Interview keywords/topics: Ireland and Appalachia, Community, 2024 Election, Hurricane Helene

Interviewer: JW
Interviewee: SB

JW (00:00):

<silence> All righty. This is an interview conducted in Belk Library on Wednesday, November 6th, 2024. Um, this is a part of an oral history project for WRC 2202, a Fall 2024 history course with Dr. Martell. This semester we discussed different ways of using and understanding historical information or creating our own oral history projects, um, and documenting our experiences today. I am JW interviewing,

SB (00:36):

SB.

JW (00:38):

Alright, SB. Um, let me, who are you? What, what, what are you studying? Um, what year are you?

SB (00:45):

Uh, I'm a sophomore. Uh, and I major in East Asian languages and cultures, and my minor is undecided.

JW (00:52):

Okay. Um, before we get into the questions I have for you today, I just wanted to ask if you're <laugh>, if you're doing okay. Um, for context, yesterday was the presidential election of 2024 and Donald Trump was reelected. He beat out Kamala Harris. Um, and so today has definitely been an emotional day for many people here. So I just wanted to take a second to check in with you before we get to the script.

SB (01:19):

I have been crying all morning <laugh>.

JW (01:21):

Yeah.

SB (01:23):

So not great.

JW (01:24):

Yeah.

SB (01:24):

Thank you for asking though.

JW (01:26):

Mm-Hmm, <affirmative>. Well, you only have to share what you feel comfortable with and if at any point we need to stop or switch it up, just let me know. Um, alright. So onto you. Um, where do you consider yourself to be from and what's, what's that hometown like for you?

SB (01:42):

I am from a small town in North Carolina. It's like 30, 45 minutes outside of Charlotte called Mount Pleasant,

JW (01:50):

Oh yea,

SB (01:50):

Which there's like a million Mount Pleasant. So every time I say that everyone's like, oh, so you're from South Carolina? And I'm like, no. Yeah. I'm from a, it's, it's very small and it's like, our whole thing is we're on the way to Raleigh. That's the whole, that's all we got going for us.

JW (02:09):

Like that you're on the way to Raleigh from Charlotte?

SB (02:12):

Yeah.

JW (02:12):

Okay. <laugh>.

SB (02:13):

Yeah. We do have, the Avett brothers are from our town, so,

JW (02:18):

The Avett brothers are awesome.

SB (02:20):

Yeah. So that's their one claim to fame

JW (02:23):

<laugh>. Okay. So how do you think growing up in a small town on the way to Raleigh shaped you?

SB (02:28):

Um, I mean, I think the, it gives you an experience, like, especially like, I don't know. I knew the same people from the point I was in kindergarten to the point I graduated. Like, we got some new people in, but for the most part, everybody knows everyone. Yeah. Like, um, and I feel like it definitely made me appreciate small towns more. Like I have a lot of love for my hometown. It might be flawed, but I feel like it has good people there. And I mean, like, I've grown up on the friends of the library board. Um,

JW (03:10):

What is the friends of the library?

SB (03:12):

Friends of the library is a volunteer group like that, most libraries have one

JW (03:19):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

SB (03:19):

And basically they put together fundraisers. They put together programming. They like, uh, raise money and like budget for the library since like, like they work on getting like library staff, like new materials or they do like, um, used book sales to raise money for the library. It's just a, Yeah. Um, so I, I I care a lot about like my town and the people in it, and that's always been something that's very important to me. I feel like, um, growing up in a small town gives you a perspective on people.

JW (03:58):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

SB (03:58):

That you don't always get because there's a lot of, there's a lot of people who think a lot differently from me. And that's very hard sometimes.

JW (04:07):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

SB (04:07):

But it's also grounding because it also shows you that they are also people. And I feel like it shows them that we are also people too. Like, it's not a perfect solution, but I do feel like there is a like, sense of humanity there.

JW (04:28):

Yeah.

SB (04:28):

I really appreciate.

JW (04:30):

Was it, was it hard to leave your hometown to come to App?

SB (04:34):

It definitely was. Um, but less because it was the town and more because it's family. . I don't do very well away from my family. I got family up here though, so.

JW (04:47):

Oh, that's nice. Where is your family up here?

SB (04:49):

Um, my sister lives like right on the edge of Blowing Rock and Boone. Um, and my cousin, uh, he goes here, um, he lives like, uh, I can't remember the apartments, but he lives on in apartments nearby. Um, so it is nice that I have, like, I still have Family connection.

