

MAG18SS 4TH JULY 1989

INTERVIEWER: From [CITY]?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes and I moved here and it was very kind of lonely at first because I didn't know anybody and I left all my friends at home.

INTERVIEWER: It was a difficult age to move wasn't it?

INTERVIEWEE: It really is because I had just finished my 'O' levels and I came over here and I didn't really know anybody and I am quite a shy person anyway but I got to know a lot of people and they are really lovely, my friends are really nice. At the moment I haven't got a relationship with a boy, not at the moment.

INTERVIEWER: So this platonic relationship, what is he called?

INTERVIEWEE: [PETER]. He's really nice.

INTERVIEWER: It's always been platonic has it, or did it start off as something different?

INTERVIEWEE: No, it's been platonic for around two years and about three months ago we suddenly kissed and it all went away and we haven't really seen each other since then. Which is a shame really, I'm pretty upset about it. We see each other occasionally, but it's not the same, we can't really talk to each other the same.

INTERVIEWER: Something got in the way, oh that's a pity. I remember that happening, it's very sad.

INTERVIEWEE: It is, yes.

INTERVIEWER: Hopefully you will get through it.

INTERVIEWEE: Well, I am seeing him this afternoon, just for a coffee and a talk. He used to live in Davenport where I lived, but now he has moved away and he's working in Manchester and he is moving in, actually I don't know where he is living, but he doesn't come down often. When we lived in Davenport he was just across the road and so we would just meet at each other's house.

INTERVIEWER: Did he want the relationship to change, or did you want it to change?

INTERVIEWEE: I think it was like we were both at the end of a relationship you see and I was going out with MAX and he was going out with this girl called and we were all dead about it and then just one night we went to the pub and we just had a kiss and I went round the next day and he said 'I am definitely finishing with my girlfriend, do you want to see me' and I just thought oh, because I just wanted it to be platonic really because I had MAX and I just wanted him as a good friend really.

INTERVIEWER: It's much better to say so isn't it because you can get yourself into all sorts of a mess.

INTERVIEWEE: He's really sweet and

INTERVIEWER: That's what you have to tell him isn't it?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, if he listens.

INTERVIEWER: At the end of the day that is more important.

INTERVIEWEE: I just totally want it to be friends because I don't think it would ever work out, as I have been shown, just a kiss and it all goes away.

INTERVIEWER: If it makes you feel any better I had one or two blokes that I was at school with and I was in a similar sort of situations where I didn't want to get involved with them and we are still friends twenty odd years later, so it does work sometimes. It's worth fighting for.

INTERVIEWEE: I think it will go on our friendship and everything but it's just a bit rough at the moment, because he rings when he wants to and that's only because he's coming down to Davenport or something and he used to ring up and say 'are you coming out tonight' and everything. When he lived in Davenport he was always with me and all my friends and I was with his friends and everything and now he has moved away he has got different kind of lifestyle and I don't think he wants me in it, which upsets me a bit again. I have tried to talk to him but it's difficult really. He is such a lovely boy, he will listen to whatever I say, but when it gets quite personal he just doesn't want to at all.

INTERVIEWER: He..... I guess he's been sorting out what he wants and his new things and you have to work out a way where you can fit in to it. I hope it works. Well I think if you

want it to, and it sounds like he wants it to, he wouldn't be keeping in touch if he had just been hurt and then disappeared. That's what a lot of blokes do isn't it.

INTERVIEWEE: It was just a one minute thing really and it just spoilt it. I was very upset and I didn't want it to go on and I think he did you see. That's why he didn't want to.

INTERVIEWER: His feelings were hurt.

INTERVIEWEE: Men.

INTERVIEWER: It's strange that, what do you think it is like you say, it was just a one minute thing and it didn't feel right, what is the difference between that and times when it has felt right?

INTERVIEWEE: It's difficult. It was like kissing my brother, it really was, and obviously not right. When you kiss someone you like it's all tingly but when I kissed PETER it was just a kiss and it was just like kissing my brother and there wasn't anything there and I just felt this has ruined everything because we had such a brilliant relationship before, we could do anything together. Just kiss normally goodbye and hello and everything and now we can't do that because I'm thinking well you want something else.

INTERVIEWER: in time.

INTERVIEWEE: I have also got some very nice boyfriends, platonic boyfriends at college who are really sweet and everything. I like to cling on to people you see, and all these boys around me are really sweet and very helpful about things with problems or whatever.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think you like to cling on to people?

