

WP101 RT 2/5/89

QU: Tell me about the job you do.

AN: Sound engineer.

QU: Is it unusual for a woman to be a sound engineer?

AN: Yeah, I suppose it is really.

QU: Is it mostly men?

AN: There's me and another girl and 26 men. So yeah, it is really.

QU: How do you find that?

AN: Great.

QU: You don't..

AN: No, cos I came from an office where there was just 10 women.. to go straight into it...I thought - 'yeah'; they accepted me alright.

QU: They did..?

AN: Yeah.

QU: So tell me how you got to be working at [TELEVISION STUDIOS]?

AN: Yeah. I was at college for six months.

QU: Which college?

AN: Sixth form college in Bury.

QU: So you're from Bury?

AN: Yeah. So I went there straight from school to do my 'A' levels. But I didn't like it very much. I'd have stayed if I hadn't got this job.

QU: So what were you thinking of doing at this time?

AN: No idea. I was doing French, German and maths.

QU: Right. So were you..

AN: I don't know.. I was thinking of like.. secretary, something like that. It was just something to do something to do because I didn't know what to do.

QU: So what happened?

AN: Well I applied for the job.. I saw it in the paper. It was just a junior, in the office. So I thought there was no harm in applying. So I applied for it, went to the interview, and got it. So then I had to decide - 'did I want to go to college or did I want this job?'

QU: So this was just a secretary job at this time?

AN: Yeah, working in the Accounts Department.

QU: So you couldn't have been sure there'd be much future..

AN: No. But I thought it's getting into a big company, you never know, the opening might come, and it did.

QU: So how did that come about?

AN: It was an internal advertisement because they're not taking external staff on anymore, because of the cutbacks now. So they had to replace some sound engineers that were leaving, and they had to replace them inside the company. So it came on the notice for internal advertisement. So I just applied for it; did a load of research into it all. Went down to see everybody. Sort of met everyone..said I'm going for this job. Went down and had a look in the studios and everything, because I've never had anything to do with the studios before. So I went down and met everyone and read a lot of books, did a lot of studying. Went into the interview and got it.

QU: Passed with flying colours by then, I should think?

AN: Yeah.

QU: So was there a lot of training involved?

AN: I've finished my nine months training now. I've done a year in sound. So I've done my nine months. Had to go to [NAME OF CITY] for a fortnight on a course down there.

And that was it really. It's just learning on the job. You know, you have to learn as you go along.

QU: Have you got some sort of professional qualification now for doing that?

AN: I've got a certificate that says I've done a (033) course, for the IBA.

QU: You can work in any sort of television now?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Is it quite a well-paid job?

AN: Yeah. It's not bad. I mean, I'm on the bottom, on the training grade. I've just gone up to the next grade. There's five more grades til you get to a stage where you stay there, til you get promotion. So every week you get...a pay rise.

QU: It's obviously really good to get into, isn't it?

AN: Yeah, I love it. I wouldn't change it for anything now.

QU: You're happy with it?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Tell me what sort of things you do.

AN: This week I'll be doing dubbing 'Coronation Street'. So I'll be doing all the sound-effects and door shutting, and all the rest of it on 'Coronation Street'. Thursday, I'll be in the studio doing a new sit-com for, I think it's called, about hairdressing. So, I'll be in the studio doing a (?)fishpole, for the sound, the tracking, for the engineer that'll be operating...sort of (?)head one. And the tracking ordering the tapes....(044). Then Friday, in the music studio, I've got a music session. So we do everything really.

QU: Has it changed your expectations getting this job?

AN: Out of life, yeah.

QU: It has?

AN: Yeah. Because I was busy going nowhere. Now I've got something I know I can do, I've got something to aim for. I've got years ahead of me. And I know they'll keep me on because they told me. There's no way they're going to get rid of us or anything. So it's just (049)and then in five years time, you've got a bit of experience,...(?)then it's going to end there. Don't have to go through college, do your 'A' levels or anything now.

QU: So you're thinking quite seriously about having a career now?

AN: Oh yeah, yeah.

QU: Had you not thought about that before?

AN: I've never wanted to get married and have children straight away. I've always wanted to do something. But this has given me something to aim for now....(054)..the office, isn't it really.

QU: When you worked in the office were there pressures on you? Were you doing filing or something?

AN: Well, it was Artists Payments, so it was like a Wages Department for actors and actresses. So we had a little bit of pressure in that you had to get your programmes paid on certain days, but no.

