

**MAG19 RT 1.7.89**

INTERVIEWER: If you can start by telling me a bit about yourself, what you are doing at the moment in general terms?

INTERVIEWEE: I am at college, I've got a job in a bar.

INTERVIEWER: Where do you work?

INTERVIEWEE: It's the [NAME OF PUB] in Strines. It's dead quiet, old fogeys coming in. It's the other side of Marple.

INTERVIEWER: So it's quite a way out then?

INTERVIEWEE: I would rather be in Strines anyway, so I am working there.

INTERVIEWER: What is it like living out there?

INTERVIEWEE: It's good because I've got horses and it's good. It's quiet but .... he lives in Hulme and he comes out.

INTERVIEWER: It's a long way to travel?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, well, we have a car, but I like being in the city centre, but it's nice to be able to go out in the green fields.

INTERVIEWER: You say there's horses, do you like riding?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I used to when I was eight, I have had horses since I was eight and nine. But I used to go all over the country like Shropshire, Merseyside show jumping. They were rotten then, I fell out with them and the apprentice JAMES, he taught me and I had a little tiff with him and he moved..... somewhere in Chester so then I just did local ones. We are friends again but I've not.

INTERVIEWER: So you still do it?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I had three and then my dad took them off me and gave them to JAMES to sell because I didn't have time for them but he sold two of them and gave him one back because the grass was growing dead long in our field and so my Dad has bought me three youngsters so I have four again now.

INTERVIEWER: As many as that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, it's dead hard work.

INTERVIEWER: Yes .... probably hard work as well but it just seemed when I was younger girls who had horses were you know, I would hate girls who had horses..... particularly those girls. Is it like that with people who have horses?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, you do get a lot of it but you do get a lot of down to earth people, but at the Liverpool shows you tend to get more snobs than you think. I don't know if you know but you get the Pony Club, that's unaffiliated, and the BSJA, that's affiliated and that's like you've got the Harvey Smiths.... and you get the more down to earth people in that.

INTERVIEWER: So it's the people in the Pony Club then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, they are the real snobs. But you know all the top shows and things, it's like an incestuous circle because they are all knocking each other off, there is nothing else. You go away to shows for a weekend.

INTERVIEWER: Everyone sleeping with everyone else?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, it's just like with each other.

INTERVIEWER: So you have got all the gossip have you?

INTERVIEWEE: I used to have. When JAMES was in Chester the girl that he was working for up there, she used to do all the top shows and he used to get some really good juicy bits.

INTERVIEWER: Do you spend a lot of time doing that then?

INTERVIEWEE: Well not as much as I should.

INTERVIEWER: Is it getting less and less part of your life?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. This morning I actually went and sat in the field for a bit and some of the youngsters were nuzzling me but one of them won't come near me yet. We have only had them for just a week today, but now ....

INTERVIEWER: So is this disruptive to your life in general; do you feel like it is?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, it is. I wish I could, it's when I am not seeing people, I have still got to be round my friends all the time, like a butterfly. I wish I had more self-discipline and made more time for college work especially and horses.

INTERVIEWER: Is that suffering at the moment now?

INTERVIEWEE: I missed one of my sociology, the end of year exams, because I took a year out to work. I didn't like work because it interfered with my social life, you don't get the..... and then I went back to college and missed my sociology exams but I managed to ... and sat it again and came out ..... so that was God paying me back.

INTERVIEWER: So how do you see it, what is the most important thing to you at the moment?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know really, I just like having a good time. Totally going out in search of a good time.

INTERVIEWER: I quite understand that. So how long have you been going out with ...?

INTERVIEWEE: It sounds dead short, it's only four weeks, but I have known him for about a year.

INTERVIEWER: So he's not as though....

INTERVIEWEE: No. It sounds like a one-night stand because I don't like getting involved with people, because I tend to be a bit flippant, but it sounds like God, ..... but it's not like that. The people that I have been with, they have all been friends that I have known for ages and not sort of 'cor, he looks alright, come here, sort of thing'. Meet them on the street sort of thing.

INTERVIEWER: It sounds ..... in the way one-night stands sounds like you have got nothing to do with somebody. You have never met them before. Would you think of yourself as being somebody, like in comparison to your friends and people who are the same sort of age as you, would you see yourself as someone who is quite sexually experienced, or do you think you are about normal for your age?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. It's what you class as sexual experience. I have been with more people than some of my friends but not as many as others, sort of thing. But I think experience I would class as what you know, but I have a lot of trouble saying no.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think you have trouble saying no?

INTERVIEWEE: I just get carried away. I believe in equality like a woman has a need as much as a man and I think at the time, 'oh yes, sod it', a fella is allowed

to get a pat on the back and a drink bought them sort of thing and my sister has a go at me, 'you're turning into a bit of a slag', and I think, God, you know.

INTERVIEWER: Does that worry you?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, but I go through stages where I am dead good and behave myself and then I will let my hair down completely for a few weeks and then I will be fine again.

