

Leon Gorham interviewed by Anna Smith
April 15, 2021
Washington Heights, Manhattan

00:01

Anna Smith

Hello, my name is Anna Smith and today I am interviewing.

00:06

Leon Gorham

Leon Gorham.

00:08

Anna Smith

And we are located in my house, we are safely social distancing, I swear.(laughs) Today's date is 4/15/21. So I'm going to ask you Leon, do you give me permission to record this and distribute this as my oral history?

00:08

Leon Gorham

Yes, I do.

00:08

Anna

Okay, so, the first question is. Your name is?

00:33

Leon

My name is Leon.

00:33

Anna

Awesome, How old are you?

00:36

Leon

I am 29 years old.

00:38

Anna

What's your occupation?

00:40

Leon-

I work at a school, physical education teacher.

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Anna

Awesome, your neighborhood?

00:45

Leon

I live in the Bronx.

00:46

Anna

Nice, place of origin?

00:46

Leon

I'm from here.

00:46

Anna

Nice, here as in?

00:52

Leon

United States.

00:53

Anna

Awesome. First language?

00:54

Leon

English.

00:57

Anna

Racial identity?

00:59

Leon

I'm African American.

1:00

Anna-

Gender identity?

1:00

Leon

I am a male.

1:06

Anna

Awesome, so where is your family from? Tell me a story on how your family ended up in NYC?

1:13

Leon

Well, my family, I would say...

1:19

Leon

Can we pass that?

1:23

Anna

Okay.

1:24

Anna- Well not like saying you came from somewhere else. Even though we all come from somewhere. Because we are all from different places. Like your mom was born here right? In NYC?

1:24

Leon- Yeah.

1:24

Anna- Your dad was born in NYC?

1:24

Leon- My father was born in Jamaica.

1:24

Anna- Exactly, so something like that. Your dad was born in Jamaica and your mom was born over here, and they made you.

1:24

Leon- Yup .

1:24

Anna- Awesome, you have any siblings?

1:24

Leon- Yes, I have two.

1:24

Anna- Awesome, okay cool. I'm about to ask some Covid 19 questions. You can pass at any time if you don't feel like answering or you're not comfortable.

1:24

Anna- How are you coping with the pandemic?

2:07

Leon

First, it was a tough adjustment. But after a while, you really got to make the best of the situation. And I think as time has gone on, I've gotten better with the whole COVID thing. But you know, it's one day at a time. And I think everybody's going through the same thing in terms of how they are, you know, managing to deal with the virus itself.

2:34

Anna

Yeah.

2:35

Anna

I totally agree with you. Do you have any self care routines?

2:43

Leon

In terms of?

2:45

Anna

something that just makes you feel good during this crazy time?

2:48

Leon

Oh, gotta wash your hands. I feel like I wash my hands more now than ever. Okay, like anything, like if I feel it's at a point, if I feel like I haven't washed my hands in a long time, like, five minutes ago? wash my hands.

2:48

Anna

you're like it's time to wash your hands.

3:07

Anna

Definitely. Cool. Cool.

3:10

Anna

What was your initial response to COVID? And how has it changed over time?

3:16

Leon

Um, I mean, initially, you know, because it didn't make its way over here yet. I didn't really think it was as serious as it was gonna be. And then, you know, because I work at a school and to see how the school closed down. I was like, Okay, yeah, this really has to be serious.

3:30

Anna

Yeah. Same. Like when my job pulls down. I'm like, Okay, this is some serious stuff in the city was just so empty. I'm like, this is kind of creepy.

3:33

Anna

Cool. How has the Coronavirus changed your life? Have you or someone close to you got in COVID? And what was that, like?

3:55

Leon

I mean, matter of just my life, that's how it's changing the world in the sense of like. Can't really do things that we're accustomed to doing. No, you have to make a lot of adjustments to better our safety and the people around us. And I think that's actually the more important thing it's like, of course, you want to take care of yourself. Also people around you like, how are you not going to, you know, or how are you going to help? You know, maintain it and not let it spread but turns on my family? A family friend just had one friend that had passed away,

unfortunately.

4:32

Anna

Okay, that's actually like the next question. You know, you don't really have to get into details if you don't want to, but did you lose anyone close to you? And could you tell me a little bit about them?