QU: Was it all women and were they all going off to get married?

AN: Well, they were all older than me. So they were all grandmothers and things like that. Yeah, the majority of them were married with children. I was the youngest one there. I was the junior.

QU: Did you have the same ambition when you were working in the office?

AN: I knew I wanted I to do something, but I didn't know what. But I've never thought - 'Well this is it. I'm going to stay here for the rest of my life'. (063) I was getting fed..when this job come up I really tried to find something else to go into. Cos I wasn't happy.

QU: Would you have thought of going into education again?

AN: I think if I'd still been there now, I would've done. But I mean I got out in time. But had I still been, but I mean, if I had to give the money up..

QU: That's the problem..

AN: Yeah, it is. It catches you. The idea of ever giving up, giving back to college on a grant.

QU: But once you get used to the money you can't do without it.

AN: No, you can't.

QU: The idea of £2000 a year, living on that again.

AN: Yeah. I don't know. Well, I couldn't actually, the commitments I've got.

QU: So tell me about where you live.

AN: I've bought my own house, my friend lodges with me.

QU: That's a good thing to be able to do. How old are you now?

AN: 20.

QU: So to have your own house by the time you're 20 is really good.

AN: Oh yeah. I've been there three months now. I love it. I mean, I wasn't unhappy at home, I didn't have to go, or anything. I could've stayed at home forever if I'd wanted to. But..(077)..mum said - 'I'll give you £3000 now if you want. or you can have it when you get married'. Well, I've got no intentions of getting married, so I might as well have it now.

QU: Fair enough.

AN: So she give me the money.

QU: So you stayed living in Bury then?

AN: Yeah, still in Bury. I didn't want to live a long way from me mum, because I like it and all me friends are there.

QU: So your social life is still there?

AN: Oh yeah, all my friends are in Bury. The people I go out with.

QU: Tell me how you got on with your parents?

AN: Great. I couldn't get on with them better.

QU: Since you left home?

AN: I got on with them before I left. But I get on with them better now because I'm not there.

QU: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

AN: A sister. She's 14.

QU: Could you tell me what sort of sex education you got whilst you were at school?

AN: Very little really. I was in a comprehensive school, mixed school. It was just a matter of going down, watching this film that they put on the television, they brought out, everyone watched it and giggled all the way through it.

QU: Was it in a science class?

AN: Yeah. In a Biology class. We just went down, watched this thing, and then the teacher went - has anyone got any questions? - and everyone was too embarrassed to put their hand up, so nobody said anything. That was it really.

QU: It was just that one class?

AN: Well, a couple of them. Two or three. One was about, perhaps child-care, and another about childbirth perhaps, and another one about intercourse and things like that. And that was it.

QU: Did you have any place where you could ask questions, talk about things you didn't understand?

AN: Not really. Unless you went to ask the teacher, but you just didn't do it.

QU: So nobody did?

AN: You got the occasional person that did. And then I gave up in the 3rd year, I did Physics anyway. I think after I'd left, that was in the 3rd year, they did it in detail in the 4th and 5th year. But my choice was Physics and we never did anything else about it.

QU: So if you hadn't taken Biology you'd never have got any sex education?

AN: No. None whatsoever. I mean, we had this Religious Education that was supposed to deal with it all. But it was just a matter of - 'read this passage and write about it'. So it were no big discussion. The teachers didn't want to talk about it really.

QU: So where did you find out about contraceptives?

AN: When I was about 12, 13, my mother bought me a book. 'Girls Growing Up' - or something like that. So she came in and brought me this book, and says, like - 'I've bought this book for you to explain everything. If you want to know anything, just ask me'.

QU: Did you ask her?

AN: Yeah. I sort of knew, but I don't know how I knew. It were just girl-talk among...(110).

QU: So you chatted to mates at school?

AN: Oh yeah, we used to talk about it.

QU: Do you think you got a pretty good education that way?

AN: Yeah. I found out through my friends really. Some friends would ask their mums. They'd say - 'oh, me mum talked to me the other night and she told me this'. You know, between the lot of us, I think we sussed it all out.

QU: The friends you were at school with, have they gone on to do different sorts of things?

AN: A few of them have gone on to Polytechnics and Universities. A couple are working in offices, secretaries, things like that. But that's about it really. Nobody's done anything really exciting.

QU: Was AIDS known about when you were at school?