INTERVIEWER: When you say you do this because you believe in equality and you think you should be able to do what a man does, are you doing it to make a point or are you doing it because you want to?

INTERVIEWEE: No, because I want to.

INTERVIEWER: So you are not stopping yourself from doing it then because you are a woman?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think the type of people you hang around with is it seen as being alright doing that, for women to be able to be sexually active and you wouldn't be called a slag immediately?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because I have got friends in Marple and I have got college friends and I've got Manchester friends, so it doesn't look as bad if you know what I mean. You spread them around. So ... flatmate, ANDREW, because I tend to flirt with people and I flirt with ... friends when I am annoyed with him and ANDREW goes 'you're a bloody slag' and 'I'm not, I'm not', but he goes 'all women are slags', but he was only joking. That's his opinion of all women. All my friends that go down there, it's just his way.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think a slag is?

INTERVIEWEE: I think it's like your NICOLE and MEGAN that goes round and picks up a guy they have never known and sleeps with them and doesn't ... sort of thing. People think I'm pretty good actually.

INTERVIEWER: So you have taken up that persona quite well?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, particularly when my mum and dad are around. You don't see me go out.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about, you say you have got these three lives that you are in, tell me about the different ones and what way they are different, about what it's like in Marple?

INTERVIEWEE: Well they are ones like, not the ones I went to school with because I didn't make any school friends really and they are just like normal, not trendy like ... trendy, but more normal and their main interest is draw.

INTERVIEWER: Is it. That's alright, don't worry. They smoke draw then....

INTERVIEWEE: And they haven't got a lot of go about them. Their idea of a good night out is getting stoned, going to the pub, going home and getting more stoned. And then my college friends, I wouldn't say they were pretentious, because I don't like pretentious people, but they are sort of influenced by the Hacienda places.

INTERVIEWER: Do they spend a lot of time going down to clubs?

INTERVIEWEE: When they have got the money they will go to the Hacienda and they are 5 0 1 kids, type of thing.

INTERVIEWER: They want to be part of the scene.

INTERVIEWEE: And then you have got my Manchester friends.

INTERVIEWER: And what would you call your Manchester friends, people in Hulme?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, well and places like Cheetham Hill, Miles Platting in Salford and that. They haven't got as much money, but I find they are better friends because they are more generous because when they have got it then they are generous with it. Say for instance you can be in Marple and you have got no money for a drink and I hate asking anyone for anything, and I don't expect things, but you will go home and they will say right bye, but down here they will say right I'm going and if they haven't got enough money they will club together to buy you a drink or something.

INTERVIEWER: They will think you won't be going because you haven't got enough money?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, and they look after you more. You will come down and they are cooking the tea and they will give you food and it sounds silly, but seeing as they haven't got a lot they might not, like sometimes you go down and if they have had to buy electricity or something so they have got no food down there so I will go and get something for them. It works both ways.

INTERVIEWER: Do you find it's refreshing because you probably come from quite a middle-class background, did you find it's quite refreshing actually to be with people who come from a more working-class background with different types of values?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because it's broadened my horizons because I hate to be a person that judges a book by its' cover. I took two ... friends home once and my mum and dad, my dad buried his head in a newspaper, and my mother tried to make polite conversation but it was a case of 'don't bring them again'. But it's just appearances isn't it. Deep down they are the same as everyone. Like..... from Sale he is from a middle-class background, but he is really a drop out. He drinks too much, but he's quite straight headed today, but it's just at weekends he will just get drunk and crash out, so I didn't go down this weekend and it was wonderful.

INTERVIEWER: Do you avoid him then if he's going to be like that?

INTERVIEWEE: Well it's easier because all that happens is that he will get drunk and crash out and I will try and wake him up and I end up slapping him and then go and flirt with one of his friends.

INTERVIEWER: So it's probably safer for you?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, it is safer for me.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you are a rebel in anyway, in that you've been trying to break away from your background and shock your parents or anything like that?

INTERVIEWEE: Not trying to shock them, but just trying to find myself and find out what sort of person I am really. I just do what I want to do, because I don't want to get older and wish I had done that when I was younger, so I intend on doing it when I am younger so I have got no regrets.

INTERVIEWER: Is one of those things having relationships with people as well as meeting and having friendships. Because from what you say, it's about

making friends in different places and from different backgrounds, not just living in your life in way that you have been born to, how important are sexual relationships to you apart from the fact that you might..... you like, do you have any feelings about it, what it means to you?

INTERVIEWEE: I was talking to CHRIS about this last night. I think I have got a bit muddled up somewhere along the line because I interpret sex as feeling, well if I felt unwanted and then if I sleep with him then it makes me feel wanted. And I was thinking last night and saying to him 'I've gone wrong somewhere there, because I shouldn't have to do that'. I have got muddled in my head. I have got my values wrong. I don't think it would be important to me as it is at the moment if I sorted my head out, if you know what I mean.

INTERVIEWER: So you think you might be doing it for the wrong reasons but you are not sure?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: When you say about being wanted, what do you mean by that?

