

LJH20 13.6.89

19;lives with parents and younger sis;Ma –[LEGAL ROLE];pa –[PUBLIC SECTOR ROLE]; American she said tho at school here for years, v. little accent;9 O levels, 4 A's; planning to go to go to medical school, Liverpl uni next year; works 36.5 hours in cinema; no religion; hetero, one bf, current but ending, sex once.

This young woman spoke in a monotone, little inflection in her voice and I find that a bit offputting. She was also, tho willing to talk, not terribly forthcoming at times. I think I'm saying the interview was hard work and I'm not sure I really got to where she was at. Rather disjointed interview.

She knows a lot about AIDS. Someone made a comment to her at school when she appeared not to want to sit next to this person "Why not, I've not go' AIDS, have I?". JH20 felt she did not know enough about it and got a book from the library - also did a school debate on it. Does in fact appear to know a lot and was quite interesting at the end in saying what was important to convey to young people - that it does have something to do with them, and to inform them of the actual risks they are running. She thinks since vaccine or cure are unlikely, or for some time, prevention is best plan, and in her view it is very easy to prevent if people know what they should do.

She is not socially confident (used to spend most of her time alone reading) but at 16 decided she must get to know people so tried to do it and thinks she is better now. Joined [YOUTH GROUP]. Outdoor type of activities. Also doing Duke of Edinburgh award, gold level. One good girlfriend, and that is important to her. Used to have a good relationship with her sister but not so much lately. Getting on better with parents now than say last year. Said something like - you might hold the same views as your parents, but have come to them yourself. Can talk to ma, ma is her role model and she expects to be able to combine career and family (for her one child, gp) just like ma ([LEGAL ROLE], 2 girls).

One boyfriend, he approached her whilst she was selling popcorn at the cinema where she works (very Mills and Boon she said) this February. They have slept together once, used a condom at his suggestion. Both virgins and she doesn't know what all the fuss is about. Tho she sees sex as an experience she wants to have (like visiting another country or learning to do something) but not such an important thing. She wanted to see what it was like, expected to feel very different afterwards, but did not. Thinks virginity is made into too much of a cult thing. She has not experienced the double standard, but knows it exists. She has approached one boy she fancied, who did not want to go out with anyone at that time. He sounds as if he was quite nice about it. She was afraid of rejection, but feels it must get easier to do, and that experience showed her that rejection was not the end of the world. Did not think re stereos of appropriate behaviour or what he might think of her. A number of her friends have approached boys, or wanted to, and discussed this together, from the girl's perspective, but she does not know how boys feel about it.

She rang the current boyfriend, tho he approached her and gave her his telephone number. The relationship is going to end when she goes on holiday, prior to uni. So this has affected it "it's not going anywhere...I don't much mind if it continues or not." On image of self she said some people think she has a 'bubbly personality', it turned out to be the boyfriend who had this impression. I couldn't imagine anyone less bubbly! She felt you had a different image with each group with which you interacted.

She feels she is from a privileged background and that things will work out fine for her.

She thought the questions in the interview were more personal than she had expected. Seemed to liven up at the end a bit, and is interested in reinterview and trying to keep a diary for us, tho she has often wanted to and never been successful before. She was going to see Starlight Express in the afternoon, can get in for £2, "cheaper than going to the pictures", and she has seen it 7 times already. Obviously likes it.