INTERVIEWEE: I look too far ahead and I don't want to be left by myself. I don't like being lonely, I like people around me and I want some security and I want to be loved really all the time.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, it's much nicer being loved. Yes, and I suppose if you have moved and been lonely you know what that feels like.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes and I don't want that to happen again.

INTERVIEWER: So what point are you at at the moment, you are still at college?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: You are just about to finish and go on to something else?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I finished school and I moved over here and I did some GCSE re-sits and then I thought I want to go into a job so I did dental nurse and I thought no I want the student life again so I have gone back to [COLLEGE] and I am in the first year of 'A' levels and I have another year and hopefully I will go on to [POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY] and do occupational therapy.

INTERVIEWER: That's what you want to do?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. And I got the grades this time round to be accepted into [POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY], I've got three C's.

INTERVIEWER: In your mock 'A' levels?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes and you only need two E's.

INTERVIEWER: Which subjects are you doing at 'A' level?

INTERVIEWEE: Sociology, English, English Literature and European Studies.

INTERVIEWER: Sociology is what I teach.

INTERVIEWEE: I quite enjoy Sociology. It's hard to get into sometimes.

INTERVIEWER: It's a different way of thinking isn't it?

INTERVIEWEE: I know, I like different kind of topics; I really enjoy the family and education. But I didn't like power and politics and voting and things like that and religion I quite enjoyed it, but I found that hard to grasp. But other things I quite enjoyed.

INTERVIEWER: It sounds like there is enough you enjoyed because there is such a choice isn't there?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, we had eighteen questions.

INTERVIEWER: You have got to be selective.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: The sort of things you like you will work hard at them I guess. So, what about boyfriends that aren't quite so platonic?

INTERVIEWEE: When I was in Huddersfield I went out with a bloke called SIMON for three years and that was.

INTERVIEWER: How old were you at the start of that?

INTERVIEWEE: About thirteen. It kind of started because my dad moved away and I wanted somebody older, a man to look up to and feel I was loved. I know my dad will always love me and everything.

INTERVIEWER: But he wasn't there?

INTERVIEWEE: Exactly. He was in London and I just wanted someone to be there. So, I met SIMON and he was a couple of years older than me and at thirteen you think a couple of years older, wow, they're really old.

INTERVIEWER: Was that your first boyfriend as such?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I had kisses and everything when I was a bit younger but that was it. I went out with SIMON for three years but there wasn't anything sexual until I was about fifteen and a half because I didn't think I was ready for it.

INTERVIEWER: And what about him, how did he feel about that because he was older?

INTERVIEWEE: He was pushing me a bit but I wouldn't give in.

INTERVIEWER: When you say it wasn't sexual do you mean it wasn't sexual at all or you didn't sleep with him?

INTERVIEWEE: I didn't sleep with him until I was fifteen and a half.

INTERVIEWER: You did other sorts of things though?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Sorry, it sounds very nosy, but what I am interested in is at what point you make decisions, and why you make them.

INTERVIEWEE: I didn't feel I was mature enough.

INTERVIEWER: Can you explain why, what you thought you needed to be or think to cope with that?

INTERVIEWEE: Well, I think everybody thinks they are dead mature at the time, but.

INTERVIEWER: I don't.

INTERVIEWEE: At the time I had been seeing him for a year and then he started saying 'oh do you want to sleep with me' and all this lot and I was only fourteen. Like I'm eighteen now and I still think I am dead young. And fourteen was just so young and if my mum found out she would kill me. I didn't want to. I talked to all my friends and they weren't going out with anybody and they always wanted to see me and it was very hard to see him alone without all my friends being there. That was one good point and I didn't think I was old enough and I didn't really want, there were times when I did, but the thought of getting pregnant as well. Obviously AIDS wasn't around at that time when I was fourteen I didn't hear anything of it, we didn't really know a lot about diseases you could catch from sexual intercourse.

INTERVIEWER: Had he had intercourse with anybody else?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: It would have been the first time for him?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So what made you decide that you would sleep with him?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know if I actually truly did love him, I think he was just somebody to look up to and he was there all the time. I just thought well I'm moving away and I just wanted to show him that I do care and we just started making love. It was alright.

INTERVIEWER: It wasn't that he put you under more pressure at that point?

INTERVIEWEE: There was still pressure there and everything but I think I wanted it as well.

INTERVIEWER: You were sick of being in the so far and no further situation?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes and I felt that the legal age of sixteen but I don't think you think of the legal side.