INTERVIEWEE: Normally when I see people I hate being mauled, I hate it when they want to sit with their arm around you and I am not dead affectionate towards my mum and dad. But my sister and he's twenty four and she stops at our house (she lives with her boyfriend) but if she stops at our house mum and dad still get a kiss off her goodnight and I think I have only kissed mum and dad lately on my birthdays when they buy me something. But I think that could be because of my animals. I love animals a lot and I hug and kiss my horses and cats but I'm different with ....., I like hugging and kissing.

INTERVIEWER: You think he's an animal?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, you are probably right, I never thought of it that way. But since I had my horses took off me, I am looking for an outlet for it so I wonder if that could have been it. Now I have my horses back I will probably get rid of him. No, I won't.

INTERVIEWER: Often these sort of things are linked as well to the way you feel about your body and how you feel about yourself. I know from me when I first had relationships with people it wasn't actually about that person, it was about me overcoming my inhibitions in myself and I think everyone has got inhibitions about your body to start with, but also about inhibitions about being touched and things like that. Do you feel that might have some part of it?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I do, because when I first slept with someone when I was fifteen and a half and I was really drunk, and I was seeing him. I only slept with him three times but I would be in the pub and I would just have another one and I used to have to get dead tipsy and that frightened me then because I thought the only times I had been with people was when I had been drunk and I thought God, you know, I don't want to go through life, I've got to stay sober and I am not going to be able to do it when I am sober. And then it happened by accident, I was visiting a friend and I had driven down there so I wasn't drinking or anything and that just happened and it was so different not drinking.

INTERVIEWER: That was the first time you had slept with somebody when you hadn't been drunk?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, when I had been sober. I thought when I had been drinking, I thought, I can't really feel much I am really abnormal, it was really worrying me and then I was sober.

INTERVIEWER: Did you feel more?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I felt more, yes, but the earth didn't move or anything. I was reading somewhere that when you're drunk the messages that go to your brain get a bit skewwhiff and I don't see the point now if I'm drunk of sleeping with someone really, because I don't get any satisfaction out of it.

#### INTERRUPTION IN TAPE

INTERVIEWEE: Women are better in bed. He started joking and I was seeing him for a bit and I was like that, I wouldn't let him see me. And he said 'what's wrong with you, I like you the way you are' and he made me feel, well, not good about myself but relaxed and then I was dead nervous and he says 'right, relax' and I was going 'I am relaxed, I'm relaxed', and he was going 'no, relax'. And he wouldn't do anything until I relaxed and eventually I relaxed and that was really nice but he was dead considerate and he taught me a lot in that way.

INTERVIEWER: Had that been unusual, that was what I wanted to ask you, when you first slept with somebody when you were only fifteen and a half and how old are you now?

INTERVIEWEE: Eighteen.

INTERVIEWER: So in those three years has your idea of what sex is changed a lot?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because before you read like Jackie Collins and you think 'oh, that's unreal, my god, you don't do that do you', and then you think it's easy for her she has just got to lie on her back and think of England and a man is satisfied but then you realise that it's a two way process.

INTERVIEWER: Did you feel pressured as well that you were supposed to know how to do it?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I hate the first time, sleeping with someone, because I get dead shy and I hate touching someone until you get to know them properly and they are going to think I am dead frigid and you don't know what to do. That is quite a pressure actually.

INTERVIEWER: When you say they are going to think you are frigid, that's something I know when I was young, well still I think I get panic attacks about it. You think it's really weird the idea of the fear, because on the one hand it used to be that women were scared if they weren't virgins their life was finished and now in a way it's turned round and you feel that you might be frigid, or you might not be a proper woman because we are all supposed to be great in bed and great at college and all these things and may be you are not. When you say frigid, what do you mean by it?

INTERVIEWEE: I think it's when you don't know what to do really and that you are frightened. I am frightened of not doing it right because different things turn different people on and I think I might not hit the right .....

INTERVIEWER: Where did you learn what you did know about sex from, before you first started to become sexually active?

INTERVIEWEE: You mean like parents or school or anything?

INTERVIEWER: Yes, there is .... exists and find out actually what it is and what you do and like you say touching people, did you get that type of information from anyone?

INTERVIEWEE: No, not really, but my cousin's wife she started, it's quite a few years ago, she bought me those man and woman books and she only got the first six copies and then she said they were too pornographic and she give them to my mother and I rooted these out when my mum used to go away. I used to read these and I was reading a bit about how to turn him on. And I made notes to take to the pub to show my friend, for a laugh. I rooted them out again, I had read them before probably when I was about eleven or twelve and I didn't know what the hell they meant really, and then I was fourteen or fifteen I took them to the pub and I had this denim jacket with an inside pocket and they were in there and my mum comes in about a week later and throws it across the table, 'what's that? I've just washed your jacket, what is it?', and I goes 'oh, it was only a joke mum' and I just carried on washing up. I have never been so embarrassed in all my life.

