

EDD184 RT 14/09/1989

Q: Start by telling me about your family.

A: Right, there's mum and dad of course, our HEATHER, she's 25.

Q: Is she the oldest?

A: She's the oldest, and then the youngest AMY, she's 17 in November.

Q: So it's 3 girls?

A: Yeah, no brothers.

Q: You pleased about that?

A: Actually I wouldn't mind a brother actually, I don't know..(006)..

Q: How do you get on with your sisters?

A: Well, the older one, HEATHER, I get on with her relatively better really. We go out together, so we're very close really. But AMY, the youngest, we don't really get on.

Q: Because she's into different things?

A: I think what it is mainly is that we share a bedroom, which doesn't help. So that causes a lot of problems, know what I mean, like if I want the radio on and she doesn't, an argument can start from that. I mean we get on alright but, you know..

Q: Is there competition between you?

A: No, nothing like that. No, it's alright.

Q: How about your parents then, do you get on with them?

A: Most of the time. The only time I don't.. (019).. parents is they're old-fashioned. They like you to talk like..(020).. know what time you're going to be in. And they don't like you stopping out, only if there's a very valid reason really.

Q: Do they keep an eye on what you do?

A: Yeah, that's right.

Q: Do you get pissed off with that, does it make life difficult for you?

A: Well, it does actually, especially like because I've just met somebody now, who I do really like; you know after 21 years, you have to meet somebody now. And I stopped out last week, and they really went mad really.

Q: Did they know why you stopped out?

A: Well, they knew why I stopped out. Well, really what it was, I know it sounds really unbelievable, but I was really ill, but I couldn't take myself home because I was quite bad on Wednesday. So I just decided to stop and that was it. I mean we do have arguments, because like if I'm going out too much, well what they call is going out too much, if I'm out every night, we get arguments then, because they want me to stop it, like a couple of nights a week.

Q: I suppose it's because you're living at home?

A: Yeah, that's right.

Q: Have you ever thought of moving out and getting your own place?

A: I have thought about it, but I think it's a responsibility, and I'm not prepared to take on any responsibility just yet.

Q: So there are benefits of giving up some (?)freedom?

A: Yeah, I suppose it is really, because it isn't that bad really.

Q: What's your parents' idea of what they want you to do?

A: Umm..

Q: Do they want you to get married, have kids..?

A: I think what they'd like out of me is mum wants me to sort of like settle down with somebody, and you know get a house, the usual stuff, have children. I think, see what it is now, our HEATHER, she's engaged to be married, she's been like seeing him for four years. After she had seen him about a year, I think that's when they got used to the idea of us stopping out, know what I mean? So I think it's going to take a..

Q: ..a year to get used to it..! Have they ever given you advice, such as on sex before marriage, do they talk about that?

A: No, not really, no they don't actually, they're not that sort of parents.

Q: It's not out in the open?

A: No, it's not, nothing like that. I mean it might crop up, say because my mum's very against the pill, you see. Yeah, because apparently when she was younger she had a lot of problems with it. And she just found out, because I just went on it 2 weeks ago, just ..(059). And she found out, and just blew her top.

Q: Is that because of the health risks?

A: Yeah, it's definitely the health risks, yeah. She thinks it's going to like damage me in some sort of way.

Q: What do you think?

A: Well, I understand her point of view, but then again there isn't really anything else that I feel comfortable with, know what I mean?

Q: Have you ever tried any other form of contraception?

A: Oh, everything, other than the condom though, I hate that, they are just passion killers; I can't stand them.

Q: Using condoms is important in terms of AIDS and HIV. Have you ever used a diaphragm?

A: No, I've never used any (?)diaphragm.

Q: Have you learned much about it, do you know people who use it?

A: To tell you the truth, the main contraception I know about is just like the pill. The condom, that's it.

Q: When did you first get interested in boys?

A: Oh Christ, that's going back a bit. I think when I first started getting interested in boys was at Junior school, it must have been when I was about 10.

