

ACORN

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Editor
David Acorn

Editorial

First of all, let me make some apologies on behalf of the team. Although I'd finished 7/95 before the end of November and 8/95 before the second week in December, the commitments of the other two in the run-up to Xmas were such that the two editions became united, and ended up being sent too late to be delivered before Xmas. The two being sent out together made the weight just tip the postal scale, so Brian decided to leave out the annual renewal form and send it with 1/96 instead. So I must say sorry to those who wrote asking where it had got to.

David Acorn

Self Indulgence 8

When I was a boy, with a foreskin, in England, I learnt to masturbate with my school friends. They mostly masturbated by pulling the skin up and down, so that was what I did. The circumcision rate was about 50/50, and even the roundheads did it that way, just moving the skin on the shaft. After puberty, I generally did it myself, with the skin retracted, since my foreskin was quite short. In my later

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teens, still at school, I started experimenting with rubbing my knob, using a lubricant – I remember using sun-tan oil the first time I tried it. This was initially an attempt at simulating intercourse – which I hadn't experienced at that stage. (Before long, of course, I did experience coitus, and found it wasn't quite the same...) However, rubbing with a lubricant gradually became my preferred way of wanking – it just seemed far more sensual.

As a boy I spent a little time in the U.S.A., so I knew that circumcision was more common there, and odd comments in books and stories gave me the impression that so was my favourite way of masturbating. Once I came over to Australia (more than 20 years ago) I found that most men and boys were circumcised, and any comments about masturbation seemed to involve lubricants ('he keeps a stack of Playboys and a jar of vaseline under his bed'...you know the kind of comment, I'm sure). So I found myself part of the majority! However, to really enjoy this style of masturbation, I had to use one hand at the base of my penis to hold my skin fully back out of the way, so that the other lubricated hand could slide freely over the shaft and knob. This was a bit limiting if I wanted to look at some erotic literature while I did it...

Eventually, 8 years ago, I got circumcised – not just to go with the majority, but something I'd wanted for a long while. This made all sorts of things better – I'm 100% positive about the benefits, at least in my case – but for the present purpose the relevant one is that I only needed one hand for my favourite sort of wank! I had better say, at this point, that I don't actually masturbate very often – once or twice a month. However, my wife masturbates me rather more frequently – either because it's the wrong time of the month, or because I'm feeling randy and she isn't (though we have sex much more frequently than any sort of hand job.)

There are clear differences between what works best when I do it myself and when my wife does it for me. Baby oil and water-based lubricants are both excellent for solo use, but much less effective in my wife's hands. Hand lotion and similar things are fantastic when she does it, but not nearly so good when I do it myself. Incidentally, the same was true with my previous girlfriend, many years ago, before I was either circumcised or married, so it's not just a question of individual style.

Lubricant is nice but not essential. Masturbating without it always takes much longer, but in the right circumstances can be a positive factor. My wife says she enjoys it – both because she likes the silky-smooth feel of my bare cock, and because she enjoys having me in a highly aroused state for so long before the final relief. She strokes downward with a firm, slow action, paying particular attention to the knob and frenulum. When I do it myself, I slide my hand over the shaft and knob very lightly and much faster.

One final point. The first few times I ever experienced orgasm, as a young boy, the sensation started at the base of my cock and spread right through my body, all the way to the tips of my fingers and toes. An incredible feeling!

Once I started to masturbate regularly, the sensation was still highly enjoyable, but didn't have the extent and intensity. I guess it was partly because I did it so often, and partly because, with increasing experience, I'd learned how to use my foreskin to bring myself off with maximum speed and minimum effort. In the eight years since I've been a roundhead, that old sensation has gradually come back, and now I quite often experience a whole-body orgasm again when I masturbate. I suspect that not masturbating very often is as much a factor as losing my foreskin, but I wouldn't entirely discount the latter aspect. Either way, I enjoy it (but I still enjoy coitus more).

In 6/95, under the title 'Radical Circumcision', B.W. of Surrey enquires about a man who had an apparently 'incut' area below the glans. This is almost certainly the result of excessive cutting during circumcision, leaving the upper part of the shaft denuded. See the book *Circumcision: a Pictorial Atlas* by E.A. Grossman (Todd & Honeywell, Great Neck, New York, 1982), where there is a description and picture of this and other problems with botched circumcisions.

In 2/95, you had an article from 'William', whose 'recircumcision' (though why he had, or wanted, to be recircumcised was never explained) had caused him constant pain for many months. No wound takes so long to heal, so one has to assume that something had gone wrong – adhesions forming under the skin, perhaps. In such cases one really must see the doctor concerned and get to the bottom of the problem. Pain is not a normal consequence of a simple circumcision. I was circumcised as an adult (by the sleeve technique) and had no dressing, or pain, after the op. I took no painkillers of any sort at any time. The only discomfort was the stitches catching on my clothes – a tissue around my cock fixed that. The older of my two sons was circumcised at age 9. His cut was done differently, and he had a dressing around it for a week. Again though, he didn't find any need for painkillers, and the only pain was from accidental knocks (all too frequent at that age). Again, the stitches were a bit annoying until they all came out. So, as the adverts say, 'If pain persists – see a doctor'.

J.B. – New South Wales

Observations

Like most men, I have always had an obsession with cock size. I know that we all have a good look at the other guys in the changing room and make comparisons, and, while nothing is said, I'm sure there are many mental comments as a result.

I have more reason for this obsession because I'm sure that I have the smallest cock around and, judging by the last *Acorn* survey, the smallest within the Society. It nudges 5" when hard and is slim (circumference at the

base about 4.4”). My question is whether there are other guys out there with comparable measurements? Certainly, in all the magazines, one generally only sees well-hung men. Where are the other 5-inchers? Or are they the non-randy types who are unconcerned about sex? I rarely ever see anyone in a changing room with a cock as small as mine and would be interested in others’ views on this.

It appears that the average British man is fairly cock-shy. When I change I find it logical to take all my clothes off and then put my sports clothes on. Not so the average Brit, who does it in two stages to ensure that the lower part of the body is not exposed to view! Likewise, when showering, most appear to turn towards the wall, and the number of cavaliers who retract their foreskins to wash in the view of others is very small. Most turn away furtively as if this is an embarrassing operation. A very few will retract their skins and leave them retracted, not appearing to be shy (I am among these), and I notice that one of my friends has his skin already retracted as he gets into the shower, but pulls it forward again as he comes out! I wonder what the basis is for this general shyness?

I have noticed recently a couple of really tight foreskins – with the knob standing out behind the skin and a long tassel on the end. It would be interesting to know if these fellows have trouble with tightness, but certainly, if my cock looked like these I would go straight for a circumcision, if only for a better looking cock.

Also, I see very few cleanly cut roundheads. Most seem to have a ring or two of skin nestling behind the knob, in contrast to the U.S. look, with its totally exposed knob and scar well behind it. Is this a peculiarly British way of circumcision?

It seems that we cavaliers are in a minority within *Acorn*, but I am still interested in hearing from any cavalier considering a circumcision, or someone who has had it done as an adult. I had fairly limited response to my last request, and it may be interesting to hear from men who *had* to be circumcised, rather than those who wanted it, as the latter category is always positive about the outcome!

Anon

[It would be nice to have any responses to the last paragraph sent for printing initially. — D.A.]

Nurse’s Comments

In 7/95, you ask for comments on ‘Circumcision and HIV’, sent in by a reader from Canada. As a State Registered Nurse, I have in the past had a number of HIV and AIDS cases to look after, and have a few points to make on the claim

that circumcision protects from AIDS. Firstly, the claim is based on experience from Africa, and it is now quite clear that the disease takes an entirely different course there from Europe and America. Despite all the predictions, sexually acquired HIV is still associated almost exclusively with a gay lifestyle in Europe and America, whereas in Africa it is the heterosexual community that suffers. Secondly, if circumcision protects, why is it that the USA, where 95% plus of the sexually active male population is circumcised, suffers from a much higher incidence of HIV/AIDS than Europe, where circumcision is next to unknown? The point I am making is that the African experience is so different from the rest of the world that you cannot apply its data to other countries, especially when it flies in the face of the recorded facts.

Another reason often quoted for retaining circumcision is that it protects against urinary tract infections. This makes me cross, because no-one bothers to mention the fact that females suffer far more from urinary tract infections than males, whether circumcised or not. And yet no-one expresses concern about our much greater problem – not that I would be happy about it if they prescribed circumcision to prevent it!

Finally, a short comment on M.S.'s letter, 'Why Wash?' in the same issue. I agree wholeheartedly with the points he makes about it not being strictly necessary, and that girls with cystitis benefit from not wearing knickers and avoiding using toilet paper after they pee. But I would remind him of an interesting French phrase: 'ça pue comme une petite fille qui se néglige' – 'it pongs like a little girl who neglects herself'!

All girls have a much greater problem keeping their external parts unobjectionable than any male, whether circumcised or not, and I should imagine that his girlfriend needed to take the hot bath (or shower) treatment every day, unless he was incredibly un-fussy!

I am so glad to have been lent your magazine, which fills a definite void in informing people about a subject which is still considered too 'delicate' to be aired to any great extent elsewhere. Please keep up the good work.

Ms D.S. – Luton

Celebrity Status Confirmation

In Ross Benson's book *Paul McCartney – Behind the Myth* (Gollancz. ISBN 0-575-05200-7), it is stated that Paul's younger brother confirmed that both boys were 'Baptised Catholics and Jewishly circumcised'.

V.Q. – London

Circumcision — A Japanese View

Culled From The Internet Newsgroups by V.Q. – London

Hi, this debate on circumcision is interesting because I used to feel ashamed of being uncircumcised. Now I'm not ashamed but I think a lot of other people here are. Here in Japan, no one's circumcised at birth, but it seems everyone is by the time they are adults. They may not be necessarily **cut**, but it seems they have their glans completely exposed permanently. Does this happen naturally to most people? I used to be told that it happens when you grow up. Maybe the penis is supposed to outgrow the foreskin? I also frequently see ads in magazines (not dirty) about rings you put around the penis for a few months to make it *look* better by permanently keeping the foreskin retracted. It seems that in Japan most people do something to keep the glans exposed for *looks* even though they are *covered* in their elementary years.

Also, many of you say that sex feels better with a foreskin because of the nerves and because the skin moves back and forth. I'm a beginner with sex :-)) and want to ask about using condoms on a uncircumcised penis because I am having some trouble. If the foreskin is retracted, it hurts when putting on the condom because it gets stuck behind the head and I have to force it down which pulls some sensitive skin doing so. It also hurts when having sex because of the friction on the sensitive glans. If I put it on with the foreskin retracted, it feels good but many times, the condom falls off in the action because it moves back and forth with the foreskin. What do you think.

Sorry for being a bit anonymous

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Proud Father With Circumcised Boy

(Article in *Afterposten*, Norway)

By Arild M. Jonassen

Amir Nabi proudly showed off his day-old son. *Afterposten* met the two, just a few hours after the son was circumcised.

The operation took 10 minutes at Aker Hospital. "It is important that circumcision is done safely, so I'm glad the hospital did the job. I remember my own circumcision as a four or five-year old in Lahore in Pakistan as a painful experience", says Amir Nabi.

Afterposten met him at the maternity ward together with departmental consultant Knut Urdal, who told us that they had circumcised seven newborn boys that day. He would prefer to give priority to other cases, but also thought that it was good that the operation was done in hospital and not with a pair of scissors and other strange instruments he had heard about. Almost

all those who wanted it had their newborn sons circumcised at Aker Hospital. Last year there were 184 boys, and so far this year 170, or about 25% of all the newborn boys with parents of foreign origin.

An Old Request

But Urdal is not pleased that the State should require them to take on the job unless the State also funds it. But, to him, such a demand is not new. Urdal has a letter dated 1976 from the then Director of the Health Authority, Torbjorn Mork, asking hospitals to do the operation.

“Circumcision is done at the cost of sterilisations and other more highly prioritised procedures”, says Urdal. The Maternity Department has 400 on its waiting list for sterilisation, but in practice has not done this operation for several years. “There are people who have had two children while they have been on the sterilisation waiting list. Other waiting lists too are affected by circumcisions, which in my view are less important tasks. Medically, it is not proven that circumcision gives any health benefit”, says Urdal.

Circumcision at the hospital is done by gynaecologists, rather than by the surgeons specialising in urology, who should do it. They refuse on medical grounds, and point to the risk of complications such as bleeding and infection. If malformations are discovered later, the foreskin can be used for ‘patching’. Urdal thinks that the present practice at Aker is far from satisfactory.

The operation is not done in an organised way, but just whenever the doctors have time. If the public hospital is to do the job, he thinks it should be done in the day patient department of a polyclinic. But if any work should be done by the private health sector, then perhaps circumcision is the best example, Urdal concludes.

Amir Nabi is pleased that the possibility is available at Aker Hospital, but says that otherwise he would have gone to a private clinic, since circumcision is part of his religion. He also has an older child, a girl who is not circumcised. “Only boys are mentioned in the Koran”, he says.

G.N.S. – Norway

Smoothie J.H.

I did enjoy the feature by Smoothie J.H. on Page 4 of 7/95. As you know, I also wrote on the subject of genital shaving in the previous issue, and there have been one or two other contributions on the subject.

I’ve written personally to J.H., but maybe other readers would like to share some of the paragraphs I sent to him.

I once burnt my scrotum terribly using a depilatory cream, even though I’d tried it first, without problem, on an area of my thigh. I’ve heard of several similar experiences, including one needing hospitalisation, but I must say that

the result in my case was a fabulously smooth finish which outlasted the burn healing process. I never could get on with electric shavers of any kind.

I confess to being a very sexually active gay man, even at 62. I'm very overweight and not remotely in the 'body beautiful' category, but my shaved genital area has proved – ever since puberty – to be a very strong sexual asset. I think that being circumcised (since birth) also helps. Partners, even those who are a bit suspicious at first, love it, and it has led to many a fabulous blowjob which I know would not have taken place otherwise.

I've often met guys who have said to me that they would like to shave, and indeed have done so on occasions, but have found it too embarrassing in changing rooms and showers. This has never worried me in the least. Rarely does anyone comment, but if they do it is invariably complimentary.

I have always restricted my shaving to my genital area. I don't have a particularly hairy body anyway, but, especially since I have a long residual chest scar following open heart surgery eleven years ago, I prefer to allow my chest hair to grow to disguise the scar.

Many years ago, when in my late teens, I recall my father mentioning to me that he kept his pubic hair shaved, and I told him that, purely by coincidence, I did the same. We never spoke of the matter again and I never saw him naked until I identified his body when he died in 1974. He was then 72. I recall the macabre experience of being more intrigued by the fact that he still shaved than of being distressed at his death. The mourning came later because we had always been very close.

You probably know that I write an agony column in *Zipper* magazine. I recall once receiving a letter from a reader who claimed to have a collection of tufts of pubic hair from all manner of celebrities. I believe him to have been genuine, and he mentioned the names of an incredible number of well-known politicians, media-famous personalities, etc., who had willingly responded to his discreet letters requesting a contribution. I was quite honoured to be invited to take part, but had to keep him waiting for about three months while I specifically grew a tuft to send him.

And now another subject. Upon reading what follows, somebody out there is going to say, "Speak for yourself - not **all** *Acorn* members are tarred with the same brush". Maybe not, but I suspect that many will identify with my 'Confession', albeit with some reluctance, and only after a degree of soul-searching.

I'm totally obsessed with sex. Almost every time I put finger to keyboard I relate the events which started it all on a May day in 1942, my ninth birthday to be exact. That was when I was magnificently and gloriously raped in a haybarn by two late teenagers exempt from military call-up because they worked on the farm to which I had been evacuated during the war. I experienced my first electric, but inevitably dry, orgasm, and discovered the form of physical

gratification which has dominated my daily life, usually more than once, for all my fifty-three years since then. Compartmentalised into discretely separate passages – and I mean ‘discrete’, not ‘discreet’, for one side of me sometimes throws discretion to the winds – I have embraced a double life, isolating ‘penile perversion’ on the one hand, from ‘professional propriety’ on the other. Being a pillar of local community leads me one way, but the pillar of my manhood – my good friend Richard (nothing so common as my ‘Dick’) – has led me another. I have followed willingly, into a lifetime of the most amazing and abundant sexual adventures which would defy credibility if committed to public scrutiny, but which relate entirely to fact, not fantasy.

Flicking through the pages of *Acorn*, with all its talk of wanking cocks and more, and recognising that I delight in contributing to its baseness, I sometimes pause and ponder. Somewhere up above I used the phrase ‘penile perversion’... Is that what it’s all about? Am I, and are my fellow readers, just lusty, dirty-minded perverts, spilling out our oversexed musings to excite ourselves and titillate others? I revel in all this idle chitter-chatter of cocks and balls and spunk – the nectar of the gods. But am I, are we, missing out on something in our lives? Would I have gained more financially and spiritually if I had turned such journalistic abilities as I have to more prosaic offerings? Would life have been more meaningful if I had spent more time with music than masturbation; with culture rather than cocks; and with books rather than bollocks? The Oxford Dictionary talks of ‘perversion’ as turning something to wrong use, interpreting it wrongly (especially on purpose), or leading astray from the right opinion or conduct.