INTERVIEWER: What sort of things was it saying, how to give men an erection and things like that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, and going on about things like the details of how to..... She has never ever asked me and I think because I have never had one steady boyfriend, and she always said that you shouldn't sleep around but you should have seen him for at least six months before you sleep with him or be engaged, but not until you are twenty one. They are pretty easy going, except for when it comes to sex. So she has never actually me asked me if..

INTERVIEWER: If you were a virgin or not?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I am sure, you know when you get dead paranoid when you come home when you have been doing things and she will look at you and go 'are you alright' and you think it's obvious, she has sussed me out.

INTERVIEWER: You feel guilty about ....

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know, because she is not stupid.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think she would be upset if she knew the type of life you are leading?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because I have not told her about ...., I only see SARA at college, but I keep going down to SARA'S house. You know, 'where are you going, SARA'S?'

INTERVIEWER: You said you had a car, how long have you had a car for?

INTERVIEWEE: Well, when I was seventeen in March, but I got it at Christmas before because it's my dad's business cars, so I have had a car since literally just seventeen I've been driving.

INTERVIEWER: That must have made a really big difference that you could afford to do that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because before then I just used to be in Marple all the time and then as soon as I passed my test, I've only got one school friend that I still hang round with, I didn't hang round with her at school, we met on a bus after we

had left school, and I said 'oh I will ring you up and we can go out for a drink' and we were both dead nervous, we had only had drama together, and we thought well we were OK in drama but can we put up with each other for a night, and then she was with her best friend and there was four of us altogether but she was the one that I see most out of them really. And we just used to go out to Marple but when I passed my test MELISSA used to go into the Ritz with her brother's girlfriend so she knew a few people and she said we will go out in the car with these two friends and we went down and then I just got friendly with them all and then started going to the Ritz and I just got friends.

INTERVIEWER: It must have changed around the normal roles in terms of because you were the girls with the car and you came and met them, was that an important part of it for you, that you weren't just girls that they knew and they decided they wouldn't mind seeing a bit of, it was you that decided you wanted to see them?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, people say you know 'doesn't it do your head in, you've have always got to down', like if I am meeting ... I've always got to go down there and the driving it does get me annoyed, but it makes me my own boss sort of thing and I think it's I go down when I want to and if I don't want to see him I don't have to put up with him.

INTERVIEWER: That's really important isn't it, for yourself. I wanted to ask you about how much you know about AIDS and HIV and what you had heard about it. First of all when you were at school can you remember much?

INTERVIEWEE: I can't really remember, but I don't think so.

INTERVIEWER: Can you remember when you first heard about it?

INTERVIEWEE: I think it was on the telly, and you got the leaflets that came through the door and everything and there were programmes on it. I must admit it does worry me the thought of it, but I tend to think well I've known him for a bit, I will be alright, but then when you think about it you and you read in the papers about if you sleep with one person you sleep with everyone they have ever slept with and AIDS is pretty scary.

INTERVIEWER: Do you get worried about it yourself?

INTERVIEWEE: It does worry me if I think about it, but I tend to bury my head in the sand and think it will never happen to me. But before I have had a couple of holiday romances, but I don't think now if I go on holiday I wouldn't, I don't think.

INTERVIEWER: That would be the sort of thing that you would stop doing?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you use any protection when you are having sex with ....

INTERVIEWEE: Well I am on the pill now, but I have only been on the pill for the second packet sort of thing. Before I did and I used to use a condom but saying that, my friend ELIZABETH, I used to go to primary school with her, I don't see her that often much but we are still dead good friends, and she used the rhythm method when you get your few safe days.

INTERVIEWER: Is that what she uses?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, it's silly. She got pregnant and she went to book in for an abortion and she was dead upset about it, but the actual day that she was going to have the abortion she miscarried, but they had to keep her in overnight

because of the total worry of it and she freaked out and when she went to the gym and started doing strenuous exercises and hitting herself in the stomach and then she said that day, if she hadn't have miscarried she wouldn't have been able to go through with it. She would have kept it and she was dead upset but she got caught out so it's silly, so I decided that I had risked my arm a couple of times with it and I have been lucky and I thought it's not worth it.

INTERVIEWER: When you had no protection at all?

INTERVIEWEE: Like it was within the so-called safe time, but it can happen can't it.

INTERVIEWER: You say you were using the rhythm method, was that so you didn't actually have to go down to the Family Planning Clinic to deal with the doctor and things like that?

INTERVIEWEE: It was my mother; I didn't want her to know. But I had bad period pains anyway and the doctor had talked about putting me on the pill if the tablets didn't work and my mum didn't seem to worry very much, but I don't think I wanted to them to work anyway so then I thought bugger it I'm eighteen, it's my life, I will do what I want with it so I went down to the doctors and I said can I have the pill please, and..... contraception, yes, it's easier.

INTERVIEWER: Did she tell you about other forms of contraception?

INTERVIEWEE: Who, the doctor?

INTERVIEWER: The doctor?