4:45

Leon-

Um, yeah, one of my best friends caught it, unfortunately. And he had a pre-existing health issue already. So it was kinda It was tough, but him so funny because I don't really like you said I don't have to get into detail but yes, you suffered a gunshot wound. So it was crazy for us. Like, for that like COVID to take him out as we always say like he's

5:07

Anna

like.. he's like

5:10

Leon- Sucks, Like that's what took him out but yeah.

5:13

Anna

Rest in peace to him.

5:18

Anna

Sorry about that. Seriously.

5:21

Anna

Um,

5:26

Anna- How are you coping financially?

5:30

Leon

Yeah, no, it could be better. I'm still working. But a lot of things were cut in half in terms of like yet aftercare and we're not doing after school programs. So that's a little less financial.

5:46

Anna

Day's are shorter and stuff.

5:49

Leon

I'm grateful for it, though. Because, you know, there are people that unfortunately, lost their jobs completely. So it's like, yeah, some unfortunate things I have.

6:01

Anna-

Cool. Um,

6:06

Anna

What was it like being home? often so often? I guess, like this is for you, this would be more the beginning of the pandemic, because you kind of went into work, soon as things was like opening, so like, what was that beginning stage for you? Like just staying home being locked in and stuff?

6:24

Leon

Weird, quarantining was weird. And, um, I don't know, I guess, I guess I had its benefits, because how I like to look at it, because we were stuck inside, we were able to, you know, spend more time with our loved ones and spend more time with whoever we, you know, we live with or whatever. But, um, at first, it was hard and interesting. Like, very weird and strange. But how long was it about like, four months, that's a long time to get used to something?

6:53

Anna

For sure. Seriously, I was like, What is going on? It just felt so weird. Like, when you go outside, it was like, the end of the world. It was all scared of each other. And I'm just like, what, and this is like, This is crazy. So I totally agree. Who, um, how did it impact you socially, mentally, and emotionally?

7:15

Leon

Um,

7:19

Leon

I don't think that for me, for me, personally, I don't think I had that much of an impact socially, because, like, We're in 2021, you can communicate with people, all types of ways. So it's like, you may not be able to, you know, be with them, or talk to somebody not at a close range or meet somebody physically, but text message, social media, all those things. It was kind of easy to stay in touch with people. Um, mentally. I don't think I don't think it was that big on you mentally. But it was just sometimes, you know, I had the thought of, you know, you think the worst sometimes, so I was like, I hope I didn't catch it. And you know, I have asthma. So it's like that bothers me.

8:03

Anna

And emotionally.

8:08

Leon

I don't really think it touched me emotionally.

8:11

Anna

Okay. Okay. Um,

8:15

Anna

How did it impact your family?

8:18

Leon

Pretty much the same, because, um, my household is just my mother and my sister, but my mother also works in school. So, you know, Tom is just pretty much going through the same thing I was going through. My sister actually had to self quarantine for like, 10 days. Like, I mean, like, away from our house, too, because somebody at her job. I caught it. Oh, wow. Everybody who was in the building at that time had to stay. Yeah. Did they

8:47

Anna

send her to like a hotel or something?

8:47

Leon

Yeah, like 10 days.

8:47

Anna

Oh, wow.

8:47

Leon

Well, she's good now.

8:50

Anna

Cool.

9:01

Anna- Are the following people in your household working now?

9:06

Leon

Yeah.

9:11

Anna

What have you learned about yourself and your family since the beginning of this crisis?

9:19

Leon

myself? It stopped?

9:20

Anna

No. You could keep going.

9:21

Leon

Myself. What did I learn about myself?

9:34

Leon

Can we pass that one?

9:35

Anna

Yeah, that's fine. I thought, I'm sorry. I ordered food and I'm like, I gotta watch out for my phone.

9:35

Anna

That's fine. Now, what was the hardest part of this pandemic for you?

9:48

Leon

The hardest part was and I don't want to be selfish when I say it, but no sports. No. Sports, so

9:57

Anna

Yeah, that was just crazy. Nothing existed, what we knew.

10:03

Leon

There was a lot watching a lot of reruns and old games and stuff like that. But

10:07

Anna

Yeah. for sure, I feel your pain.

