

This Osvaldo Cruz character. What do you know about him?

**CUT TO: EXTERIOR: NEIGHBORHOOD STOOP. Fourteen-year-old OSVALDO CRUZ is slim, well built. He has a tattoo of a devil's head on his left forearm and a tattoo of a dagger on the back of his right hand between the thumb and forefinger. FREDDY ALOU, 16 and tough, sits fiddling with a beeper he is trying to repair. STEVE is sitting with them.**

**FREDDY (to STEVE)**

What school you go to?

**OSVALDO**

He goes to that faggot school downtown. All they learn there is how to be a faggot.

**FREDDY**

You let him dis you like that, man?

**OSVALDO**

He don't have no choice. He mess with me and the Diablos will burn him up. Ain't that right, faggot?

**STEVE**

I can kick your narrow butt any day in the week.

**OSVALDO**

Well, here it is, so why don't you come and kick it?

**FREDDY**

You better chill; he hangs with some bad dudes.

**OSVALDO**

He don't hang with nobody. He's just a lame looking for a name. Ain't that right, Steve? Ain't that right?

**STEVE**

Why don't you shut up?

**OSVALDO**

You ain't got the heart to be nothing but a lame. Everybody knows that. You might be hanging out with some people, but when the deal goes down, you won't be around.

**STEVE**

Yeah, and you will be, huh?

**CUT TO: INTERIOR: COURTROOM. OSVALDO is on the**