AN: No. Not at school.

QU: When was the first time that you came into contact...?

AN: I think it was when Rock Hudson came on television. And it was all - 'oh, he's got AIDS', and there were all these programmes started to appear on the television about it. But that was the first I ever really knew about it.

QU: Can you remember what your first reactions to it were?

AN: Well, you thought it was frightening, but it didn't involve you. Because it was all homosexuals and that was it. But then they started to say that heterosexual people were passing it on, people that weren't quite...bisexual were passing it on to people...(128)...(?)It bothered me.

QU: Has your view changed since you first heard about it and now?

AN: I think at first it was a big shock. You thought - 'Oh God', and everyone went - 'Well I'm not going to sleep with anyone ever again now, that's it'. It was all...(132)..everyone was going mad about it. But I don't know. See, I've not had the situation that's now arisen, where I've got to think about it.

QU: So tell me..

AN: Well, I've slept with the same person for the last two years I haven't slept with anybody else apart from one person. So, really it's never..

QU: You never felt that you were at risk?

AN: No. See, if anything should happen now I don't know what I'd do really.

QU: I'll ask you a few more things about AIDS and then we'll go back to that. Where did you get most of your information on AIDS?

AN: I think it was from watching T.V. programmes, and leaflets that come through the door, and things like that.

QU: Did you see that series about a week of T.V., they had on?

AN: Yeah, I watched a few of them.

QU: What did you think of those?

AN: I thought they were good. They told you, they went into detail. The little bit about.. (145)and things; they told you straight. Or actually, I read something in 'Company', this

months 'Company'; there's a big thing on it again. So I've just been reading that and it was saying, they estimated how many people were gonna die. So many people are already infected. I don't know.

QU: Are you more worried about it now?

AN: Oh yes.

QU: More of a risk to yourself now?

AN: Well, I think I'm at the age where it is most, really. I mean, because I haven't met anybody with it...I might settle down. It's still out there...(152)..future.

QU: Do you think that there is pressure on people your age, that things have changed in terms of having relationships, having freedom to do what you want?

AN: Yeah. I think it has, I don't think people...see, I think it varies. Some people you talk to just don't worry; it doesn't even enter their heads, they'll say - 'oh...(157)..and then you get other people, all - 'oh, that's it now. The next person I'll sleep with...(159) and that's it'.

QU: Do you feel in any way that it's pressurised you into having to make commitments that you might not want to make?

AN: I don't know, it's hard to say really because I don't think I've made any commitments yet. So, I think it would do in the future if I was to meet anybody then. What do you do, do you ask them? Cos I mean, people aren't gonna tell you everything anyway. They're only gonna tell you what they want you to know. They're not going to tell you everything. They're not gonna say - 'well I've slept with this girl, that girl, that girl'. You just don't know what people have been doing anyway.

QU: So how do you think you would cope with that? Say you met somebody, that you were free again, and you got to the stage where you wanted to sleep with the person. Would you change what you do?

AN: I...(171)what I think. The next person that I sleep with, I'd like to think...I've no intention of sleeping with anybody as a one-off. When you're 16 or 17, you did it and there's nothing...(173)in the past, you've done it. But for the future, if I sleep with anyone, I intend it to be a long term relationship. So I don't know because you don't like to think of the end of a relationship when you start it. So, you think it's gonna be the right one, but I mean, you never know.

QU: Would you ask somebody to use a condom?

AN: I don't know. I don't like them. I remember when, I mean, they might have changed..

QU: They're still the same basic design.

AN: The idea of it's so awful. But I'd like to think I would want to use one. But I mean you start off using one, but are you going to carry on using one every single time...(183)the moment, it's gone. They'll say - 'oh just a minute'.

QU: Do you think you'd know if someone was at risk or not, a prospective partner, if they were safe or not?

AN: You can't tell can you? You can only know what they're willing to tell you. If somebody comes and says - 'well I slept with 50 women last year' (?) then you'd say well you'd better use something then hadn't you, because there's no way I'm gonna sleep with someone that's slept with so many people. (188-189) But, they're not gonna say that, they're gonna say - 'well, obviously I've slept with a couple of people, but that was so long ago..' and 'I think that you're everything' and they're just gonna tell you things that you wanna hear. They're not gonna turn round and say - 'well I'm sorry, but I've slept with all these people and we'd better use something'.

QU: With your view of men, do you expect men to be honest with you about these sort of things?