Q: You were an early developer?

A: That's right. You know you used to say – I'm going out with such a boy – but I think really the very first time I went out with a lad was when I was 13.

Q: When you say that, do you mean, going on a date?

A: Yes it was, but yeah, basically. Before that it was just sort of like you used to hang about in groups, you know, there was like four lads and four girls, used to stand on the streets. You know, nothing, it wasn't anything proper really.

(interruption)

Q: You said on your questionnaire that you'd had a lot of relationships that you might not have had if you'd known about AIDS then. Tell me about that.

A: That's right, I slept with quite a few men. And I mean that was sort like when I was younger, like the age of 16 to 18 basically, I had quite a lot in that period. So AIDS wasn't really about then really, well it might have been thought about, but there wasn't much about it.

Q: ..(125)..

A: You know, I guess I was just really blind, I just sort of like when I met a lad I slept with him, know what I mean? That's the sort of person I was then. I mean I still do now, but I'm not having as many partners now, mainly because of AIDS, but also I mean I've had a few, well that's because I've not really found anybody I can settle down to. Or if I have found somebody I'm not the right person for them, you know, so it's vice versa really.

Q: Do you think you'd still sleep with somebody you'd just met, or has that changed now?

A: I think for me, I think I'm at the point in my life now where I want to find somebody who I'd like a relationship, you know a close relationship with, now for me I don't think I'd sleep with anybody on the first night. I'd like to get to know them before I slept with them really.

Q: Do you regret anything you've done in the past?

A: Not really, I enjoyed everything I did really, know what I mean? The other thing, you know, that I hate really is the fact I've slept with so many blokes.

Q: What worries you about that?

A: I don't know, it makes me feel sort of cheap in a way, I don't know why. But I think mainly because like my friend, she's only just lost her virginity, and she's only like 24, she is. But I mean she's still with the ..(156).. guy, she's been with him for two years ..(157).. So compare her to me, you know.

Q: Would you like that be your situation? Would you like to be a virgin now, or do you think you've learnt something from past relationships?

A: No, I have learnt something in terms of ..(160).. relationships, but I wish I hadn't started when I was 13, because I slept with my first boyfriend ..(162).. that's what I do regret, because..

Q: Do you think that was too young?

A: That was far too young. Even when I did it, I felt really bad afterwards, it's like a mental block with me, I don't really acknowledge it, I've not told anybody because I feel really bad about it, because I was too young.

Q: Did you want to do it at the time?

A: Not really, I think, no it wasn't, because I was like 13, he was 27, he was, know what I mean? He knew that I really liked him. He just sort of like, I didn't want to, he didn't rape me but I didn't want to, but he just, you know, it's like – Oh come on, come on – know what I mean? Then it wasn't anything romantic, with no clothes on or anything like that, it was just sort of skirt up, know what I mean, and then you know by the time he did it, it was all over and done with.

Q: You didn't get much out of it?

A: No, I didn't get anything out of it actually. Although I remember he really did hurt me, you know what I mean, that's what I do remember.

Q: Did that effect your idea of sex?

A: Yeah, well it did, it did, because I didn't want to have sex after that. Next time I slept with a lad was when I was 16. So there was quite a big difference in between. I just felt really dirty after that, I didn't want to, I mean I didn't even go out with anybody after that.

Q: Did you talk to anybody about it then?

A: Well no, I just remember coming home, and I just got in the house and had a bath and got changed. And I sat down and had a cry, though – I don't want to think about it anymore – and I won't say it to nobody else.

Q: Did it shatter your illusions?

A: Well it did, it did actually, because you expect it to be, you know, really romantic, and I think I thought – If that's what it is, I don't want to know about it.

Q: Was the next relationship very different?

A: That was very different, I was 16 and he was 28, I'm into older fellas.

Q: Yeah, why do you think that is?

