

AYC09 RT March 1990

Q: I want to know what's been happening to you since the last time I talked to you. I know you've changed your job, you're still living at home?

A: Yes unfortunately.

Q: What about this TIM bloke, what happened with him?

A: Oh, he's gone.

Q: How long did that carry on after I interviewed you last time?

A: When was that?

Q: It was January, this time last year, think back a year?

A: Well it was just before my birthday which is in May.

Q: May what?

A:

Q: Taurus.

A: So did I tell you he was engaged to a girl for four years and I was going with him for a year so that was all dead secret and nobody knew about it. And then she finished with him for somebody else which I thought was absolutely hilarious. And he really cracked up over it and I couldn't believe that he was so cracked up over it. He was dead upset that she had finished with him for somebody else.

Q: Which made you feel really great?

A: Yes do you know what I mean. But I think all of it was really was just pride that a girl had finished with him. So then he started saying – 'I'm going to build a house'. And the number of girls who he's been out with that I've spoken to, the number of houses he's been building you could fill our estate up about four times! He thinks he's – what's that fella called, building log cabins – Grizzly Adams(16)..

Q: For these women?

A: Yes. It's unbelievable. And apparently he's going out with another girl and he's proposed and everything and building her a house.

Q: So what are you doing these days?

A: Well at first when I used to see him I used to completely ignore him and if he used to speak to me – Oh, fuck off – and really he was just trying to be friends and then after a while I thought there was no point in arguing about it. There was no point in going in the local pub just because I know he's going to be there. So I ended up just going back in. Sometimes when I see him he lets on and sometimes he doesn't depending on whether he's with his new slabby girlfriend or not. And he reckons he's going to get married to her. And you know the bit in church when they say 'has anybody got anything..' I'll be there with a double-barrelled shotgun.

Q: No you'll have to get all the women, and say where are our houses,

A: That's my landlord you're marring. But I will be there with a double-barrelled shotgun, they won't get married while I'm....

Q: Right, so do you still like him a bit?

A: I must do because when I see his girlfriend I want to kill him, so I must do.

Q: Does that annoy you?

A: It annoys me, I get annoyed at myself more than anything. Because I mean I'm sure she's a very nice girl. But I would never give him another chance so. One of the lads in the gang was saying to me – 'oh TIM'S new girlfriend, he's proposed to her and he's going to build her a house', and all this lot and I was going to start saying – silly cow and all this lot – but I thought mainly because this lad was a shit-stirrer anyway, and he was only after a bit of gossip to go back and tell TIM, I said 'I hope they will be very happy together', and he was dead shocked, he said, 'what?', 'well he's a nice fella, I hope he gets somebody nice'. Secretly going home stabbing him in the back.

Q: You've got to keep your public face.

A: That's what I mean. With people like that you've got to anyway. And of course my mum came out with a classic. She didn't like him anyway just because he was ..(43)... because a lot of people didn't like him. My friends didn't like him because he was just an argumentative person.

Q: What was it that you liked about him?

A: I don't know. We used to have a laugh.

Q: Was it partly because he was a bastard?

A: I think it probably was actually because I am used to bastards aren't I. I've got [BROTHERS AND A DAD] and they're all bastards anyway so I'm pretty used to it.

Q: Fatal attraction?

A: Yes. So people used to think I was dead argumentative – like I'd bring a friend out to a pub and we were sat there and we'd be going home saying 'what are you doing with him, he's terrible', and I used to say to him 'you shouldn't say things to people because they get upset', and he said 'well, I'm only discussing things with them'. He genuinely didn't think that he had a problem about arguments and he did. And when me and him used to argue he used to say, 'what's the matter with you', I said, 'that argument last time, you really wound me up'. 'Well I wasn't arguing, that was a discussion'. I think he knew really that he was argumentative.

Q: Did you get depressed after that?

A: Oh afterwards, yes, and a real suicide job, but....(57)... The classic my mum came out with though, because I said to her 'TIM'S got a new girlfriend', and her friend was there, this old woman who comes to our house and sat there and she said, 'well he's probably getting off with her what he couldn't get off with you anyway',... I died.

Q: She thinks that you are still a virgin?

A: Yes. I mean I used to go to his house on a Sunday afternoon and I used to come back at 3 o'clock in the morning having not set a foot outside the bedroom all afternoon and all night. She used to say, 'where've you been?' 'I went to a pub and we stayed after time and had a couple of drinks', 'what til this time?', so I said 'no, then we went to TIM'S and we watched telly for a bit then came home', and she used to just accept it. I think she must have known. I used to go to his house and come back at 5 o'clock in the morning ...(67)... she must have known, you know what I mean she can't..

Q: I know my mum pretended not to know for years and years and years.

A: She must.

Q: There's a difference between knowing and actually having to publicly know.

A: That's what I mean, she doesn't want to face up to it. I think that's what it was. And I said to her the other night, 'I would love to have kids', 'oh don't you give me palpitations'. I said, 'what do you mean?', she said 'what do you mean you want to have kids, you've got to get married first'. I said, 'why do I have to get married to have kids?'. 'Well you want to be settled down', I said, 'well, what if I was living with somebody and had kids', 'oh, I would be very disappointed'.

