

NAME: Duyen Tu

CLIENT: Park Teen Center

NAME LIKE TO BE CALLED: Duyen

DATE: April 2007

HOMETOWN: Vietnam

TRANS. DATE: 4-5-07

WHERE DOES YOUR FAMILY COME FROM, DUYEN?

Vietnam.

WHAT CITY?

Saigon.

SAIGON. WHAT LANGUAGE IS SPOKEN THERE?

Vietnamese.

IS THAT THE ONLY LANGUAGE THAT'S SPOKEN IN VIETNAM?

Yeah.

HOW BIG IS, IS SAIGON?

Um, about, not that big. (smile) Like five times smaller than...

IS IT THE SIZE OF LINCOLN?

Oh, well bigger than Lincoln.

IT'S BIGGER THAN LINCOLN.

It's, um, about the size of California.

ABOUT THE SIZE OF CALIFORNIA?

Yeah. When you look at the map...

YEAH, I KNOW VIET-, VIETNAM. BUT SAIGON, THE CITY. (oh) HOW BIG IS THE CITY? HOW BIG IS THE CITY?

Like Lincoln. No, like Omaha.

IT'S AS BIG AS OMAHA?

Um hum. (yes)

IS IT SPREAD OUT LIKE OMAHA? OR IS IT VERY CLOSE?

(pause) Very close.

HOW MUCH OF YOUR FAMILY LIVED IN SAIGON?

My dad's side only. Well I have like five aunts. One uncle. That's it.

DID YOU HAVE FAMILY THAT DIDN'T LIVE CLOSE TO YOU?

Yeah.

WHO?

They live in Finland, Norway, Australia...

YOU HAVE FAMILY ALL OVER THE PLACE.

Yeah.

WHY DO THEY LIVE SO, SO MANY DIFFERENT PLACES?

Because like, you know, like there was a war in Vietnam so they like spread out, they go in boats and they go wherever they can. So, yeah. (smile)

HAVE YOU VISITED THOSE PLACES?

Last, like I, I've been to Norway. Uh, that's it.

WHAT WAS YOUR HOUSE LIKE?

It was really big.

IT'S REALLY BIG.

In Vietnam, yeah, it's really big. Like, uh, (pause) three, like... (STORIES?) No, like... Stories? (LEVELS?) Yeah. Three levels.

SOME, SOMETIMES WE CALL, MOST OF THE TIME WE CALL THEM STORIES.
THREE STORIES.

Oh, I see.

DID YOU, WERE NEIGHBORS CLOSE TO YOU?

Yeah, like right next, like the two house stick together. Like...

THEY CONNECT OR...

Yeah, connect.

THEY CONNECT.

Yeah.

DO ALL THE HOUSES CONNECT?

Um hum. (yes) Yeah, they connect, like this.

ARE THEY LIKE HERE?

No.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT?

Um, (pause) the street is smaller. And (pause) we don't drive cars. We drive motorcycles. Like everybody drive motorcycles.

EVERYBODY DRIVES MOTORCYCLES.

Yeah. Unless you really, really, really, really rich and you get a car. But then it's kinda hard to drive. Because the street is small and motorcycle is like everywhere and the car is just like little in there so it's kinda hard to drive.

WHAT ARE OTHER WAYS TO GET AROUND THE TOWN?

Walk.

DO YOU HAVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION?

Like?

LIKE A BUS, LIKE WE HAVE BIG BUSES THAT EVERYBODY GETS ON AND RIDES?

I guess.

DO YOU HAVE THOSE?

Not a lot, but yeah. Cause, you know, the street is small.

DO YOU HAVE TRAINS?

Yeah. Boat a lot.

LOTS OF BOATS.

Um hum. (yes)

SO WHAT FAMILY LIVED WITH YOU IN YOUR HOUSE?

Only my family.

YOUR MOM AND DAD?

My sister and my grandma.

YOUR SISTER AND YOUR GRANDMA.

Um hum. (yes)

WHAT WAS IT LIKE HAVING YOUR GRANDMA LIVE WITH YOU?

It was fun. She give me money all the time. (SMILE) But then she died.

SHE DIED?