In the relatively few years that I have enjoyed receiving *Acorn*, I have the feeling that its contents are broadening from early concentration on the pros and cons of circumcision, into a wider wallowing in the glories of all things sexual...wanking fodder for the masses! It certainly works for me, and I suspect I’m not alone.

We are a small, fairly select, group of individuals, collectively probably of somewhat higher intelligence than the rest. Are we proud of ourselves? Indeed, is there even any need to be proud of ourselves? In our hedonistic lives, is there anything amiss? I don’t know. As the feeling wells up in my loins and I retire to the privacy of my bedroom, I leave you with just one thought...I only asked!

And Now!!! **Musical Masturbation** – A Competition for the New Year.

Some years ago, when my column appeared regularly in the now defunct magazine *HIM*, I published an exchange of correspondence on readers’ choice of music to wank to. Think of it – reclining on the bed or in a comfortable easy chair, with one’s trousers around one’s ankles and one’s prick protruding from one’s clenched fist whilst listening to the right mood music. What a delightful way to spend the odd few minutes of stimulated reflection – and subsequent ejaculation.

But what is 'the right mood music'? Sleazy sentimental slush? Passionate and thumping frenzied pop – 'Hit me with your Rhythm Stick'? 'The Rhythm of Life'? Powerful Wagnerian opera?... My personal choice is the famous Ravel's Bolero. How quietly the distant drums announce the beginning of its passage. How relentlessly it gradually develops its insistent enduring passion. How magnificently loud comes its wildly discordant orgasmic crescendo some 15 minutes later. For me, no piece is more perfectly timed, erotically provocative, and capable of generating such lewd, irresistible fantasies. Even as I type, that beat is trapped firmly in my mind and for ever betwixt my legs.

But what say you, dear reader? What music turns you on? What Siren's strains will tempt your ears and lure the tumescence in your dick?

Here's a chance to tell us all. I'm sure our worthy Editor will delight in publishing as many of your replies as space allows and, as a further source of stimulation, this time for your pen, I am offering a CD of 'Bolero' (and other pieces by the same composer) played by the Radio Symphony Orchestra Ljubljana, conducted by Anton Nanut, with Mee Chou Lee on the piano. I shall leave David Acorn to be the judge of the best entry... and sit back to enjoy my own little revel in Ravel.

Ray Hamble

Self Indulgence 9

It is interesting to reflect how one's wanking techniques change over the years. As a teenage youngster the urge is to obtain a climax as quickly as possible with vigorous rhythmic rubbing of the shaft and foreskin. As one gets older there is more emphasis on foreplay and delaying the climax so as to get the maximum enjoyment. This, I found, could be done with the foreskin forward and gently massaging the glans and frenulum. The glans was very sensitive and it was often not possible to delay the climax for very long.

At the age of 34 I was advised that I needed to be circumcised as I kept getting recurring balanitis, which was being aggravated by a long foreskin. Again my wanking technique changed, and I found it much easier to delay the climax. The size of my glans has increased, with a prominent rim and sulcus, and if I gently massage this area with a lubricant it is very stimulating and sensitive, as is my circumcision scar. And if I pull this area to meet the rim, the resulting sensations are delightful.

Bill – Surrey

A Bone In Your Bonker

Endnotes to Chapter 9

A theory about why humans have lost the penis bone

An erect human penis can be so hard and stiff that people jokingly express scepticism that there is no bone inside. As a matter of fact, lots of mammals do have a stiffening bone, the baculum or os penis, to help the erection along. What's more, it is common among our relatives, the primates; even our closest cousin the chimpanzee has one, although admittedly, a very tiny one which may be on its evolutionary way out. There seems to have been a tendency to reduce the os penis in the primates; our species, along with a couple of monkey species, has lost it completely. So, we have got rid of the bone that in our ancestors presumably made it easy to have a nice stiff penis. Instead, we rely entirely on a hydraulic pumping system, which one cannot but feel is a costly and roundabout way of doing things. And, notoriously, erection can fail – unfortunate, to say the least, for the genetic success of a male in the wild. What is the obvious remedy? A bone in the penis, of course. So why don't we evolve one? For once, biologists of the 'genetic constraints' brigade cannot cop out with, "Oh, the necessary variation just couldn't arise." Until recently our ancestors had precisely such a bone, and we have actually gone out of our way to lose it! Why?

Erections in humans is accomplished purely by pressure of blood. It is, unfortunately, not plausible to suggest that erection hardness is the equivalent of a doctor's blood pressure meter, used by females to gauge male health. But we are not tied to the metaphor of the blood pressure meter. If, for whatever reason, erection failure is a sensitive early warning of certain kinds of ill-health, physical or mental, a version of the theory can work. All that females need is a dependable tool for diagnosis. Doctors don't use an erection test in routine health check-ups – they prefer to ask you to stick out your tongue. But erection failure is a known early warning sign of diabetes and certain neurological diseases. Far more commonly, it results from psychological factors – depression, anxiety, stress, overwork, loss of confidence and all that. (In nature, one might imagine males low in the pecking order being afflicted in this way. Some monkeys use the erect penis as a threat signal.) It is not implausible that, with natural selection refining their diagnostic skills, females could glean all sorts of clues about a male's health, and the robustness of his ability to cope with stress, from the tone and bearing of his penis. But a bone would get in the way! Anybody can grow a bone in his penis; you don't have to be particularly healthy or tough. So selection pressure from females forced males to lose the os penis, because, then, only genuinely healthy or strong males could present a really stiff erection, and the females could make an unobstructed diagnosis.

There is a possible zone of contention here. How, it might be said, were the females who imposed the selection supposed to know whether the stiffness that they felt was bone or hydraulic pressure? After all, we began with the observation that a human erection can feel like bone. But I doubt if the females were really that easily fooled. They too were under selection, in their case not to lose a bone but to gain judgement. And don't forget, the female is exposed to the very same penis when it is not erect. Bones cannot detumescere (though admittedly they can be retracted). Perhaps it is the impressive double life of the penis that guarantees the authenticity of the hydraulic advertisement.

[The following appeared on the Internet newsgroups recently.]

Intact Men Against Circumcision

Intact Men Against Circumcision (I.M.A.C.) is an assembly of intact men networking to save infants and children from destructive genital surgery. We are joined together to help end the intense pain, trauma, terror and suffering which is a perversion called circumcision. As owners of this extraordinary structure, the prepuce (foreskin), we must speak out. As males who appreciate and understand the importance of wholeness, we must speak out. As males who are experiencing a phenomena which guarantees a lifetime of complete, sensuous, fulfilling, and normal sexuality, we must speak out. We have been mute too long, our voices must be heard, we must share the truth that ownership of a complete primary sex organ is healthy and the subtraction from that organ is destructive. The promoters of this primitive and barbaric infringement on the sanctity of the human body have had silence as their consort, including our silence, but we shall remain silent no longer. If we can break this silence, the broken minds can be silenced.

We must educate. We are fighting against all genital mutilations, male and female. Our primary objective is male mutilation due to the fact that the 'rape' of male infants is a crime so common and irrationally accepted in the United States and, to a lesser extent, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Other than England, Europe never practised this dementia, nor did the rest of the world. Enlightenment came to England and they stopped this sexual attack on infants 45 years ago. Today, the only countries who openly practice and perpetuate the mutilation of a majority of their infant boys are Israel and the U.S. We realize that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is not confined to African and Middle Eastern cultures. There are many instances of FGM in North America and elsewhere. We must speak out on this terror and suffering and eliminate sexual bias by terminating the atrocities against both sexes.

We include men circumcised without their consent who are going through years of dedicated work of 'uncircumcising.' We know it is criminal to have to spend years trying to create a facsimile of a body part that took only 10 minutes of terror to totally destroy. We include women with intact significant others and

women fighting to protect the Basic Human Right of **all** people to **all** body parts. The time has arrived for those of us who are whole to empower ourselves and each other, to share our feelings, thoughts, and experiences. We can empower other men, circumcised and intact, to leave their sons natural.

Some of us who felt bad due to a peculiar view of being 'different' from most of our peers, have a new awareness and gratitude for physical, sexual, emotional, and mental wholeness. We are aware of our gift, and not only feel good about having whole bodies, but feel delightfully and naturally 'different.' We know that we possess a penis which is vastly superior to one which is irreversibly damaged through destructive surgery. We have deep compassion for our brothers who were forced to endure the abomination and its affects without **their** consent. **All** of our voices must be heard to stop this tragedy from continuously repeating itself. We understand that circumcision has never been, and is **not**, a medical issue. There is no valid medical justification to substantiate any benefit. Almost all penile problems are iatrogenic (doctor caused), acquired after this destructive surgery is performed. We extend a sincere welcome to I.M.A.C.! The wholeness movement will be successful because compassion and truth will prevail. We definitely need each other, as do the infants who try to speak to us through their screams, unable to protect themselves.

Who? What? Where?

I.M.A.C. is a network of intact men. We are joined by restored and restoring men, women with intact partners, sons, grandsons and women fighting to end genital/sexual mutilations. We are a cross-section of mankind from all walks of life and most professions; from the medical, business, and educational world to engineers, housewives, and retirees. We live across the U.S. and Canada, and in Australia, and New Zealand. We are young (and not quite so young) men and women spanning three generations. We are committed to a gentle infancy without the pain, trauma, and terror of sexual surgery, nor the long-term spoilation of the penis.

Did You Know...?

5% of the world's males are circumcised as infants and over half of all infant circumcisions are performed in the U.S.? That 70% of all circumcised men in the world are Muslim, circumcised between the ages of 2 and 17, and it is not a religious requirement? That there is a female victim of genital mutilation for every five male genital mutilation victims in the world? That of US males older than 15, roughly 90% of them were forced to undergo, when they were babies, the male genital/sexual mutilation known as 'infant circumcision'?

Did You Realize...?

The prepuce, shaft, and scrotum share common tissue? The underside of the penis from the commencement of the foreskin to the end of the frenulum. Chopping off this tissue affects more than the removal of the sensitive and

protective prepuce and frenulum. It causes an increased unnatural tension of the shaft and disposition of the scrotum.

Circumcision is a hoax that only we can expose! Intact men of America, unite to save your brethren from penile dismemberment! Down with circumcision! Down with circumcision profiteers! Down with infant sexual torture!

Information on the normal intact penis and on the lifelong damage done by the atrocity and fraud of infant circumcision (or if you prefer, by Penile Reduction Surgery) is found at these Web sites:

<http://theorem.math.rochester.edu/nocirc/nocirc.html>

<http://www.eskimo.com/%7Egburlin/noharmmm/>

Read: *Say No to Circumcision! 40 Compelling Reasons Why You Should Respect His Birthright and Keep Your Son Whole*, by Thomas Ritter, M.D. (1992, Hourglass Books, Aptos, CA.) Get it in your public library or through interlibrary loan.

Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity.

Newsletter

I.M.A.C. Press

P.O. Box 82

Wahpeton, ND 58074

Horace Mann

Incidence And The Individual

Like many *Acorn* members, I have been inexplicably interested in circumcision since I was a young child. This nurtured a curiosity to note who had been 'cut', which continues to this day. I never go out of my way or draw attention to myself by overtly practising my quest, but the information often comes up by natural word or a legitimate 'sighting'. Sometimes men or their wives and partners will make a joke or pass a remark, dropping the clear clue. On other occasions, sporting or working activities have led to communal showering when everyone's status was on show. As soon as I know "who's what", the fact is locked in my mind on the database covering their height, hair colouring, voice, etc. I don't have to make any effort with this - it happens automatically. I only wish memory would serve me just as easily with lots of other details in life!

It all started in primary school fifty years ago, and even today I could tell you the status of most of my classmates. Observations were easy, because we were always comparing willies and playing pissing games in the toilets.

The cavaliers indulged in 'ballooning', we roundheads in 'highest up the wall'. The circumcised minority of 20% probably reflected the lower socio-economic status of the school's locality. Doctors presumably charged for the operation pre-1947 and the advent of the NHS. (Does any member know how much it cost pre-war, or could anyone do a bit of interesting research? How does the figure stand against the average wage of the day?)

At grammar school we had compulsory showers after PT twice a week, and a communal bath once a week after games. No hiding place for the shy in that situation! I clearly recall the first time we were all subjected to this levelling experience. As we were all drawn from different schools, and hardly knew each other, there must have been some, like me, totting up the scores to see if they were in a minority/majority. It turned out to be exactly 50%, which ensured that no-one was teased about what they considered to be their penile asset or misfortune. An interesting point is that, despite transfers in and out, leavers and newcomers, this proportion was maintained for the five years I remained a member of that particular class. The higher incidence of circumcision than primary school suggests it was linked to the intake at grammar school being largely from a higher socio-economic class. The great majority of these circumcisions must have been for fashion only. There were no Jews or Muslims in our class, and medical problems would only account for one or two.

I speculate that the high incidence of circumcision in my generation occurred for several reasons:

1. The aspiring middle classes copied the trend-setting upper classes.
2. It was a nice little earner for doctors.
3. Childcare was much more a "woman's province". Daughters being influenced by their mothers always near at hand to advise and assist.
4. Many wives, having circumcised husbands, automatically maintained the practice on junior in an era when it was easily available on request if you could pay.

Underlying all four was a strongly held belief that circumcision was cleaner, and therefore healthier. In a more prudish age, it avoided the embarrassment of teaching boys penile hygiene. From what I've gleaned, many women thought it was neater and sexier. The climate of acceptable conversation did not allow them to say so, but they could achieve this desirable 'look' for their sons by emphasising the health/hygiene aspects.

It is interesting to note that 'fashionable' circumcision declined immediately on the inception of the NHS. Was there a perception that this class identifying mark was too good to bestow on the lower orders for free? Did doctors fence it off into private practice to preserve a nice little earner? Certainly there has been evidence of a total contrast in attitude within, to that without, the NHS. The same doctors wearing a NHS hat have placed every obstacle and

discouragement in the way of parents, only to don a bow tie and put down the welcome mat at their consulting rooms when a wallet was produced. Later, the NHS 'anti' may have been bolstered gradually by an intake of doctors who had themselves been circumcised in childhood and resented it. Action brings reaction. Recent times may have seen the operation chamfered out by financial stringency.

The decline in incidence has brought new problems for those few who are now growing up without their foreskins whilst the great majority of their peers are left entire. This was highlighted in a book I recently browsed, called *Living with a Willy*. This slim and lighthearted presentation has obviously been written to bring information and comfort to today's teenagers, and includes a section on circumcision. The author must have been (or is) something of an 'agony uncle', and quotes from correspondence. He begins with an extract from one boy who feels bad about his penis because he is the only one in a family of five brothers who hasn't been circumcised. He hates his own appearance and envies his brothers. No explanation has been given him regarding his clear isolation, and he is too shy to ask his parents. This sort of letter has more recently given way to another, in which a schoolboy is fretting about his circumcision because it is causing him changing room ridicule. As they are not Jewish, he is at a loss to know why his parents did this to him, and is also too embarrassed to ask them. Another similarly has suffered since his girlfriend finished with him, and feels she blighted his future relationships by telling all her friends that he'd been circumcised. His penile status is now public knowledge and apparently good for a giggle. Even more sad is the case of a young man with a girlfriend who is trying to initiate intercourse. He has to keep making excuses because he fears she will be turned off and end the relationship when she finds he has no foreskin.

Although those cut for religious reasons mainly mix, and are educated, with their own group, a few find themselves in a minority in schools where they suffer taunts from the uncircumcised. Although 'fashionable' circumcision has declined to almost zero, a few unfortunate individuals do have a medical condition which can only be cured by circumcising them. They then have to bear the further misfortune of teasing when their short-sleeve willies are spotted by their pals or discovered by their girlfriends. If those in authority thought deeply about this, and cared, they would make circumcision an option offered to all parents. I am certain there would be sufficient take-up to restore a 50% incidence. This would surely please everybody, and avoid the miserable stigma that it has now become for a not insignificant few.

G.D.

ACORN

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Editor
David Acorn

Editorial

Our next meeting is imminent and I hope to see many, by now, old friends there, plus some new ones. If any new members feel that they might feel intimidated by the meeting, please don't be. I can assure you that you won't be. And if you can only manage the Saturday afternoon, again, don't hesitate. Just give Brian a tinkle to let him know you're coming for whatever time and he'll sort everything out.

I saw a programme on TV the other night called 'In Search of the Holy Foreskin'. Apparently until a few years ago there were 14 of Jesus' foreskins roaming around churches in Europe, but the authentic one was in a church in Italy, but was stolen by a priest, so the story goes. Nothing much is known about His childhood so it can be presumed that only the three wise men knew He was holy, so why was the foreskin saved? Anyway, the programme seemed to treat foreskins in a very lighthearted way, ignorant of what powerful icons they are to some.

A thing that spurs a lot of members into action to write in are in answer to direct questions. So I thought we

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might start a question corner, where members can ask questions on an item that might be puzzling them, or for straightforward information. I can start the ball rolling with one of my own, plus one from a new member.

David Acorn

Questions

Doctors exhort mothers not to try to pull back the foreskins of their babies until they are at least four years old, due to the possible ripping of the adhesion between the inner foreskin and the glans, causing hard scar tissue to form on one of the surfaces, with resultant problems in later life. Yet in infant circumcisions the first thing the doctor does is to insert a probe between the foreskin and the glans to tear away the adhesions. Although I must admit to not having looked for scars of this sort on the glans of circumcised penises, do they occur? Who is right and who is wrong?