10:07

Anna

Has there been anything positive outcome of this pandemic for you?

10:18

Leon

Um, yeah, like what I said earlier, just being able to spend time with family more. You're gonna always be on our own path. We would actually be home all day.

10:30

Anna

How is your relationship with COVID? How has COVID changed the relationship between you and your health? as an individual, and your health and health as a society? So like, How is COVID I basically like to change your viewpoint on how serious you take Health?

10:54

Leon

because it's like me working at a school till it's like, oh, I never realized how germy children can be. So it's like,

11:01

Anna

Oh, yeah, what grade are you doing again?

11:04

Leon

Well, it pre K to eighth grade. Okay. It was like a baby. Yeah, you see them touch the floor and wipe their eyes and stuff like that, like little things. Now, now now, it's like, it just carries in everyday life now, like you only realize like, there will be a time where like, I don't know, like, playing basketball, for example. I mean, I have washed my hands, like maybe more than I should, or, you know, like, or a specific time, like when I'm not playing and I just give myself a quick wash of their hands and stuff was like, things like that changed a little bit.

11:05

Anna

Just being more cautious,

11:06

Leon

More cautious with everything.

11:51

Anna

Like where's the hand sanitizer!?

11:51

Leon

Watch what you touch, things like that.

11:51

Anna

How do you think that the government handled this COVID crisis?

11:57

Leon

could have been handled better? Because at first it was considered a bad flu. But

11:59

Anna- Things turned out deadly real fast.

12:08

Leon

I mean, they're doing the best they can, you know, but I felt like they could have started off a lot. A lot could have been avoided if they acted faster. For sure.

12:17

Anna

Especially. Okay, I'm not gonna get into that.

But yeah.

12:26

Anna

How would you grade the job of the government? handling it? When they rolled out the vaccine? Will you be getting the vaccine? Why or why not?

12:40

Leon

All right, I'm gonna pass the first part of the question. And in terms of vaccines, I'm kind of 5050 on it. Because of course you want to, you want to get something that can help, you know, you want to do something that can help blind yourself and others.

12:55

Anna

Yeah,

12:56

Leon

But with my you know, you know, a vaccine is pretty much pointing to the symptoms in you and viruses out there putting it in you and like miasma and stuff. I'm kind of scared to do it.

But

13:08

Anna

It's so crazy, like, how, where do you get the virus once you get it? From the sick person? Like, that's just wow, you know, because that's just like the flu. But you made me Just think of it like COVID is so different, like, are you really just showing people COVID to see if they gonna survive or not like, that's Wow, that's really wild. Yeah. Especially with the whole recall with Johnson and Johnson.

13:10

Leon

The one with blood clots and stuff.

13:13

Anna

Yeah, that's, that's, that's bananas. How are you feeling about the world reopening? Oh, I think that was my question.

13:41

Leon

No, it's good. I like, let me say this, I like that everything is opening, opening up with caution. So everything's not fully open, you know, a certain percentage of people can show to a specific place, like, you know, like how they have dining is like, 30% of capacity or things like that. sporting events, they're allowing, like, 20% of like that. So I do like that everything is coming back, but with caution. So it's like a little sense of normalcy is not going to be normal, but at least a little sense of it.

14:18

Anna

Oh, yeah, I agree.

14:20

Anna

Um, what's the first thing you're going to do when you have your freedom from this pandemic?

14:28

Leon

First thing I'm going to do? I go on vacation, some vacation. Yeah, I'll definitely go away.

14:39

Anna

Sounds good.

14:40

Anna

How do you think the world will change when we come out of this pandemic?

14:46

Leon

I think it's going to change because there's still going to be people cautious of COVID like, you know, even if things get 100% better, they're still going to be 40% or 30% of the people still walking around with masks. And it should definitely become the new norm. Yeah, of course not everybody but yeah, cuz they're out of 10 people, you'll see three people with masks on.

15:12

Anna

I agree.

15:13

Anna

So we're gonna get into the Black Lives Matter protests. I'm gonna ask you some questions

again. You could pass on the ones you want to. Do you remember where you were and what your thoughts were when you first saw or heard of George Floyd, Trayvon Martin Sandra Blake, Eric Garner, and Brianna Taylor?