Yeah. After we come here, like about one month then she die.

OH, THAT'S TOO BAD.

Before we leave she was really sick. So....

SHE CAME HERE WITH YOU?

No.

NO, SHE STAYED THERE. SHE STAYED. (PAUSE) WHEN YOUR PARENTS TALK ABOUT VIETNAM, ARE THEIR STORIES, ARE THE THINGS THAT THEY TELL YOU MAIN POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE STORIES?

Both.

BOTH?

Because the place that I lived, like really like New York. A lota people and then they smoke and then they use drugs. And then it's like everywhere. And then you can see the little thingy that you, like shot yourself. (NEEDLES?) Yeah, it's like everywhere.

THAT'S NOT GOOD. (yeah) WHAT ARE SOME GOOD STORIES THEY TELL? WHAT ARE SOME POSITIVE THINGS THEY SAY ABOUT VIETNAM?

Na-, uh, it's fun there and... I don't know. (smile) Just it's fun there. Go, I can go with my friends like everywhere I want. Um, yeah. It's like really hot there so not like over here.

HOW IS IT DIFFERENT?

(laugh) I don't know.

IS OVER HERE REALLY COLD?

But then I get used to the weather, so if I go back to Vietnam, I'm gonna pass out. (smile)

CAUSE IT'S REALLY HOT. (yeah) WHEN, WHEN PEOPLE ASK YOU ABOUT VIETNAM, WHAT DO YOU TELL THEM?

They never do.

NOBODY HAS EVER ASKED YOU ABOUT VIETNAM?

No.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU REMEMBER ABOUT VIETNAM?

Uh, it's fun. (smile)

WHAT ARE FUN THINGS THAT YOU DID?

Like go to the mall. Then steal (laugh) stuff.

STEAL STUFF?

With friends. Well we were young. (smile) (laugh) And then we go to the movies, and then go to like concert and then go to like I can go everywhere I want. It was fun. And then the food was really good.

WHAT DID YOUR, WHY DO YOUR PARENTS SAY THAT YOU MOVED HERE?
(Hum?) TO AMERICA. WHY DO YOUR PARENTS SAY THAT YOU MOVED HERE?
YOUR MOM AND YOUR DAD.

Because they want me, they want me to have a better future or something like that.
Cause like, uh, they say that if you graduate over here and then you will get a lot of
money and then if you graduate from Vietnam you, you not gonna get a lot of money,
and you will still be poor and stuff. So we have to move here.

SO THEY MOVED HERE BECAUSE OF BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU?
Yeah.

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT PREPARING TO COME HERE?
(pause) Um, (pause)...

WERE YOU EXCITED? WERE YOU SAD?
No. Not excited, not sad. (smile) Just OK.

YOU WERE JUST OK ABOUT IT.
Yeah, but then she go around, she go, take me to buy clothes and stuff a lot, like before
I come here. So then we can bring over here. So it was fun. (smile)

WHAT DID YOU KNOW ABOUT AMERICA BEFORE YOU CAME?
Nothing.

NOTHING? YOU DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT AMERICA?
No. Cause I don't really care. (smile) (UM...) I, I don't even know who the President is.
(laugh) (SMILE)

DID YOU KNOW WHAT LANGUAGE WE SPEAK?
English. I've been learning like in Vietnam for like three years. But all I can say is "hello".
(smile) I don't care, it's just messing around with friends.

WHAT GRADE DID YOU START LEARNING ENGLISH?
Two, three.

THIRD GRADE? SECOND, THIRD GRADE?
Um hum. (yes)

BUT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING, NO, NOBODY TOLD YOU ANYTHING ABOUT AMERICA? DID YOUR MOM OR DAD TELL YOU ANYTHING ABOUT AMERICA? They did, but I don't really (smile) remember. Cause I didn't listen then. (SMILE) So... Yeah.

WHAT WAS YOUR SCHOOL LIKE IN VIETNAM?

It's really big. They have a big playground. They made, they sell food. And then (pause) and then we just do whatever we want. It's fun. And the classroom is really big. It's like four times bigger than this room. And we have like more..