David Acorn

I would like to know about ejaculation. What is an average amount of come? Are there times when there is more than the normal amount? Or less? How far is a normal squirt? What percentage of men have no squirt, but just ooze out? Has anyone had a really long squirt?

C.W. – Wales

Not Too Radical

I identify as bisexual and have been married, but this experience concerns a long relationship I had with a very sexy Scottish guy I'll call Mike. We met at a gym. He would usually get hard in the shower and one evening I did as well. We had sex back at my place, and shortly afterwards he moved in with me.

From the start I noticed that he had a very long foreskin. It turned out to be unretractable. In the early days I would try to push it back, but he would yell out and that would be the end of that. For about 5 years I never saw the head of his cock. I didn't think too much about it because I was fairly tight myself, and when erect could not get my skin back behind my knob. I thought this was normal.

Mike then began getting unpleasant irritations under his foreskin. At the hospital he was told this was because of his tight foreskin and that he should be circumcised. He was scared of the pain and said no. But over the next few months his irritation continued and for the first time we began to talk to friends about circumcision. We found that others had had the op and no-one regretted it.

At the age of 32 Mike put his name down to be cut, which could be done on the NHS because of his severe condition. We thought it was possible to be partially circumcised, and that's what he wanted as he enjoyed wanking or being wanked by having his foreskin rubbed over his knob. But he was told that in his case this wouldn't be possible and that he had to be fully circumcised. On the morning of the op, however, he told the doctor that he wanted as much skin left as possible.

I'm sure Mike's post-op experience was that of most men who have been circumcised late in life. When he came back from the hospital he spent a very pleasant evening under the effects of the anaesthetic. He was awoken next morning by his erection tearing the sutures apart and there was a lot of blood.

This was to continue for 6 weeks, during which his knob was so sensitive that he couldn't bear anything to touch it. He walked around bandy-legged in pyjama bottoms and later gave me all his boxer shorts and switched to jock-straps, because if his cock rubbed against anything when he walked he got an erection. This was a novelty at first but soon became annoying.

Mike wouldn't let me see his cock until it had completely healed, because he said it looked like it had been caught in machinery. When he finally showed it to me I was surprised because it didn't look as though he'd been circumcised at all, merely that he'd finally pulled back his foreskin, now bunched up behind his knob.

While I was holding his cock in my hand he got hard, and I was again surprised to see the light band of skin around the top of his cock, much lighter than the skin on the rest of his body. This gave him a two-coloured penis which I didn't at first find very attractive.

Despite the loose skin he had been left, Mike was still very tight when hard, and he didn't like it at all. He said he couldn't get any friction going for a good wank. When I tried to do it for him he went completely soft. He'd developed a psychological block and worried that the, by now completely healed, scar would break.

While playing football, Mike pulled a muscle in his leg. At the gym, a Moroccan guy, I'll call him Mohammed, said he could give Mike a massage, and came round to our flat. As I was just starting a massage course myself, I asked if I could watch.

Mohammed stripped down to his shorts and asked Mike to undress completely and lie on the bed face down. When Mohammed began working on Mike's thigh I knew what was going to happen. Sure enough, when Mohammed asked Mike to turn over, Mike warned him he'd got an erection. Mohammed said he was used to it.

Mike's cock did look quite formidable. He was more than 8" in length and thicker than usual, and now, maybe a year after his operation, the rim of

his knob seemed to have flared out, giving the already big head a very erotic appearance, like a giant mushroom. But Mohammed just carried on with the massage.

When he'd finished, he asked Mike if he could put weight on his leg. Mike stood up. As his cock was also standing straight up, it couldn't be ignored any more. Mike mentioned he still got hard very easily because he'd been circumcised not long ago. Mohammed, who was likewise, asked Mike if he'd got used to it, and Mike replied that masturbation was still a problem. Mohammed said he could show Mike how to do it if he'd be interested. What developed was a very interesting evening of sex education!

Mohammed began by very gently rubbing his massage oil into Mike's cock, which of course was all that was required. Difficult as it may be to believe, we'd never considered the possibility of lubrication before because it had never been necessary when Mike had a foreskin. Mohammed used different kinds of strokes, focusing on the rim and the underside of the knob and, probably within 3 minutes, Mike shot the biggest load I think I've ever seen, straight up into the air.

Afterwards, Mike got further practice on Mohammed's cock, didn't succeed in making him come, but this was rectified during our subsequent threesomes. For the next few months, my sex life with Mike was probably better than ever. He wanted action constantly, and it was a major turn-on to me to have a big, and what I now regarded as a very beautiful cock thrust into my hand or mouth at all hours of the day and night.

Mike was now egging me on to get cut myself, but having seen the blood first-hand I was probably more scared than he'd been. I eventually relented, because at the age of 38 I thought why not try something different! I booked in at the same hospital.

Then, completely out of the blue, Mike and I broke up (he subsequently got married). By the time my operation was due nearly a year later, I was living with a woman who enjoyed playing with my foreskin. Circumcision no longer seemed important and I cancelled the date with the surgeon.

Today I'm very unsure what to do. On two occasions, partners have pulled down my pants and said, with obvious disappointment, "I was hoping that you'd been circumcised". This is why I'm a new member of the *Acorn Society* and interested in advice.

Gary – London

The following is an article published in *The Guardian* of 19th Feb. 1996 by a lady doctor named Dr Luisa Dillner, called:-

In Favour of the Foreskin

The young man pulled down his trousers and showed me his newly circumcised penis. "I'm not very happy," he said. "Is it supposed to look like this?" It was my first circumcision, and sadly, his penis bore no resemblance to the cosmetically perfect diagram in my operation notes. Somehow, I had left the skin of his penis twisted to one side. "I'm so sorry," I remember saying with complete sincerity. "Perhaps my consultant can do something about it." I never heard what he did, but at the next circumcision my consultant never left my side.

About 30,000 foreskins are removed in Britain each year, and in common with other surgical wounds, the circumcised penis can bleed, get infected, and be cosmetically unacceptable. Most circumcisions are carried out on children – around 7% of boys under 15 have had their foreskins removed. Religious rituals aside, only about one in six circumcisions is medically necessary. This week's *British Medical Journal* has a letter from 20 adult men [members of NORM(UK)], circumcised as children, arguing they have been harmed by the procedure. Circumcisions, they say, are rarely necessary, and it is unethical to amputate normal tissue from a normal child.

In America, the foreskin has become a political issue. Pressure groups campaign against its routine use (more than half of newborn boys are circumcised) and provide advice on reclaiming the foreskin for those men who feel sexually and emotionally incomplete without it.

Circumcision probably decreases the likelihood of cancer of the penis, but this is a rare disease and the risk is probably still negligible in uncircumcised men who wash behind their foreskins. Some studies suggest that circumcision protects against AIDS, but most research comes from Africa where the incidence of the disease is high, and the findings may not be applicable elsewhere.

In Britain, most medical circumcisions are carried out because the foreskin cannot be pulled back over the head of the penis. Occasionally this is a real problem caused by recurrent infections that have left the foreskin scarred and relatively immobile. More commonly, however, it is a self limiting condition. In Denmark, a doctor examined the penises of 2,000 Six to 17 year olds for up to nine years. At 6, nearly 1 in 10 boys couldn't retract their foreskins – by 17 this had fallen to 1%. Only 3 needed circumcision (1 in 700).

Most of my male friends who admit to being circumcised can't understand what all the fuss is about. But the doctors among them admit that the foreskin is discarded on shakier grounds than any other appendage. If our finger was infected, for example, amputation would seem a drastic solution.

The argument that the foreskin makes sex more pleasurable is vaguely supported by a recent study in the *British Journal of Urology*, which found the structure was special in its thinness, nerve supply, and sensitivity to light

touch. This was something that surgeon Sir James Spence suspected in the 1960's when he wrote to a doctor explaining his reluctance to circumcise a 7 month old boy. "Whatever mistakes nature makes about the structure of less essential organs such as the brain or stomach, in which she is not much interested, you can be sure she knows best about the genital organs."

R.B.W.

It's Never Too Late

While my story may not be of interest to all the members, it will have served its purpose if it saves a few doubting souls unnecessary hesitation.

On reaching puberty, I soon became aware of three facts, and these were to plague me for nearly forty years. First of all, I realised that I was very highly sexed; secondly, I had a painfully tight foreskin, and thirdly, as a result of this, I suffered from premature ejaculation, unable to 'last' more than thirty seconds while practising 'self-abuse' as it was called in those days.

On reflection, I was always at the doctor, even as a boy, with balanitis and phimosis, but neither he nor my father ever suggested circumcision. In fact, until the day my father died in 1961, I never received a word of advice on sexual matters. Don't forget, when I was a boy in the thirties, we were taught that masturbation impaired one's eyesight.

When the sexual revolution arrived in the sixties, intimate matters were more openly discussed, and I read an article about a male who had been circumcised in adulthood. However, I could never bring myself to discuss the possibility of such an operation with my doctor. Even if I had, I could never have summoned up the courage to face surgery.

In the autumn of 1979, I met a pleasant young man who had an extremely well-trained foreskin. He was completely empathetic to my problem and, after endless counselling over the next 6 months, I faced the dreaded operation at last. Not wanting my family, friends or colleagues to know I was having such an operation, I decided to have it done privately during a week's holiday, and wrote to the advice column of a magazine for the names and addresses of surgeons specialising in this field.

On Sunday afternoon, 11th May 1980, I supposedly left home for a week in Blackpool, but actually headed first of all for County Durham. I arrived at the Surgeon's home in early evening, and he asked me whether I wished a full circumcision with or without the removal of the frenulum, or a partial circumcision which would leave only the tip of the glans uncovered. When I settled for the full-cut and removal of the frenulum, he then explained the procedure for the operation to be performed under local anaesthetic.

Eleven injections were administered in and around my penis which were no worse than the jabs one gets at the dentist's, but when I got the final one on

the underside in the area of the frenulum, I nearly hit the roof. However, the pain was only momentary. The operation itself, using the plastibell technique, took one hour, completely devoid of pain, and it did not seem long until he was stitching and bandaging the wound. Because of the long journey from County Durham to Blackpool, it was pre-arranged that I would stay overnight at the Surgeon's home. After the operation was over, we watched TV for an hour or so, then I retired for the night. Once I was in bed, he came into my room and left some painkillers on the bedside table in case I needed them through the night. However, the next thing I remembered was being awakened for breakfast in the morning; the painkillers untouched.

At about 11.30 am., I set off for Blackpool, penis swathed in bandages, and crotch so fully padded that it turned heads as I walked along the promenade.

Apart from the injection into the frenulum, I did not suffer any pain at all; a slight discomfort, yes, and the stitches did strain a bit in the mornings when I awoke with my normal firm erection. But all I kept thinking was why I didn't have the operation years ago.

As instructed, the bandages and padding were kept on until I arrived home the following Sunday evening, when I had a hot bath and swabbed the wound with Milton. The stitches soon dissolved and my reconditioned member was ready for action in three weeks time.

I should state that the operation cost me £20 (Twenty Pounds), and I should like to have been able to recommend the Surgeon to any interested readers but, sadly, he is now deceased.

I could go on and on about how the operation changed my life at the age of 52, but that is enough for now. Suffice to say, adult circumcision has worked wonders for me; there is no comparison. Although I am now a senior citizen, I am still very active sexually and, for the past eight and a half years, have been in a wonderful and fulfilling relationship.

In conclusion, I would implore anyone with similar problems, or in any doubt, not to waste time and, at least, go for counselling. It wasn't too late for me but, remember, it's never too early either!

J.C. – Ayrshire

Self Indulgence 10

I really don't recall a time when I did not fondle myself. I suppose that I really became aware of the pleasures of both self and mutual masturbation when I was shipped off to a preparatory boarding school. My independent spirit dates from the same time. Memories of what actually happened in those days are hazy, but after moving up to the senior school things took on a regular

pattern. Being wartime, two boys at a time had to bath together, which added to the excitement.

Clandestine liaisons took place at any time of the day, frequently at the back of the class during boring periods, but it was after lights-out in the dormitory that most of the action occurred. The junior dormitories were the most active, containing about sixteen young teenage, developing boys, eager to flaunt their bodily attributes to their peers. All the boys in the dormitories took part in the activities at some time or other, but some were more active than others, and no one was ever forced to join in anything against his will. Most boys had a crafty wank most nights, either alone or slipping into bed with a mate. The actions were sensed rather than heard, as trouble would result if noise disturbed the Housemaster. One was naïve at the time and had not learnt the pleasures to which the body could be subjected, so our releases were confined to masturbation. Most boys were circumcised, those who weren't had easily retractable foreskins thanks to strict annual medical examinations. The art of masturbation was unsophisticated, usually resulting in a race to see who would ejaculate first. The method was generally the same in all cases, with the shaft being vigorously rubbed with the skin being kept back behind the rim of the glans. The glans would also often be massaged using saliva to provide lubricant. As one progressed upwards through the school, one's overt sexual activity declined, being confined to one or two special friends or solo.

Over the years I have enjoyed, unashamedly, solo masturbation as a relief from stress, or just for its own pleasure.

I employ a variety of techniques, or perhaps more correctly, variations on a theme, depending on how much time I have to indulge myself, and the ambient conditions. When time and ambience permit, I prefer to lie naked on my bed. I start off by gently fondling my balls, which has the effect of making my member stiffen quite rapidly. Then I progress to massaging the glans gently with the palm of one hand or the other, the effect being slightly different with each hand. Then I rub the shaft skin all the way up and down, keeping it back from the glans. The hand that is not doing this is used to stroke my sides or nipples. Being gentle in these actions I can make them last for a long while without getting too excited or losing my erection. Variations include changing hands to give a different feeling, gripping the shaft firmly fully in my closed hand with the palm below, then the other way with the palm above, using first one hand then the other. To give greater stimulation, with either two fingers and thumb or full fist, I rub back and forth over the glans, particularly the rim, whilst holding the free skin well back down the shaft. Too much of this action though, without lubrication, tends to induce soreness. I can keep up these various actions for some considerable time, providing I don't do them too forcefully. Occasionally I force the skin to come just over the rim, which gives a cosy feeling. When I am ready to climax I lubricate the glans and hand, usually with baby oil, and rapidly massage the glans and area immediately

behind it with my closed hand. The oil greatly increases the sensitivity and a highly pleasurable orgasm quickly results.

If I don't have much time, or feel like only a quick wank, I will remain standing, and holding the free skin well back so that it can't move, vigorously rub the rim and area just behind the glans with my closed hand, or with an O made of forefinger and thumb. This method brings about a very quick orgasm.

The Talisman

Learning

I was quite convinced at the age of eleven that all girls were sappy, and this was reinforced by a particular couple of girls of my age who would whisper to each other and giggle whenever they saw me. I was at a holiday camp with my parents at the time and dead bored being left to my own devices. Anyway, one day as the girls approached me, instead of giggling, they both suddenly raised their frocks up to their chins – to reveal shamelessly the fact that they were both devoid of knickers, and treated me to an unobstructed view of their bare bald fannies, before they ran off. I was shocked, excited and humiliated at the same time with this unladylike behaviour – I'd probably be a candidate for counselling in this day and age – but I was lost in wonderment at the stark simplicity and neatness of the female anatomy, since I had no sisters of my own and was a bit hazy about such things.

A couple of days later I met up with the pair again sitting on a gate, waiting for me to come by. Wondering if they still had no knickers on, and hoping for another chance to find out, I stopped and talked to them. As we chatted I saw them watching me slyly as first one then the other hitched her knees up, letting their frocks ride up, and I realised with yet more excitement, as they let their knees separate, that both girls were still bare under their skirts, and were deliberately letting me see their private parts again. "What are you staring at?" asked one of them, taunting me. I asked her why they didn't wear any knickers. "Mind your own business", she said, and then accused me of rudeness for looking at her fanny – can you imagine the cheek of her! The saucy pair then made it clear that it wasn't just a matter of feminine exhibitionism, but they had an ulterior motive. I was invited, once I'd had a good look, to repay the privilege in the same way and show them my cock. Being a naturally modest sort of bloke, with no experience of this sort of thing, I refused.

"Oh, come on!", said one of the girls, "don't be an old spoilsport". When I still refused, one of them had a quick whispering session with the other and told me, if I did so, they would show me how they could pee backwards. The mere thought of such a thing had me trembling with shock – girls were not supposed to let blokes see them peeing. But my curiosity got the better of me and I agreed. Both girls then got down on all fours, presenting the interesting aspect of their rear view, split top and bottom by bum cheeks and fanny,

before loosing off two powerful untidy jets straight out behind them. I only just managed to jump clear to avoid being soaked!

By now I was beginning to enter into the spirit of the thing, and anxious to show that I wasn't totally hopeless, I let them undo my zip and extract my penis. They then insisted that I do a pee for them, and since I thought that it was the mark of a gentleman to always pull his foreskin back for a pee, I started to do so. I was immediately told to pull it forward again, and at this point the girls revealed their true intentions. Apparently, one of them had a circumcised brother, and when she heard the other talk about how she had seen a boy play balloons with his foreskin, she was dead curious. And so I was instructed to close off the tip of my skin and produce the biggest balloon possible, which I did to the delight of the young innocent who had never seen such a thing before.