Q: Disappointed. Well most of your friends have got kids now?

A: Yes because the girls I go out with there's only me and LYNN, who's like my best friend, and didn't have kids. She's pregnant now. I haven't heard from her for two weeks, so(78) ... she's turned into a domestic housewife, so I've not heard from her for two weeks. She's probably jealous because I'm going in August and she'll be in [HOSPITAL]. She knows that I will come back all nice and brown...she'll be what, eighteen stone, and a little baby screaming down her ear.

Q: Oh you're so nice.

A: That's what I used to say to her to wind her up, that's probably why she's not phoned for two weeks. But nearly every one of my friends has got kids. I've got a couple of older friends, COLLEEN and they couldn't have kids.....(86)...

Q: So you're getting broody?

A: I am actually. I can't believe it, and then I think...

Q: So after TIM finished have you had any relationships since then?

A: Nothing serious.

Q: Nothing serious, but what have you had, I need to know the nitty gritty! We want to know actually what type of things, particularly casual relationships people have?

A: I went out with a lad for a couple of months from the local pub. But he was ...(94)...

Q: Did you sleep with him?

A: Yes.

Q: How long was it before you started sleeping with him?

A: Well actually the day after I slept with him I finished with him.

Q: You finished with him or he finished with you?

A: I finished with him.

Q: Right. But that was at the end of the relationship then?

A: Yes that was it.(98).

Q: Would you sleep with somebody at the beginning of the relationship?

A: No.

Q: So how do you judge it?

A: I don't know, I don't think you can really judge it, it just depends on the person. You can't really say I will sleep with somebody after two months or two years. It depends on what kind of relationship you've got really.

Q: So why was it you decided to sleep with him?

A: Oh well I was really into him at the time. I was God's gift because he was really nice looking and everyone else liked him, and.....(105)... and all the girls were glowering at me like that. And I was really into him but the only reason – I wasn't madly in love with him or anything I was just into him mostly from the fact of the way he looked and the fact that I got everybody...

Q: Everybody said what, he was good looking?

A: Yes.

Q: Well there's nothing wrong with that. Lust is fine. When you slept with him did you have safe sex?

A: Oh yes.

Q: You did, what, used a condom?

A: Yes.(112).... He had one on his nose.

Q: Now come on, behave yourself. Whose idea was that?

A: I don't think it was an actual idea.

Q: Were you on the pill still then?

A: I was yes, at the time.

Q: Did anyone suggest it, did he say to you, 'are you on the pill?'

A: Oh yes.

Q: So you said yes?

A: Yes.

Q: Then what? How did you get the condoms in here?

A: Oh he had them.

Q: And he suggested using them as well?

A: Yes. Well he didn't even suggest it, he just did it.

Q: But knowing that you were on the pill.

A: Yes, he still used one.

Q: Were you surprised at that?

A: I was actually because you don't really – they're not usually very considerate. If you say you're on the pill that's all they are worried about, is she going to get pregnant, that's all they're bothered about, they are not bothered about anything else. I would have told him to anyway. It wasn't an idea saying – we went out that night, right shall we sleep together tonight or what – no it wasn't an actual idea, just.....(127)....

Q: The end. Oh well. I sympathise.

A: And then I went out with another lad who told everybody in the pub that I did sleep with him when I didn't.

Q: And you didn't?

A: No. On New Year's Eve. And he walked me up to the chippy because LYNN disappeared having an argument with her boyfriend and he said, 'do you want me to walk you up?' so I said, 'yes will you just walk me up while I get a taxi', me being perfectly innocent. So he walked me up, this about 3 o'clock in the morning, so he walked me up, I went to our NEVILLE'S to a New Year's party, he went home and the next minute LYNN'S on the phone. 'You slept with [NICKNAME] didn't you?', he's called [NICKNAME] this lad. I said, 'What?!'

Q: Half way up the road?

A: What outside the chippy in the snow, you know what I mean. And she said yes, because apparently he lives on his own and all this lot so I got on the phone to his mate and said, 'what's going on', and all the lads in this pub are like old women, you know, they obviously go back and give them marks out of ten and all that business. I couldn't believe it.

Q: That's horrible.

A: It was, he's nasty, because I thought he was a nice lad, and we were just like friends, and(142).... I wouldn't mind if he was nice looking..... he's about four foot nothing.

Q: And it's also horrible it being something that could be talked about even if you did sleep with him?

A: Yes but having said that I'm not really ... what people think about me anyway because I know who my friends are and they know what I'm like anyway so people in the pub in Ancoats – I wouldn't give a shit if they was I was on the game. I am not really concerned what they think about me. As long as my friends don't think

Q: Is it quite close in that way, do people get to know what you're doing in your own personal life, is it public knowledge?