AND THIS IS LIKE 15 BY, BY 20.

And then we have more than 60 students in one class.

IN ONE CLASS YOU HAVE MORE THAN 60 STUDENTS?

Yeah.

HOW MANY TEACHERS?

For fifth grade, two.

IN ONE CLASSROOM, YOU HAVE TWO TEACHERS IN THAT CLASSROOM?

One is the main teacher and one is, um, like (pause) like, like a student teacher. (UM HUM) But like she care for us all like eating and sleeping. We sleep even. (smile)

YOU, YOU SLEEP IN SCHOOL?

Yeah, we go from school like from 7 to 5 and we sleep from 12 to 2 or 2. We sleep like, yeah, we sleep with boys next to us. Which is sweet. (laugh)

SO IN SCHOOL YOU START YOU DAY AT 7:00. (um hum) AND THEN AROUND NOON YOU TAKE A NAP. (um hum) 12:00 YOU TAKE A NAP. YOU GET BACK UP AROUND 1:00 (um hum) AND THEN YOU HAVE CLASS UNTIL 5:00?

Yeah.

THAT'S A LONG SCHOOL DAY.

And we have to wear uniform.

UNIFORMS TOO?

Yeah. Girls with skirt and white shirt. Guys wear pants and white shirt.

WAS IT A PRIVATE SCHOOL OR PUBLIC SCHOOL?

Public school.

IT WAS PUBLIC SCHOOL. EVERYBODY COULD GO.

Yeah, the, like everybody had to wear uniform. Even high school. Besides college.

COLLEGE YOU DON'T HAVE TO WEAR A UNIFORM.

Hum um. (no)

HOW OFTEN DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL? HOW MANY DAYS A WEEK?

Just like America.

FIVE DAYS?

Yeah. It used to be like from, um, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, then Thursday off, Friday, Saturday and then Sunday off. But then they change it.

SO NOW IT'S MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

And then Saturday and Sunday off.

SUNDAY OFF. WHAT WERE YOUR TEACHERS LIKE?

Really mean.

MEAN?

Yeah, they hit us. And then they call us the B- word.

REALLY?

Yeah, because I didn't listen to him, I was talking with my friend, and he would say "you...." (pause) (B- WORD) yeah.

YEAH. AND THEN THEY HIT YOU?

Yeah.

WITH, UH...

They use the ruler or...

WITH THE RULER?

Yeah.

ON YOUR HAND?

They hit you everywhere. (laugh) Even your back. Yeah.

DOES IT WORK?

No.

DO, DO YOU STOP TALKING AFTER THAT?

I don't really care.

WHAT OTHER WAYS DID THEY DISCIPLINE?

Like... discipline.

DID YOU HAVE, DID THEY SUSPEND YOU FROM SCHOOL?

No.

DID YOU HAVE A PRINCIPLES OFFICE THAT YOU WOULD GO TO IF YOU GOT IN REALLY BIG TROUBLE?

No.

DID THE TEACHERS CALL YOUR PARENTS WHEN YOU WERE REALLY BAD?

No.

THEY JUST HIT YOU.

Yeah. (smile)

WHEN YOU WERE BAD THEY JUST HIT YOU.

Yeah.

HUH. WHAT ABOUT IF YOU WERE LATE?

Nah, nothing happened. (NOTHING HAPPENED) (inaud)

HOW FAR AWAY WAS YOUR SCHOOL?

Really close. Like two, three minutes. Yeah, cause like I used to play sport for school so me and my friend just walked to school like early in the morning and walk home. Um, it's like four minutes away.

THAT'S NOT BAD. WHAT SPORTS WOULD YOU PLAY?

Uh, it's I, I don't know what its called here, cause I don't think they play over here. (OH) It's a ball and then you throw it in like a big goal like a soccer goal. You throw it in. Yeah, and then our school won third place. Yeah.

THEY DON'T HAVE THAT SPORT OVER HERE? (pause) WHAT OTHER SPORTS DID YOU HAVE OVER THERE THAT ARE THE SAME AS HERE?

Badminton.

BADMINTON.

And then, uh, shuttlecocks. They have the, um, like we play in PE, uh, today, like a little birdie and then we kick it.