INTERVIEWEE: Well she didn't but I know the obvious ones anyway.

INTERVIEWER: What like?

INTERVIEWEE: You've got the condom and the cap and the diaphragm, the coil. You've got withdrawal and the injection thing.

INTERVIEWER: You say that you decided you wanted to use the pill, what were the reasons?

INTERVIEWEE: Well a lot of it was my actual period pains because it did ease it a lot. I had a bit of backache, but I didn't get the cramp in my stomach, but it's just easier isn't it. I couldn't use the cap, it's messy. My sister decided she would go off the pill and went on the cap and she went to have it fitted, and she said 'bugger that, I'll go back on the pill'.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know much about the cap, has anyone ever explained the cap to you?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, we had a pretty good talk about contraception at school and this woman came in and she brought the coil thing, and then the cap and I thought 'oh, I don't fancy messing about like that'.

INTERVIEWER: Would that bother you any way the idea that you put the cap inside you..... and things like that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because it's messy.

INTERVIEWER: I am interested, what's the problem with messy?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know, you've got your spermicides and it's going to be all slimy and sticky and horrible. Saying that, sex is pretty messy as well.

INTERVIEWER: That is what I thought, that's why I said why is messy such a terrible thing, I was going to say sex is perhaps the messiest thing too. Also, I suppose the pill, it's easier if you are not going to be at home and have your own

bedroom and stuff in the bathroom and you can go and put the cap in and things like that.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. Another thing with the cap is you don't know exactly when you are going to get it really so do you carry it round everywhere. And thinking of things, you are making me think of things that I have forgotten about but I have thought in the past, and as well say you are feeling a bit rampant and then you have to stop and say excuse me and by the time you've done that the heat of the moment might have passed.

INTERVIEWER: When you say the heat of the moment, when you are in a situation when you would like to be having sex with somebody, is that important. So many people have said to me 'oh, I don't want to disturb the heat of the moment' and I was trying to work out actually what it meant, what was this heat of the moment?

INTERVIEWEE: That sums me up. I tend to, like I was saying before that I didn't have problems saying no, I think what I meant was I don't go out with the intention of .... when I am not seeing anyone, but if something happened and the moods right and I feel like a good laugh and everything and then it's inevitable when you get to that point when both of you are feeling the same way.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that sometimes it's easier to have sex than not to have sex?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, definitely. Sometimes you feel dead guilty because when you are with a lad and not tried to get him turned on and you feel it's hard and pressed against your leg and you are thinking, 'oh shit, I didn't want that to happen at all'. And then when I was younger, I used to think I will just let him because I didn't want to be known as a prick tease.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, that's quite important at that age, isn't it?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because you used to get lads saying, 'oh, I'm not going with her she's a prick tease'. I didn't want to be known as a slag either.

INTERVIEWER: It's difficult isn't it?

INTERVIEWEE: It's dead hard. Women have got it so hard. But now I don't sort of, I mean the odd time, not with a stranger, not with someone I've seen. If I don't want to then fair enough, but when you are seeing someone sometimes it is easier.

INTERVIEWER: For instance, if you were in a situation that someone you were seeing had a hard-on, did you feel you had a responsibility that you made that happen and you had to.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Has a man ever said that to you?

INTERVIEWEE: No, never.

INTERVIEWER: So it is something that you have grown up with, this idea?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, and I found as I have got a bit older and if you had been having a snog and that and got aroused and then you left it and said 'no I'm sorry, but it's not my fault' sort of thing. A lot of them have been dead understanding, saying 'oh don't worry about it' and then when you see them again, they are fine with you and everything because I suppose it's easier for a man to get aroused.

INTERVIEWER: I don't know, that was one of the things I was going to ask you, do you think it's very obvious when a man's aroused and it's not nearly as obvious for a woman, do you think you get aroused in the same way a man does?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I think so really but I think the woman, it's kept quiet, it's not as publicised.

INTERVIEWER: What, her sexual desires?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. If a man is going with a woman and he gets his pleasure and then it's wrong that a lot of lads don't bother so much about the woman. Sort of like the quick grope and then in and out sort of thing and I hate that. I think you have got to have consideration.

INTERVIEWER: When you first started thinking about sex did you ever think that in terms of, 'I could have an orgasm too and that's as important as a bloke having one?'

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: You thought like that, did it happen like that?

INTERVIEWEE: No, not at first. I just used to like the feeling of the closeness of sex and you feel close to someone. And then I think as you get older and you become more aware. With this..... lad, back to him that I think was probably one of the most pleasurable experiences I ever had, but I think it is pretty important for a woman, we are entitled to it.

INTERVIEWER: I know you are entitled to it. I was going to say there are not many people who really are doing anything about it. It seems to be the problem. I think also a lot of men really don't know, in the same way as women are told very little about their bodies and about how you become aroused and how you deal with that. Men are told very little about women's bodies and the fact that women can be aroused. Would you say that you enjoyed sex, the physical part?

