



## Coronavirus Panic

Julia Greenway, Olivia Gardner, and Olivia Spell, Sophomores  
PHOTO MANAGER & REPORTERS



MIT Technology Review

In 2019, in Wuhan, China, a new strain of coronavirus was discovered. The disease is typically found in animals, but COVID, this strain, affects humans. It infected many at a seafood market in Wuhan, though it may have originated elsewhere before coming to the market. The virus has spread rapidly within China. As of March 1, 80,026 people in China were infected and there were 2,912 deaths. In January, the first case was found in the United States, and now there are at least 35 in the country. Many are previous passengers of the Diamond Princess cruise ship, and 14 are from 6 states, including one in Massachusetts. On the cruise ship, 10 people originally had the virus, and after a two week quarantine, 634 people from around the world were infected.

The disease should cause concern among the United States population, but it is important to remember that it is not an immediate death sentence: the disease has actually killed fewer people than the common flu, and many recover if the proper actions are taken. It is also important to remember that the disease has a two percent mortality rate in the Hubei province and a tenth of that everywhere else. With this in mind, the danger of this virus cannot truly be known until there is more data, so stay alert. It is more likely to cause severe harm among the elderly and young children, but others should remain cautious and take precautions to avoid the disease. But, the situation has been entirely overblown. Other coronaviruses from animals have emerged in the past, like severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS. In 2002, SARS infected over 8,000, killed over 750, and spread to 37 countries. While the coronavirus should be taken seriously and people should be cautious, there is no need for panic.

The coronavirus outbreak has caused a stream of racism

to arise around the world. Since the outbreak, Americans have been using their fear of the coronavirus as an excuse to be openly racist. People have been avoiding any Asian people they see in public because they assume that they must have the coronavirus. In New York's Chinatown, restaurants are struggling. Rather than seating around 100 tables a day, they have only been seating around 20 or 30. People have cancelled their previous reservations to stay far away from the disease, but in reality just one person in the entire state of New York has tested positive. An Asian woman in New York wearing a face mask was hit on the head by a fellow subway passenger who called her diseased and other rude names. In Los Angeles, similar events have taken place. On a subway, a man berated a Thai-American woman for 10 minutes, saying that Chinese people were disgusting, along with other racist remarks. These events are occurring around the world. It is understandable for people to be afraid of the coronavirus, yet this is not an excuse for racist behavior.

## Going Zero Waste: Part 3

Miranda Connolly and Olivia Spell, Sophomores  
OPINION EDITOR & REPORTER

As some of you may know, we have decided to try to go zero waste for a week, and now the final results are in. Going zero waste requires a person to cut his or her trash production to the smallest amount possible. Most experts in this lifestyle produce less than a mason jar worth of trash every year. Although only going zero waste for a week cannot truly encompass all the struggles of someone who is 100% committed, we were able to look back at our old habits and see just how much more we all can do for our planet.

Throughout the week, plastic posed a bigger and bigger issue. What was at first the refusal of using plastic utensils turned into the refusal of somewhat dire objects, such as toothbrushes, shampoo bottles, and plastic wrap for food. But you may ask: How can you buy things that don't have

plastic incorporated into them? The truth is, it is extremely difficult (unless you live on a farm and are completely self-sufficient). You can't walk into an average grocery store and buy every item on your grocery list without buying at least one item that is wrapped in layers of plastic. Although you can definitely find many foods that are not wrapped, most meats are covered with plastic, and vegetables can come in plastic containers (even bananas can be found in saran wrap!). What to do now? Whole Foods offers a solution: buying in bulk. You come into the store with your own containers, fill them up with a certain nut, cereal, or item they have available, and then proceed to check out.

Now, back to our experiment. I, Miranda, found it extremely difficult to go zero waste.

For example, when I was making dinner one day, I used up all the olive oil we had. I had a large empty metal container and no place to put it. I couldn't reuse it for anything, and there isn't an olive oil replenishing station in town, so I had to throw it away. Other small issues like this arose during the week that seemed completely out of my control. But I didn't produce trash through one-use products and other non-recyclable materials.

I, Olivia, went through some hardships in producing zero waste as well. When going zero waste, it is important to use the supplies already in one's possession, which I found hard because, as simple as it may sound, it is difficult to avoid purging amidst a life full of clutter. When I say "avoid purging," it may confuse you because minimalism is a common thought

## My Year in Boy Scouts: A Girl's Perspective

Katherine Jenkins, Freshman  
REPORTER

In March 2018, the Boy Scouts of America agreed to allow girls to join the Boy Scouts. After months of planning, three of us attended our first meeting as a girl troop linked to Marblehead Troop 79. Over time, we have grown from a group of three Scouts to seven, but we are still looking to expand our troop. Over this past year, we have had wonderful experiences both in town and out of town. In January, we went to the Klondike Derby in Topsfield, where we camped, cooked, and did team-building and skill-building activities like building a

stretcher to carry a member who pretends to be injured and using a compass to find our way. At our meetings on Tuesdays, we often join the boys' troop to do more skill building activities that are not only fun, but also help Scouts earn rank by completing the requirements for each rank. Each rank—Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Life, Star, and Eagle—has requirements like first aid, cooking and camping that teach Scouts life skills and encourage team bonding.

At the beginning of the year, we watched and followed along with what Troop 79 was doing, but we learned quickly about the path to scouting. Our first meeting, we stayed with the boys troop and participated in their activities. Two weeks after our first meeting, we went on our first camping trip. Only two of our group of three went because we didn't have

enough younger girls to go with our third member. For this particular trip, we stayed in a cabin, which turned out to be a good idea because it was our first camping trip as a troop and it rained a lot in the night. This trip was great for building friendships with other Scouts as we hiked, ate, and just hung out around camp. This first trip was mostly run by adults, while some of the older Scouts helped with the cooking. Our second trip, the Klondike Derby, was primarily run by Scouts in the sense that we did all the cooking, pitched all the tents, and planned everything for

our troop (besides the activities and overall event, which was planned by adults). The point of having Scouts plan and execute events such as the Klondike is to teach leadership to Scouts so that in future endeavors outside of scouting, Scouts will have the skills needed to take charge.

Recently, BSA has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Meanwhile, our local troop will continue as usual, and I hope that the national organization will be able to reemerge with a plan that allows me to continue with scouting, and to participate in even more exciting activities such as hiking the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. If any girls are interested in building leadership skills, participating in scouting adventures, and enjoying strong comradery, we meet at the Clifton Lutheran church every Tuesday night at 7:00 PM.

Scouting Wire



when the phrase "zero waste" comes to mind. Though it is important to use the supplies already in your possession before tossing them, as normal as it is to want to start anew, zero waste is about slowing your consumer process. There are many factors that go into lessening the amount of waste one produces, but the process which we go through to achieve this goal is one of many steps. If you are looking to start a zero waste life, there are plenty of videos on the Internet about it, as well as many articles

online that can help. No matter how much trash you produce now, you can always find a way to reduce what you are consuming. It is key that you do not give up after one slip-up though, since then you would never be able to achieve anything you want to. This experiment will make both of us more conscientious in the future when buying new things. Whether they are for school or our own enjoyment, we will always try to buy environmentally-sustainable products that don't have a negative impact on our Earth.



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