YOU KICK A LITTLE BIRDIE.

(laugh) Well it's called shuttlecocks or whatever. I don't know. You have to ask Mrs. Black.

OH, I HAVE TO ASK MRS. BLACK. I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER HEARD OF THAT SPORT.

You're bad. (smile)

MAYBE SO. (SMILE) MAYBE I'M JUST OUT OF THE LOOP. WHAT, UH, WHAT CLASSES DID YOU HAVE IN SCHOOL?

The whole day we had to have like art and then learn English, math, health, social studies, science, (pause) computer. Yeah.

SO A LOT OF THE SAME CLASSES.

Yeah, and we have to stay in the same class. Every period we stay in the same class. We just changing the teachers. That's it.

SO ALL THE, SO YOU SIT IN THE SAME ROOM ALL DAY AND TEACHERS COME IN.

Yeah. And when we take tests, it's really fun, because it, um, took the teacher like a long time to get prepared for like tests, but like you have the whole day, you have to take tests like for every subject. So we was running around the hallway and then we was messing around, fighting and stuff. And then when the teacher come up, we ran to classrooms, sit down. (smile) It, it, it's fun.

WHAT WAS THE ATTITUDE LIKE IN THE CLASSROOM COMPARED TO AMERICA? WERE THE KIDS BETTER BEHAVED? WORSE BEHAVED? OR ABOUT THE SAME?
About the same.

ABOUT THE SAME. THEY TALKED JUST AS MUCH. (um hum) THEY'D GET IN ABOUT JUST AS MUCH TROUBLE. (yeah) WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT?

Nothing. (smile)

YOU DON'T LIKE ANY OF EM?

No, not really.

WHICH ONE DID YOU NOT LIKE THE MOST?

Nothing.

YOU DIDN'T LIKE ANY OF EM.

Um um. (no) (smile)

HOW WOULD YOU SAY IT'S DIFFERENT THAN AMERICAN SCHOOLS?

OK, like over here we like we're, I don't know how to say it, but this over here is better than back here.

IT'S BETTER?

Yeah. That's the thing. Every year we have to buy new books and then the stuff that we learn, we have to buy it. We, um, the, and, but over here they like have everything for us. We just need to... Yeah.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT'S DIFFERENT?

No. (laugh) No. (laugh)

WHEN YOU FIRST CAME HERE, HOW DID YOU FEEL OTHERS TREATED YOU?
Um, (pause) I don't know. (pause) OK, I guess. They were really nice. Besides my cousin. I hate them. They're mean to me.

YOUR COUSINS?

Yeah. They like, they don't like me and my, my family or some, for some reason. It just..

HOW DID YOU GUYS DECIDE ON LINCOLN, NEBRASKA?

Because my uncle lived here. That's why I have to go here. But then I wanta move to California or Texas, but then my mom said "no".

WHY DO YOU WANTA MOVE TO THOSE STATES?

Because they have more Vietnamese people and more cute boys. (laugh) I'm just kidding. (laugh)

HAVE YOU LIVED IN ANY OTHER CITIES? (nope) IN THE UNITED STATES? (um um) LINCOLN HAS BEEN IT. IS THERE A BIG VIETNAMESE POPULATION IN LINCOLN?

No, not really.

IT'S SMALL. SO MOST OF THE AMERICAN KIDS WERE NICE TO YOU, BUT YOUR COUSINS WEREN'T?

Um hum. (yes) She just mean to me for some reason. I hate her. She's racist. God.

CAUSE SHE'S VIETNAMESE?

She, she racist to Fav(?). (laugh) I'm just kidding. (laugh)

TO WHAT?

(laugh) Nothing. Well, FAV, fresh off the boats.

FRESH OFF THE BOATS....

Yeah.

DID YOU TAKE A BOAT TO COME HERE?

No. A plane.

A PLANE...

Fap. (laugh)

FRESH OFF THE PLANE.

Um hum. (yes) (FAP) But then, you know, like if the other people said fap to like... This guy, he just come here like, um, the same time we did, and then now like people call him Fap, he get really mad, he beat them up. (smile)

SO FAP IS NOT A GOOD TERM.