A: Oh for instance in that they are all like on big clique, there's a gang of lads and there's a gang of girls and they all come together at the end of the night and then the girls get together and see who they copped off it with then the lads get together, and you know what I mean, all that business. I just sort of stay on the outside of them. My friend LYNN one night, she's been with boyfriend for eight years, and the number of times she's slept with other lads is unbelievable. I couldn't believe she was doing it, and one night I copped off with this lad and me and her went back to his and she ended up going to bed with him.

Q: The one you copped off with?

A: The bloke I'd copped off with, she been with her lad eight years, she doesn't need it, you know what I mean. I thought, what's going on.

Q: Well maybe she does if she's been with him for eight years.

A: Yes she probably does.

Q: She's probably bored to death.

A: Yes and now she's pregnant.

Q: Who by?

A: Yes I mean somebody's raised the question who's the father but... I don't think she'd know anyway. I couldn't believe it, I mean I was sat there.

Q: Which pub was this, is another one from..?

A: This is just another one.

Q: One weekend sometime?

A: Yes that's the way it goes. I couldn't believe it and I'm sat there on the settee and I fell asleep and the next minute I woke up and thought where am I, and then I heard the bed creaking upstairs and I thought no. And the bed was nearly coming through the ceiling. I can't believe she's just done it and I'm sat there and she comes down. And she said, 'have you just woke up', and I said, 'yes', 'I've been to sleep in his spare room'.

Q: Oh yes.

A: Yes right. So I said, 'what in his spare room?', so she said yes. So I said, 'which spare room', she said, 'to tell you the truth I didn't sleep in the spare room, I slept in his mum and dad's bedroom', and I said 'was he there as well?', so she said 'yes but nothing happened'. So we actually had a fight that morning, me and LYNN because she was saying something and I said to her, 'the bed was creaking and all this business', and she threw a cup of tea at me. We had a fight in....

Q: And she's your best mate isn't she?

A: Yes. You can tell she's my best mate because we can fight and still be friends afterwards.

Q: Do you think you're meeting the sort of blokes that you want to meet?

A: Well at the moment I'm not particularly bothered if I do or I don't. Because TIM, I can't figure it out how I feel about him really because I know that if he knocks on my door tomorrow and said right, come on, I would probably go. Do you know what I mean, but that's just me being stupid. Now, at the moment when I go out for a night out I'm not even looking, well I'm not saying I'm not looking, but I'm not particularly out to cop, like most of the girls, most of my friends who are married and have got kids, they are out on the cop. And I'm single and I'm not really bothered as long as I get my curry.....

Q: Yes, after a certain stage you start getting bored don't you?

A: Yes.

Q: Get bored with trying to do it, a pity you have to.

A: Oh when I copped off the other week, that's right, this pub and I went out with my mum and her friend and her daughter who I've known since we were about two months old. I copped off with this lad and he was an absolute nutter, he was great. He was a really good laugh and it was a change to have a laugh with somebody rather than having an argument. Much as I like a good argument, I like a good laugh as well. And he was an absolute, I was supposed to have met him on Friday but I didn't go.

Q: You just saw him once?

A: Yes and then he came back to our house. Mum thought he was the bees knees, mum thought he was wonderful. He came back to our house he was chatting to my mum (204)...

Q: ...(204)..

A: Yes he got on with my mum. He was a really good laugh and I should have .. I was going to go down and meet him but I thought it was too embarrassing if he didn't turn up.

Q: I wouldn't have been able to stay away.

A: Well I couldn't have liked him all that much could I, to not.

Q: You've not been regretting it since?

A: On Friday night, I didn't actually go out on Friday night I just sat at home thinking did he turn up or I bet he did.

Q: Do you feel pressure on you to get involved in a serious relationship, I mean from your mum's side there obviously is, but apart from your mum?

A: ... if I instantly got married and had fifteen kids.

Q: Yes but I mean from you yourself, there are lots of other pressures around?

A: Sometimes when I go out and I think I'm not bothered about copping off tonight or whatever but I'll have to do something because I don't want to be sort of like be still the same at forty and not particularly bothered about copping off. I mean I do eventually

obviously, I do want to get into a relationship and settle down and things like that but I don't want to do it just yet. Sometimes I do and sometimes I don't.

Q: You don't want to do it too early. How old are you now, twenty?

A: Twenty, yes.

Q: God, don't.

A: No I've no intentions just at the moment. But having said that, if somebody came along and I was fairly into them I probably would do. But I think if I did it would probably just be to shut everybody up.

Q: So next time you had a relationship with somebody that seemed like a bit more interested.

A: The one!

Q: Well not necessarily the one but somebody who was more than just sort of, you knew that there was more prospects, someone like TIM, someone like that where you're really into him, rather than just... Do you think you would stop wanting to have... I know this sounds really obscure but do you think you would stop having safe sex and then just be on the pill. Do you see that part of it?

A: I don't think so, no, because much as you are into somebody and all the rest of it, you still don't know where they've been in the past, however old they are, in the past few years, so if I was going with somebody for a year and sleeping with them or whatever.. If I was really getting into a proper relationship I would ask the person to go and have a test... definitely, and then I would have a test.