The point of all this is that it raised the matter of circumcision, about which I had very little notion, never having seen a circumcised willy. A short time later I won a scholarship to the local grammar school and it was then that I discovered more about the alternative cock configuration, since half a dozen boys in my form were circumcised. The boys themselves made no big deal of this fact, but we did have discussion with the sports master who said it was a good thing – it promoted cleanliness, and “all the best people had it done”. This made me feel terrible. If it was such a good thing, why had my parents deprived me of it? It was at this point that I began to develop a real distaste for my own foreskin and wished I could have a bare acorn like the others.

In the early days of telly, people were still used to making their own entertainment and my parents, who were both keen musicians, used to hold musical evenings every so often. A handsome lady of about thirty-something used to sing soprano. I found her easy to talk to and she was always ready to lend a sympathetic ear, even to a nervous sixteen-year-old. Of course, there was no question of telling her about my phobia about my foreskin – I'd rather have died than talk about it.

What I did raise, though, was sunbathing. We lived in an old Georgian house with a double roof which made an ideal suntrap. During the school holidays I used to go up there and sunbathe, secure in the knowledge that it was totally secluded from view. As a consequence, I managed always to sport a tan and the woman asked me how I managed it. I told her about my secret sunbath up on the roof and she said how envious she was – she'd love to get a nice tan. So I took courage and asked her up. She looked a bit doubtful at first, but finally agreed.

So on the day, I set the place up with a couple of towels and tube of suntan cream, and led her up. We both stripped off to our underwear, and with a sigh of contentment she laid back in the sun. After a couple of minutes I suggested the suntan oil and she immediately agreed, asking me to rub it in her back. I started at the top, rubbing it in evenly down past her bra fastening to the edge

of her skimpy panties, and then down the backs of her thighs. The softness of a woman's skin, and the perfume of her body, excited me, and I allowed my fingers to brush the inside of her thighs, causing an intake of breath from her. As I moved down I realised with consternation that I had developed an intractable and unconcealable erection, and when I finally finished, she looked at it with a little flush on her face and smiled.

The next week we had another sunbathing session – at her suggestion – and I had a feeling that something exciting was going to happen. This time, after half an hour, she asked me if I would mind if she slipped her bra off – she would really like to get her top brown. She then urged me to take my pants off: we were both adults and nothing I had would shock her. I wasn't so sure, since I was very conscious of my foreskin, and was quite convinced that such a well-brought-up woman would prefer a circumcised penis. I needn't have worried – after a quick glance at it she paid no more attention and I began to relax, although the sight of her heavy and shapely breasts made me tremble with yearnings I only half understood. Once again I was enlisted to spread the cream over her back, only when I had finished, she turned over, shut her eyes and told me to do her front!

By now I was riding on the crest of a sexual emotion stronger than any previously felt and was very conscious of my rock-hard penis bobbing about, with the tip just showing through the stretched foreskin opening as I gently rubbed the oil into her breasts. She was now breathing quite heavily and, with her eyes still shut, she said, "Oh well...", and hooking her thumbs into her panties, slid them off. The invitation was obvious, and with trembling fingers I rubbed oil into her smooth rounded belly, over the tops of her thighs and then, taking courage at her obvious state of expectation, allowed my fingers to run the length of her pretty vulva as her thighs moved apart to make my job easier. She gasped as they slipped inside, and at that point my excitement went over the top and to my horror I found myself spurting all over her. She instantly realised what had happened and burst out laughing which really broke me up, and I started crying with humiliation. She was instantly all sympathy, said it was all her fault and pressed my face into her breasts as she tried to comfort me.

I soon calmed down and astounded her by immediately getting another invincible erection (I couldn't do it now, worse luck!) and she remarked admiringly what a virile young man I was. At this point I took my courage in my hands and asked her if she wasn't offended by my long foreskin. "Whatever for?" she said. I told her about what the master at school had said and how I had felt bad about my foreskin ever since. She laughed shortly and told me not to be silly: foreskins were perfectly natural and desirable. Most normal girls would expect to find one on a man and might well feel disappointed if he didn't have one. She said she preferred a foreskin for a lot of reasons, but the main one was that she didn't think nature could be improved upon. She told me that as long as I kept it clean, no girl could possibly complain. As

she spoke she sought out my penis with her hand and gently tugged the skin back. She then told me to lie back and concentrate on my foreskin, taking note of the feelings it afforded me, as she pulled the skin back over the head and then started slowly rubbing it to and fro. My thoughts centred on the excitement of the sensation caused by her soft hand, and eventually I came like a firecracker, swooning completely as I did so. I opened my eyes to find her staring at me with a flushed smile on her face. She ordered me never to feel bad about my foreskin again. I haven't!

J.C.

Answer to Observations, 1/96

It would seem that you are shy to talk about circumcision. I am just the opposite, and very often get into a conversation on the subject both with men and women. I feel it's a subject that should be discussed more. So many men want to be circumcised, and a lot need to be, but they put it off rather than discuss it with someone because they are too embarrassed to talk about it.

I have corresponded with many men and women since I was circumcised, and have received many letters afterwards from men who have gone ahead and had the operation after our correspondence. I personally had to be circumcised 5 years ago at the age of 59, the reason being that I had a very long foreskin which rolled up when having intercourse with my lady friend, and made things very uncomfortable for her.

The surgeon took off two and a half inches of skin, but unfortunately this was not enough, and I am at present looking for a surgeon to take off even more, as I still have some loose skin behind my glans which my doctor says needs to be removed. My doctor happens to be a very young lady G.P., therefore I get a woman's view of the situation, which is always a good thing. I also have a step-daughter who is a staff nurse in a large hospital, so you see I get very sound advice from the female side.

I must say that since my circumcision I have enjoyed every minute of the situation. The feel of a naked glans against your pants is much nicer without that roll of skin behind one's glans.

I watched my circumcision being done, and it was a great feeling to see the surgeon throw that piece of foreskin onto the table. I could hardly believe that at last it had happened. I only wish that I had been done years ago as a youngster when it was advised, but I was a bit chicken in those days and did not want nurses looking at my penis.

I have had a few prices from private clinics to remove the rest of my foreskin, but they are all too expensive, some at £500, and one at £750, and some doctors who would normally do circumcisions won't do a tightening-up job,

only a complete operation. If anyone knows of a good surgeon in the south of England who would be likely to do a second circumcision at a reasonable price, I would be very pleased to hear from them.

As you can tell from my letter, I am very much in favour of circumcision, and I think all males should have the chance to experience it on the NHS without having to pay high prices for the privilege.

C.P. – Wiltshire

Chad Varah

I was most interested to hear Chad Varah, the clergyman who founded *The Samaritans*, discussing sex in general, and masturbation in particular, during a record programme on *Radio 3* recently. He was referring, of course, to the educational work he did amongst the ignorant in the early days, and said that it was a great pity that, in his youth, masturbation was considered to be a mortal sin, would make you go blind etc. He said that he knew this was untrue because he was "...an enthusiastic practitioner"! Such a confession from a revered reverend gentleman on *Radio 3* just shows how times have changed!

A.S. – Scotland

I've been sent the following article by several members, to whom I would like to give my thanks and ask them not to stop sending them in, thinking that others would do it. It might work out that no-one sends them in, which would be a complete loss.

The article is by Dr James Le Fanu in *The Sunday Telegraph*. I've taken out the first part which is about surgery on a woman's goitre. Her whole thyroid was taken out leaving her to take pills to replace it for the rest of her life, which on reflection he thought was not really necessary.

My Change of Heart About Circumcision

Since this experience, I have speculated about how many other treatments which I routinely recommend, and which appear quite straightforward, might be unnecessary or have undesirable consequences that I could not imagine. An obvious example, and currently a contentious issue, involves circumcision.

Two or three times a year, concerned mothers ask me to inspect their son's penis (or twinkle, hosepipe, nudger, little man and a host of other euphemisms) whose foreskin is tight and cannot be retracted, and for which the obvious treatment is circumcision.

My opinion, however, has changed radically since reading an impassioned article by a Dr John Warren in the *British Medical Journal*, in which he claimed that “the foreskin is as important to the penis as the eyelid to the eye”. The effect of his being circumcised when young, he argued, was that “throughout childhood and into adult life, the tip of the penis was always uncomfortable, especially when rubbed against clothing”. Once married, he had observed “remarkably little sensation in that region whose skin seemed to thicken with advancing years”.

To substantiate his argument that circumcision is unnecessary, Dr Warren cited several scientific papers that show, first of all, that the “non-retractile” foreskin became “retractile” in most boys by adolescence and, secondly, that with the help of a local anaesthetic cream the adhesions around the foreskin could be gently separated off, thus avoiding the need for an operation.

There are, of course, compelling religious reasons why some people might wish their sons to be circumcised, but the medical justification is virtually non-existent. None the less, family doctors continue to recommend the operation, and surgeons to perform it, for no better reason than that the “obvious solution” to a tight foreskin is that it should be removed.

I would still be slightly sceptical about the adverse consequences of circumcision were it not that Dr Warren also described the effect of a manoeuvre by which the foreskin can be restored. This entails stretching the penile skin forward as far as it will go, and then strapping it in position with sticky tape to which a ball-bearing is attached, exerting a continuous gravitational pull.

After a couple of months, the stretched skin forms a substitute foreskin and, as a result, Dr Warren has found that “the tip of the penis becomes softer and steadily more sensitive, intercourse becomes much easier, with a great increase in sexual enjoyment”.

This increase in the sensitivity described by Dr Warren offers quite convincing proof that the foreskin has an important function. In retrospect, it seems remarkable that doctors should have thought for so long that it is expendable.

[Dr Warren is the driving force behind NORM(UK), a group devoted to foreskins, which has been highlighted previously in these columns and to which a few of our members belong. From all the knowledge we have, might there be a case for allowing young men, after giving them all the relevant information, especially those with a very sensitive glans, to have a circumcision if they so wish, on the NHS. With a not too tight circumcision, they could then, when the glans loses its sensitivity in later life, revert to restoring their foreskin. Just a thought! — D.A.]

Huge Helmet

Recently, a close friend of mine visited from Canada. He was originally from Somerset, but emigrated to Canada at the age of 19. We got very drunk one night and the topic swung to sexual preferences/interests. I said that being gay (as was he) I could only suck and wank cut men. His response surprised me. He said, "Oh, that's good, because I'm fully circumcised back".

I asked him if this was done as a baby, and he said not. He had developed a very tight foreskin as a teenager because his helmet enlarged a lot during puberty. So much so, that he was unable to retract it past the first half centimetre of helmet. He went to his GP who suggested gentle but progressive massage to help the foreskin back. Mike did this for six months, to no avail. He then emigrated to Toronto. On the campus there, he found a college doctor who examined his penis and said that he definitely needed circumcision. This was done under local anaesthetic about twenty years ago.

I thought this story amazing, as I'd always imagined Mike to be uncut. I asked to see the job they did and was surprised when he agreed. He has the most bulbous, large helmet I've ever seen. Even when flaccid it's really overhanging the shaft of his cock. He asked me if I thought his circumcision was 100% necessary. I told him, definitely, yes. He preferred the look of my cock, which is more in proportion with a smaller head. But I prefer his. He says that he has never met anyone with a more bulbous cock than his, and I believe him.

I asked him if he ever got looks from people when he goes cycling in his lycra shorts. He said that he'd never thought about it, but yes, his shorts were rather revealing. When your helmet is that large it's difficult to hide it away.

He likes being circumcised because it's clean, looks good, feels much better than before, and because if he wasn't, then we wouldn't have a mutual DIY session. However, he does wonder what coming with a foreskin would have been like, as he never wanked before his circumcision operation.

On balance though, Mike prefers roundheads, that is, having sex with them, and actually being one himself.

Dr Roundhead

[This article was accompanied by a couple of drawings which, unfortunately, we were unable to reproduce.

They showed the glans to be 8cm from tip to corona on the top; and 10cm diameter at the corona. The shaft being 12cm long with the circumcision line at the coronal sulcus. — D.A.]

Best Friend Revelations

What more sexually exciting could happen than a gay boy's straight best friend asking him when he got his cock cut. Well, that happened to me at the end of 1995. My friend Sam, who I'd known for six years, asks me, at this friend's party, where I got my circumcision performed and how much it cost. Sam has a large helmet and very tight orifice to his foreskin. He can't retract the foreskin at all when erect.

His younger brother also has the same problem apparently, and Sam has given him the information I gave him. Sam has reluctantly decided that there is nothing else for it but to be circumcised. He's not quite sure what style to have though, having a large chunky knob. I think that a tight cut just behind his corona would suit him, as this would ensure a tight and hard erection. His cock is much larger erect than flaccid, just like mine, and I told him about the appearance of many folds of redundant skin when soft if the circumciser isn't brave enough to take the correct amount off.

Well, this conversation with me really ended my 1995 well, and he might even need me to drive him to the clinic and home again after the operation, because he doesn't want his family to know until it's healed. It looks like I am giving him an exposed knob for his birthday. I said I'd pay if he gets it done by the same doctor that circumcised me.

Dr Roundhead

Adult Circumcision Video

The video of a young adult member being circumcised, of which some members saw a preview at the Autumn gathering, is now completed. It shows the state of the penis immediately before the circumcision; the whole of the circumcision operation and various stages of the healing during the first month after the operation.

This unique video is currently available only in UK PAL format – a US NTSC version is planned for later. To order your copy please send a cheque or postal order for £15 to Vernon Quaintance, c/o the Acorn PO Box. The price includes the tape, postage and packing to any UK or EU destination.

Illustrations Welcome

Illustrations for articles are welcome, but to enable us to reproduce them decently please put them on one side only of a separate sheet of plain white paper and do them in black and white only. Annotations, such as dimensions, should be put onto a photocopy or tracing of your drawing. We will then typeset the information onto the illustration. — *Vernon & David*

ACORN

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 David Acorn

Editorial

Since coming back from the AGM and meeting at Croydon I've been lying flat on my back, unable to sit in a chair, walk or stand, with a trapped nerve in the lumbar area. It's been either too painful to move or too drowsy when painkillers take effect. So nothing has got done. I've managed to send out information to a few enquiries for membership and that's all. The last month has seemed like a year.

Anyway, I'm writing this in longland and the two others on the editorial team are stepping in to see if we can get an edition off.

The meeting at Croydon was, as usual, very enjoyable, meeting all the familiar faces again. Unfortunately there was only one member there who hadn't attended before, and he came from France. Another newcomer came to join. The pleasant thing I find at the meetings is that once everyone starts to talk about their favourite appendage, they can't stop. I suppose it's a relief to be able to talk to someone about it at all.

A couple of points here. We have had problems in contacting Dean, the treasurer, and we hope that nothing has happened to him. To

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Letters for forwarding should be marked in pencil with the recipient's identifier. They should be stamped 1st class and be enclosed in an envelope addressed as above.

safeguard things, I have retained all the membership cheques until we know more, so if you notice that they haven't come through on your bank statement, don't worry.

The other is that there are always a lot of letters for me to send on to other members who have contributed to the newsletter. I would ask that all of these should be open letters and published for all, which is what we're all about, unless of course they are for private reasons like meeting up.

Finally, please note that the postcode for our PO Box has changed – The new one is quoted in the Contents panel on page 1.

David Acorn

Penis Preferences

I feel I must comment on the T.V. programme It's A Boy. This was a very one-sided point of view, I think all the patients that took part must have been anti-circumcision. One wonders why they had their babies circumcised in the first place, could it be that they wanted to see what it was like before being circumcised themselves.

People seem to have developed a phobia against circumcision in this country, No man should deny himself or his sons the ultimate pleasure and cleanliness or the sense of well-being that circumcision bestows, I'm sure the trend would reverse if people were much better informed of the results and the benefits.

I myself put up with a long dangling foreskin for too long, I was circumcised at the age of 59 and have enjoyed every minute of the result since. The only part of this programme that was any good was the fact that Dr. Sifman and his colleagues were right, I saw him myself once and he certainly knew what he was talking about.

I watched my own circumcision being done, and the relief that I got was really great when I saw that foreskin being cut off and put on the table at the side of the operating table, was I glad to be rid of it?

I am also a smoothie; being circumcised and hairless really gives the feeling of being completely clean and really naked when I go to the various Naturist Clubs, and I feel very pleased that I have been sensible enough to be circumcised.

I think it is now time to have a programme on Adult circumcision and listen to the people that are in favour of it, male and female, because it affects both sexes, or if not perhaps we could have a Video made up showing close ups of adult circumcisions and the benefits of it, also pictures of men with long and tight foreskins and showing the problems which arise with them. I am always ready to show people the result of my circumcision, either in the flesh or one of the many photographs that I could send them, I will do anything to

convince people, as I think that it is a very worthwhile operation, I certainly have benefited from it in many ways. If anyone would like to contact me please do so through Acorn and I will reply by return.

C.P. – Wiltshire

Di's Attitude

After all the merciless attention of the national press covering the life and loves of Princess Diana, a short human interest comment with a special slant to interest *Acorn* readers should not come amiss.

Fact: Princess Diana is very strongly anti-circumcision, as evidenced by the authoritative reports that she resisted the long-term royal tradition for circumcising all royal males, which goes back to some time during Queen Victoria's reign. As a result, her two sons' foreskins were spared, and when Prince William ascends the throne he will be the first British king with a foreskin since George IV.

