

**NMC06 (RT) 19.5.89**

INTERVIEWER: So tell me again what you are doing at college?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I'm doing two 'A' levels and three 'O' levels.

INTERVIEWER: Did you go straight from school to college?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, straight from school.

INTERVIEWER: What school did you go to?

INTERVIEWEE: [NAME OF SCHOOL].

INTERVIEWER: Is that a comprehensive?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Was it any good?

INTERVIEWEE: I thought it was, I loved it. It was, well I was in the top class anyway, so I was put straight into the top class so that's probably why I enjoyed it.

INTERVIEWER: Was it pretty different for people in the top class?

INTERVIEWEE: No. Well in the first year you could get changed up from the different streams in the school. But if you didn't, it was more like, you could tell, when you do Sociology, there was the poorer people, the people who lived in the council houses were all the ones that were in the middle stream. And me and all my mates that I hang about with were all on the same level and our parents all work in the same kind of jobs and they all have their own houses.

INTERVIEWER: Did you think that was because you were more clever or did you have more opportunity?

INTERVIEWEE: I would say I had more opportunity. You think it's because you are more clever but it's not really. Because one of the girls that was in the lower class she's got three 'A' levels now and I haven't passed one yet, so.

INTERVIEWER: Right, so it's nothing really to do with, well it can be sometimes but it's not as a rule.

INTERVIEWEE: Well she was in the lower class all the way through the school.

INTERVIEWER: So they hadn't realised that she was bright even?

INTERVIEWEE: So she went to college the same time as me and she's done one 'A' level in the first year and she's doing two now. So she's done better than me anyway.

INTERVIEWER: Despite being in the top class all the way through.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Can you remember when you were at school, what type of sex education you got at school?

INTERVIEWEE: Tons. The whole of the fifth year was sex education.

INTERVIEWER: Really. That's unusual, it must have been an exceptional school?

INTERVIEWEE: It was, it was really good. We used to do PSE classes.

INTERVIEWER: You had PSE as a course then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, no we had it in the fourth year so it was a whole year, because the fifth year is only three quarters of a year isn't it?

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

INTERVIEWEE: So all the way from the fourth year we had all sex education, and we didn't just do that, we did things like marriage and relationships and we did if you had a child what that would do to a relationship and it was dead good.

INTERVIEWER: So it was regular like once a week?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, two hours a week we used to have it. And then in the fifth year.

INTERVIEWER: Was that the whole school or was it just..?

INTERVIEWEE: That was the whole school when I was in the fourth year. But when you was in the first year you had the usual periods talk in your first week of school and the third year you had your Tampax talk.

INTERVIEWER: So you weren't supposed to be using Tampax until you were in the third year. That's what they thought?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: When did they first start talking about, what age were you when they talked about sex, and talked about pregnancy and contraception?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. Probably in the third year when we did biology. As a straight subject because we used to do integrated science before that. The year after us, in the last year of primary school, they had their period talk then.

INTERVIEWER: Well I suppose people are getting younger.

INTERVIEWEE: Probably.

INTERVIEWER: People are getting younger anyway when they have them. Did you know, when you had your period talk at school and you had the sex talk did you know about them before they talked about it at school?

INTERVIEWEE: When I was in primary school we used to know about it but none of us knew what it was.

INTERVIEWER: You would know the word?

INTERVIEWEE: I used to have this raspberry juice every Monday morning because my mum used to buy me one on a Saturday and they always used to squirt it on me and say 'oh a period'. We never knew what it was.

INTERVIEWER: When was the first time, did your mum say anything to you?

INTERVIEWEE: No it was explained properly to me in that school talk in the first year.

INTERVIEWER: And did you start your periods at that time?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So it was OK, it wasn't a disaster that you didn't know about it?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: When they talked about sex at school, they told you about how conception happens, did you know about it before then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: You were wise already. So how did you find out about it?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know, from the programmes when you are off school and stuff.

INTERVIEWER: Programmes on TV when you are off school?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I knew anyway. My sister used to talk to me. I knew a lot about it because my sister had an abortion when I was thirteen and she told me all about it and she talked to me. Because I was a bit upset about her having an abortion. And she used to talk to me and tell me all her feelings and why she did it and everything, so I knew a lot anyway.

INTERVIEWER: Did she tell you about things other than that, did she talk to you about contraception and what you should do?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes because after she had the abortion she went on the pill and she told me about that and everything.

INTERVIEWER: How old was she when she had that?

INTERVIEWEE: She was sixteen.

