

[Speaker 1] Diverse, underprivileged I guess this is kind of a combination of where that's an up and coming.

[Speaker 2] can you kind of describe uh why you chose those words?

[Speaker 1] Well I guess diverse because uh I couldn't think of a better word but it has like a very strong Latino influence very strong Latin community but its diverse in the sense that um its not all mainly uh Caucasians so I think that's a very important part of Santa Ana. Underprivileged I would say because its not the most wealthy area it's a very family friendly place, um there's lots of families and they stay together. Its not a very wealthy neighborhood, the jobs aren't middle class jobs they're all kind of like minimum wage jobs over there. And it was also we used to have a lot of like gang influence so it used to be a pretty dangerous place live [right] so its underprivileged in that way. Its getting better but I'm sure it's not the safest neighborhood either. And then up and coming uh I would say up and coming because its getting better uh people realize that there's a lot of people here and that there's that it's a good place to go and so people are investing money in Santa Ana and now more people are coming to Santa Ana its more interesting place to go to like there's this artist village they call the artist village its uh it's a very kind of like hip and trendy place to go but it's a very small area its like less than a block.

[Speaker 3] What is exactly is your ethnicity?

[Speaker 1] Caucasian, a quarter German and something else so its hard , its hard to tell but I just identify mostly as I would say White.

[Speaker 3] Did you live in Santa Ana your whole life?

[Speaker 1] Yeah up until about 22-years-old

[Speaker 3] What was your home life like? Did you live with your mom and dad and any siblings? Was it very open or?

[Speaker 1] It was mom, dad, sister, it was nice growing up because it's a very family place there's lots of families there as opposed to just new couples that's like its like parents with several kids, that's usually what you find or sometimes you find several families in the same house [really] and so, so there's lots, there's lots of kids so growing up there was always a lot of kids on the street you could always play like a whole you could play baseball with a whole team or play football with a whole team instead of just playing one on one basketball or something [Yeah] so that was nice. There's, there's lots of families sometimes you know you get you have, you have mom and dad and there's the kids but then there's a lot of times there's aunts and uncles, there's uh cousins all in the same house or you know you have, you have aunts, uncles or cousins that aren't really, that aren't related to you but its like you know you have your neighbor but you know their, their, their families are close. They become close so then you consider them an aunt or an uncle.

[Speaker 3] Did you feel lucky to live in Santa Ana? Were you happy to live there? Did you find yourself wishing you had grown up somewhere else or?

[Speaker 1] Um that's a good question. Um I guess it wasn't as nice as some other areas but what I thought was lucky for me was that I, I was Caucasian in a predominantly Latin community, so I kind of stood out. Going to school in Santa Ana there was a predominantly Latin community, so teachers looked at me differently which is kind of unfortunate because you'd like to think of teachers as being um 100 percent unbiased and giving everybody an equal opportunity but I know that uh teachers always thought of me as smarter just because probably because I was Caucasian [right] because you know I never really did anything special to prove to them that I was smarter but I was just given the benefit of the doubt. I played football you know I stood out in that aspect there was a lot of like uh Lopez's and Garcia's and Martinez and, and then you'd hear Chamberland and that's like you know it kind of stands out [yeah] and so I was probably given the opportunity to play football just because most of the football was Latino so they were kind of shorter and smaller and so, and so because I was a little taller and bigger I was able to play football so I might not have been able to play football if, if I didn't live in Santa Ana so I'm guess I'm lucky in that way but I wasn't lucky in the sense that it wasn't the nicest the area like it wasn't a very beautiful neighborhood with wonderful homes just less fortunate that way.

[Speaker 3] Did you ever feel ashamed in sense because of that?

[Speaker 1] I don't think of I was ever ashamed of Santa Ana but it wasn't necessarily something I was tremendously proud of.

[Speaker 3] so you said it was gang related then? Was it?

[Speaker 1] There, there was

[Speaker 3] A strong influence of gangs or was it just kind of here and there?

[Speaker 1] I would say it was more than just here and there but what makes it hard for me to say is that I was never influenced because I wasn't their target. Like people didn't see me like ok we want that guy in the gang [right] because like they wanted people who were like them the Latinos wanted other Latinos and so on the flip side uh Latinos might look at others and go oh that guy might be in this rival gang so people might look the Latino walking down the street and go oh he might be in a gang whereas people look at me and they go oh he's not in a gang honestly he's not so, so I was never targeted but um you know you would always hear about like gang shootings and like something you know it used to be a lot worse where you would hear shootings frequently [yeah right] [really] like not, not just hear them on the news but you would actually hear the gunfire [outside your house] yeah it occurred but it wasn't a very strong influence on me personally because I was never nobody

ever tried to recruit me, nobody ever thought nobody ever mistook me for being part of a gang.

[Speaker 3] Did you ever feel unsafe in your house because of the shootings or?

[Speaker 1] Probably not necessarily in my house but like just walking in the streets I know that you know sometimes you can you know you definitely see who's behind you and you definitely very wary, you uh hear what's going on and you see somebody coming towards you, you know you make sure that things are going ok and so um walking the streets at night your cautious, your not necessarily fearing for your life but your definitely cautious. Its getting better now but if I was a female then I it probably would have been even scarier, if I was younger it probably be even scarier but now that I'm an adult its less intimidating that's the nature of Santa Ana is that its not a safe place. Maybe we're just oblivious to it but, but it uh its not something that really impacted us that much.

[Speaker 2] Were you comfortable with kind of like assimilating with a Latino community or?

[Speaker 1] I was pretty comfortable because I was always treated fairly um I was never treated negatively because I was Caucasian whereas if the shoe around the other foot if I went to predominantly White school and I was a Latin American coming into a predominantly White school I have a feeling that um there would be this feeling of superiority of the Whites over that Latin kid so then there would be this negative impact on that Latin kid. Whereas with me there, there was no sense of superiority, I was treated well and I was respected and so um I guess to some um minor sense not speaking Spanish you know that kind of hindered me because it kind of excluded me from certain conversations and certain things.

[Speaker 2] Where did you work?

[Speaker 1] I worked at uh Target so there was a lot of Latin American customers coming in, speaking Spanish would have been helpful but I didn't so I did the best I could. I guess working there it was different because they bought different things like if you take a lower income family and a higher income family they're going to buy different things. Like the higher income families might buy nicer things, they might buy better cars um they might buy better appliances or you could take a lower income family and you know they got to make the best of what they can, when we try to get people because working at Target they want you to get people to sign up for credit cards or sign up for programs or you know it's a business so they want to try and get people's money so it was different because we were targeting an audience that has less money.

[Speaker 2] You think growing up like around the Latin community affected you in any way or like shaped who you are now?

[Speaker 1] I'm, I'm sure it did uh I'd like to hope that it made me more open-minded that you know kind of less sheltered uh maybe I was influenced to learn or pressured to learn a little bit of Spanish growing up in Santa Ana I was kind of pressured to learn Spanish. So I guess that's influenced me.