Fact: Prince Charles most definitely was circumcised and, since Princess Di is widely reputed to have entered matrimony in a virginal state, she will have experienced sex only with a circumcised man, at least before her marriage finally broke down.

Surmise: Since her dislike of circumcision is so intense as to make her flout the very powerful influences of the royal establishment, she can only have deplored her husband's altered state: enough perhaps to add fuel to her marital discontent? (And incidentally causing the establishment's implacable dislike of her). It is therefore reasonable to assume that, in seeking love, she would be only too happy to find that the object of her intentions has a foreskin. How successful in this search is she likely to have been?

So far, there are only two men who are reliably reported to have enjoyed the Princess's favours, and both were army officers. The first was a cavalry officer and, although born in the sixties, may well have been subjected to the residual upper class tendency to circumcise, but with a likelihood of 50/50.

The other army officer is another matter entirely, being a man of the people from a service corps background, which would be carefully avoided by the upper crust. He was born in 1967, and his parents are most unlikely to have had the opportunity, or desire, to have him circumcised. So the chances are that the Princess is able to make an objective comparison between the two states. Wouldn't it be great if we could get her to report to *Acorn*, though?

One last point. How likely is it that Prince Phillip is circumcised? Greek parentage, born outside the UK. Think about it!

M.D.

One Good Turn

I've known my friend Jan for years, so when she asked me to look after her husband Simon while she went off to a meeting I was only too happy to oblige. The poor guy was convalescing in bed after severe scalds to his hands and was swathed up to his elbows in cumbersome burn dressings. He was also severely depressed and in a certain amount of pain.

So I made him a cup of tea and we spent the morning chatting and watching the box. During the afternoon he cheered up a bit but started fidgeting as though uncomfortable, and I finally asked him what was wrong. He said he was busting for a wee and asked if I could help him down to the loo. I noticed a bottle next to his bed and suggested he use that. He looked embarrassed and said he couldn't manage with his hands bandaged. I told him not to be silly: I'd been married five years and nothing he had could come as a surprise to me.

I couldn't have been more wrong. Having confidently overridden his objections and pulled down his bedclothes, I was amazed – and curious – to see the biggest, fattest penis I had ever seen poking through the slit in his pyjamas. Amazed because of its size, but curious too because, unlike my husband who was circumcised, he was equipped with an impressively long foreskin with a protruding underlip at the opening at its tip. I couldn't help it, I just stood and stared at this fine fat cylinder of swelling flesh, and while I watched, it reached further and further down his leg as it lengthened.

But then, recalling the job in hand, so to speak, I hastily grabbed the bottle and stuffed his stiffening penis into the neck, unable to think of anything suitable to say. Unfortunately, I hadn't reckoned on how rigid his enormous erection could be, so I was absolutely gobsmacked when I saw the bottle, admittedly made of plastic, rise up from between his thighs and wobble about ridiculously over his erection. I couldn't help it, I sat there killing myself with laughter while he stared at me reproachfully with a red face. I managed to collect myself and asked him what he was waiting for, whereupon he told me that he couldn't pass a drop while erect. He also said he was now fairly desperate. I didn't know what to do. I couldn't just cover him up again with that great bottle wagging about on his willy, and it wouldn't subside while it was in my full view.

As I stood there choking back the giggles, I gradually came to the realisation that the only way to make his cock relax enough to let him relieve his desperate need was to give him a quick come. I felt awful about doing such a thing to my best friend's husband, but what else could I do? I was also feeling quite a thrill of excitement at the sight of such a big sexy penis, and the prospect of handling it turned me on even more.

I pulled the bottle off with a plop and, warning him not to breathe a word to Jan, seized his big willy in my hand and started wanking the loose cover of

skin backwards and forwards over his knob, marvelling at the abundance of it in comparison with my husband's taut and skinless penis.

He watched pop-eyed as I milked away at it, occasionally pulling the skin right down to reveal the shiny purple policeman's helmet, until eventually he came with a roar of achievement, spurting his essence clear across the room.

Minutes later, his willy subsided to its original size, and I once again threaded it into the neck of the bottle. Soon after, he managed a quick spurt of pee, but what I hadn't realised was that his inch and a half of foreskin had got folded up and was trapped by the bottle neck facing the wrong way. Consequently, his urine built up inside his foreskin until the pressure overcame the resistance – it emerged straight back out of the bottle and wet his stomach and thighs. What a cock-up! Frantically I whipped the bottle off, and as I laid his foreskin straight in the neck, he cut loose with a powerful jet, nearly filling the bottle.

I had to dry Simon's pyjamas, which were soaked, and when Jan returned, I thought I'd better explain how they got wet, but without mentioning how I'd dealt with his erection. She merely laughed and said his foreskin was a bit long – perhaps she would have to fix up for him to be circumcised. "No fear!", he said vehemently. "Only joking", she laughed, and patted his penis affectionately.

P.S. A bloke at work who I am friendly with, gets *Acorn* – I think it's great.

Cynthia G.

Circumcision Relief

From UPI Health Notes

Circumcision doesn't have to hurt. An anesthetic nerve block of the dorsal penile nerve is a safe and effective way to alleviate a male infant's pain during circumcision according to Minnesota physicians. In a study of 1,022 infants circumcised using the nerve block only twelve had complications: eleven had small bruises and one patient bled at the injection site. This study should assuage the 1989 concerns of the American Academy of Pediatrics, which acknowledged that the nerve block could alleviate pain but questioned its safety.

Lisa Seachrist – UPI Science Writer

Re: Observations by Anon

I am not so sure that I agree with Anon's thoughts (1/96) that the five-inchers and less may be 'the non-randy types who are unconcerned about sex'. I'm not over-endowed myself and I have always expressed a very strong sexual preference for small cocked guys. I've believed this to be mainly a personal matter based on the fact that I feel less intimidated when faced, often at eye-level, depending on the activity involved, with a small, rather than a monster, dick.

I'm beginning to wonder, though, whether my preference may be because the smaller guys are actually more randy, rather than less so, due to their determination to prove that size really doesn't matter, and they can put up a performance which equals, or even exceeds, that of the big boys. Of course, by choice, I have more small partners than big ones, so I can't make a fully critical comparison. However, I am sure that in the sauna I go to, the smaller guys are a pretty horny lot!...and there are plenty of them.

Ray Hamble

My Circumcision — 1 Year On

My circumcision a year ago was the subject of an article in *Acorn* 5/95. That article was written just over a month after the operation and so I thought readers might be interested in an update now that a whole year has passed.

When I went back to work one week after the operation I had slight discomfort, having been resting for the previous week. However I was nearly healed by the end of that week and the discomfort just faded away.

The scar line is about $\frac{1}{4}$ way back down the shaft from the glans, leaving the maximum amount of inner skin and taking off the maximum amount of outer skin. It is comfortably tight when erect but still fairly loose whilst flaccid.

My glans is fairly sensitive so it does not take long for an ejaculation to happen, whereas it took longer before I was circumcised.

When I look back at being circumcised I am glad that I was done, especially since I work in a hot environment and the weather last summer was exceptionally hot. I found it much more comfortable without my foreskin than other summers with it.

The video which we made of the operation is now available (see advert in *Acorn* 2/96). I am sorry that it took so long to be edited due to a combination of personal circumstances for each of us involved.

K.H. - London

An Unnatural Drawback — And Some Questions

You are right, David. The foreskin should be left well alone until the boy is 4-5 years old as its development continues after birth in most cases, not being readily retractable for several years. I was told that my mother had struggled unceasingly to retract my foreskin from birth onwards. Though my penis bled, that did not ease her fervour at bath time. “It had to be kept clean”, she insisted, a chronic smegmaphobe.

Preputial retraction is only 4% in newborns, rising to about 20% at six months. Even by a year or two old, only half the foreskins are retractable, and some not fully so. A good 20% remain tight or unretractable into late infancy and early childhood.

The fanatical seeking out of smegma in intimate, tiny folds seems futile before 5-6 years of age. Perhaps that maternal abuse is psychological relief from the possible harmful effect of smegma on the cervix ... a kind of generation gap revenge on the male! Smegma was found in a Danish survey to be present in only 1% of 6-9 year olds, rising to 2% at 10-11, 6% at 12-13 and 8% with 14-17 year olds. Even 92% of adolescents were found smegma free when examined.

If any glans should be scarred, mine should. Closely examined the dorsal aspect is uniformly striated when flaccid, this lessening on the frenal aspect to silky smooth where the frenulum was once situated. From what I can remember my glans surface looked no different from so many others paraded in stumpy nakedness during school showers. The real variation lay in the circumcision scars themselves, from pre clamp and Plastibell freehand surgery!

The blunt probe used before circumcision (and to facilitate retraction) when carefully applied eases the layers apart without inflicting injury to the glans. Without full retraction after a dorsal slit of about 1cm, neat modern methods of circumcision would not be possible using clamps or bells. That way those requiring circumcision would be ‘beautifully circumcised’ rather than hacked about. As Shakespeare put it: “There’s a divinity that shapes our ends, rough hew them how we may.”

Whilst writing the above, I have been doing some further thinking. I have always wondered what it feels like to possess and handle a complete penis, especially when urinating, retracting or masturbating. In common with roundheads shorn early in life, and having never consciously experienced a preputial presence, I seek answers from those permitted to retain their foreskin.

1. Are involuntary sliding movements of foreskin both to and fro pleasurable, even to the point of distraction?
2. What does it feel like to manually retract a foreskin? Is the feeling more intense when done by another?

3. How does the exposed glans react to exposure to our movement, handling, washing and showering?
4. During urinating is the preputial sac and glans stimulated by the warmth and flow? How does it feel?
5. Is the inner surface of the foreskin more sensitive than the outside, and does the sensitivity vary in places?
6. Is the moist inner surface of the foreskin as sensitive as the moist surface of the glans, excepting the frenal area?
7. Is masturbation more foreskin or glans orientated?

Would anyone wish to sacrifice the answers to the seven questions for a dry, relatively insensitive glans and prominent scar. Answers to me c/o *Acorn* or for publication as I'm sure some roundheads would like to know what they're missing. Perhaps there's an eighth question. 'What are the disadvantages of having a foreskin?' (from a possessor's point of view.)

Anthony – North Devon

Re: Questions — 2/96

In reply to CW – Wales's letter about ejaculation, the usual volume of ejaculate is 3 - 5ml. This normally contains anywhere between 150 million and 300 million sperm cells. Even this vast number occupy only about 5% of the total amount of fluid. The rest is made up mainly by the liquid produced by the prostate gland with perhaps 5% or less being made by the so-called Cowpers Glands in the urethra.

The amount of spunk produced will increase only very slightly after a period of abstinence but can fall off dramatically if a second (and any subsequent) orgasm is induced within a short time of the first. The phrase 'short time' in this context can vary from person to person and even in the same person from day to day. Sometimes recovery between one orgasm and the next can be as quick as 15 - 20 minutes though, especially in older people, it can be 15 - 20 hours or even longer.

Some men produce considerably more than the average amount of semen. I have seen as much as 15ml at a single ejaculation and the massage afforded to the prostate gland during anal fingering or fucking can increase this still further. On the other hand the volume tends to decline as age advances. Usually a prostate operation dramatically reduces the amount of semen but this may be less marked nowadays because often it is only necessary to partially remove the gland using an instrument passed along the penis. Vasectomy does not visibly affect the amount of spunk produced.

Impotence (the inability to get an erection) doesn't necessarily prevent either orgasm or ejaculation but the 'squirting force' is reduced in such circumstances. The power behind the squirt and the number of squirts per orgasm depend upon the strength of the muscles of ejaculation and can vary considerably from individual to individual though I doubt that anyone has precise percentage figures in direct response to your original questioner. As with volume, age also affects the squirting force. As a youngster I could lie on my back in bed and easily hit the bedhead behind me. Nowadays, at 63, I'm lucky if I reach my nipples.

And finally, a very personal question of my own. I am a sexual 'oralist' and am not averse to swallowing my own semen. I know this practice is not all that uncommon but I should be interested to learn of the experience of others in this respect. The more outspoken may have their own tales to tell on the subject but it would make an interesting count if all members were prepared to send an anonymous slip of paper saying simply 'Yes' or 'No' with regard to their own indulgence to David Acorn at the usual address.

Ray Hamble

Circumcision Made Easy

Malaysian Product Promises Easier Circumcision

The *Tara KLamp*, invented by Malaysian doctor Gurcharan Singh, uses a bloodless and less painful 'clamp and cut' technique that allows the patient to go back to work or school after surgery, if he so desires.

He can wear the device under his pants if he wishes, for up to four days, and due to the *KLamp's* 'total occlusion' technique, the patient is also not restricted from bathing or any other activities – well, most other – since the wound is blocked out from the environment.

For doctors, the *Tara KLamp* promises a faster turnaround time and, say its distributors, prevents cross-infection.

"The main advantage is that patients now don't have to wait for the long holidays to get circumcised – they only need a long weekend," said Erwin Soo, senior manager (wholesale division) of Apex Pharmacy International Pte Ltd, which is marketing the *KLamp* in Singapore.

Dr Singh, in his early 40s, left his practice a few years ago to start his own company called Taramedic, which develops medical products.

The idea for the *KLamp* was developed "a long time ago", said Mr Soo, but the product only hit the market after it won the bronze award at Mindex, Malaysia's annual medical products exhibition earlier this year.

The *Tara KLamp*, which has been fully approved in Malaysia, is now used in hospitals and private clinics. Sales in Malaysia have since crossed 1,000 units and the aim in Singapore, for a start, is to achieve a penetration of 60 per cent of the 3,500 to 5,000 circumcisions performed among the Muslim community each year.

The *Tara KLamp* comes in a pre-sterilised kit complete with the device and special surgical blade. Sizes range from 'infant' to 'adult', specifically. Each *KLamp* costs from \$23 to \$26, depending on the size.

BT Online News – Southeast Asia 13/12/1995
Collected from the Internet by V.Q. – London

Re: It's Never Too Late

I refer to my story published under my pseudonym 'J.C. – Ayrshire' on page 16 in Issue 2/96 and have been asked if I also penned 'Learning' by J.C. on Page 9.

This has possibly caused some confusion as the themes could be taken as contradictory. If this generates any correspondence, perhaps you could mention in the next issue that there are two J.C.'s.

J.C. – Ayrshire

The Plastibell Technique

Just so that all, who are unaware of just how a circ is done using the Plastibell, have the facts, I post the instructions below: in broad terms those for the Gomco clamp are the same except that in step 8 the clamp is applied rather than a ligature. It is not a 'minor snip'; see notes at end.

1. Stretch the preputial opening.
2. Break preputial adhesions* with a probe or closed forceps.
3. Make a small dorsal slit of 0.5 to 1.0 cm in the prepuce. Keep the initial slit short; it can always be extended. To minimize bleeding crush the line of incision with artery forceps for one minute. Take particular care not to place forceps or scissors in the urethral meatus. Before cutting or crushing, lift the prepuce from the glans and visualize the meatus.
4. Separate the ends of the slit with a pair of artery forceps to reveal the glans. if necessary, extend the cut to expose the coronal sulcus.
5. Free any remaining adhesions* and lay the prepuce back (inside out) to expose the entire glans.

6. Slip the Plastibell of appropriate size over the glans as far as the coronal sulcus. It should fit over the glans easily; too small a bell may injure the glans.
7. Place the prepuce over the bell to hold it in place.
8. Tie the ligature as firmly as possible around the prepuce on the ridge of the bell; oozing will occur if the ligature is loose.
9. After one or two minutes to allow for crush, trim off the prepuce at the distal edge of the ligature using a knife or scissors. Trim as much tissue as possible to reduce the amount of necrotic tissue and the possibility of infection.
10. Snap off the handle of the bell, leaving the bell and ligature in place. You should be able to see an unobstructed urethral meatus.
11. No dressing is necessary; the baby may be bathed normally; the rim of tissue will become necrotic (dead) and separate with the bell in 5 to 10 days.
12. Occasionally, oedema will trap the plastic ring on the shaft of the penis. In this case it's usually necessary to cut off the ring, using a guide and ring cutter, although application of ice will sometime reduce oedema enough to remove the ring.

Author's Notes: * This is a misnomer for the synchechial membrane which bonds the inner surface of the neonate foreskin to the underlying glans penis and which is normal and natural in newborns.

Note: Circumcision is almost always performed without anesthesia. Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 9 would be intensely painful. Neonates have fully functioning pain pathways. Circumcision causes severe and persistent pain.

*Chris Price (cprice@cix.compulink.co.uk)
from Internet Newsgroup misc.kids.health*

More Words

I've smiled to see one or two correspondents have taken the word I coined earlier: 'circumcisee' into their terms of reference to describe a snipcock.

Although a roundhead, I do have a small amount of pliable skin left. However, there is absolutely nothing 'fore' about it, because it is very permanently back behind the corona, which represents its unscalable northern boundary.

How about the word 'aftskin' for this?

G.D.