INTERVIEWER: So she had been caught out basically?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: In your family would it not have been done to have a baby at sixteen?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. I think that was what it was really. At the age of thirteen you wouldn't know would you. I didn't even know, I was told that she was going to sleep at somebody's house and then I found out from friends, in a casual kind of way, and then my mum told me, she told me the moment I was going to put a fork through an egg how it happened. I was, I was making BREAKFAST and I was just about to put my fork into the egg and she said well I've got something to tell you. I think that was what it was really because she was so young. She got pregnant a year after again and got married and divorced him.

INTERVIEWER: So she's not married anymore?

INTERVIEWEE: No. She got pregnant again as well. She was forced to marry him.

INTERVIEWER: Who by?

INTERVIEWEE: Well by the stigma attached to it not just by my parents, by family, friends and stuff like that. Because people looked down on her for it.

INTERVIEWER: So she was really unhappy?

INTERVIEWEE: They looked down on me as well and think I'm a slag.

INTERVIEWER: What, because your sister got pregnant?

INTERVIEWEE: They just think I am because I've had a few boyfriends, and they don't ask whether I have been to bed with them or not. They just say 'oh she's got another boyfriend....'

INTERVIEWER: What people are these when you say 'people'?

INTERVIEWEE: Well this woman over the road, like she's like working class but she's an utter snob. She has always been like that, children aren't allowed to speak without saying the proper vowels or everything. It was her really that was like that with my sister because I think she was good with my sister when she got pregnant, but she was patronising. And this was when she was married and she had the baby and they were all calling her slag. And she was married and she had got a baby, so what. She was married so what's wrong with it.

INTERVIEWER: So did your mum ever tell you about sex and things like that?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: So what's the problem then?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. We've never talked about anything like that, like she thought she might have cancer. I found out from somebody else, when three years ago I found out she was having one, she didn't tell me, I found out off a kid in the street.

INTERVIEWER: So she's has never been able to talk to you in that sort of way. So do you have a close relationship?

INTERVIEWEE: Well we do sometimes on some subjects.

INTERVIEWER: But she finds it difficult to talk about?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes I think she does. It's not really me, I'm not bothered.

INTERVIEWER: Do you feel that what you learnt about at school, seeing as you didn't get very much sex education from your parents, what you learnt about at school was that adequate?

INTERVIEWEE: It was more than adequate because it told you everything. Every type of contraception that was on the market, that was going to come on the market, what has been on the market, what they used in, Cleopatra used and everything. We were just told everything, and our teacher was very good, she told us about her experiences. She told us all about orgasms and stuff like that.

INTERVIEWER: She talked about that? My god. You did have..

INTERVIEWEE: There was two of them. One was I should say she was thirty, and was say about near enough retirement age, and the younger one would talk about it freely and the older one would turn around and say, 'before I met MRS WILLIAMS I didn't even know what an orgasm was. And I thought crabs were things that walked sideways over the beach'. It used to be dead informal and we also had discussions about mixed racial marriages and stuff like that. I remember a discussion about abortion. We used to do role play.

INTERVIEWER: Was this in mixed groups or single sex groups?

INTERVIEWEE: No mixed groups. I remember I did a role play with this lad and we had an almighty row because he said that abortions should not be allowed, even if the girl had been raped and got pregnant from the rape and I was stood there and I was nearly in tears shouting at him. I could have killed him I was so annoyed.

INTERVIEWER: But I would have thought that that type of sex education, the fact that you were told about orgasms, and did they tell you about masturbation and things like that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: That must have been quite a lot of influence in a way that you think now about sex as well. If you hadn't been told about orgasms, if you hadn't been told..?

INTERVIEWEE: I would have read about them?

INTERVIEWER: You would have read about them?

INTERVIEWEE: I would have done definitely because you do biology so.

INTERVIEWER: The way it was presented, was it important that women got pleasure from sex as well as men?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. We talked about homosexuality and we did loads, and it was really good. Because say a lad or a girl was sat there that was homosexual and we were just going by heterosexual relationships all the time they would feel really alienated. To think that they are wrong, and it's just the way they are, like some people their hormonal balance is wrong and everything.

INTERVIEWER: So for some people that's their choice?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes that's what I mean and its difficult trying not to say 'this is the way you should do it' but it's not wrong.

INTERVIEWER: So they didn't present it as something that was wrong or dirty or anything like that?

INTERVIEWEE: No. We had a gay person come in and he gave us a talk.

INTERVIEWER: So it was presented positively?

INTERVIEWEE: I know a few gay people anyway. I go to gay clubs to get away from lads.