JW (05:12):

Did your sister go to App? Is that how she ended up here?

SB (05:14):

Yeah, my sister went to App. Um, she graduated, I can't remember <laugh> a few years ago. Uh, 24 now. So it was a handful of years ago. Um, but yeah. And my, my cousin is a junior. Uh, he's a year above me. Um, and, uh, I always joke, um, it runs in her blood. 'cause my mom went here, my dad went here, my aunt went before my mom went, and then my sister went, and then my cousin went. Now I'm here. So <laugh>

JW (05:50):

And are y'all all from the same hometown as well?

SB (05:53):

Um, no. Uh, my mom and my aunt were born in different states because my grandfather was in, uh, the Air Force. Okay. So they moved all over the place. But my mom was born in Indiana. Uh, but she, her family moved to North Carolina and in the Mount Pleasant area, um, when she was like, I wanna say like seven or eight, maybe nine. Okay. I can't remember. Um, but I've lived here my whole life and so has my sister and so has my cousin. Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>. Um, so, um, yeah.

JW (06:28):

Hmm. So what made you want to come to App State? Was it that family tie? Was it your own volition?

SB (06:35):

I mean, I think, like, I tried looking outside of App. I, I toured different schools. I, uh, I like, my dad was like, you should apply for Chapel Hill. And I was like, I don't want to go to Chapel Hill, but I was like, fine. Didn't get in. Surprising no one, I was like, I'm not even trying to get in here. I don't wanna go to Chapel Hill. <laugh>. Um, uh, I, I think the thing that drew me to APP was, it was between APP and UNCC for me.. 'cause UNCC actually has a surprisingly broad, um, like, uh, international program. Um,

JW (07:14):

It's a very diverse school being in a city.

SB (07:16):

Yeah. So that was the draw to UNCC. Also, I could just commute from my home. Um, but the draw for it was that it had such a wide, um, international program compared to the other schools in, um, in North Carolina. But something about just being in Boone, like, I, I don't know, like if there's a feeling that you get in Boone, I always call it like the weird siren song. It's like, I'm like, I'm, I feel like I'm just like possessed or something. 'cause it's like, it, it's hard because it's not become quite a home for me yet, but it's definitely somewhere where I, I feel comfortable being like, I think if I had been, if like the city or like

if I like, 'cause I, I applied to State too. Like I don't think I, I think if I went to State I would've been miserable like something about the area.

JW (08:14):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

SB (08:14):

Feels like it's not home yet, but it's still like, I feel comfortable.

JW (08:20):

Yeah. 'cause this is what your third semester

SB (08:22):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

JW (08:23):

At app. Yeah. I, I relate to that. There's definitely a draw to the mountains and it usually a big transition like that it takes some time to, you know, get used to your new, your new surroundings.

SB (08:35):

Yeah.

JW (08:37):

Okay. Well, how, how would you say your life has changed since you got to App? Like, what have those changes since you got here looked like?

SB (08:45):

Um, I mean, I think I've definitely grown in a lot of ways that I was not anticipating. And I don't quite know that I appreciate them <laugh>. Um, a lot of crazy things happening since I came here.

JW (09:03):

Yeah.

SB (09:04):

But I also think that I have gotten better at, um, like, it, it's something I work on. I've gotten better at leaving my room <laugh>. Because that's, that's something that I, I definitely think, like, I'm still not perfect at it, but it is something that I have seen growth in myself with. Like, I am much more comfortable going into new situations that where other before, I mean, I'm still like, you know, like, it's like trying to get a cat to take a bath. Like

JW (09:38):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>,

SB (09:39):

I'm still like digging my heels into the dirt. Like, I don't wanna, but I still I, I'm better at making myself do the things that are more frightening to me and doing things by myself, I feel.

JW (09:51):

Yeah.

SB (09:51):

Um, 'cause yeah, I don't <laugh> I'm not a very, uh, outside, like, I'm not a very social person. <laugh>,

JW (10:04):

I understand that.

SB (10:05):

Um, so that's been a growing experience. And I think, I think too, it's given me some retrospect on stuff about like, growing up, um, and like seeing sort of how other people like, have lived and their lives and have grown up. I think that's a very powerful learning experience.

JW (10:28):

I agree.

JW (10:34):

Yeah. So what, speaking of like staying in your room, what was that like? Dorm experience like versus your apartment experience versus, you know, other, other times you've lived alone?

SB (10:47):

Um, well, uh, I've had, this is my third semester of college.