INTERVIEWEE: I wouldn't say, well sometimes it's nice and other times I would say no. I do like sex, I think I have a higher sex drive that ..... He's like that, 'behave!'. He's embarrassed. But that does his head in, because his flat mate ANDREW he is always in. The stereo and telly is in JUSTIN'S room, so ANDREW is always there, like ANDREW will crash out on the settee and I am sat on the bed and we are laid out on the bed fully clothed. And I start thinking 'I wish he would go'.

INTERVIEWER: And he's just sitting there.

INTERVIEWEE: And he knows he's doing it all the time because he will sort of open his eyes and smile.

INTERVIEWER: So for the moment you are on the pill. First of all, how do you think you can protect yourself from AIDS and HIV, would you know?

INTERVIEWEE: How would I?

INTERVIEWER: Yes, if you were going to?

INTERVIEWEE: Well, use a condom.

INTERVIEWER: Would you think there are any other ways of doing that?

INTERVIEWEE: Withdrawal, I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: Would you think if you were trying to be safe?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I don't think you would use that at all. I can't remember what the leaflets said about oral sex and normal sex. You have got me dead scared, I'm thinking 'Christ, I'm not safe at all'.

INTERVIEWER: Don't panic. So at the moment you are not using a condom, when you decided to go on the pill did you think about that now it might be more difficult?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, but I also thought if you are on the pill I might get .... because you think you are not going to get pregnant or anything. And then I thought about it and thought no, if you think about it first it shouldn't make any difference to the way you go. But I wouldn't use it as an excuse, if I met a lad that I didn't know anything about I wouldn't think well I'm on the pill and that will do. I think I would use a condom. I have calmed down anyway in the last year. I am on my good stage now.

INTERVIEWER: When you said, 'someone you didn't know anything about', what do you mean?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know them, I've not known them long. But saying that, you don't know people you know, what their other partners have done in the past do you, so.

INTERVIEWER: So for instance JUSTIN, who you are going out with at the moment, do you know his sexual history, do you know who he's slept with?

INTERVIEWEE: Right, his first girl was called ..... and I know BECKY that was the first girl he had ever been with, and there was a girl called SARAH, that was only about three weeks and then CRYSTAL and that's a dirty word, CRYSTAL, because she finished with him in January and he is really hung up about her. He's getting a lot better now though. When I first met him, it was just 'CRYSTAL, CRYSTAL'. But he has got a lot better now, he has stopped mentioning her. He was listening to a song and he says 'oh this reminds me of CRYSTAL' and it kills me, but now I think he is getting more used to me now.

INTERVIEWER: What do you feel about that, having him go on about his last girlfriend?

INTERVIEWEE: It hurt like hell. I don't love him or anything, but your pride hurts like hell and you think.. Like we got back from The Ritz one night and just went upstairs to his flat and I was sat with him having a cuddle and my friend KATIE was with ANDREW, his flat mate, on the settee and they were having a cuddle, and we were there and were talking away and this song came on and he said 'oh this reminds me of CRYSTAL' and I could have cracked him. You were there having a dead nice chat and talking about our relationship and then he brings up CRYSTAL.

INTERVIEWER: You said just then that you didn't love him?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: That's alright, I'm not saying there is anything wrong with that, I was just wondering, the type of relationship you are expecting to have at the moment at this sort of age, what are you thinking you are going to be getting out of it, you are obviously not thinking well he is the one and only, this is going to be...?

INTERVIEWEE: No, he's too self-destructing to be the one and only. I don't know what I want. I can't have someone that's dead nice to me. I used to see this lad who lived in Salford and he would do anything and we would go down to see these friends in Salford Precinct and they were on the seventh floor and at night time to get to the shops you had to go to this Paki shop and we used to have go across the dual carriageway and it used to take about 10 minutes to get to it. I said to him, testing him because at that time I tested people all the time, and I said 'go and get me some chewing gum', 'alright', gets up scuttles all the way over there and back and 20 minutes later he gets back knackered; the lifts weren't working, just for a packet of chewing gum and he would do anything and I hate that. So I want someone who will keep me in my place.

END OF SIDE ONE OF TAPE

INTERVIEWER: So you still quite fancy the idea of being dominated by someone who is stronger than you?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: First of all, why do you think that is?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. I hate weakness in men and if I find a weak point, like his weak point is CRYSTAL and he has stopped doing that now, but I used to go mad. He would say something, and I would say 'go on, mention CRYSTAL', and it used to do his head in because I would make him.....

INTERVIEWER: It's a bit mean.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, it is a bit mean, because we normally fall out every Monday night, we go to the Ritz and then we will go back, and I will just get in a bad mood because ANDREW does my head in at the Ritz because he will have had too much to drink and we split up every Monday night. Last night we didn't, that was alright, but for the last three Mondays on the run we have split up and then we are fine on the Tuesday.