AN: Yeah, I would. Because if you want to have relationships then you've gotta trust them. Otherwise it's no good from the start. Yeah, you have to believe what they tell you. You just hope that they tell you the truth. You can't find out if it's lies or not.

QU: Would you ever think of asking anyone to have a test, if you were thinking of having a relationship with them and you didn't want to use a condom?

AN: I don't know. I don't think I would, no. I don't think I'd turn round and say - well, first I think you should have a test. Unless I was really frightened of what they'd told me, and then perhaps I would. But I don't think as a matter of course I'd think about it.

QU: Do you think it would be an insult?

AN: Yeah. I think it would. I think I'd be insulted if someone asked me to take one.

QU: Why is that?

AN: I just would. Cos I'd think that they had quite a low opinion of my past then. I mean, my own past, if someone wants to know, then I'll tell them, what's my past..if they want to know it, they can know it. Cos I'm not ashamed of it. I've done it and that's it. I don't know..cos the people that I've slept with were all about my age and were all young at the same time. So, I mean it wasn't like sleeping with somebody who was 30, or something, when I was 16, that could have slept with lots and lots of people. Like 16 year-old lads that I was sleeping with when I was 16. So we were all quite young really.

QU: They probably knew who they'd slept with anyway.

AN: Yeah. It wasn't as though it was a big, as though they could have been a lot older, have slept with lots of people. I don't think I was at risk really. And I trust the person I'm sleeping with at the moment but they're not doing anything, so..But I wouldn't say that I'd have been put in a high risk group.

QU: Would you feel that now though, in the future that you would be at risk to a certain extent?

AN: Yeah. I think I would be.

QU: What does 'safe-sex' mean to you?

AN: Using a condom.

QU: Anything else?

AN: It depends if it's 'safe-sex' as in safe from AIDS, or 'safe-sex' as in safe from pregnancy. It's different, but I mean, it's (232) it's 'safe-sex' really.

QU: If you say that 'safe-sex' is using a condom, is having sex having intercourse. Is that the core of sex in your mind?

AN: That's the, like finality of it. That's what it's all leading up to. But I don't think that just intercourse is sex altogether. I think towards me the foreplay's more important than the actual act of sex is.

QU: The idea being put forward in 'safe-sex' is a whole range of activities that don't include intercourse, which are low risk..

AN: Yeah, yeah..

QU: And would you feel happy asking a partner to have 'safe-sex' with you?

AN: Yeah. But it's whether they'd be happy with it; I'd be happy with it, but it's whether they would be or not. Is a different matter.

QU: Right. Do you think from your experience with men so far, they wouldn't accept not having intercourse?

AN: Umm. I think if I turned round to BRIAN now, and said - 'I don't want to have sex with you anymore' then, he'd feel, I don't know, (254)in your mind, cos I mean if he's got it, then I've got it now. Because it's been that many times in the last couple of years that it's inevitable. So in the situation we're in now I can't see any point in it; it would just seem silly really. But in the future.. well when I was 16, 17, I didn't know what I thought about it...(259)..it didn't make any difference then...all it was cracked up to be, sort of thing, it doesn't mean anything to me. So I think then, that's all it was; it was just a matter

of get in bed and then get out again and do nothing...(262)..Oh I was impressed. So, then if you'd turned round and said to somebody, then it would be different then. But then I was only young anyway. As to the future, yeah I think I would say that to somebody. But I wouldn't want to have proper sex because of the feel of it.

QU: You said you wouldn't be happy using condoms?

AN: Yeah, because I don't think I would be happy with them.

QU: So would you rather be having that sort of 'safe-sex' than using condoms?

AN: Yeah, yes.

QU: We'll just go back to what you were saying a second ago, about when you were younger, and what you wanted out of sex when you were younger. Can you tell me a bit more about that?

AN: What it was like. I think there were only three, maybe four lads that I slept with like... (275)..they were like 16. The other one that was a boyfriend that I fell in love with, well, I thought I did. We went out for about six months or something. And it were a matter of, like, my mum and dad had gone to bed - 'come on then, right get on the couch...' then it were all over in about...It were nothing like, no there were nothing exciting about it. I thought it was, I thought 'oh, yeah..I've done it, but was that it?' There was nothing..

QU: You say you talked about it to your friends at school, about sex..

AN: Oh yeah well we used to say - well what's this orgasm? - 'I don't know. I don't know what it is'.

