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### Quincy D'Alessio - Feeling Like an Outsider at Home: Photos and Written Reflection

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5/21/2020

There's no picture of the things I've lost in this pandemic but a few include I don't get a graduation. I don't get a senior spring. I don't get a comps presentation. I don't get a sproncert high tea picnic. I don't get goodbyes to my friends and professors. My whole college experience is cut off at the knees and while no one could have predicted this and we are all doing the best we can in extraordinary circumstances, I am still bitter and sad to lose those things.

5/26/2020

I've thought a lot about my interview for this project on May 21 and fear I was completely incapable at the time of expressing something I think is very important to preserve in history so I'd like to try again. In this pandemic, no one is not affected and no one is free of suffering. In saying that, I do not wish to minimize the monumental struggles of vast swaths of the population. For many, the coronavirus itself is not even the most salient threat. People who were laid off from their jobs have lost the income that provided food and shelter for them and their families. People with chronic health conditions now fear seeking critical healthcare and are even sometimes denied it (see: lupus patients denied life-saving hydroxychloroquine). People who were already mentally trapped in situations of domestic violence and partner abuse are now physically trapped as well. A rain storm for some is a hurricane for others. And yet, I still want to show compassion for the idiots that do not see that suffering and demand their own wants be the priority. Because the people storming state houses and barricading hospitals are still people and they're still scared. I can condemn their actions and I can believe they are ridiculously wrong, repulsively stupid, and based in an oppressive system of privilege *and* I have to acknowledge that like anyone else, they are doing what they think is right in the face of suffering. And I want that preserved because it shows how deeply messed up America is and has been for decades. These fools were and are shaped by their environment and drinking poisoned water their entire lives, how could they too not be poisoned? They are coping with their fear and their uncertainty in a manner reflective of lifetimes of experience. And that needs to change. In this pandemic, systems of healthcare and social service have been showed to be ineffective and rotten through, but so too have rotten systems of thought been brought into stark and unforgiving light through the actions of terrified "protestors". People are just people, no one is infallible and we are all affected by the systems we live in. Even to the point of destructive idiocy.