A Muslim's Response

Now, I would like to take issue with Horace Mann of I.M.A.C. Press on two points that he made in his letter in *Acorn* 1/96. The first one is he says that 70% of all circumcised males in the world are Muslims, that isn't at all true, there are 1.2 billion Muslims in the world today of which roughly half (600,000,000) are male, and around 90% to 95% of them are circumcised that is 540,000,000 to 570,000,000. The male population of the USA is around 120,000,000 of which roughly 70% that is 84,000,000 are circumcised. Mr Mann is, I think, forgetting about the Ethiopians who are Coptic Christians and are circumcised, then there are the very large number of African tribes who still practice circumcision, and even the tribespeople who live in the cities practice, their numbers are in the millions, and of course you have the 16,000,000 Jews in the world; 8,000,000 are males and all from the age of 8 days upwards are circumcised, so I cannot possibly see that 70% of all circumcised males in the world today are Muslim, of which I am one.

The second point I'd like to take issue with is to inform Mr Mann that circumcision **is** very much a religious requirement and if he had some knowledge of the Sunnah, he wouldn't have made that statement. The part of the Sunnah that covers circumcision is called **Fiqh** and Fiqh covers a very wide area within Islam other than circumcision and I'd also like to inform Mr Mann that circumcision can be carried out at any age and not between the ages of 2 and 17. I have never heard of Muslim boys aged 17 being circumcised, except perhaps amongst certain Marsh Arab tribes in Southern Iraq. Islam also recognises female circumcision and according to the Sunnah, only the clitoral foreskin should be circumcised, but unfortunately in Sudan and Somalia they go much further; they cut away the entire clitoris, labia majora and labia minora, leaving absolutely nothing and many girls have died in dreadful pain and in extreme agony – the removal of everything is more to do with African culture and not Islam. It is also a Basic Human Right to practice Religious rites and uphold circumcision which is a part of Islam and Judaism and not forgetting the Coptic Christians and Tribal peoples wherever they live. You are not the only one Mr Mann that totally supports Basic Human Rights, we the circumcised feel it is also our right as well to circumcise be they Muslim, Jew, Coptic, Tribal or whatever, in a nutshell, Live and Let Live.

You will be pleased to know Mr Mann that my youngest brother and his wife live in the USA, Illinois to be exact, and they have two sons both born there and my two nephews are intact. Their ages are 13 and 11 this year (1966) but they aren't Muslims though, their religion is Roman Catholic as I was before I became a Muslim in 1965, at the age of 18, when I embraced Islam in Glasgow (Scotland) the city of my birth. Furthermore I was circumcised in 1948 aged 1 year on medical grounds and on medical grounds circumcision **is** still required, and medical grounds for circumcision is also a Basic Human Right. I have another two nephews, again on my side of the family, and they are also intact, their ages this year will be 26 and 24, plus another 2 on my

wife's side of the family (aged 18 and 17) again intact, so if any one or more of the six wish to be circumcised all I have to say to Mr Mann is it is their **Basic Human Right**, I rest my case in favour of circumcision and long may it live. After having said all that, personally it doesn't matter to me one way or another if another male is circumcised or not except if he is a convert to Islam then I expect him to get circumcised as soon as possible and live according to the Sunnah of which, as I said earlier, circumcision is a part.

I wish I.M.A.C. all the best, but I would like to say one more thing if I may to I.M.A.C. that is to **Live and Let Live** and respect and recognise that if someone wishes to be circumcised then it is his Basic Human Right; and to seek more knowledge on the religious reasons that support, back and practice circumcision, and with knowledge comes understanding and above all tolerance.

God Bless.

Yahya Ahmed

Circumcise Adopted Son?

Question: My wife and I have a son, 5, who was circumcised at birth. We've recently adopted another boy, who is 4, who is not circumcised. Should we have this boy circumcised to be like his brother, or should we just let it be? My wife and I feel strongly that we should have him circumcised, but we'd like another opinion.

Answer: We referred your question to Consulting Editor child psychiatrist Leslie S. Linet, M.D. who has a clinical practice in Brooklyn, N.Y. Dr. Linet responds as follows:

I'd suggest you have a frank talk with your adopted son, and be guided by his wishes in this matter.

I assume that if your son is circumcised, you are circumcised as well, and I appreciate your empathy with the adopted son who you think might feel uneasy about the difference between himself and his new brother and father.

He May Feel Rejected

But your deciding for him that he should be circumcised is very paternalistic. If you impose this surgery on him without his consent, he may feel it as rejection and punishment. His position in your family is not firmly established, and he's apt to misinterpret your concern for his feelings.

Find out if your adopted son actually wants to be like his brother and father in this respect. Have an honest discussion in which you explain to him exactly what the surgery entails. Give him ample opportunity to ask questions.

Have Several Discussions

Don't rush this decision – there's no urgency about it.

Have several discussions about circumcision. This allows you to double-check that the child understands as fully as possible. Surgery to the penis, especially for a young child, can be very threatening. You may find that he has all kinds of fears and fantasies about it.

I'd recommend that you have a pediatrician talk to the child to make sure he understands what circumcision entails. The pediatrician might also be able to ascertain whether the child really wants the procedure, or is simply going along with it in order to please you, and actually has great anxiety about it.

From Compuserve's Sex Forum

Misery

I estimate that I have lost 25 sq. ins. of skin from my adult size penis and, following a recent operation in an attempt to repair the hamfisted result of my original circumcision, I retain approximately 10% of my frenulum, and the sensory nerves on the underside of my penis have gone also.

I need constant stimulation to retain an erection as the skin is distributed in such a way that the messages I receive from my penis are such that it feels flaccid except when I can see it and match the sensation to the reality. It feels as though the glans is at rightangles to the shaft, and the underside hardly exists. My scrotum hangs from halfway down the shaft except when tight from stimulation when my testicles are forced inside me by the contracting skin, and the remaining shaft skin is pulled very tight.

I only experience pleasure with lots of lubricant, oil or vaseline. KY dries very quickly, and is often painful as a result. Even with the right level of lubricant the progress to orgasm involves a complicated system of squeezing and manipulation of the skin, so that I have to teach my sexual partner (if I can summon up the courage, as I find it very embarrassing) that simple up and down stroking can make me lose my erection, as it is so unstimulating. Men with foreskins or more simple circumcisions lose patience.

I have always felt uglified and consequently unattractive. Afraid of intimacy because of the difficulty of my penile response and appearance. Intercourse involves painful friction if it is prolonged, even with lubrication, as the shaft skin is effectively moving sideways rather than up and down, which it is not designed for.

I was the only guy in my class at school who was circumcised. I used to look with longing and envy at boys who had proper penises – beautiful, natural,

and with unimaginable sensations that I will never ever experience – even properly circumcised ones.

Mum and Dad agreed to this. I realised when I was five that they had sanctioned the operation and I was unable to trust them ever after. I rage internally at least once an hour every day of my waking life and sometimes consider suicide to combat the constant agony of how things might have been and how things actually are.

I try very hard to love what I have left, but I'm aware that I avoid intimacy with others, and am furious that what should represent and be the most intimate aspect of my maleness should have been devastated and ravaged without my permission, which I would never have given and would have killed to avoid, as it was completely unnecessary. (Masturbation is tricky as pleasure can quickly change to anger.)

Only tightly circumcised guys know what to do with my penis and I resent this – I am fearful and feel less sexual than men with foreskins, even if they are skinny or small, as they at least have their foreskins. Even most wheelchair-bound invalids have their complete penises – I don't and never will have.

The thing that makes me male and which motivates my life is ugly and malfunctioning, and so easily undermines my confidence at every turn. I even have scars and desensitised areas on my glans.

I am fascinated by pornography and spend hours scrutinising American magazines looking for guys who have less skin than me. They are few and far between, and I get strangely turned on by circumcised men. I get very jealous and feel inadequate if they have generous amounts of skin left.

I love to play with foreskinned guys and am astounded by how much skin there is on an untouched penis – and I love to trace the veins. At the same time I am slightly contemptuous of the way uncut guys come so easily. They seem so matter-of-fact about it too and are strangely unadventurous about masturbation techniques. This is probably enough for now – so many contradictions.

A.J. – Oxford

Wishes For A Speedy Recovery

I'm sure that all readers will wish to join Brian and myself in wishing David a speedy recovery from his back problems.

We are happy to have been able to step in and put this issue together for you, but please excuse any lack of balance in these difficult circumstances.

Vernon – London

Circumcision: What Do Women Prefer?

Question: I'm a 20-year-old circumcised male. I know there's some controversy about circumcision, but I don't want to get into that. I just want to know whether most women prefer circumcised (I hope) or uncircumcised penises.

Answer: You're lucky. Research suggests that most women prefer circumcised penises.

So concluded researchers at the University of Iowa after surveying 269 women who had recently delivered healthy boys. Fully 89% of the infants were circumcised. Previous studies have shown that mothers more than fathers usually determine whether or not to have their sons circumcised.

The researchers found that mothers are likely to have their sons circumcised because they prefer their own sex partners to have a circumcised penis.

Says primary author and principal investigator Associate Professor Marvel Williamson of the University of Iowa College of Nursing: "Female cultural preferences for penile circumcision in sexual partners widely influence American mothers' decisions on infant male circumcision."

Preferred For Sexual Activity

The researchers believe that their study "clearly supports the hypothesis that American women prefer circumcision for sexual reasons."

"Visual appeal and sexual hygiene were predominant reasons for favoring circumcised partners," says Williamson, "but tactile, naturalness, and other sense-related factors were reasons for the women's attitudes."

The researchers found that:

Between 71% and 83% of the women in the study prefer a circumcised penis for various sexual activities. Even among women who had sexual experience only with uncircumcised partners, only half preferred uncircumcised penises.

71% prefer a circumcised penis for sexual intercourse.

76% find the visual appearance of a circumcised penis more appealing.

75% prefer to manually stimulate a circumcised penis.

83% prefer a penis to be circumcised for fellatio.

92% believe a circumcised penis stays cleaner.

90% say a circumcised penis looks sexier.

85% say a circumcised penis feels nicer to the touch.

77% say a penis looks more natural when it is circumcised.

55% say a circumcised penis smells more pleasant.

From Compuserve's Sex Forum

ACORN

Issue
No 4 1996
Editor
David Acorn

Editorial

I'm thankful to say that at last I'm away from the horizontal position and can sit, walk and stand again. I have to say thank you to all the members who sent me their commiserations and good wishes. You're really a good bunch. It's a pleasure to sit down in front of the computer and get to work on another *Acorn*.

I get asked by so many new members about the starting of *Acorn*, so I'll have a shot at it.

An offshoot of *Forum* magazine was, and still is, a sexual contact system called The Forum Society, headquarters in Cardiff. As well as singles and couples advertising, there are also groups with specialist interests. A man, I believe he came from Essex, advertised to start a group interested in circumcision. Before he could get it off the ground he found for some reason that he couldn't carry on. So Tony, from Lancashire, who is now our President, decided he could take it on. Those of us who joined from the outset can tell you that the first edition of the newsletter was virtually a leaflet. We grew from there, but as we grew it was obvious that members couldn't write in to

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Letters for forwarding should be marked in pencil with the recipient's identifier. They should be stamped 1st class and be enclosed in an envelope addressed as above.

Cardiff and then have their letters sent on again, envelope out of envelope, paying double postage. So we took out the P.O. Box of our own here in Weston. He never said anything but it was obvious that, as numbers grew, Tony was struggling to do it all himself. Then his job took him to Norway, so Brian and I volunteered to take it over, me doing the editing and he doing the distribution. Then, Vernon, who is a computer wizard, volunteered to put the magazine into the snappy format it is today, with a little help from Mr Graphic Designer. There are about six of the founder members still in. And there you have it.

David Acorn

Early Days

I would like to start by saying how much I've enjoyed reading the newsletter. There are many points I would like to raise or comment on, but perhaps it would be appropriate as a new member to start by telling of how my early interest first developed.

Even as a very young boy I can remember being fascinated by my friends' penises, believing initially that everyone was either born with or without a foreskin (I believe on rare occasions, cases have been recorded where boys have been born without a foreskin – perhaps some readers may know about this). All war games that we engaged in inevitably ended with my friends being 'shot' in the penis, requiring a thorough examination and, as the majority were uncircumcised, retracting their foreskins for a detailed inspection. We also indulged in regular mutual masturbation sessions. I was sent away to boarding school at 8 years of age, which provided me with ample opportunity to pursue my fascination with penises. My particular favourite pastime was trying to guess who were cavaliers and who were roundheads, and then engineering an opportunity to discover whether I was correct or not. Furthermore, if they were uncircumcised, was any part of their glans penis exposed? We were provided with a list of all boys in the school each term and, by using my own code, I recorded against each name what kind of cock they had and, if uncircumcised, whether or not I had managed to glimpse part or all of their cock head. There were a number of occasions when boys left at the end of one term as cavaliers and re-appeared the next as roundheads. This would lead to discreet inquiries on my part to ascertain the reason for their circumcision.

We had a pair of Arab brothers in my boarding house, and I was amazed to discover that they had both been partially circumcised with approximately half of the glans exposed. On reaching puberty, the natural growth of their penises was such that the remaining foreskin no longer covered any part of the glans, and they thus acquired the usual circumcision appearance. I wonder if anyone knows whether this type of partial circumcision is commonplace in the Arab world (or in any other societies for that matter).

Do any other members know anything about a phenomenon I have seen described as 'Auto-Circumcision'? This apparently describes the situation where a person is born with a short foreskin which, on reaching puberty, retracts fully, thereby effecting an automatic circumcision. I read somewhere that Masters and Johnson conducted a survey, one finding of which showed that, amongst 21 year-old uncircumcised males, approximately 10% possessed foreskins which no longer covered any part of their glans. Evidently, by 70 years of age, this incidence had increased to 33%. Perhaps other members have access to more detail on this subject.

As a regular sports player over many years, I have often showered with numerous other men, and was interested by the observations of 'Anon' in 1/96. I keep my foreskin retracted most of the time and always whilst showering, ensuring that I expose the shaft behind the head, when washing, to ensure absolute cleanliness. It amazes me, however, how many uncircumcised men do not retract their foreskins at all when showering, and often those who do, do so in a rather furtive or secretive manner which, it seems to me, tends to draw attention to what they are trying to do. I have yet to see a fully exposed glans which was not an object to be admired. I am certainly proud of mine and believe it is not something to be hidden away, but to be enjoyed. There have been occasions when I have entered a shower or sauna with my foreskin forward, given those present time to register the fact that I am uncircumcised, slipped my foreskin back unobtrusively, and turned back to general gaze. Doing this has produced some most enjoyable reactions from others, and I have also found that it has often acted as an encouragement to others to follow suit and pull their own foreskins back.

I am sure that some members would say, "Why not be circumcised, and then your glans will be exposed continually?" I have given the matter serious consideration but have decided, on balance, that I would rather remain in possession of my foreskin. I derive great enjoyment in pulling back my foreskin, to show anyone who is interested, the size, shape, and colour of the glans; particularly if their appetite has been whetted by a general impression, first, of what its appearance is likely to be, having seen it covered by my foreskin initially. I also get great pleasure from seeing others pull their foreskins back in similar circumstances.

I would certainly be quite happy if I were circumcised. I believe there is no finer sight than that of a proud glans penis exposed in all its glory! Indeed, there have been a number of occasions when people, on seeing my penis for the first time, have been fooled into thinking that I had been circumcised, and were only convinced otherwise when I allowed them to push my foreskin forward.

I think you can gather from this brief essay, how much pleasure I get from being able to use these variations that having a foreskin allows me.

D.T. – North West

The Cure

Having just joined *Acorn* and reading the back issue of 1995 with interest, I find it an excellent magazine. I'm sure I will learn a lot from it.

My first recollection of anything about my own penis was at school, being examined by a lady doctor. After dropping my pants, she pulled my foreskin back. This made me shout as it had not been done before. I remember she said something like "Oh, boys!" Later of course I found there was a lot of pleasure to be had from sliding the skin up and down.

In my twenties, I started to have soreness behind the foreskin which got worse as time went on. I had a lady friend for about ten years, but after sex my penis was very sore and the frenulum had torn. I bathed it every day and eventually visited the doctor, which was a little embarrassing, and he gave me some tablets. By now the foreskin was very tight and pulled back behind the glans, so, at the age of 45 I considered circumcision. I'd seen an ad by a London clinic. Going to the appointment I was very nervous. The doctor asked me why I wanted the operation and told me how it would be after a few weeks later.

After healing, I was a little disappointed, the scar was not too neat, but everything worked well, the soreness had gone and the glans spread out more without the restriction.

In my case, circumcision cured my problem and I wished I'd had it done before.

B.N. – West Midlands

Not So Happy

My marriage broke down 30 years ago when I was 50. I started to do my own thing, but my foreskin became tight. I needed to have it seen to but I was scared to see a doctor, but it got so bad that I had to go. The young doctor (RAF) who inspected me took one look and went redder than a beetroot. I still don't know why.

Anyway, I had the operation. The surgeon was very good and left me with as much skin as he could. Things then weren't too bad, but after 6 years I had a rough time as my urethra closed up. I was operated on to enlarge it, but at the same time they took the remains of my foreskin away as well.

Now it has never hardened off and when I get hot and sweaty it's very sore, so I have to be very careful and dress so that the knob doesn't rub on my clothing. I keep myself clean and wash every time I pass water, drying myself well. If I try to masturbate I have more soreness; creams and powder only a bit of a help.

I would be most grateful for any advice anyone can give me, please. I've suffered for so long.