Um um. (no) Not from the other, from the people born here said to you. The people that just come here, no.

WAS YOUR COUSIN BORN HERE?

Um hum. (yes) (OH) Yeah, I seen that happen a lot in Lincoln High.

IS THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE BORN HERE ARE MEAN TO THOSE WHO WEREN'T BORN HERE.

Yeah. Sometimes they're not really. Some people just...

YEAH. HUH. UH, WHEN YOU FIRST MOVED HERE, WHAT WERE SOME THINGS THAT YOU HAD TO DO DIFFERENTLY? WHAT WERE THINGS YOU CHANGED?

I can't go outside.

YOU CAN'T GO OUTSIDE. WHY NOT?

Plus I don't have much friend. My friend live like really far away. So if I wanta go somewhere, my mom said no. She scared I'm gonna get kidnapped or something. And then I don't know, it's just boring cause all I do is stay home. But then I get internet so (smile) every time I do. (laugh) So it's better.

DID YOU HAVE TO CHANGE YOUR CLOTHING AT ALL?

Um hum. (yes) Like in Vietnam we can wear sleeping clothes, like go everywhere we want. Then over here have, we go outside have to wear jeans and stuff, cause scared people gonna laugh at us, at, at us, you know. So....

IN VIETNAM YOU WOULD WEAR CLOTHES THAT YOU WOULD SLEEP IN? IS THAT WHAT YOU SAID?

Yeah. Normal clothes. Just those clothes that you sleep in. Then in the morning, wake up, brush your teeth, then you can go outside, go to the mall wear the same clothes. Doesn't matter. (smile) (HUH) It's fun.

THAT IS DIFFERENT

You don't have to change. Cause I'm lazy. You have to (inaud) those jean, and I don't know what to wear.

DID YOU HAVE TO CHANGE THE TYPE OF MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO?

No. I just go on internet, search for music, and... But then in Vietnam, I don't like English music for some reason. (smile) But then now I do. I listen to it a lot.

NOW YOU DO.

Um hum.

WHAT, WHAT ARE SOME ARTISTS YOU LIKE?

Chris (inaud).

CHRIS (INAUD).

Omarian(?). Uh, (Pause) (laugh) (pause) Little Craze. He's a Vietnamese rapper, and he rap English. He's really good. Yep.

WHAT ABOUT, UH, YOUR BEHAVIOR? DID THAT CHANGE AT ALL?

No.

IT STAYED THE SAME. (um hum) WHAT FAMILY TRADITIONS DO YOU GUYS STILL PRACTICE HERE, THAT YOU PRACTICED OVER IN VIETNAM?

(pause) Um, Chinese New Year. Like every Christmas, Chinese New Year and then the moon, moon festival. We have like a family reunion, then get together and eat and stuff. Like Chinese New Year coming up, and then have family reunion, like on February 18th. And that's where I'm gonna get money.

THAT'S IN LIKE 10 DAYS.

Yeah, that's when I'm gonna get money and go shopping.

MONEY?

Yeah, cause like every new year the adults have to, um, give the little kids money.
Yeah.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A NICE HOLIDAY.

Um hum. (yes) That's what I've been waiting for. (smile)

I DIDN'T HAVE THAT HOLIDAY WHEN I GREW UP. WE SHOULD HAVE. (yep) I LIKE MONEY.

I like it more than you do. (SMILE)

I DON'T KNOW. SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE, HAVE YOU STARTED ANY NEW TRADITIONS THAT ARE AMERICAN?

Yeah. Like Christmas. Cause in Vietnam we don't do present and stuff. But when I get here my cousin and my cousin family, she do Christmas. So like we get present and stuff. So, yep.

HOW DID YOU DO CHRISTMAS IN VIETNAM? DID YOU HAVE CHRISTMAS?

Yeah, kinda. The mall give out candy and stuff. That's it.

WHAT ABOUT FOURTH OF JULY?

No. (laugh) There is no fourth of July in Vietnam.

DO YOU CELEBRATE FOURTH OF JULY NOW?

Yeah.

UM, WHAT ABOUT HALLOWEEN?