QU: You talked about it..

AN: Yeah we talked about it..

QU: ..about getting pleasure from sex..

AN: Yeah, yeah..

QU: So you were all wanting it, but..

AN: Yeah....(287)...! (laugh)

QU: But the people you were seeing weren't capable of giving it?

AN: Yeah. But I think it was the age we were at. Nobody really knew what to do... (288)...about it.

QU: So you were all aware that women could have orgasms?

AN: Oh yeah, we knew but we didn't know what it was.

QU: So how did you move on from that? Was it going out with an older person or what?

AN: I think it was because of BRIAN really. Just like spending so much time with somebody you could talk about what you like best, and what you didn't like. 'And if you do this that makes it better for me' and 'if I do this to you, do you like that?' sort of thing. So..

QU: Actually being able to talk about sex..

AN: Being able to be confident of someone, to actually talk about it and not get all embarrassed. If I'm embarrassed I can't say anything. And it's only since then really.

QU: That gives you the sense that you're in a more equal position..

AN: And you're older anyway so don't think it's as embarrassing as when you're 16. Then it was dead embarrassing. It was awful. I used to think about it.

QU: Did you use contraception when you were having sort of one night stands?

AN: Yeah.

QU: What sort?

AN: I was on the pill. Well, I went out with a lad for six months, so we were going out a couple of months, so I decided to go on it then. So we didn't do anything until I'd gone on the pill. So it was safe. And then if it's happened again...(309)..and then because I've got this years supply I carried on taking it. And then I came off it for a while, and then..

QU: Were you still sexually active when you were still taking the pill?

AN: Yeah.

QU: You were?

AN: Yeah. But then, I thought well this is silly, so I stopped taking it then. And then I met BRIAN so I started taking it again then.

QU: Did you go to the Family Planning clinic?

AN: I went to a doctor.

QU: Did he talk to you about any other forms of contraception?

AN: No. I just went in and said that I'd like to go on the pill, and that was it really.

QU: Are you happy with taking the pill?

AN: Yeah. It suits me fine. It doesn't cause me any trouble whatsoever.

QU: Has your doctor told you about the risks?

AN: Yeah. But I've only been, it's a really low one. I can't remember, it's a really low one; one of the lowest ones you can actually go on. So he says, like, it's not got as much.. .. (323).and blood-pressure and headaches and all the rest of it. So I'm quite happy with it.

QU: Were you told about all the other forms of contraception at school? Do you feel you know enough about them to make an informed choice about which one you want to be on?

AN: It's the idea of the other ones; the idea of having a coil fitted. It sounds painful..I don't know..obviously it isn't, or else people wouldn't have them. But the idea to me, the coil sounds..no thanks, and then I think things like the cap is.. ..anyway, don't they. You've got to go, unless you know, you've predetermined that you're going to have it, sleep with someone, then you don't...

QU: Tell me about when you say (?)'explore the moment', what do you mean?

AN: The idea of somebody sexually arousing me and then suddenly, getting there and then - oh, just a minute. And you just go oh, and it's gone. It's just sort of..it seems silly that you have to....(399-340)....I mean, that's for me, yeah...

QU: Is that an important part of sex for you, not having to worry about those sorts of things?

AN: Yeah, yeah. The fact that you can just enjoy it and you don't have to worry about anything. Yeah, it is quite important really.

QU: That's another thing that AIDS does again, it pushes contraception to the foreground, instead of it being unnoticeable and in the background.

AN: Yeah, it does.

QU: Do you not like sex being associated with reproduction? That's one of the things about barrier methods, it's very obvious what you're doing?

AN: Oh yeah...

QU: ..and the whole idea of reproduction comes much closer. Is that not a nice image of sex for you?

AN: It's not a horrible image of sex. It's just, I mean, you're still at risk anyway, because there's nothing 100% safe. So, I mean, if I were to get pregnant, there's no way that I'd have an abortion or anything. I couldn't go through having an abortion or anything like that. So, the risk is there; you don't like to think about it. It's here, not at the front of my mind, you don't think - oh, I'm going to get pregnant, you just think - what if I do have to tackle it if I do?

QU: Do you think then that the whole issue of contraception is your responsibility?

AN: I trust myself. I wouldn't like to have the matter out of my control. I wouldn't like to have to put all my trust in somebody else.

QU: And you'd have to take responsibility...?

AN: Yeah, I'd rather be in control of it.