INTERVIEWER: Most people don't. It's much more to do with you and what's going on.

INTERVIEWEE: I still don't think I was mature enough.

INTERVIEWER: Did you regret it, or is that too strong?

INTERVIEWEE: No I don't think I regret it as such.

INTERVIEWER: Did you enjoy it?

INTERVIEWEE: No. No I didn't actually.

INTERVIEWER: Lots of people say that. Tell me how you felt about it?

INTERVIEWEE: I just felt, oh, is that it. Obviously all the drama leading up to it and all the things friends tell you and you think oh, it's going to be absolutely wonderful. Then when it actually happens you think oh. It was just like, it hurt at first and I thought oh no, but when it progressed and everything I didn't actually enjoy it with him, maybe because we both too inexperienced and we didn't really know what to do at all.

INTERVIEWER: Were there other things that you had done before that you actually liked better?

INTERVIEWEE: I liked a lot of foreplay.

INTERVIEWER: And did you do less of that after you had started having intercourse?

INTERVIEWEE: I think so yes. It was just in and out and I think before.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think he enjoyed it?

INTERVIEWEE: Well he probably lied. He said he did but I was so inexperienced I didn't know what to do. I would just lie there thinking of England. He was the first serious boyfriend, sometimes you read books and everything but that all goes out of your head when it's actually time to do it.

INTERVIEWER: Were you actually able to find somewhere to be, it's quite difficult when you are young, isn't it?

INTERVIEWEE: Well his parents were Jehovah's Witnesses and he totally rebelled from that so I very rarely went round there and if I did it was just because I had a school project to do or something with him but my mum wasn't that keen on him. She grew to like him in the end and everything because she knew he did care for me and looked after me but she still thought I was a bit young to be having a serious relationship. Because three years is quite a long time really.

INTERVIEWER: Did she know you were sleeping with him?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Did you have to wait until she wasn't in the house?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes like when she went to work my brother was at school and sometimes we nipped off from school.

INTERVIEWER: Not always the best time is it?

INTERVIEWEE: No. Because it is always pre-prepared and so you always get so tensed up about it. It was just nothing really.

INTERVIEWER: What about contraception?

INTERVIEWEE: It was a condom.

INTERVIEWER: From the first time?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Did you decide about that or did he decide?

INTERVIEWEE: I think we both decided really.

INTERVIEWER: So you were really clear that you were not going to get pregnant?

INTERVIEWEE: Oh yes definitely. No-way, if there was any chance of me getting pregnant then we wouldn't do it.

INTERVIEWER: How did you feel about using condoms?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I haven't actually used anything else. So I don't really know the difference. I don't particularly like them.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me what you don't like about them?

INTERVIEWEE: I know it's safe and it's very safe for AIDS and diseases I know that side. As SIMON said sometimes there wasn't any feeling there. I just don't like touching them as well.

INTERVIEWER: They don't smell very nice.

INTERVIEWEE: No they don't.

INTERVIEWER: It certainly.....

INTERVIEWEE: I have seen some strawberry tasting ones in the shops.

INTERVIEWER: Peppermint ones, I don't know whether they are supposed to be peppermint flavoured or peppermint scented or what. A bit better than.... Where did you get them from?

INTERVIEWEE: Matthew always bought them and I think he probably got them from a chemist or something like that.

INTERVIEWER: So you didn't go the Family Planning Clinic?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: In terms of using them you said you didn't like touching them, does that mean you would actually put them on?

INTERVIEWEE: Sometimes, it just varied really, but I didn't like it. I suppose it was alright sometimes.

INTERVIEWER: It didn't add to the experience?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Did you and SIMON split up when you moved, was it a clean break?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes it was when we moved over to [CITY] it was just like a clean break. I just thought well I'm moving, well it's not that far away really but it was going to cost money to come down here and everything and I needed to get on with my life and he needed to get on with his.

INTERVIEWER: So it felt alright to you?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I was very upset.

INTERVIEWER: It's not so easy is it?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I don't think if I was in [CITY] now we would be going out with each other because I think It was heart-breaking actually. I was really upset about it. Some days I loved him and other days I couldn't stand him. It was one of those relationships. I always liked him, there was always something there. But when I moved away he was really upset and he used to write to me and say he was coming over. I have seen him occasionally over the past year and I went over to see all my other friends, my friends from [CITY] and they come over here occasionally but it's just dead different because I saw him about four months ago and he was so changed I couldn't believe it. It was awful, I thought oh.