INTERVIEWER: How long do you think this relationship will last?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. I do like him, but I don't, like, well he's just too self-destructive. If he gets money it goes through his fingers. He will get his special..... not keep it to himself, he shares it with his friends, but we have got different values. I said to him the other night, I hate it. We went to his mums' and he is always asking for money, not in front of me but he will say 'I've got to go to Sale, I've got to get some money of my mum and I get dead embarrassed. I hate going up to see his mum and I will sit in the car now because I feel degraded if I'm scrounging and I'm pretty independent. He went to his Grans' as well and I said to him 'do you think the world owes you something?' and he goes 'too right, don't you' and I got really mad with him. And I says 'I believe if you want something you've got to go out and get it' and he goes 'so you believe in the fifties survival?', 'too right', and he goes 'well I didn't ask to be put here', and I really had it with him, I didn't speak to him then for about half an hour but I think that's pathetic, you know he does think the world owes something. whereas I don't.

INTERVIEWER: So you have got very different ideas about things?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I am pretty cheerful most of the time and he can get dead miserable. I am happy living.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you are quite ambitious because even though you took a year off and you didn't go for the exam, you still are at college, are you doing 'A' levels at the moment?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I used to be dead ambitious but now I am more, not influenced by my friends, but I would rather be with my friends sort of thing and I wish to get back some of my enthusiasm for my studies because I am not sure what I want to do yet. I quite fancy probation work, but I don't know. My dad, do you know ..... up [NAME OF ROAD], well that's my dad's garage and he has thought of doing a hire car firm before he .... with his partner because I knew..... but they are rebuilding so it will be nice and posh next year hopefully, and I am a bit out of touch with things. Then getting a job in a hire car firm and I would only need to do it for about six months and then start one off. I would like to be my own boss, that is one of my own ambitions, I don't know what to do yet, but he says yes, but he and his junior partner, they will sort of not do the work but get some of the profits and I wouldn't get a wage I would just get a percentage and I would be a director. And I said 'yes, but I want it to be all mine' and he said 'well who's going to lend you the money to do it all yourself, because you are going to need at least 20 cars to do it properly' and then with their backing it could get, well I'm not saying as big as Hertz but it could get bigger so that is something..

INTERVIEWER: Do you think there is a pull on you in two different directions at the moment, it sounds to me like in a way your dad is offering you something, really a good chance, but you would obviously have to work really hard and be committed to it and then the other side is your friends who are living in a way a life that is really appealing in the short term, but you don't want it forever do you?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I couldn't get married and bring up kids in Hulme, no way. There is dog shit everywhere. I think deep down, I am a capitalist, I want to have money because I am used to little luxuries like horses and food all the time. And I want the same for my children. But I have learnt a lot being with my friends down in that sort of area. I was talking to this man, he was a social worker and he has left now, and I was saying to him it sounds like I am just trying to build up my character and find myself. I like mixing with different people.

INTERVIEWER: I think that's completely justified. There are things like, for instance, if you got pregnant then that would be a real crisis wouldn't it because there would be the prospect that this could become your life forever, whilst you wanted it, and whilst it was nice and things like that. Does that worry you?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because I like going down to JUSTIN'S flat and that, but I like to go home as well and I have got the best of both worlds and I can have my cake and eat it at the moment. I think the thought of living in a concrete jungle where you are frightened of getting robbed all the time and your friends are going to mugged and raped and I think I would get so depressed I wouldn't be able to go out.

INTERVIEWER: Right, I just want to go back because we have managed to avoid talking about AIDS. Just a few more things about it. You say at the moment you are on the pill, you said before that if it was somebody you didn't know that

you were going to sleep with that you might ask them to use a condom as well, you wouldn't do that regularly in your relationships?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think there is something about condoms that makes them a problem?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I don't like a condom myself, it's like paddling with socks on. But at first when I used to take risks, it was because I was always frightened asking and then I thought bugger it, I'll be left holding the baby.

INTERVIEWER: When you have asked someone to use one, have they been difficult about it?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I was seeing a lad called JONATHAN from Marple for a bit and I wouldn't let him unless he used one because I didn't want to get pregnant and then the odd time he wouldn't have them, so he was like that 'you'll be alright, you'll be alright', and I was saying 'no way', and I wouldn't let him then. It was really selfish that, I am sure he forgot them on purpose because, JUSTIN he doesn't really like using them. But that used to annoy me the fact that he knew we were going out that night and would probably end up.

INTERVIEWER: And he knew that he should have brought them along, right. Do you think that it is quite embarrassing having to ask a man to use one?

INTERVIEWEE: No, not really, because they should. I'm not saying you are going them a big favour by letting them sleep with you or anything, but I don't see it as any more embarrassing than letting them touch you and having sex really.

INTERVIEWER: So you find it OK to ask somebody to use condom for pregnancy, you wouldn't ask somebody to use it because of AIDS because like you said, you don't think of that, but do you think it would be different anyway if you said to somebody 'I want to use a condom because I am scared of getting pregnant', if you said to them 'I want to use a condom because I am scared of HIV or getting AIDS', do you think that would feel different to say that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because I think they would probably be dead insulted. If a lad said to me OK you are on the pill but I'm afraid of catching HIV or AIDS, I would take it personally, yes, I would feel insulted.