15:47

Leon

I would probably answer the George Floyd one because it was most recent. I guess it's kind of hard for me to remember you know, Trayvon Martin things that were n't fun stuff. But I was definitely Hong Kong. We were on quarantine for the most part. And I mean, the curfew didn't hit yet because I think that was more so with the protests, but I was definitely in the house. And social media was just going crazy. Everybody was reposting and posting and posting. So I was pretty much in the house.

16:18

Anna

Um, explain to me why you think the anti racist protests happened?

16:19

Leon

Why did it happen?

16:20

Anna- Yeah.

16:28

Leon

I think eventually, you know, there's been a lot of in no police shootings and things of that nature. So I feel like it happened as a last straw kind of situation. Like, this was the thing that was going to.

16:45

Anna

Oh, yeah.

16:46

Leon

Well, that situation with George Floyd was when I think everybody said, Okay, this is enough.

16:51

Anna

Cool.

16:57

Anna- What are some of the reasons you think protesting black Americans or non black allies are angry about the conditions in the United States?

17:09

Leon

Um, I would say cuz a lot of it is unfair.

17:12

Anna

Yeah..

17:15

Anna

Yeah they're basically killing us out here

17:20

Anna

Do you believe there are issues with the criminal justice system in the United States that have helped flame these protests? What are some of those issues?

17:34

Leon

The past ones?

17:35

Anna

Okay. When did you become aware of those issues?

How do you explain like your viewpoint of racism in the United States? NYC specifically?

18:01

Leon

So both the United States and NYC?

18:02

Anna

Yeah.

18:03

Leon

I mean, I think racism is something that's taught. I don't really think people born with hate in their heart. But in terms of the United New York City, I can just go off of my own experiences of

walking outside and being cold and I have my hands in my pocket. Because my hands are cold. But then I got stopped by the police.

18:25

Anna

Yeah doesn't really make sense.

18:26

Leon

But unfortunately, it is unfortunately living in right now.

18:32

Anna

For sure, why do you think NYC has become the epicenter of the protests?

18:40

Leon- Cause we NYC man

18:42

Anna- We're so diverse, Yeah.

18:43

Leon

That definitely Yeah. That's pretty much what it is: the diversity of everything. Yeah.

18:48

Anna

Like, every time I travel out of town, I just see that it's really not like that. Everything is like, literally like separate everybody separated in different states is crazy. Even though low key we separated out here to excuse my washing machine. Do you have any stories you are willing to share about encounters you have had with racism or the police? I know you just kind of shared one. But has that been your only one?

18:49

Leon

No, actually

19:27

Leon

Funny. I always tell people that the situation I went to actually happen two days before George Floyd, but pretty much I went, um, because I'm a gym teacher. So I have the keys to the gym, and my job. And I left my phone charger. So I went back to my job around six o'clock. This is

when it got dark. around six o'clock. I went back at six o'clock, an open door and when I got there, there was a lady actually sitting on the steps on the phone. So I guess she didn't know that I worked there. Of course he didn't know I worked there. So she sees me go In the gate, and she calls the police. The police came, they asked me what I'm doing there and all these things. At first I wasn't really thinking anything of it because in my head, I was okay. Somebody called them and they're just doing their job. But after a while, I was explaining something to one of the police officers. And another officer who is white Mind you, they will maybe like 12 of them there at the time. But as I'm explaining, I'm kind of pointing to the direction of the entrance because they asked me, where's the front entrance of the gym? So as I'm pointing, like, physically pointing towards where the arm gym entrance the other cop, who was Caucasian, stepped back and say, Yo, man, you almost hit me in my face. And I'm like, why would I hit you in your face? If I'm just pointing to the direction of the gym? Like your partner just asked me. Yeah, he was like, well, you saw me standing there. Right. So why would you know, I just, luckily I you know, my composure and stuff. Yeah. But it was just wrong, man.

20:58

Anna

Unnecessary.

21:04

Leon

Like cursing and all that stuff.

21:07

Anna

So extra like obviously, you need the key to get in.

00:01

Anna

Part Two, because

00:02

Anna

my phone rang. So that stopped part one. But we're gonna keep going. So Leon, where are you active in any protests, whether in person, whether like, just through the internet speaking your mind over the last six months? If so, how?