INTERVIEWER: People do change dramatically at your sort of age. What about other relationships?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I just went out with MAX about six months ago and that was for round about six months but it was just because I came over here and for a year I really didn't see anybody at all. And I got to the stage where I thought, oh my God, nobody wants me. I just needed somebody at that time and my friends knew MAX and introduced me but I never loved him. I liked him yes, I wouldn't have gone out with him if I didn't like him.

INTERVIEWER: He was just there at the time?

INTERVIEWEE: Exactly he was just there and I just needed him to be there. He was quite nice but he was nineteen and he looked a bit like SIMON and I was going after people with dark hair, I don't like blondes I'm afraid.

INTERVIEWER: I don't like blonde men, I have enough of it of my own. I don't want to look at somebody else's blonde hair.

INTERVIEWEE: With MAX it was really a totally different relationship, he always went somewhere and I had to follow. He never did what I wanted to do.

INTERVIEWER: Was he at college?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes he was at my college. I suppose he was nice sometimes, but I don't like people to be too romantic, but I like it occasionally and he never complimented me or anything and there were just certain things he never did for me. I love my neck being kissed and he never kissed my neck once in six months and stuff like that.

INTERVIEWER: Things like that matter.

INTERVIEWEE: I know, they really do. He wasn't at all passionate or anything like that. I did sleep with him but I think he had slept with somebody before but he did use a condom. But he was just nothing really so my kind of experience of sex up to now is really not very good.

INTERVIEWER: So did you sleep with him just once?

INTERVIEWEE: I slept with him several times.

INTERVIEWER: So how long had you been going out with him?

INTERVIEWEE: Around about three months.

INTERVIEWER: And had you led up to that gradually?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I had some friends who were just going out with boys and and I thought is it time for me with MAX. And he wasn't very experienced and I can't say I was although I had slept with SIMON beforehand but we were both so inexperienced we just did things. I am not the most experienced person but he wasn't very good I'm afraid.

INTERVIEWER: He didn't do much for you?

INTERVIEWEE: No. He was nice at foreplay but he didn't kiss.

INTERVIEWER: Well those things matter, you can't pretend that they don't.

INTERVIEWEE: That's how we ended. I didn't think I was being loved and I really wanted to feel loved all the time by people and I just thought this isn't what I want. And I went back to [CITY] and I saw my friends and they were having really nice, special relationships where they were so close and everything and I came back and we weren't really close, we would ring each other up a couple of times a week and that was it and we really didn't care if we didn't see each other. And so it wasn't really worth going on.

INTERVIEWER: He was just somebody there if you did need to.

INTERVIEWEE: He is now a very good friend actually. He only lived just down the road a bit.

INTERVIEWER: And what did your mum think about him?

INTERVIEWEE: She liked him actually. He was really nice to her, he was very polite.

INTERVIEWER: Does your mum know you slept with him?

INTERVIEWEE: I think so.

INTERVIEWER: There's knowing and knowing isn't there.

INTERVIEWER: There's knowing and knowing isn't there.

INTERVIEWEE: I think so yes because I said I was going to sleep at my friends' house, ELENA'S, and she rang up ELENA just because she needed me I don't know what for and ELENA said I wasn't there and then she realised and then she went 'oh she's just popped out' and so. But she is very easy and she wanted me to be a little angel and everything but she told me herself that lovemaking is natural, if you love a person it's a natural way of showing it. So I am not at all intimidated by sex or anything like that, it's a natural thing to do.

INTERVIEWER: It's just that you have high expectations that haven't been fulfilled yet.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. If my dad knew, when my dad left when I was thirteen, I think he left when I was a bit younger, I'm not sure, but he still thinks I am that age. He has seen me grow up but I can never tell him that I've got a boyfriend or anything. My sister, she has a boyfriend and she has been seeing him for about nine months and they came over a couple of weeks ago and they slept in the same room and my dad went absolutely mad. It's not even his house but he still went mad.

INTERVIEWER: And your sister is what?

INTERVIEWEE: Twenty.

INTERVIEWER: Does your mum talk to you, you said she said about being natural, does she talk to you about things in more detail?

INTERVIEWEE: If I asked her yes she would, but I don't think I've asked her.

INTERVIEWER: Has she not talked to you about contraception?

INTERVIEWEE: Oh she has always said if you ever make love to somebody you have to use something. When I was with MAX at the end I decided to go on the pill but when I did go on the pill we finished. I stayed on it because I've also got really chronic period pains. I stayed on it for that but it was really making me depressed and I was just so run down from the time I took it and I just went it off it and now I am on these little tablets just before my periods come on which help a bit.

