like write ups and stuff like that, which is never that bad. Some  
574 teachers give a little more work than others, but I think it's fine. Overall, like I it's definitely like  
575 manageable and I'm never too stressed for my work.

576

577 CD: Good. How have your practices to avoid Covid evolved?

578

579 NG: Um,

580

581 CD: Especially now that you're in Chicago.

582

583 NG: Yeah, I like I'm very safe about it. Um, there's definitely like a time when I kind of let my  
584 guard down. I think probably when I moved to Chicago I was a little less careful about it. Well, I  
585 don't know. Because I know when I, when I first got Chicago. I did the whole 14 day quarantine.  
586 I was very strict about that. So I was definitely like good about that. And I've still always wore  
587 my mask and I've never done like taking off my mask. When I didn't have to. And like, even in  
588 the streets and things like that. I try to wash my hands as often as possible and uh. Man. Yeah, I  
589 think, generally, I still I'm still very safe about it. I keep my distance and I like don't go to places  
590 that I don't need to. And I tried to go outside too often. Yeah I follow all the regulations and I  
591 think it's it's stayed pretty much the same since the beginning. Like, I don't think, like, and when  
592 the pen first started I was little less careful about it and I didn't wear my mask at first when I  
593 wasn't mandatory. But since then, yeah, I think I've stayed pretty strict about it with myself and  
594 people I know.

595

596 CD: ---

597

598 NG: Sorry, I didn't hear that. You're very quiet right now.

599

600 CD: ---

601  
602 NG: That I see, your mike might be cutting out  
603  
604 CD: ---  
605  
606 NG: Uh oh. That's not good. Let me check to make sure my Wi Fi is okay. Huh. Yeah, you're  
607 completely frozen on my, on my oh not quite.  
608  
609 CD: Can you hear me now?  
610  
611 NG: Yeah, that's better.  
612  
613 CD: Alright.  
614  
615 NG: Yikes.  
616  
617 CD: Alright. So yeah, what is your average day look like now?  
618  
619 NG: Um, well, now I'm in my dorm. So usually, I've been waking up pretty late now. Usually I  
620 wake up at like if I don't have class, it will be usually around noon. If I do have class probably  
621 around like 8. Um, but yeah. Usually, if I have class. I'll wake up and then eat breakfast. Take a  
622 shower and try to get ready a decent time. And breakfast I'll like get myself from like cereal that  
623 I like to have kept my apartment and then I go to class and that's usually like three hours. And  
624 after that, I'm I might take a nap again because a lot of times I'm really tired after class. But most  
625 the time all then go get lunch at the cafeteria which food is alright. I've definitely got a little sick  
626 of the cafeteria food of the UC. But then after class after lives. I might have another class but um  
627 you to them. That's when I like do some homework, play some guitar. And usually when I'm  
628 eating. I like watch TV or watch a movie because I absolutely hate to just sit in silence, and eat.  
629 And it's a good time to like it caught up on like shows that I'm watching or YouTubers that make  
630 content that I like. And then, yeah, it's, it's pretty like basic days. There's never anything special,  
631 usually on Fridays I do like practicing the piano room. Sometimes I go to the gym and I've kind  
632 of stopped since we've got, like, the more strict lockdown. Yeah. Now I now I see my girlfriend  
633 really commonly and she's also in the UC, so, it's safe and she comes over pretty often.  
634  
635 CD: How would you describe living in the UC? So, what's it like to someone who's, who's never  
636 been there?  
637  
638 NG: It's nice. It's, I have a really spacious room because I have like the semi suite where it's  
639 meant to be like a room and that you share with two people and then you share the bathroom  
640 with another room. Except, because of Covid I'm alone in here. So I have like the two beds and  
641 it's like bigger than my living room back at home. So that's nice. It's definitely very comfortable.  
642 It gets like the temperatures here can be weird. And as it's really cold and like I can hear the train  
643 pass by and there's a lot of just kind of like city noise around. But it's nice to cafeteria food is

644 like, I definitely gotten tired of it. It's like a lot of times it's like pizza and burgers and my pasta,  
645 but every now and every now and then there's something that's just really good and then I'm very  
646 happy to eat. Apart from that, it's like pretty basic. I mean, I'm always in my room. So there's not  
647 much else to it. Like, there's a few music practice rooms so I can go play piano with this very out  
648 of tune piano. But it's nice to be able to practice, although sometimes it's hard to tell if I'm like  
649 playing around notes. So I could definitely like use a nice piano when I miss having like a really  
650 nice sounding piano, but it's generally it's a nice place to live. And I'm glad to be here.