Q: Do you find that using condoms is a pain in the arse?

A: Yes, horrible.

Q: In what way, what are the problems?

A: They are just nasty, I just don't like them. I just don't like the idea of them. And they smell horrible.

Q: Is it them that you don't like or is it actually having to stop what you're doing, going to get one, or talking about using one, what part of it is the problem?

A: It's a bit impersonal it feels sometimes.

Q: Actually putting a barrier between you?

A: Yes it's almost as if you don't trust each other. But I mean it's just common sense really, it's not a case of trusting each other.

Q: That's the thing about asking at what point in the relationship do you stop, because it's often about trust in relationships, it's symbolic type thing.

A: If you talk about trusting somebody and then you say, right how many girlfriends have you had, about four girlfriends; how many boyfriends have you had, I've had four boyfriends and slept with two of them. Right OK. And then say right, well you've slept with somebody else, right let's just get on with it, don't bother about condoms. Well I think that's just stupid. I am definitely, if I was getting into a relationship with somebody and he started saying don't want to use condom ...(262)

Q: You must be quite unusual in that the people that you know to be quite insistent in this that ..The last I talked to you you were sort having sex ...(265) and still are.

A: I think I am just sensible.

Q: Yes. It also seems you are quite a strong person as well.

A: That's what it is, I mean I definitely would not, even if I was the sort of person to go out with and sleep with a lad after one night, I still wouldn't .. not have safe sex. Definitely not. Whether it be one night or two years, or whatever ... If he started complaining and saying 'I don't want to use condoms', I probably wouldn't like him much. I'd still insist that he did something about it, to make sure that it was alright. And it is unusual, cos most people are still so think and they just don't ...Like you talk to people about 'what did your mum say?', I was drinking out of a milk bottle the other day, and she said 'you might get AIDS off a milk

bottle'. I said, yeah, if you spat a pint of spit into the milk bottle maybe I might have got a ... My mum is unbelievable. I think was transplanted from Victorian time. I think was just taken from there and put into 1989.

Q: Yes. What about people like your friend PENNY. Do they take precautions?

A: I don't know.

Q: You don't talk to girlfriends?

A: Well, LYNN, we used to talk about it. She was on the pill. But I don't know if she ever used a condom or anything like that. I haven't got a clue. We've never talked about that. Sometimes in work we might have a bit of discussion about it, and all the rest of it, and all the rest of it, but I don't really er..

Q: It's not always the thing that you generally chat about?

A: It's not the sort of thing that you drop over a cheese sandwich.

Q: Some people do, I do because I'm obsessed with it.

A: I mean, sometimes, if I get on my soapbox about it I can go around lecturing people and all the rest of it. Do you use a condom -..(296).. But I mean if people are too stupid to do it then they deserve all they get.

Q: But the way you see it is that you are looking after yourself and most other people probably aren't.

A: Well I'm looking after myself and other people can do what they want to do, as long as I'm alright. I mean it sound really bad that, but as long as I'm alright in that sense.

Q: I mean you haven't really got any choice about what other people do, have you?

A: Well that's what I mean, you're talking about living or dying. So you can't really ..about it.

Q: You can.

A: There are people are, but I mean I find it unbelievable that people really are so stupid. And like if I was to turn round and say to LYNN you need an AIDS test, she'd go, 'what are you talking about!'. But I was talking to a fella from the needle exchange in Manchester and he was saying that when you sleep with somebody, he was saying again some statistics and he said that by the age of about 24 you will have slept with seven people say, and that person will have slept with seven people, each one of those seven people will have slept with seven people and all the rest of it and if you think about it, it's heavy stuff. And there is just one person along the line and God you're in trouble aren't you. And yet you still can't get it through to some people.

Q: Since the last time I talked to you, have you heard anymore AIDS education or have you come into contact with anymore?

A: No. I've seen that stupid advert on telly.

Q: Which one?

A: You get the doctor and then the professor.

Q: I haven't seen this, what's it like?

A: It's crap. I couldn't even tell you what he was saying. He was saying something like – 'AIDS can be passed on through homosexual, heterosexual sex' – and it's so crap you just turn the telly over.

Q: What is it, is it the word they are using?

A: It's the words that they are using and the fact that it's so boring. There is just one face of this old fella talking and then it's the face of an old woman talking, then it's the face of an old .. we're not too sure what it is. You know what I mean – and it's unbelievable. Nobody would take any notice of that. They'd take more notice of a spaghetti advert than that.

Q: Then what sort of things do you think would be good to have? What would you take notice of? Obviously, you don't really need it...

A: Yeah. Probably something aimed at young people, obviously. Not like boring old people, sprouting statistics out of the telly on a black and white background, and all that business. Probably something .. umm.. really into it and a bit of acid music in the background.