INTERVIEWER: It's a lot to take the pill all the time. I know the pain can be bad but it's only a couple of days a month and do that all the time if you don't need to. So you feel OK that you could talk to your mum if you needed to?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes definitely. She would do anything I asked her.

INTERVIEWER: It sounds good. Where have you found out the things that you have found out?

INTERVIEWEE: At school you have little sessions with the teacher but it was saying sex was within the family and it always you had to be married and it was always the kind of conventional view. It wasn't anything else.

INTERVIEWER: It didn't really help you to sort out what you should be doing at the time?

INTERVIEWEE: No. All my friends told me they didn't have a clue either.

INTERVIEWER: What about your sister, did you talk to her about it? Has she got more experience?

INTERVIEWEE: We are close but there is a communication problem really. I can talk to her but me and my sister are like chalk and cheese really. She is very different from me; she is very kind of upper class. She is really a bit of a snob. I will go around with anybody but she has got a very conventional viewpoint. Everything is very conservative and I like to be very unconventional. Polite, but unconventional.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. So she is not someone you would choose. What I am interested in really is that you have these expectations and I think it's right that you should have high expectations, I am not being critical at all but I am interested in where you get them from, what it is that makes you think it should be better than this, where those ideas come from? I think I can safely say it's likely to get better.

INTERVIEWEE: Thank you.

INTERVIEWER: I can't guarantee it, but.

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know I think films and media. You see all these love scenes in TV and they are all panting away and saying that's lovely. And you think oh, but when it comes to the real thing, it's a disappointment. I think it's the mass media I got my expectations from. I wouldn't have got it off my friends at that stage in life because none of my friends had actually had it before.

INTERVIEWER: What about that balance of things in terms of who gets pleasure out of sex, whether it's men or women or both, is that something you have thought about?

INTERVIEWEE: I think my friends talk about it a lot. We will talk about it when we get together and everything. In terms of pleasure I think both should get just as much pleasure. I haven't got a lot of pleasure from sex so far.

INTERVIEWER: What do you mean pleasure, do you mean orgasm or do you mean something more general?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, orgasm.

INTERVIEWER: Have you had that with a boy?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: But not when having intercourse?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: That's not unusual.

INTERVIEWEE: All my friends, they are seeing boys and everything and they talk about their sex life and saying what's really wonderful and I am just sitting there.....

INTERVIEWER: You've got lots of time.

INTERVIEWEE: I know. Sometimes like I don't like being by myself at all, I haven't had a boyfriend for four months, I have had occasional kiss from people but I don't like to go any further because a lot of the boys I have met really just want. There is a difference, I'm eighteen and I meet a boy who's eighteen and I think there is a difference because that boy is there maybe just for sex and I am wanting a more serious relationship. A couple of boys I have met just wanted sex and no-way.

INTERVIEWER: You're not there just for them to practice on?

INTERVIEWEE: Exactly. No-way would I ever have a one night stand. I don't agree with that at all.

INTERVIEWER: So you want to know somebody a bit better?

INTERVIEWEE: Definitely, yes.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think you want out of a relationship with a boy?

INTERVIEWEE: I want to be looked after, definitely to be really loved and cared for. Somebody who will make me laugh and somebody just there to talk to about my problems and a friendly hug when I need it. I can when I've got problems go to mum a lot

and she will give me a hug and there is someone there to love me but I think it's a little bit different when you have got a boy there.

INTERVIEWER: You think there is something different about a relationship you have made on your own, that isn't that you are working, there is obviously a quality there that there can't be no matter how good your mum is, there is a difference isn't there?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think you have to offer?

INTERVIEWEE: At the moment I have this brace on and I was so self-conscious about that, it's coming off in three weeks.

INTERVIEWER: How long have you had it on?

INTERVIEWEE: It must be about four months and since that four months I haven't dared even look at a boy.

INTERVIEWER: Do you wish you'd not bothered to have it on?

INTERVIEWEE: No I've got to have it on because.

INTERVIEWER: It's made a difference?

INTERVIEWEE: It really has. I've still got gaps but I am having these..... on which will fill the gaps.

INTERVIEWER: So you've felt that you haven't had anything to offer while you've had the brace on?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes I have been very depressed and I just knew. I have walked round college and there are some very nice looking boys at college and they are talking to me but I just go like that, straight away I just can't talk to them. All my friends say 'look sometimes you can't notice it, it's just you now'.

