

BYC05 RT 12/04/89

INTERVIEWER: Can you give me a few details about yourself, you say you are twenty?

INTERVIEWEE: No I'm thirty and I have been married twice. I'm just going through a marriage break-up now and that's it.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

INTERVIEWEE: And what do I think about AIDS?

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

INTERVIEWEE: Well I think you can get it dead easily. They can look dead clean and they can still have it.

INTERVIEWER: Is that everyone do you reckon, you wouldn't say that certain groups?

INTERVIEWEE: That's man and women. No not in any category. Anybody can get, kids of fifteen, whatever. I think you should protect yourself.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think this.

INTERVIEWEE: Not from being pregnant, I mean well say contraceptives yes so that you don't get pregnant but against like not only AIDS, VD and other things, you should protect yourself against that. I haven't had the chance to do it yet. Well in seven years because I have been with the same partner, he had a vasectomy, so I haven't had to use any contraceptives. I didn't use a sheath with him. But if I was going to do it I would make sure I would use a condom. Well not that I used it but he did. But I would buy them.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think it's your responsibility or would you just not trust anybody else?

INTERVIEWEE: I think it's my responsibility because it's me who I am worried about, I'm not worried about him, it's me who I would be worried about catching AIDS, do you know what I mean. I would be scared of getting it so I would buy the condoms. I would put it on my own trust to buy it.

INTERVIEWER: So you wouldn't trust somebody else to look after you like that?

INTERVIEWEE: No I wouldn't. Because I'm a grown-up girl and I should know how to look after myself. I wouldn't trust anybody. It's me who I am looking after, number one. So that's my rule on it.

INTERVIEWER: Would you think about also having sex which didn't involve intercourse?

INTERVIEWEE: I would rather have sex that didn't involve intercourse. Because my past experience with it I don't know what the big fuss is about. That's it. That's my views on it as I stand now.

INTERVIEWER: I think a lot of women don't know that sex.

INTERVIEWEE: You can have sex and enjoy sex but not having to have intercourse.

INTERVIEWER: Not many people realise that.

INTERVIEWEE: Well I realise that. In fact I sleep with them better.

INTERVIEWER: That's good. What you know about AIDS, is that stuff that you picked up?

INTERVIEWEE: I've read leaflets and everything about it. Watched the programmes on telly.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think there is enough information about it?

INTERVIEWEE: At one time they drummed it into your head that much it bored you. But now because you don't hear so much about it, you hear that little bit about it now, my ears prick up to see if they have got a cure for it or how many more millions of people are dying

from it. Who's got HIV and all that lot. Yes I would say there was enough information about it.

INTERVIEWER: Do you feel there is a real risk then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes I do. I think it is a big risk. Well it's the number one killer now isn't it. Well not number one but there is no cure for it, is there. Like prevention with the sheath. That's all I think about it.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. In terms of relationships what do you think about that most young women don't think that they are at risk?

INTERVIEWEE: Most people think 'I will never catch it', but I don't think that way. Because I think that way, I'm pessimistic in some sorts of ways. I think I would be the one to catch it so make sure that you use something, because if I did or I didn't I have only got myself to blame. It's up to me to make sure that I am covered for.

INTERVIEWER: Would you find it easy then to say to your man 'I want you to use a condom?'

INTERVIEWEE: If I wanted to have sex, intercourse with a man there would be no two ways about it, he would have to use a sheath.

INTERVIEWER: What you are saying now, would you have said that five or six years ago, well when you were a lot younger?

INTERVIEWEE: Until AIDS was heard of I wouldn't have said it, no.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think it's to do with also your confidence as a person that you can say that, because a lot of women don't feel that they can actually demand anything off a man in terms of sex.

INTERVIEWEE: Well I have as much rights as he has. To say that he doesn't want to use one. You have just got as much right to say you've got to use one. If he says he doesn't want to, well. If you don't agree on the same one thing, well there is no point in doing it is there. To me I would just say, even before, I would say if I thought there was going to be, say like for instance I felt strongly about somebody and, 'do you want to come back to my place', or 'do you want to come back', and I would say yes, contraceptives, sheath. Because if he started giving all that, oh, I don't want that, I would say well neither do I. Because I mean you only get it once, AIDS don't you. I mean that's it once you've got it there is no going back. It's not like something you can get and get rid of, well not at the moment you can't.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know anybody who's HIV positive, who's got AIDS?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: So it hasn't been that that's made you sort of..

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know anybody who's like that. I've watched some programmes on the television but more about gay men, but it's not a gay disease, in my eyes it's everybody, everybody can get it. Old men can get it. That's the way I see it.

INTERVIEWER: Well that's the way it is.

INTERVIEWEE: So I would rather like protect myself. If somebody says to me like, well I would say you're an idiot. You know what I mean, for that one off, maybe it was a one-night stand. That one person you have been with, you might think they are dead clean, but they could have come from South Africa and been with somebody there and caught it there. But they don't know they have got it.

