**LJH37 31.1.90**

19,3; lives with friends (mixed); ma [COMMUNITY ROLE] in Suffolk, [MANAGEMENT ROLE] in [YORKSHIRE], commuting relationship since 1982, one younger sister at home; jh37 working as [CARING ROLE] in year off before uni, going to [NAME OF UNIVERSITY], Social Policy BA course; ESW; anglican, but has lost her relationship with god; 8 0 levels, 3 As; hetero, 3 relationships, first sex 17.

You will not believe this but the battery ran out on this one, but I noticed it very shortly thereafter. Unfortunately it was when she was talking about oral and anal sex. Here is my immediately afterwards memory of what she said. She did not like the idea of safe sex presented in a pack she had come across because it suggested using a condom for oral sex. She thought ugh, that would be horrible, the taste of the rubber etc. (Later - which is on tape- she suggested flavoured condoms, which she might try.) She really enjoys oral sex, having it done to her when it is done well, and not given up because it is taking too long or they get bored. She also enjoys doing it to men, and having them come in her mouth because she feels she is in control. She enjoys the pleasure of giving pleasure, finds it pleasurable herself. Finds it erotic. She does not like it if they push it in themselves, however, and make her gag. But she threatens to bite it off if that happens.

Oral sex she had discussed with first boyfriend, they had decided to try everything they could think of except anal sex (his idea that they should not). She thinks she is broadminded, would not eliminate it out of hand, but she had tried it with boyfriend no. 2 and did not like it. It hurt. In fact he did it to her, she was not expecting it, did not like it. She does not exclude the possibility of trying it again in the future, but not something she is particularly keen to try again.

I also asked her as she was leaving about religion. She mentions it in interview, first bf and she had christianity in common, he was/is rector's son, she changed to his church to be able to spend time with him. But she feels her relationship with god is in trouble, like the rest of her relationships (except ma). She stopped going to church when she first came to London, thinks she should, thinks she will again. She has not stopped believing, but just having trouble with it all. Thinks that she will get back into it at some stage, just difficult at the moment.

Also I met her at the tube station, and on the way to the office we talked about her father. He and ma are together but have a commuting relationship, he works in local government but she is not sure of his precise job. He is [MANAGEMENT ROLE], has taught in [UNIVERSITY] for [REDACTED] at one stage (an academic), then got job in local govt away from home for a while, took a year sabbatical to do [HIGHER EDUCATION] (so he was around a lot in that year) but then off to [YORKSHIRE] for his next job. He commutes home at the weekends. This has been going on since 1982, so apart from the year he had off, she feels that he has missed a lot of her growing up. People think her parents' relationship is strange (teachers used to be very careful about it) but she thinks it might have helped parents stay together, that they did not always live together. Their relationship is OK as far as she is concerned.

She actually describes herself on the tape, in the bit on image, bcs she was wearing a white cableknit jumper, a flowered dark green skirt, tights or stockings and black court shoes. This is not her usual style, which is dms and jeans, and her usual style is objected to as unfeminine by the boyfriend of one of her flatmates.

First sex must be age 17, self and intercourse, tho they had done a lot of other things and tried for intercourse unsuccessfully before they succeeded. This was with a ym of same age she met post O levels. They were in love, both virgins, not very good (a flop in all senses) first time they tried it, but got better. Both prepared to be experimental in sex, and enjoyed it. They had their christianity in common, but it clearly did not mean that they thought sex before marriage or the like was wrong. But they grew apart when they went to different schools, and lived at some distance from each other (in rural area). He had a nervous breakdown, for which she sometimes blames herself, sometimes feels that it is unfair that she should be blamed. It sounds as if, and she says herself, that she especially, but also he, clung onto the relationship after it was really at an end. She ran away, shortly after her A levels, to London, to get away from it all. Took a job as a volunteer in a home for handicapped. Living in a flat with 3 other volunteers. Met a neighbour (NORTH LONDON HOUSING ESTATE) about the third night she was there, and started a relationship with him shortly thereafter.

At the beginning of the interview she had said that she was in a limbo re relationships, but thought her most important one was with her mother, she could talk to her now (tho not before she left home, and had a bad time with parents re first boyfriend’s breakdown, they wanted (like his parents) to keep her from him). She could talk about a bad experience she had with a lover, he beat her up. Great shock for her, could not believe he would do it. Is still in a mess over what it all means (it happened New Years night. She reported it to the police and he is going to court on [REDACTED], he was suspended from his job ([CARING ROLE]) for 3 weeks, but is now back in it. Is pleading guilty, and she does not have to go to court. She is ambivalent about it all. Did not want the relationship to stop, thought she loved him, sorry he might lose his job so relieved he did not, but sorry too he is not really going to be punished much.

During the relationship with this guy, she also started sleeping with his flatmate. After that started, she would go round to their flat, sit around, the second guy (flatmate) would give up and go to bed first, deferring in her view to her bf, and then he would say would she stay, or tell her he would like her to stay. This latter guy moved out of the flat when she told him the bf had beaten her up, and is having a friendship, but with some sex with her at the moment. She enjoys the sex with him a lot (tho towards the end she said it hardly ever includes penetrative sex) but does not have the emotional connection which she had with the first bf, and this second one. The bf always uses condoms, but the first time she slept with his flatmate she took no precautions vs pregnancy or AIDS, and worried about it immediately afterwards. She is worried re AIDS/HIV, knows a bit but not a lot about it, thinks young people have not changed behaviour. Points to herself, she had thought about it, was aware of it but would not have asked bf to use condom, he just did himself. (He is 25, the flatmate is 28, very old and experienced in her view). And did not when first slept with flatmate, tho they discussed it and did so on later occasions.

The relationship with the bf (second one) sounds awful, she too feels that she cared for him more than he cared for her, became submissive, quiet, did not express her emotions bcs that was what he seemed to want. He did not express emotions himself. She thought it had become like the relationship with the first bf, her hanging on in there after it was really over, becoming dependant, losing her independence, losing control over the situation. They never went out, she just turned up at his flat, they might go to the pub for a drink, then it was sex if he wanted to. I think bf was black, bcs in her version of his image of her she included “white, mc”. I don’t know re the flatmate, for whom she seems to have some respect as a person.

Although she is in a state of confusion about relationships, and what she has been doing with herself, she has given herself some space to think about it all recently, talked to friends, ma etc. She has come to the conclusion that she is an interesting, worthwhile person, come to value herself. Gets positive feedback from one female friend, and a male friend who seems rather close. I think these latter are her flatmates at the moment.

It was clearly the confused state of her relationships, and what she had been doing that she wanted to talk about. Long interview, over two hours.