INTERVIEWER: Why is that?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know because you think if you have got AIDS, you've been really promiscuous. It can happen to anyone. Like I say, I have never thought about it.

INTERVIEWER: Even though it is something that we sort of know rationally can happen to anybody, viruses don't choose who's good and who's bad, but you do still feel that it is saying something about the type of person you are, that you are a bad person or a dirty person or something like that. Would you feel that would be a problem then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: If I asked you out of the blue, imagine we haven't had this conversation, what sort of person was at risk from HIV and AIDS, who would you say?

INTERVIEWEE: Well obviously the first ones that spring to mind are homosexuals or junkies, but then you think of people that have had blood

transfusions or anything similar. Just like normal people who just happen to catch it somewhere along the line.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know people, you said you know people who smoke draw and stuff, there is a big difference from people who are injecting stuff, do you know people who inject drugs?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Right, have you ever done it?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I smoke, but I'm frightened of needles. I like a smoke and that and I took speed a few times.

INTERVIEWER: Is that what people you know have been injecting then speed, or is it smack or something? You can tell me, don't worry.

INTERVIEWEE: Well a certain anonymous person tells me that every day for two years that he used to inject but he said he used to use a ..... and then one day he took £7.50's worth and he thought that's, it it's getting out of hand, and now he doesn't, but saying that a few months ago before I was seeing him he came to the Ritz with some friends and I think it was speed they had, but he hasn't done it since then that I know off, and he hasn't done it since he has seen me because I make a point of looking at this arms and that. He doesn't do it and he promised me he would never do it again and he says, 'I can't promise you', he says he doesn't want to but if someone gave it him free then he would probably do it.

INTERVIEWER: So for all you know then he has done it and he shares needles?

INTERVIEWEE: No, he has guaranteed me that he always uses his own works, as he puts it.

INTERVIEWER: When you said when they were down at the Ritz, they shared some speed?

INTERVIEWEE: They both did and then they both guaranteed that they used different needles. So you're right, it's dead gullible, it's taking their word for it.

INTERVIEWER: Do you trust him?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: You were saying, do you trust him because you want to, or do you trust him because you really do trust him?

INTERVIEWEE: I think deep down I trust him but on the surface I'm like that, I don't trust him on the surface. He will sort of say 'come down tomorrow at 1.00 o'clock', this was last night, and I'm like that 'but you are not going to be in are you?' and he says 'oh, you don't trust me at all', he always goes on about I don't trust him but when it comes down to it I think I do trust him, like I know he wouldn't go with anyone else, because he is a sort of one woman man, whereas I am like not a one man woman.

INTERVIEWER: Just to finish off, do you think you are the sort of person that takes risks in life, do you feel that you take risks?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't feel that I do but I think an outsider looking in might think I do.

INTERVIEWER: The way you live your life does it ever feel risky and exhilarating or anything like that?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't try to be different, because I don't think I am different to anyone, but I watch my friends from school still hanging around with the same

school people and I just like to break away. It's like me and my friend .... we have conversations, say if JUSTIN had been ..... all the Marple friends knew I probably wouldn't feel the same way about him because he is special because he's different and he lives in Hulme and when I take him up to the pub in Marple, it's a sort of trendy pub, and I take him in and he does get people looking.

INTERVIEWER: Do you like that, does that feel good to you?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I do. On Friday, his friend had got his giro and he had got some tablets and ..... and he had been drinking and he was out of his head and we went in the pub and we just had one drink and he couldn't walk straight coming out and then ..... so I'm not taking him in there again. But I go mad with him with things like that.

INTERVIEWER: The last thing I wanted to ask you. You saw the stuff on TV about AIDS, do you think it was any good?

INTERVIEWEE: I can't remember much of it now, but I think at the time it made it sound as if everybody was at risk, whereas when you thought about it logically and the amount of people in the country you think it's not that big a risk. I think they ought to put more emphasis, because I think about when I saw this poster where it said if you sleep with one person you sleep with all their partners and there should be more emphasis on that. Because that's what brought it home for me. That's quite scary if you think about it.

INTERVIEWER: And all the people they might have slept with, and all the people they might have slept with, yes.

INTERVIEWEE: So in fact, if you sleep with one person you might have slept with half of Manchester if you go through it all.

INTERVIEWER: You say it hasn't worried you because you haven't been thinking about it, is it the sort of thing you might change your behaviour because of?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know anyone that's got AIDS so it's not too hard to forget about it. Is there many people in Manchester that have got AIDS?

INTERVIEWER: I think there are quite a few people that are HIV positive in Manchester. But you only know the number of people who have had tests and the ones you have decided it was worth finding out, thought they might be at risk and went to have a test. That's the thing, it's quite a hidden number because people who have got it may well not have any idea that have got it. That's what makes it so difficult in one way.

END OF INTERVIEW