Something like that. Something to actually – that comes out of the telly, and you say, ‘Oh, what’s that’. You know – ‘what’s going on there?’ And then something that leaves an afterthought with it as well. Cos like the drug adverts that were on – I thought they were good. And something, you know that you’re interested in it, and plus you think about it afterwards. You don’t just forget about them.

Q: So, I mean, there’s like two strategies that they tend to use, isn’t there? One is that they are trying to scare people, and one maybe about – I mean – there’s the new campaign by the Terrence Higgins Trust which is like the big London AIDS organisation. And their adverts that they are doing – I don’t know whether you have seen them – but they’re for young people, and they’re about making sex fun, and they’re about sex basically, and then they sort of bring in – you know – you’ve got to be safe as well. You know about being (?) about sex.

A: Yeah, I saw one on a programme...umm...about death, too, I think it was, and they did a challenge for this advertising agency to do an advert about AIDS, and this girl and this lad were in bed, and this girl’s on her back and this lad’s looking at her and he saw his face, and then he saw his face change into somebody else, then somebody else then somebody else, then somebody else in the girls’ face, and this girl was like that – really scared stiff. And I think that was – it was alright, but it was a bit scary. It was as if to say, ‘don’t ever sleep with anybody, cos you’re going to get AIDS’. You know what I mean, it wasn’t safe sex, and you’ll be alright, or whatever, it was just ‘don’t sleep with anybody’.

Q: Or safe sex that can be really good fun, or you know, that sort of thing.

A: Yeah, it wasn’t. I think that’s what they should do. Safe sex is a good one. I mean...

Q: Maybe they should have some really sexy adverts.

A: Yeah, definitely, get it off. Definitely. Channel 4. I’m sure Channel 4 would do it.

Q: Yeah. I mean did you hear an – I mean there was a big thing a few months ago where there was some Labour lord that said about ummm... heterosexuals weren’t at risk. It was on the front page of the Sun and all these types of things. Did you see any of those?

A: I don’t – I don’t read the Sun.

Q: No. Actually I was in Dublin, and we had, umm.. National AIDS Day. We had these students were there doing a sketch and people were just talking past them, because I mean Ireland, they’re about a hundred years behind.

A: Dublin. Oh, yeah!

Q: If you don’t want to know, and I’m stood there watching them, and there was only me and like other friends of these people watching these people. But I think a place like Ireland, anybody can educate Irish people about anything. It’s got to be made a saint anyway. Definitely. They just don’t want to know. And there’s a lot of people – I don’t know if it is people that are just thick, or people that just don’t want to know. It won’t happen to me, sort of thing. It’s like when you hear about somebody getting mugged in your area just when you walk down to the chippy or not. They just say, you know, it won’t happen to me, and go for it anyway. Or just stay in or just take your dog with you. Or whatever – you know what I mean. I think – I don’t know. Some people it’s either..

?: Just make chips at home.

?: Yes that’s what I mean. ...

Q: Well it’s about risk as well, how you judge them. Do you think what information there’s been has given people a good basis for judging how big the risk is? I mean do you have any idea how big the risk is?

A: No I honestly couldn’t tell you, but I know it’s enough for me, but it’s obviously not enough.. I think with a lot of people I know it’s going to take somebody to die of AIDS or .. I mean I found out recently a RELATIVE of mine’s got AIDS. I mean I’ve not been in contact with them for years anyway but it was as if I didn’t need it to happen to me because I know what the score is anyway. I could have done with say PENNY finding out that her RELATIVE

was dying of AIDS. I think that's what it will probably take and it's the same with a lot of things. Like if you hear if there's a rapist in the area, girls still go out on their own. And it would take them to get raped or their best friend to get raped for them to actually do something about it.

Q: Like what, not go out anymore. That's a big problem isn't it? What was your family's reaction to your RELATIVE having AIDS?

A: Well it wasn't, they didn't really know that he got it from.. apparently he was a drug addict about five years ago and he's been off drugs for five year and he has just found out now that he's got AID. But it was just like – 'do you remember your RELATIVE JACK', 'Yes', 'He's got AIDS'. And that was it. They weren't concerned about it at all. [SOMEONE KNOWN TO FAMILY] died from drugs recently and they took notice of that so. I think it will honestly take somebody dying in the family or whatever for people to take any notice of it.

Q: What the situation now is amongst heterosexuals is the same it was seven years ago among gay men. You know, in terms of how many people got the virus and stuff which I mean if you know any gay men you know how many gay men died, it's really frightening.

A: And then you get stupid people like my mum saying well that's .. anyway. It's God's will against these people because of the bad things.. and you just can't talk to people like that.

Q: Do you think young people think that? Do you think there is a big generation gap in ..?

A: I can really see the big generation gap between my generation and my mum's generation because I think people are more tolerant really. My generation seem to be anyway. I personally am not very tolerant of stupid people.

Q: That's a different type of..

A: But having said that I'm tolerant about.. I've got a friend who's gay, LOUIS. He's got no legs and goes round in a wheelchair, but apart from that he's fine, you know what I mean, he's gay – he's got no legs – but apart from that he's alright. I go up to him and I give him a kiss and all that and people that lad's got AIDS'..

