

**LJH32 8.9.89**

24, Irish, student nurse (has SEN from Ireland) doing conversion to SRN; lives with boyfriend, his two sisters and their partners; ma in N Ireland, pa died when JH32 was 13; Brought up RC, convent schools, still holds many of tenets spec re sex; heterosexual.

Attractive yw, short, well coiffed dark hair and lovely blue eyes, strong Irish accent, hope transcriber will manage. Wearing a white track suit with some dashes of colour on it. Lives [REDACTED] over a pub which is managed/owned by her boyfriend. She had 2 sexual relationships before the current one. The first, when she was 18, and she thought that was too young. "Here it's old but back home it is young". She did not want sex, but he insisted, but she did not say no "I could have said no". They were drunk first time, no contraception. Occasionally used it later, but still got pregnant. She told me that she had an abortion, she could barely say the word, and anyway used d & c. She blamed the guy, they came to England and got a private abortion, and she left him in the street the minute she left the clinic. He still pines for her. She does not agree with abortion and still feels guilt and that she should not have done it. She has not told many people this, just her closest women friends who helped her through it anyway. Has not told current boyfriend, and is worried he might find out through mutual friends, thinks he would be v. upset, disapproves of abortion, knows about her earlier sexual experience. She does not know if she will be able to tell him. He had one prior relationship, both are retrospectively jealous of each other. She wishes she had not had any sex before marriage. Current boyfriend would not have minded, would have done what she wanted, sex is not all that important for either, tho they enjoy it. Calls herself old fashioned.

Sex ed was terrible, convent school, if you masturbated your hand would drop off, you could get pregnant from french kissing - talk about misinformation. Some of this early training lingers on, she and her group of female friends never have masturbated.

Not brilliantly well informed about AIDS, and says that the day training they had had emphasised dangers from needle stick injury and hazards at work (As RT said). She said that sex was not mentioned, and she reckons that if one of her nurse colleagues found she was HIV+ she would assume needle injury and never think of sex. She herself is not worried, knows sex history of boyfriend and trusts him. But some of her friends take chances with the people they sleep with. She thinks there should be more and better sex and AIDS education. Does not take other risks apart from smoking and running across the roads where there is no crossing. Has a circle of v. close Irish friends who all go around together, on various outings, eating out, river-boats (tho gone off them now) etc.

I asked her if she would do a diary and she said she keeps one anyway. I said sexually explicit, she agreed but wanted some instruction. I went up to get her the letter describing what we wanted. When I came back she said why didn't she just tell me now. So I turned on the tape and she told me the things that she and her boyfriend do when they have sex. She said she felt at ease, but if I invited her back to tell after she had kept a diary she probably would chicken out. I did invite to take part in re-interview and she is interested. She is a bit old, but rather interesting mixture. We will have to talk about this age thing. I did her bcs she was the only nurse we got from [NAME OF HOSPITAL], she said insist on them trying for the new intake of student nurses. I might have another go at them, they probably have got loads of qrs left.

She was very nice, and very forthcoming, tho occasionally a little, not embarrassed, but slightly surprised at herself for saying what she was saying. Justified it a bit by thinking/saying that it was useful for me. I think she wanted to talk about the abortion.