INTERVIEWER: Did they talk about AIDS at school?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: It was covered then?

INTERVIEWEE: I think it was just coming up then.

INTERVIEWER: How did they present it?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know they didn't say much about that because it wasn't supposed to be very widespread then, they didn't think it was a big disease did they?

INTERVIEWER: When was it you left school?

INTERVIEWEE: I left school three years ago. We had pamphlets and stuff like that on it, but I don't really think they put much emphasis on AIDS then.

INTERVIEWER: Did they tell you for instance how to protect yourself or things like that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, they did that.

INTERVIEWER: What did they tell you about safe sex?

INTERVIEWEE: What do you mean, not sleeping around and stuff?

INTERVIEWER: Yes really what sort of things did they tell you? Did they tell you you get it from sleeping around, being promiscuous but they weren't actually talking about that you would get it from certain behaviour?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I think it was really good at our school, they were really good about talking about things like that.

INTERVIEWER: So how would you say from what you know, before that, where have you got most of your information from about AIDS, was it at school?

INTERVIEWEE: No, it wasn't at school. When I was at school we did stuff on it in sex education, but they didn't put much emphasis on it and I have never done any sex education since but I have read a lot.

INTERVIEWER: In things like magazines?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, in magazines and pamphlets and stuff. You know, waiting at the clinic and you're sat there in the waiting room.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, there is nothing else to read around you.

INTERVIEWEE: I find it quite interesting. There's been a few programmes on it as well. I watched a few of them.

INTERVIEWER: So you feel you are quite well educated about it you think?

INTERVIEWEE: I wouldn't say I was well educated but I think I know quite a bit about it.

INTERVIEWER: If somebody asked you what safe sex was what would you say?

INTERVIEWEE: I would say not to sleep around, not to have a bit at all. Well not to sleep around and if you are sleeping around to use a condom.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think sleeping around in itself is what puts you at risk?

INTERVIEWEE: Well it can be or maybe you sleep around with drug users or something like that. It makes it higher, doesn't it.

INTERVIEWER: Well I mean I suppose the more contact you have if you are not protecting yourself then the more contacts you have the more likely you are to get it. If you are protecting yourself then..

INTERVIEWEE: It's not just AIDS anyway, you're protecting yourself against other things, aren't you? They could have anything couldn't they?

INTERVIEWER: They probably usually do. Do you think what you call sleeping around do you think that's wrong in itself?

INTERVIEWEE: It's what any one person wants. My best mate sleeps around all the time and I haven't seen her around for a while, but she always has done.

INTERVIEWER: So it wasn't really presented as a bad thing to do?

INTERVIEWEE: No, it's just the way you are. It's not actually that she sleeps around, she will go out with a lad for a couple of weeks and she will go to bed with him hoping that it carries on and it doesn't, so she starts again. So it's not as though she sleeps around having one night stands, she will go out with a lad for a week and then.. I'm not really into one-night stands.

INTERVIEWER: Why is that then?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: Have you ever had a one-night stand?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I've not had one, no.

INTERVIEWER: Is it from the point of view of being scared about AIDS or is it something personal about you?

INTERVIEWEE: Something personal about me. I think if you don't know a lad you can't get any pleasure out of it anyway. The first time you go to bed with them whether you've known them for three years, three months, three days, you can't enjoy it anyway because you don't know what you both like.

(interruption)

INTERVIEWER: You were saying you can't enjoy one-night stands, you can't enjoy sex..

INTERVIEWEE: Well I've never tried it, but I don't think you could. Because I think you've got to know them, you've got to be dead good friends and stuff.

INTERVIEWER: Well obviously you have got to know them well enough to be able to tell them what you like.

INTERVIEWEE: If you don't know them well enough to say what you like, well I do anyway. Well if you don't know them at all. Say if you go out for a one-night stand I think a lad is just out to pleasure himself and not pleasure you so what is the use of you going to bed with somebody that is only doing it for himself.

INTERVIEWER: Have you always been aware that you had a right to have pleasure yourself.

INTERVIEWEE: I'm selfish. I'm selfish about sex.

INTERVIEWER: But I mean it's actually quite unusual for someone your age to have this attitude towards sex. That you want pleasure yourself?

INTERVIEWEE: I always have though. They have pleasure anyway because they always end up coming anyway, it's just they have got to make us do it, so they always get pleasure at the end of it, it's just whether we do. That's the way I see it.

INTERVIEWER: They've got to be a bit more subtle. Just to take you back a bit to when you first, tell me when you had your first sexual experiences?