A: I don't know what it is, it's just that you're treated better, I think that's what it is, you're treated like, well I wouldn't say all, but most them treat you better. I don't know what it is; I've often sat down and thought – Why do I like older blokes? I don't know. They're just so much more mature, know what I mean? They're not into having a drink with the lads every night, you know – I want to go out with the lads tonight, you stay at home – so to speak.

Q: That's what it would be like with a guy your age?

A: Yeah, I tried it, let me tell you. Oh it was ridiculous, I went out with one bloke for example, that was when I was 20, he was like 25, I thought – He's nice – know what I mean? So I brought him over to meet my mum and dad, mum and dad liked him, so like when he came to pick me up so we could go out for a nice meal – a 'nice meal' turned out to be [NAME OF

PIZZA RESTAURANT], right? He was totally drunk, you know slurring everything, and he was picking pizza up by his fingers, and I thought – that's it..

Q: You wanted a bit more sophistication?

A: That's it, yeah. I want to be wined and dined, and hear them say 'You've got beautiful eyes', you know, all this; that's what I want. Sends you flowers, you know.

Q: So how was the relationship different, this guy was 27?

A: 28.

Q: What did he do?

A: Just ..(220).. I wasn't allowed to go out until I was 18.

Q: At all, so it was all secret?

A: At all, this was all in secret, and my mum didn't know anything about it. But I met this fella at a nightclub in town, and it was just funny the way it started really, because I went out with my sister. My sister was going out with the bouncer there at the club. And this particular guy was called BRIAN and he was a bouncer there as well, so that was his ..(227).. oh, you know, I really like him, I wouldn't mind being.. And she went over and told him, and it just started from there really. So I arranged to meet him the next day. And we got into his flat, and we just like sat down and talked, know what I mean? I told him I was 18!

Q: Did you think he wouldn't be interested if he thought you were 16?

A: Well, yeah, I thought because I really liked him, he was lovely, I thought – I'm not going to tell him I'm 16, because I thought that he'll think I'm too young.

Q: Why did you like him, what counts with you? Was he good looking?

A: Well, I mean, it wasn't so much good looks, he was a very sensitive person, know what I mean? He was very ..(239).. and he made sure I was comfortable, and made sure you'd had enough to eat, and so forth and so forth. He was just really nice. I mean he was quite good looking. But his personality..

Q: That was the most important thing?

A: Yeah, it was.

Q: So you told him you were 18?

A: Yeah. And a couple of nights after that, know what I mean, he came ..(346).. And I turned round and told him what happened when I was 13. And I said – No, don't, I don't think I'm ready. I said, I'm still a bit scared. So he said – Don't worry, I'll be really gentle with you. And from that night, I started going out with him, I slept with him.

Q: And was it better?

A: It was totally different, totally different. He was really gentle, he was very caring, know what I mean. It was totally different; it was sort of like romantic.

Q: More like what you originally thought it should be?

A: That's right, yeah. And I went out with him for like six months.

Q: Did you really fall for him?

A: I did really fall for him, I did. And then what happened is my mum and dad found out .. (261).. My mum and dad found out, and there was ructions in the house. And they said that I either finished with him, or I get out. So really I had no choice really. So I went round to this man's house, and told him what had happened, bearing in mind that he found out how old I was in the end, like because his friend told him, because I fixed up a foursome with our HEATHER and this friend. And this friend let slip, HEATHER let slip to this friend, and his friend told him. He was alright about it. I mean if I'd told him about it in the first place it wouldn't have mattered. ..(272).. I told him we had to split up.. he was sort of like upset.. (274).. He said – No, he said ..(275).. In a way I respect your mum and dad's wishes. So anyway I finished with him, and then a couple of days later I still sat in my bedroom crying.. (277). Can't bear it no longer.. So I went back down again, like my mum ..(280)..

Q: Were you really frightened of your parents finding out?