INTERVIEWER: I used to feel like that about having spots. I felt desperately awful about it.

INTERVIEWEE: I have always had this teeth problem and when it's all sorted out I will be more confident but I am very shy as it is. I think I've got a good personality I like making people laugh and I like going out and having fun and I think I can love somebody and show them.....

INTERVIEWER: Intelligent and thoughtful yes?

INTERVIEWEE: I hope so.

INTERVIEWER: Think about those sorts of things and not just think about whether you have a brace on your teeth.

INTERVIEWEE: I know. I think I will be much better in three weeks. When everything is finished with and I can actually smile again and not feel self-conscious about it. I smile now and have a laugh and everything but I am always thinking oh God who's looking at me. And also with my mum and dad divorced, I don't think I knew at the time what effect it had on me. I went out with Matthew for a long time and it was quite a serious relationship but something I haven't been able to settle down. Because my mum and dad met when they were eighteen and now I am eighteen I think I can't meet anybody and I can't go through what my mum and dad went through. It's getting all too serious and I don't want to get serious.

INTERVIEWER: So was their breaking up rather traumatic?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. It was really. It was more traumatic for my sister because she was at that age where you find yourself really. We were all at the age where we were just little children and it was just something that happened but my sister it affected her and since then she has been very insecure. She needs so much encouragement and she thinks everybody is against her all the time. I think it has had an effect on me, but hopefully it's a good effect because I will know the right person when he comes along.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that's what you are looking for or not yet?

INTERVIEWEE: No. Not yet.

INTERVIEWER: What are you looking for at the moment, just someone that is going to take you seriously and care about you but not want to marry you immediately?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I don't want to get married until I'm twenty eight. Then again you just don't know do you until it happens.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me more about what you are looking for from going to the Poly and your career and such like?

INTERVIEWEE: Well when I finish my 'A' levels hopefully I will pass and I want to go onto this Poly or [UNIVERSITY]. I think I want it more to be [UNIVERSITY] because I want to get away but I don't want to be that far away, I still want to be close.

INTERVIEWER: And why occupational therapy?

INTERVIEWEE: I have always been quite interested in nursing and I want to help people. I think I have got something that I can help people with. And I don't want to be a normal nurse because I have placements at college and I was an auxiliary for a couple of weeks and I just think I couldn't ever be just a normal nurse. All the washing up, beds and everything, I'm just not that kind of person. But I think I have got more of a brain and I don't know. And also I want more money because I have seen my mum and her state, she's not actually on the poverty line.

INTERVIEWER: It's a struggle?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, it's definitely a struggle and I don't want any struggle and if you are a nurse with all the pay you have to struggle a little bit. But if you are an occupational therapist if you work yourself up to the top position you can get a lot of money and that's what I want to do.

INTERVIEWER: And it's quite a clear career structure.

INTERVIEWEE: And also if I do get married and have children, it's very easy to come back to the same position you left in.

INTERVIEWER: You have thought about that, it's far sighted of you. Do you think you want children?

INTERVIEWEE: Oh definitely, I love children. I am doing occupational therapy with children; I don't want to do it for geriatrics, definitely paediatrics.

INTERVIEWER: What about going to college and being a student,

INTERVIEWEE: I love college at the moment. I am missing it at the moment because we have got two months holiday now, and it's just all your friends are round together and the lecturers are really nice. And everybody is really nice, well some people aren't nice but.

INTERVIEWER: That's true everywhere.

INTERVIEWEE: And you can just go into the canteen and have a coffee and sit down.

INTERVIEWER: There's that atmosphere of being people around.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes but then again I also like to be by myself. I like to be in a crowd and then some days I just totally want to shut myself out. I like going for really long walks in the dark and that's not safe actually because there was a murder in [TOWN] and it was just down the road from us. My mum and me and Andrew all have to go out together for walks now.

INTERVIEWER: And you have to go out in daylight?

INTERVIEWEE: But then again it happened at 2.00 O'clock during the day.

INTERVIEWER: Unfortunately. You told me a bit about sex education at school, tell me a bit more about the sorts of things they talked about? was it any use?

INTERVIEWEE: No I don't think so. They showed us giving birth at that early age and I don't think you forget all about that and about sexual intercourse and it was very behind doors. I think that was all they talked about, I'm not sure but most of the things like AIDS and everything I learnt from the booklet sent through the door.