INTERVIEWEE: It was absolutely wonderful, I must say. He had been trying for it for ages and I would have no go so on New Years' Eve we had a drink..

INTERVIEWER: How old were you then?

INTERVIEWEE: Sixteen. So he decided to try it on and I was too drunk to say no so I finished with him the next day.

INTERVIEWER: Did you have sex with him?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And what did you think of it, was it?

INTERVIEWEE: I can't remember it actually. All I can remember is waking up with all blood over the bed and saying 'where has this come from?'.  
INTERVIEWER: And he turned round.....

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, he wanted to sleep at my house and he was dead shocked because my mum was away for the night.

INTERVIEWER: And were you upset about that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I was very upset, I got rid of him. I see him along the street now and I get annoyed with him because I think that really is..

INTERVIEWER: Well it's rape isn't it?

INTERVIEWEE: Well at that age you don't realise do you.

INTERVIEWER: Were you alright about it afterwards, did you feel OK about it after a while or did it put you off sex?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I didn't know. I didn't know about it.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know whether he had used any contraception?

INTERVIEWEE: He did because the condom was on the floor.

INTERVIEWER: So it was obviously planned. That was when you lost your virginity?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Had you planned to lose your virginity?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Was it something that was important to you?

INTERVIEWEE: Not really, no. I don't think it should be, do you?

INTERVIEWER: No.

INTERVIEWEE: It's only breaking a piece of skin isn't it?

INTERVIEWER: Well not even that, most people don't ever have that piece of skin or if they do, they've lost it on a bicycle at the age of three, so it's not really that. Had you not been brought up with the idea that there was something to save or something special?

INTERVIEWEE: No, well ..... they are the ones that are going to put that feeling into you. I'm the kind of person that never wants to do what they want anyway. I can't be bothered, I'll do my head in.

INTERVIEWER: The way you think, you were saying your friends, the group of friends who have come from similar backgrounds, what you are saying to me now is it quite common amongst them?

INTERVIEWEE: Well my friend who sleeps around, I don't think she uses, she used to be on the pill. What it was, the reason why she ended up sleeping around was because she used to go out with a lad for about a year and he was a lot older and she was sixteen after about a year and they waited until then to go to bed with each other, and they did do it and then after a couple of months he had enough and he went to bed with somebody else and so she was like, then, and it just sent her funny. And she is seeing a psychiatrist actually at the moment because her dad used to beat her up and she's got an inferiority complex against men and she like does it to herself all the time and she tries to hurt herself all the time. That's how I see it anyway and that's what the psychiatrist said to her mum. But I felt that anyway for years because she used to say 'I hate men' and she always used to go out and go to bed with somebody, so, and my friend ALISON, well she always uses contraception but she didn't know anything, she went to [NAME OF SCHOOL] and she didn't know anything about the pill. She didn't

know a thing. I went on the pill when I was seventeen, because I started going out with somebody else and I went to bed with them on my seventeenth birthday so.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about that then?

INTERVIEWEE: So we went on holiday last year together in September and ever since, she had been going out with this lad for over a year now, and in September it must have been three or four months and she went to bed with him, but she didn't know anything about the pill so she was asking me. She didn't even know whether you still have your periods, she didn't know whether you still had them, she didn't know a thing about it. So I had spoken to her and I said to her 'If you want to when I go to the clinic you can come with me and talk to the matron and if you don't want to, fair enough, you don't' and one night she just came along with me, this was only three months ago, she came and she spoke to matron and she told her everything she wanted to know and she's on it now because she was never told.

INTERVIEWER: She had no idea where to, I mean that's the thing just knowing the pill exists doesn't really help, you have got to know how to actually go and get it and have that confidence to go and get it.

INTERVIEWEE: Well when I did my project on history of women and the NHS I did that about, do you know about the family planning clinics and well woman clinics and hardly anybody knew, especially about the well woman clinics, I don't think anybody knew.

INTERVIEWER: Have you always known about things like the well woman clinics?

INTERVIEWEE: I have always known about the family planning clinics, but I have never known about the well woman clinics until about a year ago. There should be more advertising about it, more pamphlets should be done.

INTERVIEWER: Well there are plans to set up a young woman's .....at the moment which would be really good because a lot of people end up going to family planning clinics because somebody sees their mum.....and things like that.