A: Oh yeah, they're really strict where that is concerned. Like education first, and then having ..(282).. So I just went down and said ..(284).. pregnant.. Anyway we got back together, but then it was I got sort of like, then I'd just turned 17, and my mum and dad came to a compromise with me. They didn't know that I was still seeing BRIAN, but I could go out, I could go out with lads. But they'd got to be younger, know what I mean?

Q: So they were concerned about the age gap?

A: Yeah, they were very concerned about the age difference, they thought he was only using me, which he wasn't. So I mean it carried on for a bit longer, and then I got to that age where I started going out, and I started getting into the nightclubs.

Q: Which ones?

A: Like Rotters, you know down Manchester, Rotters, The Ritz, Fagins, all that.

Q: Were you meeting a lot more fellas?

A: I was meeting a lot more fellas. It was all new to me then, you see, just meeting all these fellas. That's it. And then I started doing the dirty on them then you see.

Q: Being unfaithful to them?

A: Yeah, that's right. And then one night, because he was the bouncer at Fagins, you see, one night I went in to meet him, me and my sister, and there was this bloke there, you know, I thought – Oh, nice. And he started chatting me up. So I was trying to give this bloke my phone number on the sly. And he found out, and he went – That's it, that's enough. So that ended that.

Q: You weren't too upset by this time?

A: I was a bit upset, but I didn't cry though, I was a bit upset. But I think the reason I wasn't that much upset is because I had this other guy, you see. He was 25 years old, 25, 26. Anyway, he was like a new variety, know what I mean, a dead flash car..

Q: All the things you wanted?

A: That's right, I thought – Oh, this'll do me fine. So I think that's why I wasn't too upset.

Q: So you didn't see it in terms of finding someone to settle down with, you were enjoying yourself?

A: Yeah, that's right. That's when I went through the period of having one-night stands..

Q: Were you doing it because you wanted to have sex, or you wanted conquests?

A: I know what you mean, umm..

Q: Can you remember your motivation?

A: Yeah, I think it was that I really fancied him so I really wanted to do it sort of thing.

Q: That's fair enough.

A: Yeah. Well, I'm still very immature anyway, but I thought I was really good, you know, having it away with all these lads.

Q: It sounds like you were enjoying yourself?

A: I was, I mean it was like, I was having three lads in one day. Ridiculous really.

Q: At the time did you ever think about risks? Had you heard about AIDS at the time?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: How about pregnancy, STDs?

A: No, I went on the pill when I was 16. So I didn't worry about getting pregnant. And the thing is if you think about VD and stuff like that, I just thought – Oh, I won't get it. That's my attitude, I think to this day I sort of like just close my mind to it. Think – Oh, it won't happen to me.

Q: Did it ever happen to you?

A: No.

Q: So you don't think about that much?

A: No.

Q: Has your attitude changed now, do you see it as more of a risk?

A: I think, I don't know, I still don't think it will happen to me. I still think like that, it's a very ignorant attitude. But if I ever sit down and think about it I get very depressed about it. But I think the reason why as well, if AIDS hadn't been thought, if AIDS hadn't have come up, I think at this point in my life I wouldn't have thought 'Oh, I want to have a steady relationship'. But because this has come about, I think well it's not right this sleeping around.

Q: So if it wasn't for this, you'd still be doing the same thing?

A: I think so, yeah.

Q: I think it's really depressing for people in that way; you can't live how you want to.

A: That's right, you know, I just, I know they say use a condom, but I don't like it.

Q: Couldn't you enjoy sex with a condom?

A: I just can't, I just don't know what it is. I don't know, they just get them out and I just find it a real turn-off, know what I mean?

Q: Have the men you've slept with been prepared to use them?

A: Umm yeah, well, thing is it's not the sort of thing that you discuss. When I was younger, they just used to say, 'Are you on the pill? I'll use'..(382).. That was fine, they.. a very.. (383).. part of it. But recently when I've been out, I've been prepared, know what I mean?

Q: What, you've been on the pill?