651

652 CD: So how have you been connecting with other students?

653

654 NG: Definitely like a lot of people at first I met them through Instagram. And made some friends  
655 that way and then we'd like we've met up. I've also made friends through classmates and in my  
656 online classes that I've like got their information. And a lot of my classes have group chats or  
657 discards, or I can stay in touch and just like asked questions about class and discuss assignments.  
658 And that's been a really nice and I have a few like close friends that I talk to regularly in Chicago  
659 and see in person. I used to do in person now a little less, but definitely have some friends that  
660 I've been more in touch with.

661

662 CD: How do you communicate with your professors?

663

664 NG: Professors is usually through email. One of my professors uses Teams and he does it, he  
665 does his thing, or about every class. At the end, like he finishes his lesson and then he'll go  
666 through and call everyone on Teams. Like to get a little one on one, which I think is really, really  
667 nice and really good on his part because it lets us all, like, give them like a quick rundown of  
668 how we're feeling about the class. Our workload has been just how we're doing and questions we  
669 have its weakness. Ask him without being shy, like in front of the class or anything. So that's a  
670 really good way that he does it. Most other professors is just through email. If I have a question  
671 which is definitely weird because sometimes I have like a small question. It's like, it feels like it's  
672 not worth it to ask over email. So that's awesome, where it's it's not like it used to be where like  
673 if you have one little question or two little questions, you can just walk up to them after class and  
674 ask them. Now you have to like make a whole thing about it. Get your properly formatted email.  
675 And sometimes, it will take them like three days to respond. So, it's definitely way more  
676 awkward. I mean, it's not nearly as efficient communicating professors, but you can still get it  
677 done.

678

679 CD: So how do you feel about the quality of classes and just kind of the class system overall now  
680 that it's pretty much online?

681

682

683 NG: I think it's like generally not as good. Like, I'm not learning nearly as much and I think like  
684 the classes aren't packed with as much material. Like each class. I feel like is really long. I don't  
685 learn that much like it could be a lot denser with material and like generally like I don't  
686 remember it. I don't retain it as much and online learning is just not nearly as efficient. So, it's



687 definitely not the best. But yeah classes still pretty good. Like, I'm still learning things, especially  
688 in like the classes related to my major. I think I've made a lot of progress and I've gotten to know  
689 programs that I didn't know existed before. And like, I've actually learned skills that I can use  
690 most of my other classes almost feel like I'm like filler and like, I'm not really going to do much  
691 with them.

692  
693 CD: Alright. So moving right along to the election now. It was a big year. How did you cast your  
694 ballot?

695  
696 NG: I it was a little weird because I think my parents got it in the mail, because since I'm from  
697 California, and that's where I registered to vote. So, my parents got it in the mail and then they  
698 send it over to me with like priority mail in around October. So then when they send it to me,  
699 eventually I got a few days later I filled it out. And a lot of the things I like wasn't too familiar  
700 with. So I contacted my friends who are much more politically active had like similar views and  
701 asked them, I got some help and I looked up some sources, while working on it. So it took me a  
702 little bit probably fill it out to make sure I had like stuff that I was happy and confident in and  
703 then after that I just like posted it through the mail room and then probably went back to like the  
704 California Government.

705  
706 CD: Awesome. So how do you feel your political stances have changed over the past year?

707  
708 NG: Um, I think like they've stayed fairly similar. But I think I've definitely gotten like more of  
709 that mindset of like defunding the police and just taking their money away to pass on to other  
710 people and like spread it out through other things like healthcare and education and like helping  
711 homeless people and things like that. And there's generally like distributing wealth and like using  
712 taxes in better ways has been like the biggest takeaway from this and just like being more anti-  
713 police on I used to be. But apart from that, I think it's stayed pretty much the same, like I like I  
714 hated Trump way before this year. But I think, like, just as the year went on. I've just like liked  
715 him less than less. Just like every year. It's just been kind of like everything he says, I was like,  
716 man, I can't wait for him to be gone.

717  
718 CD: So what were the most important issues for you that influenced your vote?

719  
720 NG: Um, I know if there's any like one thing, but I think the way he took care or tried to take  
721 care of the virus was just really not impressive. And that was definitely part of it and just all the  
722 like the ways he did absolutely nothing during the Black Lives Matter movement he did nothing  
723 to like go against the police and help people of color, which I wasn't surprising coming from  
724 him, but it was still just awful to see and that whole lie, stand back and standby thing like that  
725 stuff is just all like really hard to watch. And it was just kind of pathetic sometimes seeing the  
726 way he reacted to these things and the way he handled some situations.

727  
728 CD: So how did you then feel on election night?

729

730 NG: Um, yeah, no, I was definitely really happy. I mean, it was, it was such a weird time when  
731 like we had to wait like three or four days for the results and like Joe Biden definitely isn't  
732 perfect, he's got plenty of flaws to but it's just such a step up and I'm just so happy that that  
733 Trump will be out of office and I really hope that things go smoothly during the transition.

734

735 CD: So how was how was the election and everything affected your relationships with your  
736 family and friends? Was it stayed pretty much the same?

