

Interview Conducted December 14th, 2020

Questions Provided in Writing by Jackson Crilley

Answers Provided in Writing by Griffin Black and Mitchell Strack

Can you provide a bit of background information about your relationship?

We've been dating for a little over 3 years, we had our anniversary in September. I (Griffin) am from Boston while Mitch is from Western Mass, and so we were in a long distance relationship for the first two years of our relationship until he moved to Boston to attend Suffolk, where he lived on campus. We've both been through really bad things but we've helped each other through them, so when the pandemic came along there were the initial crisis thoughts but we sat down and figured out how things were going to work.

What way do you each feel the pandemic worst affected your relationship? What was the best effect it had?

Mitch: I'm a performing arts major so I went from keeping my academic and love life separate and now I have to perform in her house instead of a theater and have to use her as an acting partner (she is not an actress).

Griffin: I'm a fine arts major and now I have to bother him with all my supplies and projects. We have to live with my parents in a small apartment which I know sounds so fun and romantic but surprisingly enough it's not. Despite this we're still living together for free, and a lot sooner than we expected to, which is a definite plus. We spend a lot more time together than we would have sans pandemic.

Do you think the pandemic is going to affect your relationship in the future?

We'll have funny stories to tell our friends/family/any potential kids, but other than that this whole thing has just become more trauma to bond over.

Where do you think you would be both personally and with your relationship had the pandemic not happened?

We would be looking for an apartment for next year. As it is right now, we're having trouble balancing our work and school with quality time. There's no guarantee that we would be doing better if the pandemic never happened, but it would definitely be harder to just waste our time being goofy together accidentally.

If you could share any piece of information for anyone struggling with dating during a pandemic, what would it be?

Listen to your partner, this is a team sport. It's the same advice we would give for non-pandemic times, try your best to communicate and understand that neither of you are going to feel 100% all the time. Being in

mandatory close proximity or far away is difficult and frustrating, but if you both regularly level with each other and listen to each other, you can easily prevent any unnecessary fights and desynchronizations.