Q: So people you know are still identifying it with being gay?

A: Yes people automatically associate being gay with having AIDS. Like he used to phone our house and my mum would pick the phone up and she stopped him from phoning, she said I don't want him to phone this house anymore.

Q: Because he was gay?

A: Because he was gay but that's just her – she's stupid anyway. I mean she's got serious problems. She really has got a serious problem about gay people. I don't understand it because she has worked with a lot of gay people.

Q: Maybe she's divided the two halves of her life.

A: That's what I mean, she's saying that doesn't like gay people and we went out for a night out – one of her friend's birthday and one of the fella's she used to work – she used to work at [NAME OF COMPANY] and one of the fellas from there came over and talking to her and she was sat there talking to him for an hour. And I said, 'how can you be so two-faced, you don't like gay people', 'oh, but DWAYNE'S alright'. So if DWAYNE'S alright maybe that fella over there who's gay is alright. Why don't you just say they are all alright until you meet a bad one.

Q: Are you going to be arguing this with your mum until...

A: I am going to be arguing with my mum until I drop dead or until she drops dead or until I kill her. One or the other. I just argue with her constantly because tonight, I said 'if I get a dog it will be an Alsatian or a Labrador', 'get a Labrador then', so I said 'no, I'll get an Alsatian, I like Alsatisans', if I said that you say that. And it's not, if I said black she'd say white.

Q: She's probably a Taurus as well isn't she.

A: I don't know what she is, she's something. I don't think she's anything, I think she's from another planet.

Q: Do you think the time between last year and now, do you think you've changed at all? I mean obviously quite a lot of things in your life have changed, but do you think you as a person has changed?

A: I think I'm more mature than I was, but I still like doing mad things. I still go out and do stupid things but that's just.... I'm a bit more but I speak the truth a lot more than I used to do. If somebody annoys me, it doesn't matter if it's my boss or if it's my next door neighbour, I will tell them.

Q: Is that from being more confident?

A: I think it probably is. I think it's a case of thinking if you're alright and you know that you are alright then you argue with them. If I am OK and everybody else is OK that's fine. You get a problem when I'm OK and they are not OK or they're OK and I'm not OK. That's when you start getting a problem but if you're OK and everybody else is OK then it's alright.

Q: Do you think getting a new job and getting paid is..

A: Getting a new job and having a laugh in work. It's made a really big difference. Not sat in an office with a stupid bitch of woman in. Oh the woman I used to work with, she's a Nazi, racist, sexist stupid idiot of a woman and her child is going to be exactly the same as her. Unbelievable and her children are probably going to be the same as her and it's frightening.

Q: This job that you've got now, can you see there are prospects in it, for you?

A: Oh yes, they all think I'm wonderful on this computer but I mean I've not got a lot more knowledge than a couple of directors have got quite a bit of knowledge about it, but it's just that I'm more confident, I say yes, that's what you've got to do to sort it out or whatever. I actually do it and take a risk with it whereas they won't.

Q: They're scared of the technology?

A: I just mess about with it so they think I'm a wizard on computers...

Q: So are they going to promote you?

A: Well I think he called it promotion I think. He either called it promotion or moving sideways, but when they say moving sideways it usually means that you are moving down but they have transferred me down to the sales office so there's about ten people in the sales office and I have got to keep an eye on them and all the computers and I'm also working with the stock controller and with the buying manager.

Q: It sounds like there's much more demand for what you're doing?

A: Yes definitely. But it's because it's a completely different business altogether and I haven't got a clue what I'm doing because to me a desk is a desk and it always was and it's not anymore, it's a desk top, two pedestals and a mainframe. You know what I mean, it just changes so much and I can't believe it. When I pick up a pen I read what name's on it and all that kind of thing.

Q: You had to learn a lot quickly.

A: Yes but one of the girls said to me... and I just ask questions all the time and I said to people, I was asking questions because the only way I'm going to learn is by asking questions and one girl said, 'don't you know what one of them is?', I said, 'listen you answer me a question about theatrical costumes', so she said, 'what do you mean theatrical costumes', she didn't even know what a theatrical costume was, so I said, 'there you go, ask me again in a year and I'll tell you what it is'.

Q: So you think you are going to stay working or are you thinking of going back and doing courses?

A: Well I was going to go and travel the world.

Q: I'll come.

A: Well I've got a friend and every time I see her she says, 'when are we going', and I said, 'right, you save up a hundred pound a month and we'll go in July'. I said that to her for the past four years. We've been going for the past four years and I haven't even got my passport yet. I'm not going to get very far.

Q: Yes but at least you are thinking of doing it?

A: I think I'm going to have a mad year, definitely before I start being sensible.

Q: What does being sensible mean?

A: I don't know, if I were to get married tomorrow and have fifteen kids..... the most wonderful person in the world. But at the moment I'm the only person who causes trouble and I'm the only person who brings.....

Q: This is what she tells you?