JW (10:55):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>,

SB (10:55):

I've had three roommates. Roommates, um, uh, which is definitely, I feel like, not how it's pitched to you, how that's gonna happen. Yeah. Um, usually it's like, oh, you get a one roommate per year and then you get an apartment and you're fine. Like, you'll have Yeah. But I have had three roommates, three different roommates. Um, and I don't really like communal living. I lived in an apartment, uh, over in university, which is the area outside of UNCC. Um, very creative naming.

JW (11:30):

Yes.

SB (11:31):

Um, <laugh>, I lived in an apartment in university, uh, basically all of high school. Um, so I knew that I did not like communal living very much. Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>. Um, I just don't, like, I, I don't deal well when people are being loud at night and I'm trying to sleep.

JW (11:52):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

SB (11:52):

And in dorms it's even worse.

JW (11:54):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

SB (11:54):

Like, I

JW (11:55):

What dorm did you live in?

SB (11:56):

I have lived in the LLC, um, 'cause I'm part of the Watauga Residential College. Um, but, uh, the Living Learning Center. Um, technically I live in the LLR, which is living learning residential. Um, but, uh, yeah, so they're like a suite style where you have two people in a room, a bathroom that connects them, and then two people in the room on the other side.

JW (12:25):

Mm-Hmm.

SB (12:25):

and my suite mates have always been very nice. I've had good suite mates and my roommates are pretty, like, they were all pretty like nice people. But there's something very, I, I'm kind of over the whole, like having to adjust to a new person in my living space.

JW (12:40):

Yeah.

SB (12:40):

Um, and uh, it's, it's definitely hard 'cause my current roommate, um, very sweet person, but they are kind of a partier and I never know when they're gonna come back.

JW (12:55):

Yeah.

SB (12:55):

And so I'll be like, ah, time to go to, oh, <laugh>, oh, <laugh>. Yeah. So like, it's like it's, yeah. That's just like a minor thing, but it's always like, huh.

JW:

No, but that's frustrating. Yeah.

SB:

Yeah. Um, yeah. But I, I feel like I've had a very unconventional, uh, living situation in the dorms. Um, just 'cause Yeah, I had a period of time last year where I didn't have a roommate. Um, that was in my second semester. And then without telling me, they moved my second roommate into the dorm, um, while I, I was visiting home for the weekend.

JW:

Oh, no. So you just showed back up. Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

SB:

luckily she reached out to me 'cause she knew my suitemate. And she was like, Hey, so I'm gonna be moving it, but no word from housing.

JW:

Oh, wow.

SB:

Like, um, and same thing with, uh, my new roommate, um, my current roommate. Um, when I got to school this year, I did not have a roommate. The night before class just started at 9:00 PM Mm-Hmm. I was on the phone with my friend. I get a knock from, from, um, like on the door from one of the RAs.

JW (14:10):

Yeah.

SB (14:10):

And I open the door and I'm like, what, what's going on? Like, was I being too loud on the phone, <laugh> or something? And I was like, why am why are you here? Uh, and they were like, Hey, you're, you don't have a roommate right now. Right. And I was like, no. And they're like, can we do an emergency placement in your room? And I was like, and they were like

JW (14:30):

An emergency placement?

SB (14:31):

Yeah. And they told me that it would only be a temporary thing, but then it has not been a temporary thing. Um, and my current roommate moved into the dorm at 11 o'clock at night, the night before classes started <laugh>.

JW (14:46):

Oh, wow.

SB (14:46):
Um, and like, it's all fine now, but like, it's like, that was <laugh>.

JW (14:52):
Do you know why your roommate moved in?

SB (14:54):
Yes, I do. Um, their former roommate was like, weird. Um, like just, yeah.

JW:
It was not a safe space.

SB:
No. <laugh>.

JW:
I understand.

SB:
So I'm like, I'm, I'm fine taking in someone, but I was also like, could you not have done this any other night? <laugh>.

JW (15:16):
Okay. So outside of like the dorm what would you say the, the, the climate, the political social climate of App state is? And I know that there's probably a drastic turn as of last night, but just in general. Um,

SB (15:31):
Um, I mean, there's a lot of, um, I mean, I mean, with last year we had all of the stuff with

JW (15:40):
Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>,

SB (15:40):
The arts department. Um, I was like, and everything with like, all the Sheri Everett stuff, [Ed. note: Everett was the Chancellor until Spring 2024] but also just like in general, I feel like, um, there's a, the, the climate on campus was a lot of up until like last night was a lot of just like, really pushing for people to vote and get involved, which I did appreciate that.

