

10-14-2021

What the pandemic revealed

Jake Rehm

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.ewu.edu/covid>

Recommended Citation

Rehm, Jake, "What the pandemic revealed" (2021). *Life During COVID: Preserving Personal Pandemic Stories*. 43.

<https://dc.ewu.edu/covid/43>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Eastern Washington University Digital History Collections at EWU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Life During COVID: Preserving Personal Pandemic Stories by an authorized administrator of EWU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jotto@ewu.edu.

Name for posting: Jake Rehm, MS MA

Major and expected graduation: Recreation Management (2006), MS Physical Education (2008), MA History (2022)

Additional information: I'm in my 9th year as WAMS Faculty and Fitness Center Manager

Your experience during COVID-19:

The pandemic showed me that, while the COVID-19 virus may one day be eradicated, human cruelty most certainly will not. The things I have heard people say to other people during this pandemic has been sobering. The only context that matters is the context of the here-and-now, separated by space and time, and informed only by how one feels. One need not study history or any credible source, because credibility is whatever one seems to see fit in the moment. The self-flattery of presuming "I have the answer!" which defies public opinion, and the oblivious ignorance of presuming that one has the "right" answer to begin with. The manner in which science is venerated as "science-ism," to be served and trusted as if it were God, capable of worship. The manner in which this pandemic was politically (and I would go so far as to say opportunistically) weaponized. How partisan lines have been drawn over the necessity of a vaccine. How compliance with mandates somehow makes one a tractable, ductile sheep, incapable of critical thought, easily controlled. How non-compliance makes one a folk-hero, because doing so demonstrates brave and benevolent courage against a malevolent, worldly force bent on domination. How citing clearly bogus sources to justify your arguments, and then having those arguments discredited by use of credible and peer-reviewed sources, is minimized and made caricature of. The lack of any context independent of the moment itself. The self-flattery. The arrogance. The ignorance. The anger. Ah.

This pandemic has reminded me that humanity is incapable of "saving" itself, because humanity can not by its nature get out of its own way. This is a depressing truth, but it is truth nonetheless.