A: They've been prepared to use a condom, you know. I just say no.

Q: So you refuse?

A: Yeah, I'm the one that refuses. I know it's stupid, but I don't like them.

Q: Do you find it embarrassing, or do you get less pleasure?

A: I think a lot of it is that I find it embarrassing, I think that is it that I find it embarrassing. And then like at the moment.. I don't know, I think it's embarrassing really.

Q: It's more difficult to talk about sex than to do it, isn't it?

A: Yeah, it is actually. Yeah.

Q: When you said 'No, you didn't want to', were they happy not to?

A: Yeah, they were actually, I don't know why. They just said, well, fair enough, know what I mean? Just thinking of you, so to speak.

Q: Can you remember the first time you heard about AIDS or HIV?

A: Two years ago.

Q: Has your opinion about it changed since it first came about? For instance that it affects straight people too, has your idea of who is at risk changed?

A: I think it's pretty much the same really, it hasn't changed, it's still pretty much the same.

Q: Where did you get the information from?

A: Well, there's been quite a lot of it publicised in Manchester anyway..

Q: You mean in education?

A: That's right. And we've had another couple of teachers who went on an AIDS course. And when they came back they sort of did one at school. They gave you all the information, gave you leaflets and stuff like that. Only a lot of it is from the media anyway.

Q: Do you think gay people are still more at risk?

A: Oh no, I think everybody is. No, that's a load of rubbish, just saying it's gay people; it's everybody.

Q: So do you think people like you, your friends and people your age are at risk? Do you think the people you're likely to sleep with are at risk? Or don't you think about it?

A: This is it, I just don't think about it. No, I just don't.

Q: When you do think about it, does it worry you?

A: Well, it does worry me, yeah, that's why ..(447).

Q: Do you know of anybody who has it?

A: No, I don't.

Q: Do you think that would make a difference?

A: I think it would make a difference if I did know somebody, but because I don't, you just think that it's very far away. But it isn't really, but that's what you think.

Q: So you haven't been practising safe sex with your new bloke?

A: No.

Q: Have you talked about it?

A: Yeah, we have talked about it. We just sat down and he said – 'What do you want to do?'. So I said 'I don't like using them'. So he says 'Oh, I don't like using them'. And he says, because like I think with this bloke here now, I think that's it for me now.

Q: You want to stay with him?

A: Yeah. And he just says, 'I won't feel close to you if we did use one'. So we sort of like decided, so I says, 'Well, I'll go back on the pill'. Because I'm very comfortable with that anyway.

Q: If he'd insisted on using one what would you have done? Do you think you could have a relationship with someone using condoms?

A: I don't, I would have been quite put out actually.

Q: Felt insulted?

A: I would have felt insulted, yeah, I would have felt cheap in fact. Right? If he'd turned round and said 'I want to use a condom', I would've..

Q: Why's that?

A: I don't know, I don't know, I don't know; it's the way I think. I just think, 'Oh, he must think I'm just somebody he's just picked up, you know what I mean? Bearing in mind if I see him in a couple of weeks.

Q: So that's about trust?

A: Yeah.

Q: Have you ever thought of having an AIDS test with your partner?

A: Well funnily enough, we've not even sort of, we've never mentioned AIDS actually. We've mentioned everything else but..

Q: When you were talking about the condom, were you talking about pregnancy?

A: Well, yeah, we were talking about pregnancy, we weren't talking in terms of AIDS, right? We haven't even discussed it, we haven't even talked about that.

Q: Would you find it difficult to bring that up with him?

A: Well, no, I don't think I would find it difficult. We have mentioned it in passing, like with his friend, because his friend is a real lady's man. Right, and he just sort of turned round and said, 'TODD should be really careful with all this AIDS knocking about'. I mean it's come round, you know, in that sort of context. But not between me and him. I don't think I do find it embarrassing actually.

Q: Would you like to talk to him about it, or would you rather it wasn't mentioned?

