



2020 Photo + Caption Winner #1

**The Writing Initiative Award of \$100
2020 Photo + Caption Contest
Selfies Category**

Colin Cavallari, 2023

Photo Journal: Cyclist in the Midst of a Pandemic

Saturday, April 18, 2020

I woke up to the sun shining through my skylight. I jumped out of bed with a positive attitude because it was one of the first nice days of this dreaded quarantine. Due to the Coronavirus, we had been stuck in quarantine for over a month now and I really missed my friends and seeing their smiles. I knew I would have a good day.

As I started to get ready for my adventure, I was giddy with the thought of possibly seeing my friends - even at a safe distance. I threw on my brightest orange clothing, gear, and an orange face mask too! I said my goodbyes to my family and my journey began. Before I left my neighborhood, I stopped at the top of Hill Street where you can see the skyline of Bristol. I could see the reflecting hills on the other side of town. I snapped a picture of the view with my bike and posted it on my story for all my friends to see. Happy as could be, I pushed off. It worked! People snapped back.

The first half of my journey would be pretty much downhill. I saw Lauryn on Hart Street, then a quick stop my grandparents on Boy Street. Down Burlington Ave. to Glenview Drive to see Carter, then over to Cypress to see Alex on his bike. Good thing for WAZE, because due to my lack of navigational skills, hearing a robot lady tell me where to turn out of my bright orange Adidas fanny pack was necessary so I wouldn't get lost.

I made a quick stop outside Way Back Burgers curbside pickup - not to get a bite to eat, but to get a social distancing snap of my friend Joey. Heading downtown, I met up with John T. and we drove around and took a snap in front of Biker's Edge and rode around for a while. After, I started biking up Peck Lane. Then up Wolcott Street. Then up Witch's Rock Road. Then up Tiffany Lane. At the top of the hill, I met up with my good friend Christian. It was so nice to see him because he is in all of my classes this year. I was exhausted but overwhelmed with happiness.

As I headed back, my feet hurt but my attitude was the best it has been since quarantine started. I felt good. I had biked about twenty miles and seeing my friends made it worth it. A little smile goes a long way, even behind a mask.

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