A: This is what she tells me yes. I'm the only person who pays the phone bills for a phone I never use and I'm the only person who's working. So how she worked that out I don't know. But I'm definitely going to have a mad year. I'm just going to go off and do mad things, live it up in the Shetland Isles or something.

Q: Break out of Beswick?

A: Yes definitely. Is it possible though?

Q: Yes it is.

A: And then sometimes I think I'll stay here. And then I think no I'm not going to stay here because I'll rot if I stay here.

Q: You've seen enough of other people who've stayed haven't you?

A: That's what I mean I've seen the state of people who have stayed so. There's a little lad next door who wants to marry me anyway so I can always come back to him!

Q: Yes that's the thing, women come to their sexual peak when they're thirty-three and blokes are nineteen so, if you go away for a few years, travel, getting more experienced and then come back.

A: Yes he'll be sound when I get back.

Q: Teach him a thing or two?

A: He thinks he knows a thing or two shut him up anyway.

Q: So as far as you are concerned, the way you look at is, if you meet someone, you would like to have a relationship with them, there's no big deal about settling down or anything?

A: No not at the moment there's not. But I don't know because I could meet somebody and fall madly in love with them ... marrying them and bearing his children and all that, but I don't know, I don't honestly know what I'm going to do.

Q: How does that fit in with what you want to do at work and career, and travelling?

A: Well I'm not looking for anybody at the moment, I'm not consciously looking for anybody at the moment...

Q: I think you'll be better off.

A: Yes, so I'm going to go and have my mad year and then I'll look. Then I'll come back and settle down. Because I don't want to stay at home, I do want to get into a serious relationship. I don't want to be on the shelf.

Q: Do you think of it in those sort of terms?

A: I do sometimes yes, because I really do want to have kids definitely and I don't want to be too old when I have them.

Q: What's too old in your book?

A: I want to have kids before I'm thirty. Definitely.

Q: When it starts creeping up on the horizon and suddenly starts getting.. oh no that's still too young.

A: No thirty is a nice age.

Q: It's a lovely age.

A: But I do want to have kids, and I was saying to my mum the other night, 'I want to have kids', but she said, 'you've got to get married', so I said, 'well I don't necessarily want a fella I just want to have kids', and she nearly died, she was on for about four hours after that. 'Oh no, you've got to get married'.

Q: But in your mind that's quite possible?

A: If it turns out that I've not met anybody by the time I'm twenty-six and I've not got any kids I'm going to go out and get pregnant and then ..

Q: Pick the handsomest man you can find?

A: Yes that's what I mean, just produce a nice looking baby.

Q: No strings attached.

A: Yes, not even tell him. Because after I'd finished with TIM I thought I was pregnant.

Q: What would you have done if you were?

A: I had it all planned out, I was going to go to Ireland and bring up the baby on my own, me and my baby. I was planning on doing it. I thought I was two months pregnant. How I could have managed it I don't know. Because he always used a condom and how I could have done it I don't know but I just convinced myself that I was pregnant.

Q: Maybe because you were so upset you weren't having periods.

A: Yes.

Q: Phantom pregnancy. Did you want to be pregnant?

A: I did at the time just to have something to remember him by. And then when I actually thought I was I thought no, I don't want to be pregnant and then I thought well I do want to be pregnant. But it was just going to be me and my baby and go and live in Ireland in a hut.

Q: I can see you in a hut.

A: It will be great.

Q: With kids on your hips.

A: Yes chopping trees down, healthy kids, definitely. But I'm going to have at least four kids. And I was telling my mum this and she was dying, she said, 'what do you want four kids for?'

Q: You'll have to find a boyfriend who wants to have four. Right last thing for this part, do you think having done the interview last year, do you think that made any difference to how you think about AIDS and having talked about it, and being interviewed about it?

A: Well at that time it was like I was thinking about it anyway I had more or less sorted it out. And before I even knew about AIDS, TIM always used a condom anyway because he was the first person I'd ever slept with. And he always used one anyway but I think that was just because he was scared I would get pregnant, it wasn't anything to do with safe sex or anything like that.

Q: So it wasn't actually intended....

A: Yes it was really because I honestly do think that all he was concerned about was that I didn't get pregnant, that was all that was bothering him. But after the interview I went over and over and thinking about but I had it pretty sorted out anyway.

Q: It's difficult to know how much things affect..

A: Yes that's what I mean, I was in the middle of thinking about it and all the rest of it, so it just sort of confirmed everything that I was intending to do.

Q: Did it provoke any discussion because we interview a few people who.....does it provoke discussion among people?

A: No NICOLA came running over to me in the pub, saying 'what have you put in your diary?'

Q: No one put anything in their diaries. I don't blame them I don't think I would have put anything in them, it wasn't my idea.

A: You can't come in at six o'clock in the morning having been at it since Sunday afternoon, and come in and then write down what we did....

Q: It's a bit difficult, it's not the sort of thing..

A: It's very embarrassing as well to actually write it down in detail.