A: Not yet, know what I mean? No, not yet! I think probably, I don't know. I can't work out whether I would be embarrassed or I wouldn't; I feel quite relaxed with him, know what I mean? I can't really say..

Q: Do you think it's easier to talk about pregnancy than AIDS?

A: Most definitely.

Q: It doesn't feel like the same type of thing?

A: No, it doesn't.

Q: Do you think that's because it's about a disease?

A: Well yeah, I do. I mean you get AIDS, and most probably you're going to die of it aren't you? Whereas with pregnancy, I mean it's very low risk, dying of pregnancy anyway. Pregnancy is just pregnancy really. I mean you can get an abortion, you can get it adopted if you don't want it, a totally different thing. Well of course it doesn't really affect your body in the long run.

Q: But don't you think that means that AIDS is more serious?

- A: I think AIDS is very much more serious than pregnancy.
- Q: Is this why it's so difficult to talk about?
- A: Yeah, that's probably what it is.
- Q: Often you don't know why you can't talk about something, you just know you can't.
- A: Yeah, it's frightening really, isn't it?
- Q: What, to think about?
- A: Yeah.
- Q: So it's easier not to think about it?
- A: That's right.
- Q: If you talked about it, would you do anything about it?
- A: Umm..
- Q: I've worried you!
- A: Well, you know..! What was the question? I think it's too late to talk about it. I honestly don't know.. I think the way I look at it now, he's not going to have any more partners, I'm not going to have any more partners, and that's the end of that.
- Q: Do you both think it's quite serious then?
- (interruption, by sister)
- A: Right, OK, it's alright. What it is, is that she met this boy last night.
- Q: Is that the younger one?
- A: Yeah, that's the younger one. And she said, 'Well, pop round for a cuppa', just sort of like being sociable. He said, 'Oh, I'll pop round tomorrow'.
- Q: She doesn't want to be in her room with him?
- A: Well, my mum and dad won't let it. You know what they're like, they're very strict until you're over 16. They'll be really angry. So she wants like somebody in the room..
- Q: For protection? OK. What were we saying?
- A: Oh – is it quite serious? That was what we were saying. Yes, I do. I'm very serious about him actually, I know it's only been a month, but it's the only person I really fell for. ..(605)..
- Q: What is the difference?
- A: I don't know why he's so different, maybe because he's really really really romantic.
- Q: And you want as much romance as possible?
- A: That's it! I think that's what it is. And he's very sensitive, you know what I mean. I don't know he seems to always want to know whether I'm happy and..
- Q: Attentive to you?
- A: Yeah, that's right.
- Q: Where did you meet him?
- A: Club! Actually when I met him at the club.. (620) .. And I've only met him at the club .. (621)..
- Q: What club was it in Oldham?
- A: Cabaret. Cabaret. But yeah, when I met him I thought 'Oh, here's another one'. Know what I mean? Because I don't know, I got to this stage where I think, 'Oh well, all lads are the same'.. (625).
- Q: In what way?
- A: In what way? I'm not saying they're out for one thing, I mean a lot of them are but, I don't know.. Do you know, that's really hard that! All lads are the same. But what I was getting really pissed off about was when they said we were going to phone and they didn't phone. Or take you and they didn't take you out. And they ring you up three weeks later, know what I mean, I've had a lot like that.
- Q: Unreliable?
- A: That's right. A lot of them are.
- Q: So you thought, 'Oh, he's just another beast'?

A: Yeah, then I thought, oh. But then I quite liked the look of him, know what I mean? Thought, 'Oh, my God!' And then I gave him my telephone number, it sort of like stemmed from there. I met him on the Saturday, I was going out on the Sunday, so I had to ring him on the Monday. We went out on Monday night; that was it really.

Q: What does he do?

A: He does demolition.

Q: He's a big tough guy?

A: That's right, he comes in really dirty. And he was scrubbing his back last night.