JW (16:05):

Yeah.

SB (16:06):

But it was also kind of draining to like, I don't know, the people asking if people had voted was fine, but like yesterday I wa I saw someone walk on down campus with a, with a MAGA hat on, and I was like, wow. And I haven't seen one of those since like 2016.

JW (16:31):

Yeah.

SB (16:31):

Like, I feel like it's a very, like, um, it feels kind of tense and I can't tell if that's an actual like thing or if I just feel tense and sort of uncomfortable <laugh>. Yeah. Like, I, I, I don't know, like whenever I'm on campus, I just feel like I need to get into where I need to go as fast as possible. Like, yeah. I, I, I don't know. I don't know. That's sort of the feeling that I have when I'm on campus.

JW (17:02):

So on a greater political like US to global scale, since that has become very prevalent on campus in dictating a lot of the climate here locally, what would you say the issues are that you are most focused on or worried about? Especially now as, um, the new, uh, president will be taking, taking place.

SB (17:23):

Trans rights.

JW (17:24):

Okay.

SB (17:25):

Um, is definitely the thing that I'm most concerned about right now.

JW (17:29):

Mm-Hmm.

SB (17:30):

Um, I have family who is trans. I have tons of friends who are trans. And it feels like, like I don't, I don't know, <laugh>, it feels like there's no way to make things better. It's like It's like, I, I feel the general consensus on trans people and trans lives is either hatred or complete and utter apathy. Like they don't even care about them. And it's like, I, I think about all of the people in my life who are going to lose access to healthcare. And I think about all of the people in my life who, like, were just coming to terms with who they are, and now they don't have the ability to get help. And that is just heartbreaking to me. Like, all of the children who won't, like people are going to die <laugh>. Like, there is, there have been several studies that show that suicide rates in trans people are higher when they don't have access to treatment. And it's just something that I, I wish people would see that it's not that, for some people it's life and death.

JW (19:02):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

SB (19:03):

Like, like, and, and I, and I worry about all of my friends who are like children of immigrants or my, my partner who is adopted. Like, they were, the first thing they did this morning was, Hey, I need to check if I have a potential to be deported. Like, like it's a horrifying like, way to start the day. And I'm, I, I, like, I don't, I don't know. I think those are the things that weigh the most prevalently on my mind right now is how <laugh> how can, I don't want to stop fighting, but it's like, I don't, I just worry <laugh>.

JW (19:54):

Yeah.

SB (19:55):

I worry about the people I love. And I worry about all the people who I've never met before who deserve a place of welcoming and safe. Like, and I worry about my little sister. Like I, she shouldn't have to grow up in a country where, you know, she has to worry about like her bodily autonomy. Like, she's just a kid. I, she's around the same age I was when the 2016 election happened. And it's like, I don't, I don't know. This isn't, this isn't the world I wanted for her.

JW (20:34):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

SB (20:39):

And I just think it's, it's frightening.

SB (20:47):

Yeah. <laugh>.

JW (20:48):

Yeah.

SB (20:49):

Uh,

JW (20:50):

Yeah. I totally, I totally understand that. My, um, my older sister miscarried two weeks ago, and she wasn't able to get the help she needed because there was a fetus inside of her. And so the doctors wouldn't touch her. Luckily she was able to, you know, she's okay. Yeah. Um, but it's terrifying. Yeah. It's terrifying. 'cause even if like nothing goes wrong and I decide I wanna have a child, like who knows if I'll survive it.

SB (21:20):

Yeah. Like death during childbirth is a huge concern.

JW (21:24):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

SB (21:24):

And like, it's like, are we not, do we have no <laugh>? I don't know. It's, it's just frightening. And it's like, it's part of me is like, well, it's only four years, but a ton can happen in four years.

JW (21:43):

Yeah.

SB (21:43):

And I, I think about all the people who are just going to feel vindicated, like, like all of the horrible plans, all of the ideas of making this a fascist dictatorship. It's like, I don't know. I don't even have a passport. Like, Like, ugh.

JW (22:06):

Yeah. No, it's very scary. I, the first thing I did when I woke up this morning is check. Because I stayed up as late as I could before. I was like, I'm gonna go insane. I need to go to sleep.

SB (22:17):

Yeah. I, I just sort of laid in bed for a long time last night until I passed out. Yeah. Because I was just like, I can't look at my phone right now because I think I will probably vomit. But I was also like, I can't go to sleep right now because I'm so anxious. But yeah.