INTERVIEWER: The leaflet?

INTERVIEWEE: And from the mass media.

INTERVIEWER: What sort of things, tell me a bit more about, what do you think AIDS is?

INTERVIEWEE: A sexually transmitted disease and it kills. And how do you catch it?

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

INTERVIEWEE: Needles, used by other people, sexual intercourse without using a condom, I think that's it actually because everybody says oh you don't want to drink out of a glass you don't want to touch anything but I'm not like that. I've met a gay person and they have been really nice and I've sat and talked to them.

INTERVIEWER: You learnt a lot more without knowing it?

INTERVIEWEE: Exactly. And they were smoking and they offered me a cigarette that they had just been smoking but I just felt a little bit wary so I said no, I don't smoke, which I do but

you know I thought that was a bit awful of me but it was just a thing I think I have to do. Like drinking out of the same glass, I don't think I could have done that. I know that sounds really terrible.

INTERVIEWER: Even though you don't know that they have got anything?

INTERVIEWEE: Exactly.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think you feel like that? You say that you shouldn't but you do?

INTERVIEWEE: I think there is always that risk isn't there. If a person is happy with a person of the same sex then that is quite fine for me, I am not really bothered what they do, but when it comes into contact with me really I get a bit wary and everything. If I ever get into a position where I have to drink out of the same glass, I wouldn't like it.

INTERVIEWER: There is no risk at all that you could catch it.

INTERVIEWEE: I know, it's terrible isn't it and I feel so awful about it but its just I can't.

INTERVIEWER: I think the only thing to do about that is to think about it and take time, it will wear off.

INTERVIEWEE: Probably if they do offer me a drink and I refuse it I will probably feel very awful because I am refusing it because they are a gay person, but I'm not refusing it because they are gay, well I might be, I just don't know, I'm just a bit confused about the whole thing and I really don't know what you can catch it from. They say it's twelve pints of saliva. I don't think there will be twelve pints of saliva in a cup of tea.

INTERVIEWER: I don't think so. In that sense it's quite difficult to catch, it only seems to be transmitted in particular kinds of situations, you have actually got to get it into you. So if I say what do you think HIV is, do you know what that is?

INTERVIEWEE: Is there a difference between HIV and AIDS or is it the same, I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think there is a difference?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: But you are not sure what it is?

INTERVIEWEE: I am not sure. I know that you can be HIV positive but you don't get the full blown symptoms.

INTERVIEWER: HIV is the virus and AIDS is the illness. So it's HIV that you are trying not to catch to get AIDS. AIDS is the symptoms that come up that sometimes take quite a long time.

INTERVIEWEE: I have never ever met anybody with AIDS, or I might have done, I don't know. You just don't know, but not actually the full blown symptoms of AIDS so that you can actually see that there is something physically wrong with them.

INTERVIEWER: Would you think there is anybody that you know that might be at risk of being HIV positive, of having the virus but not yet?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: What sort of people?

INTERVIEWEE: There is one girl at college and she will really just sleep with anybody. And also she is seeing somebody who is heavily into drugs and I don't know if he does inject or what and I don't really want to know at the moment. But she is very nice but she comes from a very rich family background and I think she has rebelled against it, really, and she wants to find the most scruffiest people in the whole world. Actually I went round to see her boyfriend on Friday and they lived in, I've got nothing against Hulme or anything or anybody but the conditions and everything is just totally awful. It's a council flat in Hulme and walking up it was just.

INTERVIEWER: They are horrible outside but of course they don't have to be horrible inside.

INTERVIEWEE: But this was. There was dog muck absolutely everywhere and I went into the house or the little flat and it sounds awful but I just couldn't sit down it was so dirty on the sofa and everything. And I thought and she is sleeping with them as well and she smokes grass and stuff like that but I just thought maybe.. She is just sleeping with everybody and she is on the pill, and she thinks that because she's on the pill she will be safe from pregnancy, but she doesn't think about stuff like AIDS. I am getting quite worried about her.

INTERVIEWER: Is that something you could talk to her about?

INTERVIEWEE: I could talk to her but I don't think she would listen. It's so hard because she really likes this boyfriend of hers. But I get quite scared about her sometimes because she comes in one day and says I've slept with this bloke, like one week she just slept with three boys in a week and I just couldn't believe it. And she hadn't used anything with them and the boys she goes after do inject, I don't know, I am not stereotyping.

INTERVIEWER:sleeping with lots of people...