Q: I think it's something more than that as well, I mean you don't really think it out to yourself what you did, you know he touched me and then we had oral sex, you know.

A: You don't consciously go through a routine that you can do, step one..

Q: Often we don't really think of it in those ways either.

A: It just happens altogether at the same time.

Q: I seem to remember that you were saying you had quite a good sexual relationship with TIM, you got a lot out of it, so what was it like with other blokes, did you find that it wasn't up to scratch?

A: No it wasn't I'm afraid.

Q: But that was just the one time before wasn't it?

A: Having said that I've probably been spoilt anyway.

Q: What do you mean, spoilt?

A: I've been used to good quality stuff and.... it's just like I'm alright... You know what I mean, as long as he was alright he wasn't concerned whether I was or not.

Q: In terms of that sort of thing how do you think that women get good sex, just by luck of getting somebody who thinks...

A: I think sometimes it is, some women get pleasure out of seeing the man getting pleasure anyway I suppose. Some stupid women, but.

(end of side one of tape).

Q: No don't even think about changing the subject.

A: In an ideal relationship you would be able to say look, I wasn't really happy about..

Q: What about with more casual sex, you've got nothing against having....

A: I've got nothing against having casual sex.

Q: What do you think of the type of sex that you are likely to get out of casual sex?

A: It depends who goes looking for it. It depends if you go looking for it or if....(736).. I mean if you cop off with a lad and you've got a choice whether you're going to sleep with him or not so if you want to sleep with him then obviously you want to get pleasure out of it so. Some people would probably say right, if it's a casual thing, a one night, then say if the girl was making a play for it, she would probably get more pleasure out of it because she would tell him what to do. Whereas if the lad A fella comes in and the woman is probably so pleased that she's got this big fella who everybody thinks is really nice, she's probably not bothered anyway.

Q: So it's not the sex that's interesting, it's interesting being seen leaving the pub with him.

A: The thing is can he cop off with the nicest one or do you walk out with a bad one.

Q: I always used to cop off with the nicest one.

A: And then you used to split up and drop him off in a taxi.

Q: How is that, saying in terms..... but how easy is it to do that?

A: Well I could never do it.

Q: I was going to say,..

A: It depends on what kind of person you are, because an ideal woman and an ideal man, the woman would be able to tell a man what she wants out of sex but probably eight times out of ten the man, as long as he's alright.

Q: Do you think men actually know what women want out of sex?

A: Probably not.

Q: I think it's them that need the sex education.

A: I think it is, definitely, they need to read the Karma Sutra, not women. I think a lot of men think that this will(759). Basically men are all selfish anyway. I would definitely say that eight times out of ten as long as the fella is alright he's not too concerned whether the girl is or not.

Q: If in the relationships in the future, how important would it be for someone you're really into that you naturally had good sex with him, sex what you enjoyed with him?

A: Well if I was really into him I would probably just be satisfied with what I'd got. But if he was really into me I could tell me couldn't I, so it depends on the relationship really.

Q: It's not something that would be easy?

A: Probably not no. Slow down a bit or speed up a bit or whatever.

Q: Not there. Let me take your hand.

A: Let me draw you a diagram. I think it does depend on the relationship. I see myself as being pretty sorted and I would hope that if I meet somebody and I get into a relationship with them then I would be able to tell them what I wanted out of sex.

Q: Do you think that will change as you get older, or maybe ... The other thing is you feel quite vulnerable when you're with somebody that you know is going to be more sexually experienced than you are, does that sort of thing worry you?

A: It intimidates you because it used to intimidate me with TIM.

Q: He knew what he was doing?

A: Because he knew what he was doing.

Q: And you knew he did?

A: And I knew he knew what he was doing because it was good. As we got going I was able to tell him.

Q: How about actually being sexually assertive with somebody, things like rather than them leading, when you got past talking to each other and stuff, but actually getting physical with somebody when you start taking the lead in terms of seducing or whatever it is that can happen, is that something that you would be able to do?

A: Well I've not done, the only sort of way I've done that is if me and TIM would come in from the pub and he'd want to sit there watching football and I would

Q: And then you could jump him.

A:(790)..

Q: Did you For him to initiate things in terms..

A: Well nine times out of ten he would anyway but on the odd occasion that he didn't want to I made sure that he did. But having said that when I didn't want to it used to end up with an argument.

Q: So he wouldn't take no too lightly.

A: No.

Q: Did you ever sleep with him when you didn't want to, when you weren't really in the mood?

A: I did once yes.

Q: How did it make you feel?

A: I just battered him when he'd finished. I just sort of lay there like a statue and just him do it, and he knew and he didn't get any pleasure out of it and I didn't get any pleasure out of it so he didn't do it again. So that sorted him out straight away.

Q: Good. It sounds like you're pretty sussed, no problems with...

A: I haven't got a fella like..

Q: Ah well. You go off travelling, go off to Greece, you'll meet some gorgeous thing on the beach.

A: As long as I get a suntan first. I'll just get my suntan sorted and then I'll go on.

END OF RECORDING.