A.S. – Hereford

I Love It This Way

I am a new *Acorn* member and have just worked my way through a dozen back issues. Apart from the obvious focus on circumcision, two other issues arising which caught my attention were depilation and nudity. Perhaps I can give some background. I am 46, athletic, average-to-well-endowed, and have been circumcised for 10 years. My wife is 38, tall, blonde, and immaculately shaven. We have been members of sun clubs for around 15 years.

My interest in male circumcision and female depilation was, I think, triggered in my mid twenties by a photo in *Health and Efficiency*. It showed an attractive couple emerging from the sea on a naturist beach. He was well-endowed, not aroused, but nevertheless strikingly circumcised with a large and prominently exposed glans. His partner was very attractive with her pubic area revealingly shaven. To me, the pose was a fascinating combination of naturalness combined with challenging sexual display.

It was as if the male were saying, "I know everyone's attention will be drawn to my glans and I enjoy showing it off. Providing I do so on a naturist beach, not erect, nobody can criticise me just because I happen to be circumcised." It was as if the female were saying, "I have made a deliberate decision to shave, knowing full well that it will invite attention. But nobody can prove this."

I never showed the photograph to my wife but I was able – after some difficulty – to persuade her to shave. For me it was a mega turn-on, and this in turn has made her happy to continue to do so ever since. She uses a hand razor, with plenty of foam, every three or four days to prevent (itchy) stubble.

A little later we got into naturism, firstly through 'free' beaches, and then through swimming sessions at municipal clubs before finally joining a series of sun clubs. We both enjoy sport, swimming and the open air, and I got (and continue to get) an immense kick out of watching her athletic, shaven figure on the tennis court, sunbathing, or in the pool. She is often asked to pose, and occasionally does so, for naturist publications – and more often for me.

At the same time, however, I was still fascinated by the idea of circumcision and wishing I could be in a naturist environment able to display a permanently exposed glans. I did not confide this to my wife.

About 10 years ago, however, I had two 6-week postings to Saudi Arabia on unaccompanied status. No alcohol, no sex, no nudity, not even cinemas. Ironically, however, I realised I was surrounded by millions of circumcised males! With time on my hands, and a night time imagination running riot, I

began to make discreet inquiries. It seemed to me that the two most important considerations were, firstly, to avoid a general anaesthetic and, secondly, to find a surgeon who was really expert. Eventually, I came across a clinic which included circumcision in its specialities, including adult converts to Islam.

The surgeon was a Saudi, a practising Muslim, and a member of Saudi Arabia's dominant, and fundamentalist, Wahhabi sect. He had a London qualification and performed up to a dozen adult circumcisions a week, all under local anaesthetic. He impressed me at our first meeting and explained, with the aid of diagrams, that his standard technique involved radical removal of the foreskin and frenulum, to leave just enough loose skin to allow for erection.

I made a second appointment to see him, timed to coincide with my next visit to Saudi. In the meantime, I did not confide my intentions to my wife, but laid the ground by saying I had experienced some trouble with sand under my foreskin (though I was living in a modern, tarmacadamed city) and the hot climate. Whenever my resolution to go ahead wavered, I told myself, "The opportunity is too good to miss. You have the excuse, (sand and sun), an expert practitioner, and three or four weeks of no sex doesn't matter unaccompanied in Saudi." I will not describe the actual operation or its immediate after-effects because your readers will be familiar with them.

From the moment I left the clinic, however, I had the most fantastically exciting sensation of being permanently and irreversibly cut. This was followed by an agonising/ecstatic feeling as the stitches struggled to contain the morning erections.

When it had completely healed, in about four weeks, I was able to make a full assessment. When limp and cold, the whole of the glans is permanently exposed, with an almost imperceptible gathering of slack skin behind the glans. When I'm erect, I have a tingling, straining sensation with the penis bending upwards. There is very little free play, and for masturbation a lubricant such as vaseline is helpful. Sexual intercourse is simply fantastic!

When I returned to UK and my wife saw me for the first time she was at once horrified/astounded/sympathetic and fascinated. When we had intercourse for the first time we both found the combination of a taut, bent, bone dry penis entering a smoothly shaven, naturally lubricated vagina to be sensational. I'm sure that, in this context, the removal of the frenulum is a plus.

It still is, 10 years later. So is the pleasure of displaying an exposed glans with a shaven vagina on the beaches and in the sun clubs.

In the light of my own experience, I would offer several comments: Firstly, I have never regretted it. Secondly, I love the feeling of being permanently and conspicuously (in nature groups at least) marked. Thirdly, it is indisputably more hygienic. Fourthly, for me, it does make masturbation more difficult (is there some truth in the Victorian idea?), but it compensates by providing prolonged staying power in intercourse.

Finally, do any *Acorn* members share my fantasy of a nude swimming/sauna meeting, strictly limited to circumcised males? It would start with a line up/inspection to ensure that only cut members (i.e. no rolled back foreskins!) were present. There would be no sexual activity, but everyone would be free to stare and admire. Possibly a group photo? Only if participants were happy with this. I would welcome correspondence, either through *Acorn's* columns, or through its good offices.

J.F. – London

Answer to Anthony's Questions 3/96

First of all I should say that all foreskins aren't the same, and don't act the same. The perfect foreskin, by which I mean the centre point of all the varieties, could be described when flaccid, as not too loose and not too tight, is as long or slightly longer than the tip of the glans but doesn't close up at the end, so that peeing isn't interfered with. When erect it disappears completely, or nearly so, leaving a slack shaft skin, acting like a circumcised penis for intercourse but, with the harsher treatment of masturbation, can be brought back over the glans by pulling at the root.

There is a scale of difference, starting at one end where the foreskin is so short as to be indistinguishable from a circumcision, and at the other end where the foreskin is much longer than the tip of the glans, closes up to a bud at the end causing it to be tightish on retraction.

By far the majority of foreskins are as the perfect or slightly one side or the other of the perfect, doing the jobs I would think they were designed for: protecting the glans through the wear and tear of life, exposing the glans for intercourse, keeping the glans moist ready for intercourse, yet not getting in the way of peeing.

Now for the answers, although, as shown above, I can only answer for myself:

1. Any involuntary movement of the foreskin is very pleasurable, it doesn't happen often enough for me, and hardly ever to the point of distraction. Having a slightly loose foreskin the frenulum pulls it forward again in most cases. Of course, with tighter foreskins there is no involuntary movement at all, one of the differences mentioned.
2. Manually retracting the foreskin is the most delicious part of having a foreskin. From the glans being dry, it takes about half an hour for the foreskin to make it moist, and it is when it is moist that it is most delicious. The moistness creates a sort of drag as the foreskin is retracted and the drag is felt most as the inner foreskin tries to leave the rim of the glans. Doing this dries the glans quickly, so after about ten strokes the feeling is nowhere near as intense. Funnily enough, using another type of lubricant

never seems the same, unless I've never found the one with the right viscosity. The second part of the question is answered by saying that I've never stopped anyone from doing it.

3. The newly exposed glans reacts marvellously to these actions most when they are of a different temperature to the glans. A draught of cold air – wonderful; a cold hand – smashing; washing with either hot or cold water – lovely; whereas a powerful showerhead at about 9 inches, hot or cold – heaven! The glans reacts for some reason by swelling!
4. I can't answer this one because only someone with a long closed foreskin knows, and they are few and far between. I expect that the next Questionnaire for a survey, which will be out very shortly, will show that most foreskinned men retract their foreskins to pee.
5. Both inner and outer foreskins are both very sensitive so they must be packed with nerve endings. They are quite different, being made of different materials, the inner not being able to be stretched at all, unlike the outer. It may be different between men, but I would say that my outer foreskin gives more all round pleasure, inasmuch as it loves a whisper of a touch and yet enjoys harsh treatment such as being chewed. The inner is more to do with the glans as above.
6. The sensation is so locked together that it would be difficult to differentiate between them.
7. I know you've been a member, Anthony, since the outset of *Acorn*, so if you go back to the sixth (F) edition in 1988 you'll read of an experiment by a man who first isolated his glans and then his foreskin to discover which gave him the best sensation to orgasm. He had a problem with the glans only, as he had to lubricate it and found that after orgasm he wasn't satisfied and had to finish himself off in the traditional manner. With the foreskin only (the glans being under a cardboard tube) he hadn't much problem, although he much preferred using the two together. I haven't tried it but I would imagine that the same would go for me.
8. Your last question about the disadvantages of a foreskin from the possessor's point of view has got me foxed. Maybe other men on the extremes of the 'perfect' hypothesis have them, but the only 'drawback' I can think of is that I've only got one!

A comment that I would like to make while I'm here, is that I may be wrong, but I don't think that there are any sweat glands on the glans or inner foreskin. During the time I've been laid up, the pain at times has caused so much sweating that clothes and bedclothes could be wrung out, and I've lost over half a stone. Gallons have been released through my scrotum, but nothing untoward under my foreskin. I began to wonder about the story of the soldiers in the desert. Was it just the sand that caused all the problems?

I could go on writing about my favourite subject for ever, but I'd better give others a chance.

D.A.

Impotence Pill

Report by Lois Rogers – *Sunday Times*, 7th April 1996

A pill that could invigorate the sex lives of millions of men has entered the final stages of trials, and is being offered to hundreds of British patients.

The drug is aimed primarily at the estimated 10% of the male population who suffer serious problems of impotency, but early tests in healthy volunteers suggest it can also enhance normal erections. It will give men the opportunity to avoid the misery of sexual failure by discreetly swallowing the pill about an hour before intercourse. The only other treatments for impotency currently available involve injections into the sexual organ or the use of a suction pump.

Pfizer, the American drug company developing the pill, has recruited several hundred men from 20 towns in Britain as part of its final worldwide trial before seeking approval to market the formula. Early results from the British patients will be reported at a meeting of the American Neurological Association in Orlando next month. So far, there has been no evidence of problem side effects, and it is believed the drug, called sildenafil, is safe for long-term use.

Ian Osterloh, the Pfizer doctor co-ordinating the European section of the trial, said the drug only worked when men were receiving sexual stimulation; he would not comment on claims that it made normal erections bigger or longer lasting.

“I can say we are cautiously optimistic that this agent will make a major medical need as a new form of treatment for patients with impotence,” he said. “It boosts the ability to get an erection in a sexual situation, but I must stress it is still a few years away from being on the market.”

The drug was originally investigated as a possible treatment for heart problems. Although it had little effect on the cardiovascular system, male volunteers who took part in early tests reported that it had a pleasing and unexpected side effect. During sexual arousal, nerves in the penis produce increased levels of nitric oxide which stimulates production of another substance called cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cyclic GMP). This leads to the increased blood flow necessary for an erection. The action of cyclic GMP is inhibited by other substances called phosphodiesterases, which cause the

erection to subside. Sildenafil works by temporarily blocking the effect of the inhibiting mechanism.

Most men suffer occasional impotence, and an estimated 5%, including some young adults in their early twenties, are so severely affected that they are never able to have sex. Few discuss it with their GP, and the problem is compounded because many doctors see impotence as psychological, or simply part of the ageing process. Osterloh believes increasing numbers of doctors now believe it is indeed an organic problem.

Women who specialise in relationship counselling believe the male-dominated drugs industry is missing the point, and that impotence is often the result of a poor relationship. Reintroducing the capacity for a man to go through the motions of sex, they say, will not solve the underlying problems. Suzie Hayman, a counsellor for RELATE, the marriage guidance organisation, and author of *The Good Sex Guide 2*, on which a Channel 4 TV series was based, said that too many men regarded sex as a mechanical process: "There are an awful lot of men who are having difficulty with sex and are really desperate, but they are aiming for the wrong thing if they treat it as a mechanical failure."

She was equally scathing about the claims that sildenafil could improve penis size. "A man with these drugs who has no care or skill will have far less of an effect than a man with smaller genitals who knows how to use them. Many men think their equipment has to be the sexual equivalent of a Porsche. Women know that a well-driven Ford Escort is infinitely preferable to a badly driven Porsche.

[So who do we believe? Doctors who say it can be organic, or women who say it's the men's fault. — D.A.]

Letters For Forwarding

As members know, our membership list is confidential and details are not divulged to anyone except those who need to know in order to run *Acorn* and send you your magazines.

The editor is happy to forward letters to other members provided they are stamped (preferably 1st class to reduce delays).

Please seal your letter in an unaddressed stamped envelope, enclose that and a note of to whom to forward the letter in an envelope addressed to the editor at the PO Box address given on page 1. (Note that the County and Postcode changed recently so please check this issue before sending.)

D.A.

Comments On My First Ever Issue of *Acorn* (3/96)

First and most important point I would like to make is regarding the item on page 13, 'Circumcise Adopted Son'. Yes, do it as soon as possible.

You may need to talk to him about it to point out all the advantages and soft pedal any disadvantages that may come up. Consideration is given to their adopted son, but none to their own son.

I know a couple with a circumcised son and who adopted another boy who was uncircumcised. The father wanted the adopted son to be circumcised as well, but the mother would not allow it. The father wouldn't take to the adopted boy, and each time they were bathed in the kitchen (they had no bathroom) the father saw the uncircumcised boy and there was always some aggro. The father always favoured his circumcised son but would not consider his uncircumcised adopted son at all. I hope we may know in due course what happened.

Regarding page 2 'Penis Preference'. Yes, I saw the film *It's a Boy*. It seemed to be right that the Jewish father did not want his son circumcised. Some Christian parents don't want to have their sons christened and no one makes a fuss. It is only in the case of something like circumcision that the trouble comes.

Regarding page 9, 'Circumcision Made Easy'. This is something that interests me greatly. There have been numerous gadgets invented over the years. I saw a book of around 1886 which referred to a book of some years earlier which had illustrations of things used for circumcising only.

It is nice to be able to talk/write to someone with similar interests to myself. I lived in a small hamlet where there were three families:- a labourer with three boys and three girls, a farmer with two boys, and myself, the youngest. I used to play with the youngest of the labourer's sons. He taught me to rub my cock, and he would rub his and mine. I always got a sore place on my knob just above the peehole, but he always gave the excuse that it was caused by a spark from our bonfire. He had a tight foreskin, and when he was in the army in Palestine, they all had a medical, and those who were uncircumcised all had the chop. I used to play also with the younger son of the farmer who I taught to wank. He had a tight foreskin so I stretched it for him. He has about 9½" now. This all happened over 50 years ago – nearer 60. The farmer's son asked me why they did that, referring to my circumcision. He had three cousins in South Africa and the second one died from being circumcised.

My great interest is in circumcision and circumcising methods, and the gadgets used in medicine, in religion, and tribal.

D.R. – Cornwall

Response to David's Question 2/96 — And More

As a new member, I must say I enjoyed the two newsletters. The idea of a question corner appeals. I am no expert, but have pondered on the question, and here put forward a few ideas which may or may not be right.

The scar tissue issue seems to be problematic when there is a foreskin present and covering the glans, and when difficulties arise or worsen, one thing seems to affect the other. As I understand it, the foreskin composition is much like that of the shaft skin, ie, without the layer of fat present elsewhere in the body, and that the skin is super elastic and able to stand a fair bit of punishment in usage. The skin covering the knob is almost paper thin, which you'll know if you have happened to have abraded it yourself. From what I have gathered, it is usually scarring on the foreskin which affects the elasticity or restricts the opening, and this prevents free travel to expose the head, or if the skin does go back, to almost choke the knob like an overtight collar.

I wonder if scarring to the actual glans then is something which is very superficial, quickly heals and, in the absence of depth of tissue, does not give rise to problems later. The foreskin itself is much thicker by comparison and also can be stretched in several directions, which presents far more chances of wounds and scars. I also wonder about the smoothness of the glans and the folded nature of the foreskin in relation, say, to poor hygiene or problems with urine which can lead to rashes or irritations, especially if the skin won't allow washing etc. Some males don't realise the foreskin should retract even with erection, let alone any ideas of maintenance and caring, or even thought of promoting suppleness and elasticity, regular stretching and lengthening... or helping themselves to learn responses, how to desensitise the glans to prolong pleasure etc.

If the foreskin is going to get cut off, then it doesn't matter if what is going gets potentially damaged and which, if left might give rise to scarring etc. Any damage to the glans might be far more superficial and be lost after the op, and not so noticeable either if, as some say, eventually that skin ceases to be so moist and lubricated, it thickens. Or, as is also possible, the exposed glans enlarges or alters shape (such as flaring out more, no longer being restricted by the foreskin), or is differently stimulated post op because of different shaft skin tautness.

I wonder, too, if one problem with an infant having his skin forced back, causing tears, is that when it is returned the two wounds can align, or partially so, and then rejoin if left, the damage being worsened if the forcing process is repeated time and again.

Recently I was reading in a copy of *Forum* on a point being raised about how common it was in first time penetrative sex for a male virgin to suffer a torn frenulum which often followed the foreskin being pushed back by penetration. It seemed to be a case that quite a few males, even though they'd wanked

for years, had not exposed the head, thus not stretched the frenulum. I also wondered if having a short frenulum, or one which is attached more than normal to the back of the glans, has tearing potential. Does the frenulum also separate during growth or puberty? Does the shape of the glans at the back and the amount of frenulum length also have some connection? Perhaps, like me, you have worked out that each glans is individual/a variant on a theme, some having a dip only, some a pronounced cleft (the glans being in two lobes), yet in others is almost continuous. Some have little depth at the back, some turn in neat at the rim, others having a reverse flange; some are almost domes, others flat, pointed – the list is almost endless. I know one male who has had years of intermittent tearing of his frenulum, yet has a super length foreskin which can 'dock' easily another glans even when erect. I also know another who had his frenulum separated to allow his foreskin to expose the head, and his skin now goes fully back more like a severely cut one, and apart from a residual tag on the head with the rest set back on the skin, he is intact.