QU: Do you discuss contraception with your boyfriend?

AN: No, not really, because I'm on the pill so I just...no, it doesn't seem to come up in conversation.

QU: Have you talked to him about AIDS?

AN: Yeah, we discuss, like..we both go out with other people but neither of us sleep with anybody else. Because we're both young and we'd be silly to tie each other down - you've not got to have anyone else, if you're not seeing me you've not got to go out anywhere. So, we're doing both, like I've got friends that take me out but there's nothing, like nothing happens. And in a way I trust him a lot in that he doesn't do anything. Because I can't prove that he doesn't. But I trust he doesn't so..I'm quite trusting really, in that respect.

QU: Have you discussed the risks?

AN: Oh yeah, because my house is like, if you were to have a horde of boyfriends..if you sleep with somebody I says, it'll make things different. He says - why? (384) I says - at least we'll know what each other have done, I says, and if we stay faithful to each other like we've done, we'll manage to be alright. But then he'll say - well if it's gonna end it's gonna end, if I meet somebody that, in bed. I says - well that'll be it then. I'd have to accept it. But I don't like the idea of you sleeping with somebody else and then coming back and sleeping with me again. Because then that risk's there.

QU: It adds that extra dimension to the unfaithfulness, doesn't it?

AN: Yeah, yeah. No, I mean, in the past if someone were unfaithful, perhaps I wouldn't have said anything. But I think you'd have to nowadays.

QU: Would you do that then, if you'd slept with someone else, would you feel a responsibility to tell them?

AN: Yeah, I'd have to. But I'd feel guilty anyway, so I'd have to tell them. For peace of mind.

QU: If you slept with somebody now, while you were in the relationship with your boyfriend, would you use a condom?

AN: Yeah, I think I would. Yeah.

QU: Be extra careful?

AN: Yeah. I think I would do. Cos you can only think what you might do, cos I don't know what I'd do. Cos you don't know what the situation would be, you don't know where you might be, what might be going on. No idea so..it's hard to think really. Though I'd like to think I would do. I'd like to think that I'd turn round and say - well, you've got to use something cos...I mean I'm still, not on the pill, nobody knows, so I suppose you could say that. But I don't know, you'd have to be in the situation to know what I'd actually do.

QU: Do you think it's a difficult thing to ask someone?

AN: No I don't. Perhaps I would have done, a few years ago. But I wouldn't be embarrassed to turn round and say that to anybody. I don't find it embarrassing so I would actually say to somebody..

QU: Would you expect that you'd have to do that?

AN: No, I'd expect them to turn round and say to me - look, like is it safe? - and then I'd have to say - well, no it isn't. But then I wouldn't have gone that far, to be in the situation that you'd have to talk about it first.

QU: Do you think that men worry about the risk of AIDS as much as women do?

AN: No. Not at this age anyway. I mean, it's all good fun, and all the rest of it and they don't worry about it. But you get the few that would, well, I think they are few.

QU: So do you think you'd have to take the responsibility of talking about it?

AN: Yeah, definitely would. I don't think it enters their minds. I don't. Quite oblivious to it.

QU: Probably true. I'll ask you a few more questions about AIDS. Would you know what HIV was?

AN: That's when you're carrying the virus, but you've not actually got AIDS. You've actually got the virus within your body.

QU: So if someone is HIV+ would you think that you could sleep with them?

AN: No.

QU: Unprotected?

AN: No.

QU: Do you know if you can tell if someone is HIV+?

AN: Just by looking at them, no. I don't think you can.

QU: Do you know how long that can go on for?

AN: I think it's seven years or something like that. It's like them ads in the paper at the moment, there's a picture of this girl, and it said - would you be able to tell that she could look like this? - and then you turn it over and she'd still look like this in seven years time.

AN: What did you think of that advert?

AN: I thought it was quite, it hit home.

QU: Did it?

AN: Yeah.

QU: What did you think of the example, the picture of that sort of woman?

AN: (450)...I don't know. I thought it to a man it might hit home, rather than it did to a girl. To think that this girl really has got AIDS but..(452)in a few years time she's still got AIDS but you can't tell. Cos you can't can you?

QU: No you can't. Only if you ask them and that's only if they know.

AN: And there's people that they might suspect it but, there's things like insurance policy; if you go and have a test for AIDS, you can't get insured anymore. They always ask on these forms because I've had insurance but I haven't had a test for AIDS.