INTERVIEWEE: There's a girl I know, she was having sex with her boyfriend and she was under sixteen and she had been going out with him for a couple of years. She was allergic to condoms so she couldn't use them so they were using nothing, and I found out and I phoned her up because I hardly ever see her, and I phoned her up and said 'why don't you come down to the clinic with me tomorrow night' and she goes 'well I'm under sixteen', 'well', I said 'if you want it they won't turn you away at the clinic', so she said 'will my mum and dad find out?' so I said 'no, they won't find out', 'well, I don't know, I don't want my mum and dad to find out', but people don't realise that it's confidential.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. I mean the .....make that into real jeopardy and ruining it ...people giving contraception to under sixteens which made I think a lot of people really frightened about it now. It seems much more worrying, giving them..

INTERVIEWEE: Well I would have just gone because they don't know what your age is. They even ask you when you go, if you're sixteen or seventeen, 'if we send you any letters would you like us to give you plain envelopes', so you just say yes. It's private.

INTERVIEWER: Let's go back then to after your first sexual experience, the first one that you chose to have, tell me about that relationship?

INTERVIEWEE: It was good, other than he was still dead immature. He always used to finish with me, after about four months he used to have enough, finish with me and I used to find myself a new boyfriend to get him jealous and he used to come back and I

would go back out with him, but it started to get on my nerves after a while so I got rid of him.

INTERVIEWER: Had you ever expected that to happen?

INTERVIEWEE: No, because he was like the comedian of the crowd so you wouldn't expect he was that kind of person. He never used to beat me up it used to be the odd pinch under the arm, kicking my shin, and then one night, I didn't even do anything and I was babysitting at my sister's flat and this girl had just finished with this lad and he came round to talk to us and I had made them both a cup of coffee and just because I wouldn't carry his cup of coffee in he beat me around my face and I ended up bruised across my neck, and so that was it really. And I was really too scared to finish with him, he had to finish with me in the end because he was scared he was going to hit me again.

INTERVIEWER: So even though you were an assertive person?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I was scared of him because he might just get me in a dark alley and you don't know who it is, and you just don't know do you. This was about a year and a half ago that he finished with me and I still get messages now, 'oh he loves you and wants to go back with you'.

INTERVIEWER: You said on your questionnaire what you use for contraception, you use the pill and the condom, do you use both with the pill?

INTERVIEWEE: It depends on whether I forget, I can do if I forget. Because I have got a steady boyfriend, I've been going out with him for a year so.

INTERVIEWER: So you don't feel, so the condom isn't to protect you against AIDS?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: It's not, so that's what I wondered why you took the pill and used a condom.

INTERVIEWEE: No, because every now and again you forget don't you.

INTERVIEWER: Forget to take your pill, yes.

INTERVIEWEE: So I use a condom for fourteen days.

INTERVIEWER: From what you knew about AIDS have you ever thought of taking precautions regularly to protect yourself against AIDS and VD?

INTERVIEWEE: No. He wouldn't stick around, because he knows I'm on the pill.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you can tell what sort of person who would have it?

INTERVIEWEE: No, you can't, but I don't know. He's not the kind of person who sleeps around so you automatically think that they are not the kind of person who could have things like that, so, that's what it is, I suppose you should do whoever you go to bed with, whether you've been going out with them for a year or not.

INTERVIEWER: Were you taking more precautions when you first met him?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I wasn't on the pill anyway, and when I did go on the pill we still used condoms for a while anyway.

INTERVIEWER: And would you do that in the future if you had another partner, would you use..?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't think I would have another partner now.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think this is it?

INTERVIEWEE: No not like that. It's not that this is it, it's just if I go to college now I'm not going to be bothering, I can't be bothered. If we end up finishing now, I can't be bothered, I've had too many. I always used to do my head in.

INTERVIEWER: Looking in terms of the future, you are not going to settle down now are you, get married or things?

INTERVIEWEE: He is.

INTERVIEWER: Is he. Is that a problem then in your relationship?

INTERVIEWEE: No, it's not a problem because he says well 'if we are still together when you've been to college we will have to get a flat or a house and live together for a couple of years and then decide if we want to get married'. But I don't even think about it.

INTERVIEWER: Do you expect to stay with him after going to college?

INTERVIEWEE: I really don't know. It depends. Because we get on really well, we talk to each other about everything, I tell him everything that goes on and I suppose he tells me everything.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think it's likely that when you get to college you will meet new men and have different relationships?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I don't know if I will have relationships, I don't know whether I can be bothered because it gets on my nerves, sometimes you don't want to go to bed and stuff like that, and 'oh, come on', 'oh, piss off'.

INTERVIEWER: Do you find that your boyfriend is demanding about sex any more than you are?

INTERVIEWEE: I'm more demanding than him.