737

738 NG: Yeah, I think all our political views are pretty much the same as I said, we don't talk about it  
739 that much like my parents aren't even citizens they can't vote. So, they I mean they obviously  
740 don't like Trump either there so they were happy too. So, I pretty much share the same sentiment  
741 of people being like real happy that Trump is gone and I'm pretty happy for Biden and like they  
742 all like the ones who could vote voted the same way and I got their help on some of the things on  
743 the ballot.

744

745 CD: How did it feel having to non-citizens, his parents during this this election. There's a lot of  
746 things with immigrants in that kind of that sort of thing, especially now with the coronavirus how  
747 did that feel?

748

749 NG: Yeah. It's definitely interesting because like they can't really help me much when I was like  
750 thinking about like voting or like how to cast my ballot. I had to do a lot of research on my own,  
751 like I couldn't really ask my mom. She had no idea. And she just couldn't really like didn't know  
752 much about the situation and she just knew, like the basic information. But generally, I don't  
753 know if it really impacted with that much because my, my parents aren't I don't know. They're  
754 not like scared or anything. And generally, they're in a good place. But I think it was definitely  
755 interesting just having like non-citizens as parents during time like this where they couldn't vote  
756 and they couldn't really like pitch in and help the country.

757

758 CD: So now under some lovely reflection questions. How was it. What about your life has  
759 changed the most over the past, you know, seven months or so?

760

761 NG: Okay I think just seeing friends, school, that's like the obvious stuff. I really, really miss  
762 concerts. It's been so long since I've like seeing a performance live or been to a show. And that  
763 was a lot of fun. That's something that I miss and generally like being able to like go to  
764 restaurants and do normal things without any worry like seeing like seeing a friend and like not  
765 having to like worry if you're putting your life at risk, just by hanging out with them. So that's  
766 definitely been. weird

767

768 CD: So, what did you take for granted the most before the pandemic started?

769

770 NG: I think you just like not having anything on my face, having like a free face and like  
771 hugging friends and like shaking hands and high fives and just little things like that or like being  
772 able to like invite people into my house.

773  
774 CD: How, how do you think the pandemic will affect your future as both an animator and a  
775 musician.  
776  
777 NG: I think as a musician, it affects a lot more because like touring and shows is really, really  
778 important and it does not allow for that. So if I really want to get serious about it. Something's  
779 gonna have to change. I'm gonna have to find a way to make it work. Whereas animator, it's not  
780 nearly as bad, because I think it's much more easy to have like a controlled environment. And it's  
781 kind of like a profession that you supposed to do on your own anyway. So it doesn't change too  
782 much, but definitely like for learning, it's tough, because I can't go like on site like a like for  
783 animation classes I couldn't like go use the armatures and 3D printers and all these like props and  
784 stuff that they have and I can't be in a studio or on a set, so that's definitely tough and makes it  
785 harder to learn  
786  
787 CD: So how do you feel about your future with those things, you know, the next month and year.  
788 How do you think that pandemics going to continue to influence a lot of that stuff?  
789  
790 NG: I think I think it'll be pretty much the same. I mean, I feel like the pandemic might get a  
791 little worse in the holidays, because they're going to be a lot of people seeing each other so it's  
792 not going to get quite better soon. And I should be able to keep doing like my music on my own  
793 and like practice piano and I'm hoping I can get like better access to more instruments in some  
794 way and like yeah, more access to just all sorts of like animating tools and stuff like that. But I  
795 think it's not going to get much better yet,  
796  
797 CD: You know, if everything went back to normal today, what would you do first?  
798  
799 NG: Hmm. I mean, I definitely like go outside without a mask hug my friends. That's, that's  
800 interesting. It's like so hard to think of just one thing, especially since I'm away from my  
801 hometown it's a little harder. And like I can't just like spontaneously go to a concert, but, um, I  
802 definitely just kind of like freely hang out outside, hug people, just do yeah be comfortable.  
803  
804 CD: How do you think the government's response has been to the pandemic?  
805  
806 NG: I mean I think under the Trump administration has been pretty garbage. And like they could  
807 have done a lot better. And I think like at certain times, they should have enforced it a lot more  
808 and not giving us as much hope that things were like getting better or that like we had to let our  
809 guard down but I think they have been taking some necessary precautions. And like I think  
810 obviously like the whole like mandatory mask and six feet and like lockdowns were necessary,  
811 but sometimes I think that they they didn't do enough  
812  
813 CD: How did you feel about it in California.  
814

815 NG: California was like it has a really rough moments, especially awful because like the fires  
816 added on top of it. They had like the double like mask thing. But California had some really bad  
817 Covid moments and it was a hotspot at one point, and like the cases were going up so there  
818 wasn't much being done. But I don't know about all the specifics in terms of like what the  
819 government did and what could have done better. I just know that it definitely wasn't perfect  
820