INTERVIEWER: So why do you think it is that so many, especially young women, not only don't protect themselves against AIDS, they don't protect themselves against pregnancy, even when they know it is a risk and they know that it's possible?

INTERVIEWEE: Why do I think what?

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think they do that. You know, they don't use contraception, they don't protect themselves and they end up?

INTERVIEWEE: Well in some cases like young girls now you see people who are hooked on lads and everything and say they want to keep them, they think having a baby is going to keep them. Whereas the first thing it's going to do is frighten them to death. In this day and age now, the lads don't even mature even at eighteen or nineteen so they would walk away from the responsibility I think. But some girls do it to trap men.

INTERVIEWER: Young girls do get some education now, about sex education.

INTERVIEWEE: Well there is a lot more now than there was because I never heard anything like that in school.

INTERVIEWER: But still the teenage pregnancy rate is going up.

INTERVIEWEE: SIMON, my son, he's thirteen. He knows everything. He knows about everything. I told him but he also learnt at school. He knows about men, he knows if a nice man from a nasty man sort of thing. And I have tried to tell him the difference. Never speak to a man in a car or anything like that. 'Why?', 'well what do you think he wants to do to you?'. Like SIMON will tell me what is in my head. And I will say, 'Well he wants to do something to you that's not natural'.

INTERVIEWER: Did you get that sort of honesty from your parents?

INTERVIEWEE: No because my Dad. I've always been the older sister me, my Mother died when I was four, so no, just from my own commonsense, commonsense tells me what I think and what I tell SIMON.

INTERVIEWER: So now you are expecting then to be seeing men now your relationship has split up.

INTERVIEWEE: Oh it's obvious that. It's inevitable yes.

INTERVIEWER: So you are not worried about it in that sense and looking after yourself?

INTERVIEWEE: No not at all. I know how to look after myself.

INTERVIEWER: Good.

INTERVIEWEE: It's the best way isn't it.

INTERVIEWER: I'm glad you do. I tell you I have been dead depressed recently doing this. Talking to loads of sixteen year old, well seventeen year old girls and they, every bloke they meet they think this is the one. I won't use contraception because he's the one.

INTERVIEWEE: I know a girl, she goes out weekends and she met this one and she's met this one and I mean, I know for a fact that she is not using that. But I can't turn round and say, you must use it. I've told her what I think about it so whether she gets anything from that it's entirely up to her. I can't make her do it can I. I don't get that involved with her anyway, but I mean she might think I'm old fashioned in my ways but I'm not old fashioned. What I think is what's the point in just that one chance. Especially if it's a one-night stand or whatever.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think will make people change in those sort of things, what do you think will make them actually realise?

INTERVIEWEE: Well like they are doing now. Like they've got them all in there. Now you see them at check out counters and everything, and if it's there it will make you think of it.

If it's not there you won't think about it. Say you went out on a Friday night or anything or I might cop for that lad that I saw last week, and like you might want to have sex with him, just get a packet anyway and put it in your bag.

INTERVIEWER: But the girls I have been talking to say well that means you are after it, that means you will get a bad reputation. I would never buy a condom.

INTERVIEWEE: Well you must know yourself what you are going out for. They know their own limits don't they. And they know they don't mind what they are going to do. If they are adamant they are not going to do it, well fair enough. But if you have a doubt in your mind that you are, take a packet. Because it doesn't bother me. I will just go and get a packet if I wanted a packet. I would probably get about eight packets. Go on the rampage.

INTERVIEWER: Found your new found freedom.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Are you looking forward to it.

INTERVIEWEE: Seven years I'm making up. But I mean it don't mean I am going to catch AIDS or anything.

INTERVIEWER: Oh no. Then you wouldn't think that if, I mean the way education is put forward is that if you don't sleep around, what they call sleeping around, then you won't get it. In fact it's not the number of partners, it's what you are doing which makes the difference.

INTERVIEWEE: You can't catch AIDS from kissing, it's if you have intercourse isn't it? That's the only way it can be passed on. I heard that or you could get AIDS by kissing by saliva, but you would have to drink 52 gallons of saliva to get AIDS. You would be there all night.

INTERVIEWEE: But I think it gives people the idea that if they are faithful, a false idea that if they are faithful, they can be safe, which is facile.

INTERVIEWER: You don't know what your partner is doing at any given time of the day do you? There is such a thing as trust and everything, if you trust your partner, I would say right, fair enough, don't use a sheath. But like me, I trusted my partner, he trusted me. But I don't know if he's been with somebody. I could have it now and I don't know. But when it comes to the time of me going out and doing it with somebody I would take a packet of mates with me. And if they don't want to wear them they don't get anything, do they. That's the way the cookie crumbles.

END OF RECORDING.