00:27

Anna

Like, how were you?

00:28

Leon

6 months?

00:29

Anna

Yeah.

00:35

Leon

I was apart of protests, but it was a little bit over six months. It was kind of close to church boardrooms almost a year ago.

00:42

Anna

Okay, okay. Same.

00:44

Leon

But

00:45

Anna

have you been like, still? Do you write things over? Like the internet? Or

00:50

Leon

comments on social media and stuff? Yeah. Especially

00:52

Anna

with things still going?

00:53

Anna

Why did you decide to get involved?

01:06

Leon

It's kind of like voting. It's like, you kind of feel like, if you don't, if you don't do your part, things won't really, you know. So I was like, I'm seeing everybody else. You know, put there,

you know, have I say, I've seen everybody else doing their part. So I wanted to do mine. Yeah, I didn't want to stay quiet either.

1:07

Anna

I respect that.

01:30

Anna

Do you think the history of race and racism in the United States impacts the Black Lives Matters? movement?

01:43

Anna

In what ways?

01:45

Leon

Can you repeat that question? I'm sorry.

01:47

Anna

Do you think the history of race and racism in the United States impacts the Black Lives Matters movement?

02:00

Leon

Um,

02:02

Leon

I don't know for me, I mean, it impacts it. But like in its own way, in a sense of, you know, we think things change, but there's always still going to be racism present in the United States. And I can't really explain

02:03

Anna

that was cool.

02:20

Anna

No problem.

02:27

Anna

How has the Black Lives Matters? shift the culture?

02:28

Leon

Can we pass that?

02:30

Anna

Okay. How have the past few months changed how you think about police racism in the US?

02:50

Leon

Um,

02:52

Leon

I can't speak for everybody else. Obviously, you're asking me the question, but I don't know. I found it hard to say. But like, I always think there's trying to word word correct, right. Come on wrong.

03:10

Anna

No, nothing. There's no wrong answer. It's how you feel really, it's all about this interview is about you. So

03:16

Leon

I don't know. I just feel like my views towards police are just how they've always been, because it's like, I do know, not all police officers are jerks, or like, at the same time, because I'm getting older and witnessing these things. You do things a lot different when you're older than when you're younger

03:20

Anna

Yeah for sure

03:45

Leon

And like I have I have like my friend, his brother's a cop. And I know he's not like that. So it's

like, I can't say one bad cop makes me view all cops the same. That's what I'm trying to say. But at the same time that you are still kind of cautious of them.

03:55

Anna

Oh, yeah. Yeah, in a way and be like too, too comfortable. comfortable.

03:58

Leon

Yeah.

04:00

Anna

I respect that. Um,

04:06

Anna

What have you seen in your peers? Like, oh, sorry, what have you seen your peers doing that inspire you? So I guess you kind of answered that when he was like, using your friends doing stuff? And just as like,

04:16

Leon

I'm trying to be Yeah, be a part of it.

04:19

Anna

Okay.

04:21

Anna

No problem.

04:23

Anna

Why do you think there's so much backlash to the Black Lives Matter movement?

04:29

Leon

Um,

04:32

Leon

I think there's backlash to it because you were this one. Like, alright, so it's like, Alright, when I went to a protest, for example, it was like, there were a lot of Caucasian people there. There were a lot of Spanish people there, you know, it was very diverse. So it's like

05:03

Leon

Trying to get the words out, right? This one, because I know what I'm trying to say. Wrong.

05:10

Anna

No wrong answer. We always come back.

05:12

Leon

We go back to actually doing the answer.

05:15

Anna

No pressure. Okay. Um, how do you explain the looting, destruction of property that took place during the protests?

05:27

Leon

Um, I mean, me personally, I don't really think that helps. I mean, I guess it gets, it gets. I guess people are being heard, if that makes sense. Like, yeah, drawing. Yeah. But at the same time, it's like, I wouldn't do it. Because I know, like, that it's still people's businesses, and people work hard, and there are their things and stuff. But I guess the looting and stuff was a way to be heard. and destroying things right away.

06:00

Anna

Right.

06:02

Leon

It wasn't a part of it, but I guess I can understand it.