Q: How do you see it progressing, you and him? Do you think it will stay casual?

A: Well, what it is at the moment is I see him a couple of nights in the week, and the weekend; Friday, Saturday, Sunday. If he wants to spend a night out with his friends, he just, you have to see each other at least Friday or Saturday or both. I mean we have sat down and discussed it. When I told him I was going out Friday and Saturday this week he hit the roof.

Q: Did he?

A: Yeah, so I had to cancel Saturday and go out Friday instead. Now I'll go out next Friday with the girl I was going to go out with. We have talked about settling down and stuff like that. God, it sounds really heavy after a month, doesn't it? I never really thought about it. It's just that things crop up in the situation, sort of like in conversation. But he was saying, 'give it a year', know what I mean? Right, I'll give it a couple of years before I get married.

Q: Is that how you feel – give it a year?

A: Well, he was saying give it like six months, because he's found what he wants. But I want to be totally sure that he's for me.

Q: You've got a lot to find out about him still.

A: That's it. I've got to be totally sure. And also he's been divorced before you see.

Q: How old is this one?

A: 35!

Q: They're getting older!

A: As I'm getting older, they're getting older.

Q: Do you know much about his past?

A: Well probably, not much, I mean I've met all his family and stuff. And I've seen his ex-wife, you know, and he's got a daughter, she's 10. She lives with her mum and the mum's boyfriend. We've been out, cos like we took the daughter out last week.

Q: So she would have warned you if there was anything wrong?

A: Yeah, because she's at that age where she'll come out with anything and everything, do you get me?

Q: You didn't talk to his ex-wife?

A: No, him and his ex-wife..

(end of side one)

A: ..because they were married for 13 years.

Q: A long time.

A: Yeah, it is a long time. And then just before he met me he was going out with another, I don't know how long he said that was for, it was about six months or something like that, something in that region. In the end she was having loads of blokes on the side, actually I know quite a lot about this woman, I wouldn't mind meeting her. Because all his family's been talking about her, how they didn't like her, and stuff like that. She started doing the dirty on him, going behind his back. So then he'd had a belly full of it really.

Q: Do you think you'll be tempted to do that?

A: Up to now not really, I've resisted.

Q: Have you met people you wouldn't have minded seeing?

A: I wouldn't say that, I mean I've met fellas and thought, 'Oh, he's not bad looking', know what I mean? Then I think I've got too much to lose, that's what comes into my mind. And that's at this moment, I don't, no.

Q: You said you (?)weren't working in school much longer?

A: No, I'm getting really, I love it; I love working with children. But I want something, well a bit more money obviously.

Q: Is it not well-paid?

A: No, it's not very well-paid, I mean I'm only on something like £350 a month. No, it isn't. So I mean it's not much really. And also I don't know I've always had this idea to become like a private secretary, something like that. I don't know, something with a bit more about it. I mean I used to think that I wanted to work in a bigger environment, but then I think no, because I find in quite a lot of places, because I've had quite a few jobs, a lot of the places that I've worked in, that have been big firms, there's always..

Q: (?)There's nobody..

A: Yeah, that's it. You don't make friends as easily, that's what I think. I always find it very uncomfortable. I don't know, I can't see what I want to be doing, what I want to do really, I want to stay in [education]; that's what I want to do.

Q: But you'd like to work as a personal secretary?

A: Yes, something like that. At the moment I'm trying to find out about courses, because I want to go back and do my shorthand, and try and keep it up actually.

Q: That's the sort of thing you need?

A: Well, that's it, yeah. And like computers have a lot to do with it now. I mean that's alright, I don't mind ..(769).. shorthand.. you do need.

Q: Do you see yourself as being quite an ambitious person?

A: No, I'm not a very ambitious person, me. I don't want, want, want all the time. If I just get to be like a private secretary that'll do me. Know what I mean? That's a bit of ambition, but it's not a lot. Because you could go better than that.

