

I think a diary will help me cope with what's going on so here I go.

9/6/2020

I just have a lot of doubts about CS and if I'm on the right path.

I don't think I enjoy the people in CS very much. Mostly everyone is pretty introverted and sometimes just awkward. I know not everyone is like that but most are. I just have a hard time clicking with them and making meaningful connections. I talk to other people in the humanities and have a much better time with them. In my Journalism club, I have a good time with the people there, I just have a lot of fun. Same with Philosophy. I think this was true in high school as well.

I don't get excited about hearing the new advancements of technology. I get horrified and sometimes even scared but I see the ways it will be misused because people misuse technology and it gets more and more powerful everyday.

I don't enjoy coding that much. On theory, I'm very hot and cold on it. I enjoy all the philosophy aspects of it, like the idea of unsolvable problems, that's really interesting. But when things are more mathy, like the different types of proofs, it's very boring.

I look at the job listings and I think, man this doesn't look fun at all. This looks kinda boring.

Coding doesn't bring out my best self, it brings out procrastination and dread. In all my team projects, this is what always happens. I like the first couple of weeks. I love discussing the ideas, the requirements, our audience and how the product is going to affect their lives. But as soon as we have to start coding, my enthusiasm goes down and bad habits come out. I don't end up contributing that much.

If I'm not bringing my best self, I'm denying everyone and myself what I could really do and bring to the world.

9/11/2020

Next semester is going to be the same, stuck at home barely paying attention to my classes. And I won't be able to have a graduation ceremony. I'm very bitter about that, I don't know if I even want to attend the virtual one. With the quality of my classes going down and never talking to anyone, I'm not getting much out of school. All of SJSU has been a miss but it's problems have been exacerbated since COVID. Poor teachers, too expensive. The one bright spot was meeting cool like minded people but that's gone out the window. The only thing keeping me sane is my club, I like my club mates as they are nice cool people. CS has been such a let down and I'm not challenged at all. I'm not challenged because I'm not invested. The thing I've done this semester that I'm the most proud of is my piece in the newspaper, not any CS stuff. I wish I could have a physical copy.

That's why I want to go to the Peace Corps, to really be put under hard scenarios and meet new people while doing good work. I wonder how my job is going to fit into all of this.

10/8/2020

I'm afraid of discovering that the Peace Corps is not the right fit and I have no direction left to go in. I shouldn't be afraid of making mistakes because then I'll find the gaps of my

knowledge and what I really want. I'm afraid of doing the app because I'm not sure that it's right for me, or the right step for my future, or I'll figure out how little I've done these years, or I can still comfortably change course and not commit? It's probably a little of all those things but also for the fact that I've never done anything like this, I've never gone on an adventure and the danger and thrill of it scares me. These things shouldn't stop me and I should keep on continuing because only then will I find a good future waiting for me.

11/25/2020

I sent in my Peace Corps application a couple of weeks ago and haven't heard back. I was reading that some countries won't start accepting people until 2022. That's too long to put my life on hold, I always need to do something with my time. Part of the reason I'm doing this is so I can get out of this horrible bubble I've been in most of the year due to the pandemic. I'm bursting to leave everything. That's not exactly the most noble reason but I have other noble reasons for doing that.

In terms of school, I just want to finish everything and never look back. My education was robbed from me plain and simple and so was the experience of meeting new friends. I always loved school as a kid but now that joy has been beaten out of me. None of my classes are that exciting for my last semester and I just want to stop studying CS already.

I have problems focusing on everything. I have all this entertainment in my house that distracts me from things like schoolwork and practicing drawing. The solution was always to work at school but that's not an option anymore.

For the past couple of weeks I was holding back tears on a constant basis. There was so much stress going on. I was afraid of not getting my classes and having to spend an unnecessary semester here which I wouldn't even wish on my worst enemy. I got my classes but I was the last possible person to get in for some of them. Then my teacher falsely accused me of cheating and I've been having to clear my name. That really hurt. I was scared for a week straight that everything I have worked for in my life, all the opportunities my parents gave to me by working their hearts out and living in a different country, were going to be robbed from me because my professor was too incompetent to watch my test recording.

There was the election going on that really showed just how horrible and deplorable half this country is. I listen to the news on a constant basis and it only seems like things are going to get worse from here as the fact that the Republicans entertained a weak autocrat for 4 years isn't going away, that party just wants to screw everyone over and they are screwed up themselves.

It's just been so hard and I want all this to end. I'm having trouble remembering how life was before this.

The ray of light is the vaccines are coming. If they are as good as they say they are and with a Biden administration this whole mess will be resolved sometime next year. All I have to do is soldier on and I'll be able to do the things I've dreamed of. It's too late for my time at school but that's ok, I just want to enter the real world and try my best to be an active force for good in the world.