821 CD: How do you think Columbia's response has been?  
822

823 NG: I think Columbia did somethings right but i think like for housing, they could have told us  
824 way earlier like hey guess what all your classes that could be online, like I think it would've been  
825 nice if they didn't went last minute for that because I don't have completely online classes so I  
826 was fine, but like I know a lot of friends all their classes were online and they learn that like two  
827 weeks before moving in and then they had to like cancel their plans to move in or then they were  
828 like, it was just really weird and like a difficult time for them. So, I think Columbia could have  
829 had better communication, especially during the beginning of the year. Apart from that, yeah, I  
830 think they should have like sometimes I think they've given us false hope and try too hard to  
831 think that things are going to get better soon. And, like, try to like switch things back to normal.  
832 When we're not ready for it, like within person classes and things like that. I think sometimes  
833 they should have just waited and play it safe.  
834

835 CD: Yeah, how do you think, how is this semester lived up to expectations?  
836

837 NG: I think like, once I learned that Covid was going to be a thing and that classes were going to  
838 be mainly online my I expectations were really like shot down so it hasn't been like completely  
839 like awful committed what I was expecting. Like, I think it's pretty close to what I was  
840 expecting. In some ways it was better. I was able to like actually meet people. I wasn't expecting  
841 to actually make any friends through online classes, but it's actually been pretty good and I like  
842 still had like some like some really fun like Halloween time and like I still hung out with some  
843 people. And I was still able to enjoy myself. And some classes were definitely more enjoyable  
844 and I expected, and I actually like worked online when I didn't expect them to and I actually got  
845 along with teachers and stuff like that. So in some ways it's been really good and it's definitely  
846 lived up to what I was expecting. Keeping the virus in mind.  
847

848 CD: Yeah. So you're a freshman. This is your first year of college. How do you feel about, you  
849 know, entering this next major stage of your life during a pandemic?  
850

851 NG: It's, it's been really weird, like the whole like transition from high school to college, while  
852 going through a pandemic and having all these like online stuff and not being able to like be on  
853 campus that much. It's been on it's a little disappointing for sure. Like, now what I picture and I  
854 was like starting out high school this is how like it would all happen. But I think it's also been  
855 like a really good learning experience in a certain way. It's kind of just going to be uphill from  
856 here and it's going to get better. And I have a lot to look forward to, I think, and what else. Aw  
857 man, I had something else. I forgot it. But generally, it's it's been pretty good. And like I know I

858 still stressed out because it's like a pretty hectic time like normally it's a hectic time in someone's  
859 life. Where the pandemic like adds on to it. So they definitely are times and like everything that  
860 seems like it's not going to work out and everything is seeming kind of scary. I don't know what  
861 I'm going to do next. And like I don't know how school is going to work. But overall I think it's  
862 gonna work out.

863

864 CD: So let's say you know that 100 years from now, and in 2120. Man, that's that sounds really  
865 far away. So let's say in 100 years somebody's gonna watch this video and they're just entering a  
866 pandemic. They're just entering about what we were what we were doing right now, what would  
867 you give them as advice?

868

869 NG: I'd say definitely like actually like believe it, like, pay attention to it don't like shrug it off.  
870 And actually, like, be careful about it and like follow the rules right away and then you'll have  
871 more luck of it like passing by faster. Like, don't ignore it and don't think like, oh, it's fine. Like,  
872 actually, like, pay attention and be careful with everything that's happening and take it seriously  
873 and I think it'll go by sooner if you do that. Other than like ignoring it and thinking like, oh, it  
874 will just leave like it'll go away if you actually like work on it going away and actually like are  
875 careful about it.

876

877 CD: So, this will be a question that I'm sure all of us after this pandemic will be asked for the rest  
878 of our lives. What was the best thing for you to help you get through it.

879

880 NG: Hmm, I think, like, just being able to like technology and being able to communicate  
881 actually like distanced because if something like this had happened like 100 years ago, it  
882 would've been so painful. Like, I cannot have been writing the letters and stuff. Like the fact that  
883 we're able to like to facetimes and like just call each other and constantly texting each other is  
884 really, really nice. And I would not have survived without my computer and my phone and like  
885 being able to like talk to my friends through screens.

886

887 CD: Is there anything else you'd like to add, like to talk about?

888

889 NG: Um, no, I don't think so. I mean, it's definitely been a tough time but um I've survived and  
890 it's slowly getting better and I've adjusted to it already. And I think it's going pretty good right  
891 now.

892

893 CD: That's, that's fantastic. Thank you so much. This has been Nathan Gagnon. This is Capturing  
894 Quarantine: Student Life During the Pandemic and it's currently 3:12pm on November 29<sup>th</sup> 2020  
895 Thank you very much.

896

897 NG: Thank you.

898