Q: Do you think your ambitions have more to do with your relationships than with your job?

A: Umm, I suppose it is more about him than it is with my job.

Q: When you think about yourself, do you think in terms of your relationships rather than your work? And is that the cause of your happiness?

A: I see what you mean. Umm..

Q: Is it a mixture?

A: It's a mixture. I can't really pinpoint either one of them, know what I mean. Maybe a bit more, a BIT more my relationships..

Q: That's because they're more fun!

A: Yeah, that's right. And also really, with this job that I've got, you can't go any higher anyway, so I don't really think of it more about this job. If I worked in a bigger place I'd probably have more ambition. I'd think – Oh, well, I've got to get to such a thing.

Q: Are there any questions you'd like to ask me about AIDS and HIV? Do you feel that the education you got was good enough?

A: I think so.

Q: No burning questions?

A: Nothing that springs to mind.

Q: What type of sex education did you get, you said it wasn't good?

A: Oh it wasn't, it was hardly anything actually. It was so little I can't remember. I tell you it was about one lesson that you had, right, it wasn't sort of like over a period of years. So you got to about second year, no you got to about 12 or 13, you have a lesson, this is what happened at our school anyway, we had a lesson..

(interruption)

A: ... So, what was it, we were about 12, 13, one lesson, Biology it was. And you had this book in front of you, you had the teacher at the front of the classroom. And all he said was, what was it now? He didn't say how you did it, not how you did it, how can I put it? He didn't tell you what it was about. All it really focussed on was how you get pregnant.

Q: Conception?

A: That's right, yeah, about the eggs and the ovaries and stuff like that. He wasn't sort of like..

Q: No technique?

A: No! I mean schools', it's not very good, you don't learn anything from school really.

Q: Did you get anything from your parents, or was it the less you knew the better?

A: Well, that's it. They still think I'm sweet and innocent.

Q: Do you think they do?

A: Well, I think they think I've slept with a couple of guys, you know, with.. (832) ..They'd then die of shock, real shock, if they knew what I'd done.

Q: Did you wish that they would talk to you about things like that? Do you think you missed out because they didn't?

A: No, because I feel I would have been embarrassed, you feel more comfortable with your friends really, because you tend to ask your friends don't you? You get a lot of it from your friends.

Q: Is that where you got most of your information?

A: Yeah, I think it was friends. You know, all the girls talk about it at that age, in the changing rooms and everything. Every dinner time and stuff, it's boys, boys, boys, what they did last night and all that. So I think you get a lot of it from friends.

Q: Do you think you get decent information from your friends? Or was it misleading?

A: I think it's.. misleading? The only time I can think of when I found it misleading was when my friend said to me once that her sister was on the pill, and she said – 'I can get you it if you want'. I said, 'Why are you going to do that?'. And she said, 'Oh, I just pinched some of her pills'. And at that time I thought that, you know..

Q: You just needed one?

A: I just thought it was like that, and I thought – Oh, I don't need ..(853).. If I have a couple of these pills then I'll be alright. That turned.. (855)..

Q: Did you do that then?

A: No, I didn't. I said, 'Oh no'.

Q: Good job.

A: Yeah!

Q: Mostly it was from chatting?

A: Yeah, it was from chatting and magazines.

Q: Things like problem pages?

A: Yeah, that's it. I mean to this day I still look at the problem page, know what I mean? Ah.. I love reading through them. Yeah, that's it, just chatting and magazines really. I can't think of anywhere else I got it, it wasn't from school.

Q: What sort of school did you go to?

A: It was an all girls' school. Do you want to know the name?

Q: It wasn't a Catholic school?

A: No.

Q: So that wasn't why they didn't have sex education?

A: No, it was an all girls' school. Yeah, it was just one lesson basically.

Q: Was it [NAME OF SCHOOL]?

A: No, it was [NAME OF SCHOOL]. It's now called [NAME OF SCHOOL].

(end : 873).