INTERVIEWER: But you may be would not be interested in another relationship for a while, take a year off or something?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I would take a long time off because I don't know. You have enough after a while, well I'm fine how I am, but if we finished that would be it, I wouldn't have another one for a while because I want some kind of career behind us. I don't want to start having kids because it's just one slip up and you have got a kid haven't you, it's dead worrying.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think if you want a career, for a woman, if you want a career you have to put things like relationships secondary, at least for a while?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I will do because I can't be bothered with it, it gets on my nerves, staying up late during the week and it's doing my head in now. I don't mind while I've been living with him for three weeks because my mum has been away and his mum has been away, and I don't mind it then because you can have your early nights and you can have your tea and you can do whatever you want, but you feel like living in two separate houses and you are like, he's phoning you and saying 'are you coming round', and you're phoning him and 'is he coming round'. It's too much bother, it's too much hassle. It's alright when you are studying, when I'm normally in, not at his house and he's not at my house, on a Monday I study until about nine he picks me up and we go to the pictures, on a Tuesday I study until about nine and I go out with him and Wednesday I study until he gets home and I make his tea and then on Thursday I don't see him, I have a driving lesson and then I study from four until nine again and I go out with my mates, and on a Friday he makes tea and we go swimming and we just stop in and watch videos, Saturday we go out.

INTERVIEWER: So he gives you a lot of space?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, he gives me a lot of space, that's what I like about him, but other lads they don't give us space. Like I don't know many couples anymore because they don't like me, because I don't go out with them anymore.

INTERVIEWER: These are your friends.

INTERVIEWEE: No, it's like a subculture. They are all the same friends, they are all the people who wag school because I met them just after I left school at sixteen and they were all, like, people who wagged it and I never so I was an outsider any way, and so when me and .... finished I was straight out the window, nobody wanted to know so I had my own friends from school and from college, so it didn't really bother me that much. I was out every night. I enjoyed it, because when I was with him he was dead possessive and wasn't allowed to leave. The only pub I was allowed to go to was the one up the road where he knew people so I couldn't get into any mischief.

INTERVIEWER: Was that something to do with the type of people you were with?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes probably, because they were all like that. All the girls if they had a boyfriend they stayed with their boyfriends every minute of the day, but I didn't want to, I wanted to see my boyfriend a couple of nights a week and go out, even if go out for two nights a week like I only go out with my mates two nights a week now, and go out as couples on a Saturday night, so like that's three nights I have, and my mates, only four nights with him, but only half of a night really because I am studying the rest of the night.

INTERVIEWER: Was your studying, did they not take it seriously that you wanted to study?

INTERVIEWEE: No, my ex-boyfriend didn't. I didn't really take it seriously last year, I used to be, 'well come round' because he didn't have a mum and it wasn't him I was bothered about, he had a thirteen year old brother and he used to go out and have a piece of toast for his tea so I used to go up there and make his brother's tea. It's not right and his dad was never there and I was dead worried about this little boy, you know, he was dead dead thin and very skinny, it might be just the way he is, but he just looked ill all the time and he always used to have time of school because he had colds and I think that was because he wasn't fed properly, so I used to go up and make his tea. It would only take me half an hour and I used to come home. That was like disruptive because they never used to make their own tea. There were three brothers and one was about twenty, but he wouldn't make any tea for the younger lads.

INTERVIEWER: So what did they do, were they working or not?

INTERVIEWEE: Oh working YTS kind of stuff. All just like YTS and secretaries, but they were all like the kind of people if you said anything wrong, they are all after you. After he finished with me, about a week after I was supposedly battered and I found out about a month later I had been beaten up by a girl, I actually found out a month after the incident.

INTERVIEWER: Right after it was supposed to have happened. Would you say from your experience that there is a class difference in the types of relationships people have?

INTERVIEWEE: I would say so. Because he doesn't really come from a middle class family or anything I wouldn't say, single parents and they have never had any money, well they have now because his mum has remarried, but with him his mum and dad got divorced because his dad used to have affairs behind his mum's back when they were

married, so he's like that because of that. Not because he's middle class, well it might be because he is working class, because his dad was always having affairs and never in.

INTERVIEWER: The stuff about possessiveness and..?

INTERVIEWEE: I would say that was working class because they want you to be there all the time. It used to be really frustrating, because he used to work dead long hours and he used to come out with me with nothing and every other week his boss would say 'oh you are going to get your rise', and he never used to get his rise and I used to be only working weekends, I used to work Friday, Saturday, Sunday and I used to come out with more money than he did working all week. And so when we used to go out I used to have to pay, so he didn't like that because he used to have to pay £20 to his dad and he had £15 for himself all week, and that was his dinners and everything, so I used to pay for everything. That was probably quite a bit anyway, because lads are brought up to think that they've got to.