JW (22:41):

Um, this is kind of a veer into a different direction.

SB:

That's fine.

JW:

Um, but something similar, you know, like with a lot of the conversations about things like trans rights about women's rights. About, um, immigration. I feel like we are a generation that, uh, is a generation of change. And we are kind of born at this pivotal, pivotal turning point. Um, and so what does it mean to you to be Gen Z?

SB (23:18):

I think to me, I mean, I don't often think about it too much, but I think for me being Gen Z and being a young person who was half raised online, um, like, I think it means trying to analyze things further.

JW (23:47):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>,

SB (23:48):

I think it means trying to actually do something about the things that I care about. and not just sitting on my hands and doing nothing. Like, and I don't know if that's what it means for other people, but for, for me, I feel like it means like, if I can expose people to new ideas and new things that they're not familiar with and maybe uncomfortable with, then I will try my hardest to. Like, if they're gonna be a jerk about it, I'm not bothering, but like, I, I feel like to me it means being open to allowing other people to Change. And again, maybe that's just a personal thing, but like, I feel like I see so many different kinds of people and I know so many kinds of people both online and like in, in person. And I feel like it's like, I feel like people are angry with how it is right now. And I feel like I trust that our generation won't, won't be quiet about it.

JW (25:09):

Yeah.

SB (25:10):

Um, and I also just think it means like, I don't know, I feel like there's also an apathy to it that is kind of negative. Um, I think it's pretty negative. I think like I, I I think you either have the people who are really, really active, or you have the people who are so normalized to all of the horrible things happening that they just don't process it anymore. And so I do think that is the negative part of our generation is that we are exposed to so much horrible stuff, so much that some people become complicit in it, or like complacent. And just because it's like <laugh> it feels hopeless. And I understand that, but I also think it's like, you got to, I, I feel like the people who feel hopeless need to team up with the people who feel invigorated. They need to lift each other up.

JW (26:13):

Yeah. Um, so do you, do you think that like stereotypes of Gen Z perceptions of Gen Z by older generations, um, do you think people view us that way? Do you think, like, what is this, what is the perception you get?

SB (26:29):

I feel like generally speaking, the perception is the whole like, oh, you kids are so sensitive to everything. Like, I feel like there is the idea that like, oh, it's like no one can take a joke anymore.

JW (26:41):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

SB (26:42):

But ironically, if someone who's Gen Z makes a joke about something

JW (26:47):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>,

SB (26:48):

Older generations get all upset about it.

JW (26:51):

Yeah.

Sohpia (26:51):

And they get offended. So it's like, I think the difference is that I feel like Gen Z, like people who are in Gen Z won't like, take it without fighting back. Like, if you make a joke that's offensive, you're gonna, you're, you're probably gonna get called out on it. And it's not like, oh, well, it's just humor. It's like, Hey, that's problematic. You can't say that you can make jokes without being a jerk. <laugh>.

JW (27:23):

Yeah. Like, so do you think those perceptions are valid? Like, the way that people think about us?

SB (27:28):

I don't think that they're very valid because I think if you're gonna call a, an entire group of people sensitive and then get mad every time anyone says anything slightly contradicts what you believe, then you're just being hypocritical. Humans are sensitive.

JW (27:44):

Yeah.

SB (27:44):

So it's like you can't really make an argument that it's a negative thing to be like sensitive to other people's, to like, I don't know. You can't, you can't act like you're better than other people. and then pitch a fit every time. someone makes you feel upset. Like

JW

Absolutely.

SB:

That's just not how that works.

JW (28:07):

I agree with that a hundred percent. I think that we, like, I, I don't think sensitivity is inherently a bad thing.

SB (28:17):

Yeah.

JW (28:17):

Um, I personally am extremely sensitive, so <laugh> Me too. I I relate to that.

SB (28:24):

Yeah.

JW (28:25):

Okay. Um, so with sensitivity with, you know, all the things that are going on, we're kind of exiting out of this period with Hurricane Helene. And so just to end on that note, um, you know, how are you, how are you impacted by Helene? How are you doing now with it?

SB (28:43):

I, um, I'm doing pretty okay. Um, it was very hard during, I, I was there for the storm, um, and, uh, I didn't actually get the notification that the water wasn't safe to drink.

JW:

Me neither.

SB:

I learned that from my mom who doesn't live here. Um, and I was like, oh, crap. Um, but I got myself some water bottles and stuff. Um, but I didn't have much food in my dorm. That was probably the scariest part of it. I had like one thing of microwaveable noodles and I was like, I can't use the microwave.

