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## Visa Chaos: What 6 Chinese Students Say

A graphic narrative written and drawn by Rivi Handler-Spitz.

By Rivi Handler-Spitz

**F**ear of immigration enforcement raids, abrupt deportations and arbitrary visa cancellations continue to upend international students' daily lives and disrupt their sense of well-being. Below, six

humanities Ph.D. students from China studying at U.S. universities recounted their experiences this past summer. Interviewees' identities have been concealed to protect their anonymity.











ABORT!

ALERT!

DANGER

What's the big deal?

Uncertain, I sought professional advice.



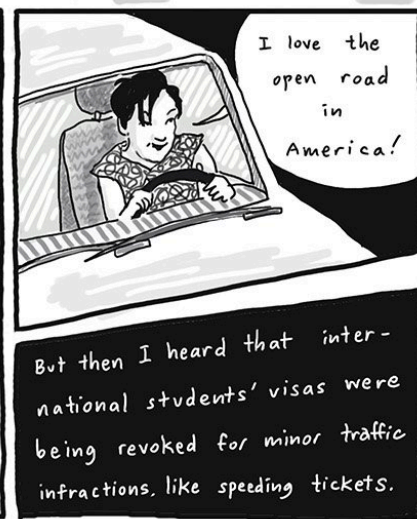
But my advisor had concerns.

RISK

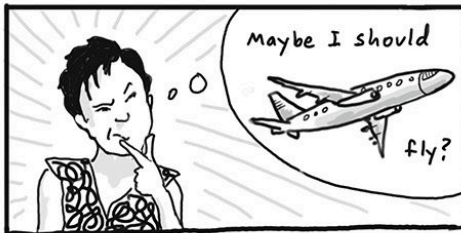
The bigger risk is NOT going home!

Only then did I cancel my ticket.

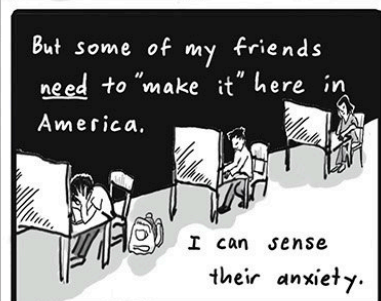
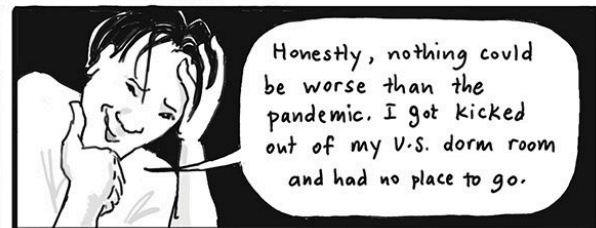
PANIC ATTACK



















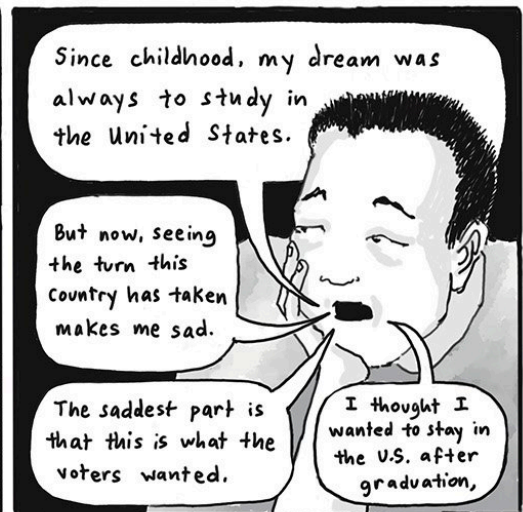
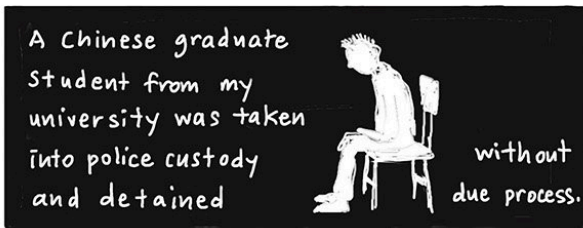
On May 22nd, 2025 my visa status was jeopardized simply because I was an international student at Harvard.



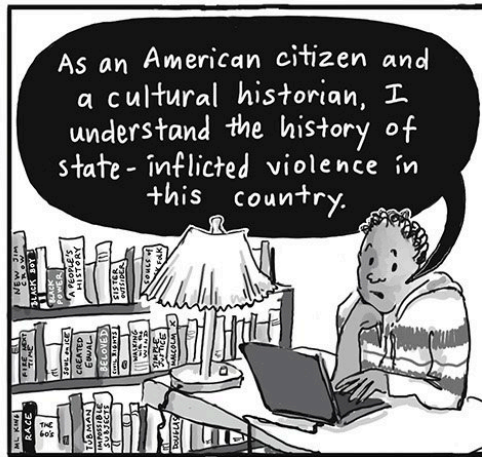
I didn't dare text anyone for help, because I thought: "what if ICE goes through my phone?"











SPECIAL THANKS TO DOMINIQUE COJUANGCO, TO THE STUDENTS WHO GENEROUSLY SHARED THEIR EXPERIENCES, AND TO THE DAILY DRAWING FRIENDS FOR THEIR ENCOURAGEMENT, CRITICISM AND EXPERTISE.

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## Written By

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