QU: Would that stop you from having a test?

AN: Well, I'm not worried about it, so I wouldn't think of going and having one. I mean that's why I was worried, I might go and have one, but not declare it then. But if I was worried I think I'd go and have one. But it doesn't always show up, does it?

QU: No, you have to have a re-test. It's a difficult test anyway. The other campaigns that you saw, advertising etc., the woman in the disco and the woman in the flat, what did you think about those?

AN: It's the one where they're sat on the couch and it's - Do you want to stay tonight? - I thought they were good.

QU: What sort of message did you get from that though, what did you think it was telling you?

AN: I think it was telling people of my age just to be careful cos you just don't know; and just be sensible about it. Because obviously people are going to carry on having sex, so it's just like putting the idea in your mind that it might not be quite safe.

QU: And do you feel confident enough, have you been told enough about methods of 'safe-sex'?

AN: I think I've been told to use a condom, and that's it.

QU: Would you like more information on other things?

AN: Yeah, I think I would really, cos there must be more, in that, there must be other ways you can catch it, but you don't really know, do you? Because there's all this fear of .. you can catch it from saliva and things, which you can in (498) I mean lots of it. But I mean, just to kiss someone, you're not going to get AIDS from that. So I mean, it's like your body fluid, isn't it, you catch it from.

QU: What sort of person would you say was at risk from AIDS or HIV?

AN: People that are bisexual, sleep with men and women. People that are extremely permissive, that sleep with lots of people.

QU: What would you call 'extremely permissive'?

AN: People that, you go in a club and you see men chatting girls up, and you can go in the toilets and the girls are going - 'oh, clean knickers in me bag' - (511) going home for the night, and you can tell they haven't. You know so, them kind of people, I think are

gonna spread it about. But I mean, the thing is you don't know if your fella's gonna take one of these girls out. Because I mean when you talk about it, you can hear them talking, (517)sort of thing. Cos there are quite a lot about, I don't think it's hitting home as much as it should do.

QU: Apart from the risk of catching AIDS, do you think there's anything wrong with being permissive?

AN: Yeah, I believe there is.

QU: What do you think is wrong about it?

AN: Mmm..

QU: If a woman does it what's wrong?

AN: I know that, it just isn't right to me, I don't think you should cheapen yourself that much, to think that you're that available to anybody. I don't like the idea of men thinking that women are just a bit - 'oh, she'll be alright, I'll have her tonight', sort of thing. And the idea that a girl can actually think in her mind that - 'oh it's just (5320)...sleep with anybody'. Because I think sex is sex, but I think to make love to somebody is very different. And sex doesn't interest me.

QU: So men who are promiscuous..

AN: Well, some people just like..(538)someone having fun, what are you doing to it? - but I still don't agree with it, I don't think they should either. But, I shouldn't think this, I think it's more acceptable now that if men do it then women do it. I know I shouldn't think it but I do. I think it's just your upbringing and the way you grow up. You accept that men do it, and it's hard to accept that women do it. Cos I think, I don't know really, I do accept that men do it though; I mean I don't like it, but I accept that they do it. I find it hard to accept that women can do it.

QU: I think your views on men and women in our society have a lot to do with it. Would you be happy about going and buying a condom?

AN: No, I don't think I would. I wouldn't like to.

QU: Have you ever bought them?

AN: No.

QU: Is that embarrassment?

AN: It is embarrassment, but then to be seen to be carrying something, it's as though you're going out thinking - well, because I don't go out with the intention of sleeping with anybody, you see. Perhaps if I did, and I'm still the same person I am, then I'd buy something. Because I'd want to protect meself, but because it never enters my head, I wouldn't dream of going out and thinking I might meet someone tonight, spend the night with them. I wouldn't dream of carrying anything.

QU: Although that might happen..

AN: Yeah, it might (573)..but then, I don't know, but then..I wouldn't expect them to be carrying anything. Because I wouldn't have thought that they'd have thought that they were coming out to...

QU: If they were carrying them what would you think?

AN: I don't know, cos I remember when we were 16 there was this woman..she used to carry them all the time, we used to giggle - oh, you're going to be lucky tonight, we used to joke about it. But I don't know now. I think, when I think of her, at least she were sensible enough to carry something. I think I'd think it was sensible enough to at least think about it, to carry something. But that's the idea I'd want to think, I wouldn't want to think that if they were going out and get off with someone for the night, that's why they were carrying it, I'd like to think they were carrying it to be safe. Because you never know.