JW (29:19):

Oh yeah.

SB (29:19):

Um, and I was like, I have enough for one peanut butter and jelly sandwich and the dining halls are closed right now. Because when the storm was happening, they were turning people away because the card system wasn't working. Um, or something like that. I can't remember. But like one of my friends, um, her roommate got turned back, like from the dining hall, even though there were people there because like, they, they wouldn't let them in. Um,

JW (29:46):

That's crazy. They were worried about making money instead of feeding people.

SB (29:49):

Yeah. I mean, to my understanding. 'cause I managed to leave, um, that, I can't remember, was it Saturday or Sunday after everything was over and like, there was a lull period. Um, my cousin was like, Hey, I'm gonna grab my cat. Do you wanna just come home with me? And I was like, yes. So we drove home and so I did, I stayed home, um, for the majority of the, uh, the period where we were away. Yeah. But I was very scared the entire time because my sister was still up here and she was without power for several weeks.

JW (30:28):

Yeah.

SB (30:28):

Um, and like she didn't have water. Um, and my, my sister is, my older sister is, um, celiac, so she needs gluten-free food and gluten-free food is kind of hard to come by, especially like, like, um, her partner, um, their parents had power and they were like, oh, we can get you some food, but they didn't really understand how celiac works. And so my sister got cross-contaminated and ended up really sick. So it's like, um, and like she was without a job for a little while. Um, and so that was really stressful, like, uh, just like trying to make sure that my sister was safe and had a place to live. Um, and food. Like she was filing for unemployment and then her job was like, actually you guys don't have to file for unemployment anymore. Um, she, she works, uh, she down at Betty Betty's biscuits. Uh,

JW (31:24):

Oh yeah.

SB (31:25):

And they didn't, um, they didn't think they would have enough money to keep all of their workers, but I guess they made enough, like they had enough to keep at least some of their staff afloat. Um,

JW (31:39):

That's good.

SB (31:39):

Yeah. So I'm very glad about that.

JW (31:41):

Yeah.

SB (31:42):

But <laugh>, there was a period of time where we're like, uh,

JW:

uh, oh,

SB:

What's happening? Um, and also just like coming back was really hard. Um, like just seeing everything and every time it rained, like every time I saw, oh. Like, I was like, I was like sitting there, like when I, the day I left, it started raining again. And I was just like, oh God. Like, how is it going to dry up?

JW (32:09):

It was very anxiety-inducing when it rained again.

SB (32:11):

Yeah. Like I, my my friend stayed up here the whole time and she, um, uh, she, her car is at the State Farm lot and they didn't tell them like anyone to move their cars.

JW (32:25):

That's crazy.

SB (32:26):

And luckily her, her van is okay, but like, she didn't know if her van was going to be okay. Her brother's apartment was flooded and he's like, living in a hotel right now.

JW (32:37):

Yeah.

SB (32:37):

Like, it's like, it, it's, it's just very scary. Like, I was lucky that I was not directly impacted. But just seeing the devastation on everyone and seeing like, you can feel it. It, it feels different. You can still see places where things have been destroyed. You can see like, there's like layers of like dirt and mud that can't seem to come up. Like, it's just, and all the businesses that are struggling, like, it just feels like, it just feels depressing.

JW (33:17):

Yeah.

SB (33:18):

Like, I don't know, there's just like a weight, it feels like there's just a weight pressing down on the area.

JW (33:26):

Yeah.

SB (33:27):

Um, and I mean, like, I'm, I'm glad that everyone I know is okay, but like, it was, it was just very frightening.

JW (33:37):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

SB (33:38):

Um, my, uh, my sister actually was part of a, um, an like, uh, she and some of her musician friends released an album for charity because, um, her band mates, uh, live in Asheville.

JW:

Oh, wow.

SB:

Um, and it's just like, I don't know, it's, it's hard to see moving forward where we will, what we will do. 'cause it's like a giant scar has come across the land. I don't know.

JW (34:14):

Yeah.

SB (34:16):

Um, but yeah.

JW (34:21):

Well, uh, thank you for your honesty and your vulnerability and your sharing today. Um, that was, that was all the questions I had, unless you have anything else you wanna add?

SB (34:33):

Um, nothing that I can think of really. Um, I hope next year's better.

JW (34:41):

<laugh>. <laugh>. Yeah. <laugh>. Okay. Well thank you SB. Thank you. And that will conclude this interview. Alright. Okay.