06:06

Anna

Like everybody has their own outlet. You know, some people go through things worse than others. Some people just do shit for the hell of it. Oh, excuse me. Sorry. Okay, how do you

explain folks who respond to the Black Lives Matter as all lives matter?

06:27

Leon

Okay now we are talking about good stuff.

06:29

Leon

The Black Lives Matter and all lives matter.

06:32

Anna

It's like,

06:35

Leon

All lives do matter. Yes. But right now. We are trying to be heard. Yes. So it's like, it's not about everybody right now.

06:44

Anna

Right, It's always about everyone.

06:48

Leon

We're trying to be heard. So

06:49

Anna

yeah, just for you know, yeah. All the times we've been fighting, just trying to be heard again. So I'm sorry, I'm not gonna be answering your questions. I was explaining to my professor too. Like, I feel so strongly about this, too. So awesome. This is like the most awesome class project ever.

07:25

Anna

Okay, so we got like two more questions with the Black Lives Matter movement. How would you like to see this movement resolved? Do you believe we're closer? Then? Do you believe we're any closer than when George Floyd was murdered?

07:30

Leon

I mean, I felt we were making progress until.

07:32

Anna

Somebody yeah we could go.

07:35

Leon

And another boy walked into a neighborhood in South Carolina, pushed down and stuff like that. So maybe you're not as close as

07:41

Anna

Oh, yeah, that I've done here like briefings. So they just brought up another, like, 13 year old kid. Yeah, no, no, not much has changed people. Um, is there anything else about the anti racist of uprising? You'd like to share?

08:04

Leon

I'll pass on that one.

08:05

Anna

Okay. So you want to go back to your other one? Are you okay with that?

08:08

Leon

No matter? What question was it again? Because I know, I know, I had the right words. It just wasn't coming out. Right.

08:14

Anna

Why do you think there's so much backlash to the Black Lives Matter

08:18

Leon

Okay, so I was saying without one being going to a protest, you see a lot of diversity was sure. It's like, because all the situations that happened, revolved around Caucasian cops, you know, so it's like Phil's group of people, you know, aren't supportive of the Black Lives Matter movement? Because they feel like I guess, I don't know. I can't speak for them. But it's just like,

Yeah, they just feel like everything should be allowed to them and things of that nature. But yeah, that's pretty much what I was trying to say.

09:01

Anna

Okay, cool. Thanks for answering those. So we got some 2021 questions. What was going through your mind when you first heard the US Capitol was invaded?

09:16

Leon

First and that was going into my mind was, things are just getting worse and worse.

09:23

Anna

What is going Oh, the US Capitol?

09:29

Leon

These black lives matter movement. And then now the US Capitol is being invaded, but you don't do that.

09:37

Anna

Yeah, no, how is that possible.

09:41

Anna

What are your reactions to the invasion of the US Capitol by the Trump supporters on January 6 2021.

09:51

Leon

That was crazy. Because it's like you're seeing people take selfies inside Oval Office and things But then he was like, how did you even get that far to even

10:03

Anna

Seriously that far?

10:04

Leon

I know I tried to be there. I was

10:08

Leon

I won't even get over the gate. So like God even got as far as they did.

10:09

Anna
Crazy

10:14

Anna
What do you think led to these people attempting to violently overthrow the government?

10:20

Leon
What led to it? They were just Trump supporters and they didn't get their way. So

10:24

Anna
That answers it, were you surprised how they were treated by the police?

10:33

Leon
I can't say I was surprised. I was more surprised that like, it'd be 2021 how we have cameras and everything but actually see it was shocking. Or like, Damn, like

10:45

Anna
we're reporting live like, live streaming. Like it's not like a past tense thing like we handle it.

10:51

Leon
That's just like the situation with the arm. Dang it was it during the right um, I don't remember the guy that had like a gun that he's shooting at everybody. Oh, the

11:02

Anna
That young boy, Yeah. And the way the cops handled that situation. And he's still how it's being handled

11:08

Leon
That guy that shot up the church, and then the cops got in water and stuff to make sure he was good.

11:11

Anna

Yeah, that's Wow. Yeah, that's me, while Georgia took away the rights to give road voters water while waiting online. You know how high Georgia they try to make those people go away? That makes no sense.