QU: If you were in a situation where you were going to sleep with a man and he asked you, would you mind if he wore a condom, what would you feel then, would you feel that he was insulting you?

AN: No, I think it would be sensible. I wouldn't feel insulted, I'd feel quite pleased really that he'd actually thought to use something, cos we were protecting each other, and not just himself. I wouldn't be offended.

QU: Even though you'd be worried the other way round that you'd be offending him?

AN: Yeah, I wouldn't be offended if somebody did that.

QU: Do you see yourself as a person who takes risks in general, over your health, or anything?

AN: Like what?

QU: Things like smoking, that you don't do, no. You're probably past the age where you do things you're not supposed to do, illegal things..

AN: Like drinking under age and things like that..

QU: Yeah. Do you feel that you're quite settled in your life?

AN: Yeah, I think I am. But I think I'd take..I'm not one of these people that won't do anything just in case. I'll take risks like that, like going for a job. I'll take a risk, I might not like it, I might hate it, but the idea, I'll take a risk and go for anything like that.

QU: In your sex-life do you feel that you take risks?

AN: No.

QU: You take care of yourself?

AN: Oh yeah.

QU: One last thing. If you had to describe what sort of person you were, like what your personality was, what would you say?

AN: I'd say I was quite an understanding person, I'd say I was quite good fun really. I'm not an extrovert, I don't go into anywhere and say - 'I'm here, look at me'. But if somebody talked to me, I'm quite easy to get on with. But I think I'm very sensible in like in general. I know what I should do. I've got quite a lot of responsibility really. My job can be quite responsible so, I'm quite sensible now, but it doesn't stop me having fun when I'm out of it all. Then I'll just go and enjoy myself.

QU: Good for you. It sounds like you're doing pretty well. Have you ever met anybody who is HIV+ or who has AIDS?

AN: No. Not knowingly anyway.

QU: Do you think that might change how you felt about it?

AN: I would never shun anybody. I wouldn't be thinking like, if I was sat next to somebody it wouldn't worry me because I'd know that I was not at risk. But if any of my friends turned out to be HIV+, there's no way that I'd say - 'I'm not going near you again'. Things like that, I'd never do anything like that to anybody because it's just one of them things, isn't it, if you've got it you can't do anything about it.

QU: When people get it, do you think they're to blame in a sense?

AN: I think it would just be very unfortunate. Unless, obviously they'd done something like if the purpose of going out was to be really promiscuous, sleeping with men and women, then I'd think well, it serves themselves right. If you've led that kind of life now, then you're only to blame for yourself.

QU: But if it happens before you knew..

AN: Oh yeah, then I'd say it was very unfortunate and just one of them things.

QU: I think most people don't realise..

AN: Yeah, cos I mean, I might have it and you just don't know, do you? And I wouldn't like to think that if I turned round and found out about it, that people would do that to me.

QU: Have you had anything at work about it? Are you in a union?

AN: No, I don't think so. We've got things on our notice board and things like that. And we had to, the nurse..we all had to go and have a test, but heart disease and all the rest of it. And then she mentioned a little bit about it.

QU: Do they have AIDS tests there?

AN: I think if you went and asked for one they would do. But they don't do it as a matter of course, they don't. But I suppose you could have an AIDS test if you want. But I think if you went down and said to the nurse - 'look I want to have an AIDS test', then they'd help you. So it could be off your own back if you went to ask.

QU: Do you feel that you're better educated or about the same about AIDS as most of your friends?

AN: People that I go round with? Yeah, I'd say that it's much the same really.

QU: And that's not from school..?

AN: Yeah, magazines and leaflets and things like that.

QU: Are you quite happy with what you know to know how to protect yourself at this point?

AN: At this point, yeah, because I don't think, yeah, I think I am, because well I don't know everything there is, but I don't think there's anything else they can tell you that we don't know already. They've tried to tell you as much as they can, to protect yourself from it. And I don't think they're beating around the bush with the figures anymore. You know the quite high estimations of the people that are going to be HIV+ and those that reckon will get it, will die and everything. So, it just frightened you, it frightened me.

QU: Has it made you more wary about sex?

AN: Oh yeah. If it hadn't even existed, nobody knew about it, then yeah.

QU: Do you think you might have done different things?

AN: Might have done. Don't know.

(end of tape:740)