

**LJH33 24.9.89**

18,2; ESW; A levels (Eng lit; theatre studies); lives with pa, step-ma (his wife) and her daughter; Ma lives in [SOUTH EAST COUNTY] with brother; Pa is [MANAGERIAL ROLE]; ma is self-employed [ARTISTIC ROLE]; CoE but not religious, more humanist; heterosexual but has not been sexually active yet.

Attractive, with below shoulder length straight dark blonde hair, very slightly plump, very casually dressed in track suit trousers and T shirt (it was Sunday morning). This yw had had some trouble with her step-father (ma's husband) some three years ago. Up till then she had lived with ma and brother in [SOUTH EAST COUNTY], parents split when she was 6. She did not get on with step-pa and they had big rows, with ma in the middle. This affected her relationship with ma, which had been good prior. Pa keen that she should get out, and three years ago she left to come and live with him, his wife and his wife's daughter (who is about 15/16 and goes to [NAME OF SCHOOL], as did LJH33 once she came to London.) She feels keenly the desires of her family over what she should do, especially pa, who wants her to get good qualifications which leave her options open, not tied to a particular path. She wants to please him, do some form of HE/FE but is undecided what. Her main focus and interest is in music. She wants to be a music journalist and to pursue a career as a musician as well. Pa does not think this is serious, just a phase she is going through, but as far as she is concerned "This is it." She plays saxophone (not very well) writes lyrics and sings. In a small band (just for developing their own skills) with her brother and her best friend. Brother is good guitarist.

She was relaxed in the interview, tho described herself as shy, although thinks she is improving on that. Had forgotten that she filled in questionnaire, given it to tutor last term, who only this week sent it to me. She does interviews with minor (in fact any) musicians she can persuade to let her for the fanzine which she runs, so felt a bit funny being on the other side of the tape recorder! Those situations, when she has to be 'professional' and interview someone, who may just think she is a 'silly kid' scare her.

She seems to get angry about a lot of things, and repress it, especially in relation to her family. Sits in her room with clenched fists for 10 minutes. She also gets angry about the way women are expected to be, and thinks people think she is 'mad' because she does not accept that. Hates double standard and sees it in her male friends, would call herself a feminist, knows people (friends) who would say 'I'm not a feminist but'. Thinks that is true of a number of her friends who would cringe at the thought of being thought a feminist (bcs fems are man-hating, aggressive, whatever) but do agree with some of the ideas. (Is this post-feminism, or second generation?).

She is not sexually active, used to be very shy, when she first came to London threw herself into the schoolwork (bcs it was a different exam board etc) and although her social life is very active now, she meets no-one who meets her rather exacting standards. When she stated the standards they did not sound so exacting, someone who would listen to what she had to say, accept her as she is. She seems not to think of sex as just intercourse, but I may have done a little bit of leading there, by bringing up safe(r) sex first. Safe sex did mean condoms and 'taking an AIDS test' for her initially, but then she seemed to think about it and see other things as potentially sexual.

Her AIDS knowledge was quite good, she is very scared by it, thinks young people are not (spec her friends) and should be, and that education and advertising should scare

them. Make them realise the risks. Says she would definitely ask a guy to use a condom, if it is a question 'of my embarrassment or my safety I know what I must do'.

I must admit that I wondered whether there had been something sexual in her rejection of the step-pa, if something else had gone on there, but she certainly did not speak about it and I may be off the wall. I mean, the people she mixes at one level with (in the music business) are into sex and drugs and rock and roll, and she is not at all into the first two by her report at all "maybe I am naive" - the latter was said in relation to drugs. Also, since she goes to concerts a lot of the time, and she and her close female friend rush up to the front (which could be a bit risky in her view, you do get bruised and pushed around) where it is mainly men, they get both odd looks and people think they are groupies. Seem to be some contradictions here.

In her image of herself she thought she was sensible, tho others think her mad. Part of that is in refusing to be what is expected of a girl/yw of her age, she speaks her mind instead of sitting quiet and letting the boys/ym take the lead.

Seemed to be a lot here which I don't know whether I could get to. She agreed to be interviewed next year, but not to diary. She also took away a few questionnaires for snowballing purposes!