Um hum. (yes)

DID YOU HAVE HALLOWEEN IN VIETNAM?

No.

NO. BUT YOU CELEBRATE IT NOW.

Well, in Vietnam there is a, a day like Halloween, which we put fruits, candy and stuff outside. And then, and then people just come and they take it. Like we have, like have to come and take it. I did it every year so it's called Ukohom(?).

SAY THAT AGAIN?

Ukohom(?). (YOKOHOM?) (laugh) (YOKOHOME)

Yeah, it's like you have to take all the candy and fruit really fast before someone else does. (SMILE) (smile) Get as much as you can. (laugh) Yeah.

SO THAT'S KIND OF LIKE HALLOWEEN.

Yeah. But...

DO YOU DRESS UP?

No.

NO. (laugh) JUST GO AROUND IN NORMAL CLOTHES. (um hum) HUH. WHAT LANGUAGE IS SPOKEN IN YOUR HOME?

Vietnamese.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO TRANSLATE FOR YOUR PARENTS OR FOR COUSINS OR FOR YOUNGER SIBLINGS?

Uh, yeah.

YOU HAD TO TRANSLATE BEFORE?

Um hum.

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?

No, it's annoying.

YOU DON'T LIKE IT.

No. They keep on asking and if some, if I, if I don't understand something, they call me stupid. It's like "why you go to school for?" It's so lame.

WHO CALLS YOU STUPID?

My mom and dad. (SMILE) They ask me something, I said I, I didn't learn that word yet. They just like "then why you go to school for, stupid?" (SMILE)

WELL THAT'S NOT VERY NICE.

It's the same thing happen to every family; Lisa, Linda, it happen to all them.

THEY GO THROUGH THE SAME THING.

Yeah.

OH MAN. DOES SOMETIMES IT FEEL LIKE YOU LIVE A DOUBLE LIFE? LIKE AN AMERICAN LIFE AT SCHOOL AND A VIETNAMESE LIFE AT HOME?

No. (OH) Um um. (no)

THEY'RE A LOT ALIKE?

Yeah. (pause) Oh, oh, well sometimes cause, yeah, like we eat rice every day. So like after, after school I get home and I eat dinner, I eat rice like every day. Then in school I eat American food, like hot dog, pizza and stuff. So...

SO ON WEEKENDS DO YOU, DO YOU JUST EAT VIETNAMESE FOOD?

Um hum. (yes)

SO YOU GUYS DIDN'T CHANGE, CHANGE THAT. (no) DO YOUR PARENTS EAT AMERICAN FOOD?

Only Subway. They love Subway.

THEY LOVE SUBWAY.

And me too. (smile) We all eat Subway because less calorie, fat and stuff..

YOU DON'T EAT MCDONALDS?

It's a lot of calorie fat. I told them that. They used to eat it, but then after I told them about what happens in the movie Supersize Me. (LAUGH) So they stopped eating it and then they start eating Subway cause it's like non- not that fat. (YEAH) Yeah.

HEALTHIER, IT'S HEALTHIER.

Yeah.

IT'S DEFINITELY HEALTHIER. ARE THERE MCDONALDS IN VIETNAM?

Um hum. (yes) Um, yeah.

WHAT ABOUT BURGER KING?

No.

PIZZA HUT?

Only, only McDonalds. (ONLY MCDONALDS) Um hum. (yes)

DO YOUR PARENTS SPEAK ENGLISH?

A little bit.

DOES THAT AFFECT WHO YOU, WHAT FRIENDS YOU HAVE OVER TO YOUR HOUSE?

No.

THEY'RE OK WITH YOU BRINGING ENGLISH SPEAKING FRIENDS OVER TO THE HOUSE?

Yeah. (YEAH)

HOW DOES YOUR FAMILY STAY IN TOUCH WITH VIETNAM?

They call. And sometimes they chat. And, uh, and now they, um, call on Internet. They using skype. It's talk free. So you can talk wherever you want. From like Vietnam, here or, yeah.

OVER THE COMPUTER?

Yeah.

HUH. DO YOU TALK TO FRIENDS FROM VIETNAM?

