

At the beginning of the Covid era, I was scared of contracting it. A year into Covid, I am more so scared of dealing with the consequences of being Asian right now. When this all began in March 2020, there were a lot of racist comments towards Chinese people. That is typical of the internet right? Or so I thought. It did not hit me until one of my childhood friends from California called me and told me that the boba place she worked at got vandalized and Asian hate speech was spray painted everywhere. At this point, I realized I was a young Asian man in the South. I was born and raised in the south, they won't mess with me right? Wrong. I had people request that I not make their drinks at my job solely because I was Asian. Being Asian in the south was always hard, but now it is even harder. I will never forget the people who ostracized me during this time just because I am Asian. We are all supposed to be patriotic and love America right? I am a southern man and I love America. Yet, why do I get told to go back to my country? I would be wrong if I said I did not like this country but I am still not American "enough" if I did. I am supposed to have pride in a place that allows its citizens to discriminate against other Americans? This year has been mentally draining, it is almost as if we have traveled back in time. Of course kids made the cat and dog jokes growing up, but once I became an adult that changed. Now it is the adults not wanting my service because of the ways my eyes look with my face mask on. News flash, we all hate Covid and what it has done to our lives. I am tired. I do not want sympathy or fake activism. I want people to step back and realize how ignorant they are being.