INTERVIEWER: They've have got to pay and all things like that and then they will get sex in return.

INTERVIEWEE: He never used to want sex in the end, him.

INTERVIEWER: He wasn't interested?

INTERVIEWEE: No, he was always too tired when he got in from work. I think that was an excuse anyway. He didn't find me sexually attractive anymore.

INTERVIEWER: Well it doesn't sound as if you lost very much when you lost that one. So the boyfriend you've got at the moment, what does he do?

INTERVIEWEE: Well he doesn't anymore. He builds portacabins. He's an affluent worker.

INTERVIEWER: Does he make quite a lot of money then?

INTERVIEWEE: Tons. Yes, tons, it's dead good. I don't work anymore.

INTERVIEWER: Does he respect you wanting to study?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, he wants to go to college. Sometimes I think I don't want to do a degree, I can't be bothered doing another three or four years, depending on what I want to do. I just can't be bothered, and he will just stand there and say 'you are going, I don't care what you say, you are going. Send this form off, you are going'. He's dead good about it. Like, if I don't want to go to the library on a Monday night, I will phone him at work and he will phone me back at college and say 'I'm not picking you up from college. You have got to go and get the bus home'. And it takes me nearly an hour to get home here from college.

INTERVIEWER: It's a long time.

INTERVIEWEE: So he will say I'm not picking you up so then he knows I will go to the library then. He's good.

INTERVIEWER: When you go to college or whatever happens, say you are not with this guy at the moment do you think you will take, what type of precautions would you take if you start sleeping with other people?

INTERVIEWEE: If I start sleeping with other people I will definitely go on the pill again and I will definitely use condoms, especially at college, from what I've heard all the lads probably sleep around and you don't know goes into them do you? And if I was sleeping around I would definitely do that, there is no way I wouldn't. But I don't think I could do it without a steady relationship, it's not me.

INTERVIEWER: If you were sleeping with someone before a steady relationship, you could have a one-night stand first with them and then have a steady relationship, it would still be the same person and you were worried that they might be risky?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, that's right, you don't think about it do you. You just don't.

INTERVIEWER: If you were having a relationship with someone and they said they don't like using condoms, they wouldn't get any pleasure out of sex if they did use a condom, you know the line anyway, what would you do?

INTERVIEWEE: I got that last night, I got that line.

INTERVIEWER: So what did you do last night?

INTERVIEWEE: I made him wear one.

INTERVIEWER: You did?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, we always do. If I miss the pill he always has to, there is no, unless I find it boring. I find it quite interesting, I like doing it with..... it's good fun.

INTERVIEWER: Well you haven't answered the question about if you were having a relationship and they said they wouldn't use one, would you still have sex with them?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. It depends, it really depends on how you feel at the time. My boyfriend now, I know for a fact that he hasn't been with too many girls, so that lessens the risk, but if I knew a lad had been sleeping around a lot and he said I don't want to go to bed with you and use a condom, then I would say right then, get out. Straight out the window, because that would be too much of a risk to me. Whether I was steady with him or not there would be too much of a risk, I would say you go to the clinic and find out what you've got.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you would be able to trust somebody if you?

INTERVIEWEE: No, if he's been sleeping around a lot, no.

INTERVIEWER: But I mean if you asked somebody 'had you been sleeping around much?', and they say no would you be able to trust that?

INTERVIEWEE: It would depend on who it was. My boyfriend now, I trust him totally. Because he gets very on edge when we talk about things like that.

INTERVIEWER: Does he get embarrassed talking about sex?

INTERVIEWEE: No. Oh god, no.

INTERVIEWER: You mean he's proud when you are talking about?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't mean, if you says to him 'I think you've slept with such and such a person' I would, he would finish with me straight away because I know through what he's said, he would be that broken up. You can tell now sometimes, he watched Kramer -v- Kramer the other day and he was really upset watching that because he said it brought home to him all the things, it was over ten years ago when his mum and dad split up.

INTERVIEWER: It still hurts him so you can trust him in what he says?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. He's not sleeping around. I am the kind of person who goes out to have a laugh and I have a laugh, but I don't go near any other lad. I can't be bothered with them, but because you are having a laugh, lads automatically come in and think you are someone you can slag off or something, so they think they are going to get something out of you. So when I go out even when I'm with him we will go out and there will be about four girls and whatever, and we will all dance and mess about. I don't drink anymore because I hate getting up in the morning and feeling rough, so we just go out and have a good laugh and mess about on the dance floor and the lads automatically

walk down and look at those for four girls, they are an easy touch and all that, so he gets, he thinks I can't be trusted but he can. He does really, but he thinks.