Used to. Not anymore. I don't know why. Just don't feel like talking to them (smile) anymore. There is nothing to talk about.

WOULD THEY ASK YOU QUESTIONS ABOUT AMERICA?

Um hum. (yes)

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM ABOUT AMERICA?

(pause) (laugh) Uh, I'd say it's fun. (laugh) I guess. I don't know.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT THEY WOULD ASK YOU?

Like if I missed them and if I have fun over here. And, yeah.

AND YOU WOULD JUST SAY YEAH.

Um hum. (yes) (laugh)

IF SOME OF YOUR FRIENDS WERE COMING OVER TO AMERICA, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM TO HELP THEM BECOME MOE AMERICAN? TO ADJUST TO AMERICAN LIFE.

Shopping. (smile)

SHOPPING. WHAT ABOUT SHOPPING.

You buy new clothes and stuff.

SO YOU TELL EM TO GO SHOPPING. (laugh) YOU TELL EM "YOU GOTTA GO SHOPPING, YOU GOTTA BUY ALL NEW CLOTHES".

Uh huh. (yes)

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL EM ABOUT, UH, LEARNING ENGLISH?

Like...

HOW WOULD YOU TELL EM TO STUDY ENGLISH? WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO LEARN ENGLISH?

I don't know.

WOULD YOU GIVE EM TIPS?

I don't know. (smile) Uh... But almost all my friends, they know English better than me. So... (laugh)

YOUR FRIENDS FROM VIETNAM?

Yeah, they know English better than me, so... I don't really... (laugh)

YOU WOULDN'T REALLY GIVE THEM TIPS. (smile) WHAT ABOUT ADJUSTING TO SCHOOL? WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM ON HOW TO ADJUST TO SCHOOL?

Uh, I don't know. (pause)

DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE AMERICAN?

No.

NO? WHY NOT?

In America? An America. (AN AMERICAN) Not sometimes. Not all the time. Cause... (WHY NOT ALL THE TIME?) Cause like there is some Vietnamese that are over here, and like there is a restaurant have all Vietnamese food and stuff.

SO YOU STILL MAINTAIN A (um hum) STILL DO A LOT OF VIETNAMESE THINGS.

Yeah.

SO IF YOU COULD LIVE HERE OR VIETNAM, WHERE WOULD YOU WANTA LIVE?

Here.

HERE?

Yeah. Cause like, um hum, cause it's better over here.

WHAT'S BETTER ABOUT IT?

Everything. But then if I live here then I can still go back and visit Vietnam every summer, so it doesn't matter.

WHAT IF YOU LIVE IN VIETNAM. CAN YOU COME HERE AND VISIT EVERY SUMMER?

No, I don't want to. (smile)

YOU DON'T WANTA LIVE IN VIETNAM?

No. And even if I live in Vietnam then I wouldn't come here every summer cause, it's just weird.

HUH. OK. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU COULD TELL ME ABOUT VIETNAM, THAT YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY TOLD ME?

Um um. (no) It's fun.

IT'S FUN.

And the clothes are so cheap and then you know those hats that they wear over here like about \$30 something, Vietnam it's like only \$1.

ALL THE CLOTHES ARE CHEAPER OVER THERE?

Yeah. And it's like, it's like all the expensive (inaud) you know, is like relay cheap. So I wanta go back there and buy clothes. (smile)

AND THEN COME HERE?

Yeah.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU COULD TELL ME ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE HERE IN AMERICA THAT YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY TOLD ME?

Nope. I told you everything.

ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE HERE IN AMERICA. (um hum) DO YOUR PARENTS LIKE AMERICA?

Yeah. Um hum. (yes)

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA GET A BETTER JOB BECAUSE YOU WENT TO SCHOOL HERE?

I guess. I'm not, I don't know I guess.

WHAT DO YOU WANTA DO WHEN YOU GROW UP?

I didn't even think about it yet. That's what they've been asking me, but I haven't been thinking about it yet. (SMILE)

THEY'RE ALREADY ASKING. ALRIGHT DUYEN, THANKS FOR DOING THE INTERVIEW. (OK) I APPRECIATE IT.