INTERVIEWEE: Exactly because if they sleep with them for just one night they will sleep with others the next night.

INTERVIEWER: Can you imagine yourself being at risk ever?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: You clearly don't think that you are at risk now, you know who MAX and SIMON slept with or not slept with.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes definitely no-way I would be at risk anyway. I would make sure.

INTERVIEWER: What would you do to make sure?

INTERVIEWEE: Well obviously you would have to get to know the person first of all before you ever start having sexual intercourse with them and then you would have to maybe talk about who they have slept with and they might not admit it but I would always make sure that they used a condom and if it ever got more serious some people might not like it but I'm so het up about it AIDS that I would want them to have a blood test.

INTERVIEWER: Before you stopped using a condom?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I know that might sound, I don't know to a boy, 'have a blood test before I sleep with you properly'.

INTERVIEWER: It depends on him?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes if he loves me so much then he will do.

INTERVIEWER: If there is reason to think he might be at risk, then no, that's not a crazy thing to do.

INTERVIEWEE: No it isn't. I would definitely want to make sure because if I didn't and he may have lied to me and he might have had a lot of one night stands. But then if he had had one night stands and he loved me enough then he would have told me so.

INTERVIEWER: It's not always so easy to tell the truth is it?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: It sounds like you have In terms of you getting involved with somebody else and making decisions about using condoms, do you think you would be prepared to carry them with you just in case or do you think that's what a boy should do?

INTERVIEWEE: Me and my friends were talking about this the other day, and I don't think I could actually.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know why?

INTERVIEWEE: I think because of what people say, oh she's a slag, she's carrying a condom she knows what she is looking for. But then again if I am in a serious relationship and then I will carry them.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think

END OF FIRST SIDE OF TAPE

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know it's always been going on that men can sleep with anybody and they are jack the lad and everything but if women sleep around then they are slags.

INTERVIEWER: It's a bit unfair isn't it?

INTERVIEWEE: It's very unfair really. But then again I have just said it myself because my friend has been sleeping around a lot and maybe she is a bit loose or whatever but if a boy does the same I think probably that's alright and I know it's awful really isn't it. I think if they want to sleep around just let them but as long as they take precautions and everything first.

INTERVIEWER: It's those worries that stop you feeling comfortable about carrying condoms?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes probably. Then again probably no-one will see inside my bag.

INTERVIEWER: Can you imagine going to a doctor or Family Planning Clinic to get them?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: You could do that?

INTERVIEWEE: I have done it, yes. With MAX I went to the Family Planning Clinic.

INTERVIEWER: Because that's a barrier for a lot of people, they can't do that.

INTERVIEWEE: I have done that, because it's free isn't it.

INTERVIEWER: Absolutely. Some people can't get them, people don't go. It's a great shame. Anything else that you feel is relevant, anything you are thinking about or puzzling about or anything you want to ask me?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't think so. Is this study carried on over a two year period, what happens after that?

INTERVIEWER: The money runs out. What we plan to do, we are trying to interview a lot of people this year until September and then some of them we will get back to interview again so if we decided we wanted to interview you again next year would that be alright?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, that would be fine.

INTERVIEWER: And you will still be around next year presumably because you will be doing your 'A' levels.

INTERVIEWEE: I will be hopefully.

INTERVIEWER: We will interview half the people that we have interviewed this time again and we are trying to talk to people from a range of different backgrounds and experiences.

INTERVIEWEE: What do you hope to gain from this research?

INTERVIEWER: I think we hope to be able to give young women themselves some kind of voice in terms of the sorts of things they find difficult or important or are concerned about. And to have some kind of input and feedback into health education. Some people design the leaflets and posters all the time, but they don't necessarily talk to the people who are supposed to be reading them about what is important to them.

INTERVIEWEE: Will it go back into like sex education in schools do you think?

INTERVIEWER: We hope so yes. Because sex education in schools is pretty rudimentary and most people we have talked to say what you said. Something like it's about babies and it wasn't very helpful. It's trying to say something about that. And more general things about how women feel about relationships and sexual relationships in particular, and what's important. Generally nobody asks you, so we would like to do that so there will be a number of different things that we hope to relate to that and of course it should have been explained to you alreadyso you don't need to worry about that, but we would like to think that the women we interview might actually read some of the things we write.

INTERVIEWEE: You actually write in magazines?

INTERVIEWER: Well we might do, we haven't, but we think that might be quite a good idea to do that..... not about.....so you might see something about it in Nineteen

END OF INTERVIEW