INTERVIEWER: It sounds like you are close enough for him to know that he can trust you.

INTERVIEWEE: He loves me.

INTERVIEWER: Does it worry you, do you feel that you are worried about AIDS? I mean do you ever think or worry about it or?

INTERVIEWEE: Sometimes.

INTERVIEWER: Only when somebody like me brings it up?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I do sometimes, because if you are sat on the bus and they've got an AIDS advert on the bus and you think 'you never know'.

INTERVIEWER: Would you ever think of having a test?

INTERVIEWEE: I said to him go and have a test.

INTERVIEWER: You have said to your boyfriend have a test and not you?

INTERVIEWEE: I would, but it's really embarrassing, I don't even know where you would do it. That's another thing you don't know where to go, I would do if I know.

INTERVIEWER: That's another thing, if you have an AIDS test and admit you have had one it's like an insurance.

INTERVIEWEE: I am going to have a blood test tomorrow, I'm going to give blood tomorrow, so if they don't want me back, I know I've failed. That's what I thought for ages, actually, that is what I've thought about - going to give blood and if they don't want you back, I know I've got AIDS. Actually that is what I thought because I've been meaning to go for ages and this girl who I was going to go with last Tuesday, but we both forgot, but we are going tomorrow.

INTERVIEWER: So you think you are not too worried about yourself then?

INTERVIEWEE: I'm not worried about it, no. You never know who's got it, I might have and you might.

INTERVIEWER: You don't think it's the sort of thing that you can't do anything about?

INTERVIEWEE: Of course you can. If you want to do something about it, you can do. I think that some people think that you couldn't get it from using something like the cap, like people who weren't well informed, they probably think I won't get it if I use a cap. They could, because it's not protecting yourself is it.

INTERVIEWER: No, because you've got blood vessels on your vagina walls which anything can pass through very easily. Well I think there is a lot of misconceptions and a lot of people are confused. I mean you had a good sex education at school, and that's very unusual the kind of sex education you got. You are the first person I've talked to while doing this that has had a decent sex education at school.

INTERVIEWEE: It was brilliant, we used to love it. Because say if they were going to go through two subjects in a lesson, we always used to have a discussion at the end, so they only did one. It was dead good and they used to have loads of pamphlets and everything. They had a small room the size of your wardrobe with all different things, and we used to have a goody box, I remember the goody box, it had caps and condoms, coils and everything. And they used to have stuff on pieces of paper and show you what to do with them, you know real ones not just pictures. It was really good.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think, well the AIDS education you got very little at school, I suppose most of it is from TV, do you think that the adverts they are putting out, do you think they work?

INTERVIEWEE: I think they are crap. I think they should be a lot better. They don't tell you anything they just say you can get it through sharing needles, you can get it through being homosexual, but they don't say you could get it off your partner. They don't say things like 'your husband may have gone on holiday with his friends and had a sexual experience with a foreign person who could have AIDS' and they don't tell you anything like that, and a lot of people I don't think realise it.

INTERVIEWER: You think it's very easy to think it can't happen to you and what about, do you think there is enough actual information given?

INTERVIEWEE: No. Not enough, because they don't say things like, I don't know, where to go and get a test done and I have read a lot. Some people are illiterate, people who don't know a lot, they should be told on the telly, you can get a test here, you can get a test there, go to your doctors or, because it's embarrassing saying excuse me where do you get a test from.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think the information actually in terms of what you do to stop yourself catching it?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I don't think that's enough as well because it just says 'use a condom', but a lot of people don't want to.

INTERVIEWER: It doesn't tell you what to do?

INTERVIEWEE: It doesn't say anything. It doesn't explain anything to you. It should be explaining things to everybody like, there should be more adverts I think like on the college walls, all these things up on the walls but they haven't got them on school walls even though there are some eleven year olds and some parents might not like it, they should be up there because a lot of thirteen year olds are sleeping around, aren't they?

INTERVIEWER: Oh, well the number of kids or girls who leave school because they are pregnant and then don't go back.

INTERVIEWEE: Well I think they should have sex education in first year really, shouldn't they.

INTERVIEWER: And it should be sex education that you've had as well. I mean generally most schools have some, but it's not very good.

END OF RECORDING