11:25

Anna

Um,

11:29

Anna

There have been reports that members of the groups that stormed the US Capitol included police officers, elected officials and members of the US military. What is anything? I don't know how they worded this. What? Okay, if anything, should we as a society do with this information? That was a long one. So basically, like,

11:57

Leon

Um

11:58

Anna

How do you feel about the people? So reportedly, the people that did storm the capital was important people? Yeah. So how do you feel about those people? Just basically doing what they want and doing it so reckless to like literally storming the Capitol. And these are people who are government officials, elected officials, military people, and police officers.

12:21

Leo

Just shows you that.

12:22

Anna

That they feel entitled. Yeah.

12:28

Anna

Yeah, What do you think? What do you think about President Trump's reaction to the invasion?

12:39

Leon

Like, was there even a reaction?

12:41

Leon

I think he went on Twitter and said, Thank you go home or something like that. But that was like, I don't know, something like that. But he's his reaction. wasn't anything surprising, either?

12:53

Anna

The usual,

12:54

Anna

What do you think about the impeachment trial of the former President Trump? Okay, we're gonna have How do you explain the lack of hostility between two? The two political parties?

13:16

Leon

Like hostility?

13:18

Anna

The lack of hostility? Yeah I'm kind of confused with that one too.

13:24

Anna

If Trump was a woman or a non white, how would the impeachment trial have been the same or different?

13:35

Leon

If he was a woman, or if he wasn't white?

13:39

Leon

It would have been different.

13:40

Anna

Yeah, for sure.

13:41

Anna

That was like, like, if it was Obama, he would have probably been in jail, just by saying, you know, he wants to grab women by the you know what? Okay, so these are some personal questions I have for you that I came up with myself. Um, well, we answered some of them. So you have been apart, my first question is, have you been a part of any protests? And you answered that already with this kind of answered that. Okay, so the question three, How do you feel right now? Like how are you feeling right now?

14:18

Leon

I mean,

14:21

Leon

I just feel like we're just a bit like a bad stage because like, those things are just coming up again now like the cop who thought she had her taser or the guy has to say so it was like, pretty much it's saying it was like nothing's changed it seems.

14:40

Anna

I feel you

14:41

Anna

One wish for mankind moving forward?

14:45

Leon

Health.

14:47

Anna

Me too and maybe some peace. Yeah, for sure. These are my newer personal questions for you. How has Teaching been during the pandemic?

15:02

Leon

Teaching during the pandemic was very difficult actually. Because at least my title was doing gym. Yeah, the physical activity stuff through a camera. While the kids are laying on their couch or their legs

15:17

Anna

Creativity is like at 100 like come on Jaden. Get up from the sofa!

15:23

Leon

There Were a lot of provision.

15:28

Leon

The best of the best I can.

15:29

Anna

Sure. I feel you. Are you worried that people aren't taking things seriously anymore?

15:30

Leon

Yeah.

15:39

Leon

Those heavy those group of people, you know, the conspiracy theorist and stuff that

15:44

Anna

They never believed in it from the beginning.

15:50

Anna

How was it being a part of a protest?

15:53

Leon

Humbling. I was one of the greatest things I've ever been a part of actually.

15:57

Anna

I feel you, so inspiring and empowering too. It's very empowering. Do you feel it was a good choice to reopen schools? working in a Catholic school? Right? Yeah. I know that you guys have been open since What? September 2020.

16:14

Leon

Yeah. So um,

16:17

Anna

Do you feel like that was a good choice?

16:19

Leon

It wasn't. Well, I can't. I can't speak for my school. Yeah, at first I was indifferent about it. But seeing how, yeah, actually going into it, things were okay. Having half the school and they're, you know, half and I'm still remote. Who knows, but I thought I thought at first, and I probably still think that we opened it too early. But we are fortunate enough to not have any cases or anything like that.

16:45

Anna

Amen to that. Last, I would say last but not least, but it's the last one. has this pandemic? Well, you can't answer that. But how has this pandemic affected you and your family financially? You kind of answered that earlier. Yeah. Yeah.

17:04

Leon

Yeah I kinda did, but yeah it did.

17:10

Anna

I want to thank you for being my interviewee for this interview.

17:17

Leon

No problem, no problem.

17:19

Anna

Over it out.