Perhaps tissue types enter into this as well. I am allegedly hypersensitive and have had a number of skin problems including suspicious cell changes. Yet, until I was 33 I enjoyed a good long and free running foreskin, albeit that my frenulum was a bit short. I had enough foreskin to fully cover the head erect, and sometimes with an erection it stayed covered, but other times it would roll back and, if the frenulum had not bunched the skin at the back I could have had a fully exposed glans. I had no problems whatsoever, was a frequent wanker, and enjoyed relations with partners. Yet suddenly I started having severe irritations, and then over 17 months the foreskin aperture shrunk, became less elastic, and would not retract at all when erect. Finally it was so tight that it bent my cock during erection like a banana, eventually becoming so tight it would not retract when flaccid, and started to impede urine flow. I had always made sure when peeing that I retracted some or all of the skin to get a clear jet, and made sure it stayed dry. Neither I nor anyone else can, or has, explained why I had to be cut. I was told by my GP that I would not like being circumcised even though it was the likeliest cure.

I had the op just a fortnight after seeing the consultant. I was given no details of what to expect and then suffered a series of problems from that day on. The operation went wrong and I ended up with a badly scarred cock which had been made worse through bad suturing techniques, losing most of the stitches, wound infection, and then bad alignment of the open wound. It did not help that the job was roughly done and left sore, exposed tissue where the frenulum had been cut off and altered. For over 6 years I had to put up with a scar line which bled at the slightest touch, and the wound had become a keloid scar which irritated, was inelastic, and was no asset to any form of pleasure. At my insistence, a second consultation was set up with another surgeon to correct this mess, who rated the chances of getting improvement as no better than 50/50. A dermatologist I saw told me that I was hypersensitive

to surgery and prone to scarring. Throughout the 6 years I had continuously used hydrocortisone cream in an attempt to keep the scar supple.

The result of the second operation was being discharged too early and being assaulted by a maladroit nurse who ripped off the dressing, taking some of the stitches with it causing bleeding of the wound. The next day I had to attend the emergency dept. of the local hospital as the wound had opened and the other stitches were coming adrift. I had to wait another week to see the surgeon who applied surgical tape over melanin dressing strips. The wound took 3 months to settle down, but even now 8 years on I still have to use the cream to counter the irritation and fear of hardening.

The original wound left a ragged and raised scar, and also exposed nerve endings on the site of the frenulum which had been cut back, and there was also a noticeable twist in the penile skin to the glans.

After the second operation, my GP noticed some scarring of the meatus which became smaller. I have had to have this opening enlarged, having had a period of 6 months enduring various infections of the urinary system and failed GP attempts at curing them.

Very few people I know understand these problems, nor what is involved in this operation. There is a lot of sniggering and dismissive comment about the suffering, arising from ignorance and the general male inability to be serious about personal matters – which is a great shame all round. Others regard it as trivial, amounting to nothing more than the loss of a little skin, which it is not. I regret not knowing years ago of alternatives rather than an outright operation, such as stretching and freeing the foreskin, or even a dorsal slit. I am sorry that I didn't have someone to talk to at the time or since. I regret having to be circumcised and I still miss my foreskin and the double options being intact had for self pleasuring etc.

Richard – West Norfolk

[As everyone knows, it is never my policy to muck about with letters, so I must apologise here for taking excerpts, but the two letters covering this were so long they would have nearly taken up a whole edition, even though I would have liked. — D.A.]

Seminal Thoughts

The average amount of ejaculate is 3-5cc, though it can be as high as 10cc, and the record at an amazing 15cc.

Semen has a pH of 7.35-7.5, deriving its alkaline nature from Cowper's Gland fluid, with phosphate and bicarbonate components buffering against the acidity of vaginal secretions.

The vigour of spurting must be associated with the degree of vitality, greatest in the young, with the quantity obviously reduced with successive ejaculation per session.

On the *Good Sex Guide - Late*, a retired madam suggested that men could be kept happy by being 'de-spunked' regularly! Complying with this advice, huge volumes would be cumulatively 'notched up', equalling many gallons.

Well, there's a curious balance between men and women... during a lifetime of menstruating, the average woman discharges 24-72 litres of fluid (5-16 gallons), containing 12-14 litres of blood (2.5-3.5 gallons), using 6,000 tampons or towels (costing £912 with VAT of £159.60)

With a man's single daily ejaculation of 3-5cc of semen, it would take a man 22-28 years to volumetrically equal the lifetime menstrual output of a woman. He is exempt of the 40p tax on each single period that a woman has to bear, as well as the inconvenience. If men were taxed at 8p for a daily wank, some would have 'thrown in the towel' long ago. Looking at the adage, 'The best things in life are free', the hand shandy for the randy must be well to the fore whether one is blessed with a fore' or not.

I have made some calculations on circumcision, using Dr Luisa Dillner's figures and data from the *It's a Boy* documentary, together with information already held. My 'breakdown' shows the practice to be on the increase, assisted by ethnic components of the population. There is an annual foreskin toll of 30,000 from a 350,000 male birthrate. The 7% circumcised by age 15 would amount to 24,500 a year, leaving the remainder of adult circumcisions at 5,500 a year.

Ritual circumcision of infants on religious grounds amounts to 10,000 a year, broken down as follows:- 1,700 Jewish circumcisions (by Mohelim); 8,300 Moslem circumcisions.

That ritual circumcision rate of 2.9% is made up of 0.5% Jewish and 2.4% of Moslem. Medical circumcisions therefore amount to 20,000 a year, of which only 1 in 6 is necessary, ie 3,300 or 0.9%. That's within the present infant medical circumcision rate of about 1%. The total circumcision rate for the UK is 30,000 divided by 350,000, or 8.6%.

Circumcision from an overall point of view is on the increase in Britain from the all-time low of recent years. The rally round the scar is five pronged:- Infant

circumcision, medical and elective 1.0%; Boyhood medical circumcision by 15 years 3.1%; Adult circumcision 1.6%; Jewish ritual 0.5%; Moslem ritual 2.4% ---- 8.6%.

It is quite interesting that adult circumcisions are only 19% of the total, with 81% being still undertaken in infancy and boyhood, the majority still without consent, whether informed or not. For some, reluctant roundheadedness will remain a circumcision sore.

Anthony

Counsellors

I quite agree with C.P. – Wiltshire about the programme *It's a Boy*. It was very one-sided. I also endorse his suggestion that there should be a programme, or video, on adult circumcision.

In this age, when there are counsellors for just about everything, perhaps *Acorn* should appoint a counsellor to advise people considering circumcision about all its implications and ramifications, and to allay any worries. Maybe C.P. or Dr Roundhead would consider themselves for such a position.

A question for members to ponder over and write about. Since species evolve and adapt to changing conditions and requirements, why are Jewish boys, who have been circumcised for several thousand years, still born with a foreskin?

G.C. – Staffs

[Good counsellors have to be completely impartial in a matter such as this, and I wouldn't think we have many of those. I would hope however, that *Acorn* is, in itself, a counselling service with all the viewpoints that are put forward. — D.A.]

ACORN

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Editor
David Acorn

Editorial

As you can imagine I get letters covering the whole spectrum through the pros and antis of circumcision. Generally I don't like the magazine to be too contentious as it does tend to hurt the feelings of one side or the other, but I thought that in this issue I should devote some of the pages to the extreme edges of our subject to show, if nothing else, how high feelings can run. It must be remembered though, that *Acorn* itself is totally impartial, and just a forum for members to express themselves.

The group was started (and stated in the very first newsletter) as "for people interested in foreskins and circumcisions" with the aim of "getting their cock into the best possible shape (for them)". This could mean getting circumcised, having a revision, cutting the frenulum, elongating the foreskin, restoring a foreskin, tattooing, piercing for rings, sub-incision or even splitting the whole penis in two down the middle (I've only seen a picture of that).

So although you might read something confrontational to you, don't take it to heart, it's the

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author's personal viewpoint. And I would prefer not to get any reactionary letters.

David Acorn

Open Letter To A.J. (Misery 3/96)

I was saddened to read your letter: your experience and reaction to the hated legacy of infant circumcision so closely reflect my own. The first thing to say is that you are not alone! This may or may not ease the constant awareness and hurt caused by someone who was responsible for protecting you, betrayed that responsibility, and submitted you to a disfiguring operation which caused you to forfeit a whole dimension of sexual experience. It has taken me a lifetime to come to terms with my distress and resentment, and I do hope that my experiences in trying to overcome the problem can be of help to you.

Firstly, if you have not already done so, you should get a copy of *The Joy of Uncircumcising* by Jim Bigelow. In it, he describes the neurosis which perpetuates the outrage of infant circumcision and which, despite heavy inroads, still affects about 60% of new-born boys in the USA. He explains the background outlining the greed on the part of the medical profession, and the misinformation of parents which allows a surgical operation, which cannot be medically justified, to be performed on unconsenting children. He also prints hundreds of letters from men who feel as bad, or in some cases worse, than you do, and who, until recently, had no outlet for their feelings.

He describes the procedure for 'uncircumcising' which involves gentle skin stretching techniques using surgical tape and, in the later stages, specially designed weights. I myself have used similar techniques and have finally achieved a state where I have a natural looking foreskin which only a cock-connoisseur could tell from the real thing – until it is pulled back and the remnants of the dreadful knife-and-fork job perpetrated by the butcher who circumcised me are revealed. Although there is some slight gain in sensitivity, it will never make up for the myriad of nerve endings which they robbed me of when the most sensitive part of my body was sliced off. But at least I have the satisfaction of having thwarted the intention that I should go through life with the mark of their neurosis stamped forever on my body. I live in the hope that, if enough of us do the same thing, the futility of cutting it off in the first place will be brought home to them.

Further solace is to be found in our very own *Acorn*. There are a lot of sympathetic people who will understand your rage and despair and will give you support. Most pro-circumcisionists reserve their zeal for their own bodies, and recognise that it is unacceptable to cause permanent damage to the genitals of young children. With these I have no quarrel. But there are, of course, the hardline few with a crusading mission to circumcise every male child – and who resent what you have to say, since it challenges a cherished

obsession. I find I recognise letters from such people in the first few words and immediately stop reading, since it upsets me terribly to see them advocating a practice which has caused me a lifetime of grief, and which I want stamped out – and will not rest until it is.

You should also contact *NORM UK* which consists of a large and growing number of men – and latterly of women – who feel as you and I do about circumcision, and are determined to do something about it. The first point to make about the organisation is that it has both Jewish and Muslim members, including a Jewish lady doctor who not only refuses to circumcise her own children, but counsels other Jewish mothers about an alternative religious ceremony based on welcoming the child into the world with joy instead of pain. *NORM UK* will give you advice on how to go about foreskin restoration and has a source for a British version of the Penile Uncircumcising Device (PUD) which can restore a semblance of the foreskin in two years if you are lucky – it took me six years with more primitive devices, but it was worth it! Although most *NORM* members are not gay, some are, and the point is made that all are welcome.

Finally, a word or two about the last edition (3/96). I see that electronic mail correspondence is now published and, naturally enough, mostly of American origin. The two letters from *Compuserve's* Sex Forum struck me particularly since they turn naivete into an art form! Firstly, the couple who want to circumcise their adopted son: the advice given is a totally laughable cop-out, and reflects their fear of upsetting one side or the other. How can they expect a boy of four to take a decision which will have far-reaching repercussions for the rest of his life? My view is, keep your neurosis to yourself and leave the poor kid's willy alone, it's not for you to muck about with.

The other letter supposedly answers the question, 'What do women prefer?', and comes to the foregone conclusion that a large majority of American women prefer circumcised penises. The University of Iowa carried out the survey. Since 89% of the women surveyed had circumcised their sons, were they really likely to get a balanced view? Anyway, with 95% of sexually active American males circumcised, most of these women would never even have seen a foreskin, so how can they possibly make informed comparisons? They go on to say that even among women who had only had sexual experience with uncircumcised partners, only half preferred foreskins. Once again, what is the basis for comparison? What can they possibly have known about roundheads? They must have been an insignificant minority anyway.

Such statistics are plainly rubbish, and only the intellectually unsophisticated, or those with closed minds, could fail to recognise them as such. You'd do much better to form your opinion on women's views from reading *Acorn*.

R.B.W.

And The American Opposite

I am a new member of *Acorn*, am absolutely fascinated by circumcision and want to do all I can to promote the circumcision of all males, universally, for their good health, total sense of self-confidence and feeling of well-being. It is particularly important to bring circumcision back into favour in the U.K. for these reasons, and so that the English-speaking world can be uniform in setting the good example that the rest of the world will one day surely follow. There are ways that man can improve himself and this surely is one. It is not a matter of fashion: circumcision is the oldest surgical operation in the world, it is very widespread, it is coming back into favour in the U.S.A. and Australia after falling off slightly for a short time, and certainly would have become usual procedure in the U.K. for new-borns if a few sensation-seeking doctors had not tried to make a case for it being 'unnecessary' just at the time that the NHS was looking for economic cuts, and the doctors under it for ways to save time and effort while getting their fixed salaries.

We were not cut for 'NO good reason', We were circumcised because of the thoughtfulness and kindness of our parents, be forever assured of that. While we may have felt odd as a roundhead among our cavalier friends of the post-war period, we were able to be proudly different, and can be sure that they were all quietly and enviously admiring our penis, even if they sometimes teased us and pretended otherwise, trying to hide their inferiority complexes they had to live with because their parents had unkindly and, yes, cruelly left them uncircumcised. It is all those of our contemporaries and those born since, who have been left uncircumcised, that we must help get to doctors and get circumcised.

I know how lucky men are to have been circumcised as an infant, because my parents unkindly left me uncircumcised when I was born. From the moment I saw the permanently exposed glans of the penis of a little friend, when aged about four, I felt very inferior. From that day on I dreamed of some day being circumcised when I grew up. All through youth I had to endure the unpleasant smell of smegma under my foreskin, even though I bathed very often, and in my teen years pubic hair would often get caught under the foreskin when it would retract inside my Y-fronts, and then roll forward, trapping and pulling some hairs very painfully. My friends would tease me about my odd skin-covered penis and, as a group, like to challenge me to masturbation 'timing contests' just so they could watch me slide the skin back and forth just a few times, and shoot off in an anti-climax to win the time, when they knew all the while that they were the real winners, as they rubbed and caressed their smooth, stiff, knob-capped members for many, many minutes afterwards, moaning with pleasure until finally, when all were ready, they would almost simultaneously all reach a climax and ejaculate together with loud screams of joy. By that time my penis had wilted and, almost in shame, covered its head with a long fold of foreskin, whereas, after their joyous coming, their penises

all remained fairly large with the knob still proudly standing forth, and all of their members seemingly ready to perform again.

Needless to say, the moment I came of age at eighteen, I went to a doctor and had myself circumcised. Immediately I found the joy and satisfaction that they had known all their lives.

I want to dedicate myself to helping others find this true happiness, if they have not yet been circumcised, and to be working to be sure circumcision of male babies continues and increases from now on.

D.L. – U.S.A.

Ritual Dilemma

I was brought up in a Jewish home and consequently have seen and heard more on the subject of circumcision than most. Although my Mum was an orthodox Jew, my father was a gentile, and consequently she was drummed out of the family when she insisted on marrying him. Nevertheless, she could never forget her roots, and although my father was not circumcised, she insisted on bringing us up in the Jewish tradition, had my brother circumcised, and made us observe the Jewish festivals and the dietary rules of kashrut. Most of our friends were Jewish and we retained our family link with Israel where religious observance is not taken so seriously by the majority of the Sabarim (Sabras) who were born in Israel. In fact we lived there for several years.

When I was about sixteen my Mum left my Dad and returned to her orthodox background. I stayed with Dad whilst Mum took my brother with her into her new home. I later went to college where all my friends, except one Israeli girl, were non-Jews, and, although I continued to avoid breaking the Law wherever possible, without Mum's guidance I felt my Jewish identity waning to some extent.

One day at college, after a strenuous game of tennis, I went off to the changing room and barged in without noticing the temporary 'gents only' sign on the door – because it had fallen off – and was confronted by half a dozen of my male colleagues all in a state of nature, drying themselves vigorously with their towels! I just stood there open-mouthed with embarrassment before collapsing in giggles, whilst all the guys laughed and went on with their ablutions.

Afterwards I was talking to Rachel, my Israeli friend, about it, and she asked me eagerly if they were 'are!' (uncircumcised), since Jewish girls are not encouraged to have dealings with men with foreskins, and tend to be very curious about them. I told her that they all had foreskins which, because their willies had shrunk from the cold and the activity, looked like little skin tassels on the end of their cocks, which amused Rachel tremendously!

After leaving college I started mixing with the Jewish community again and frequently did baby-sitting for some of the families there. This became a regular thing, and eventually I was persuaded to start a 'gan yeladim' (Hebrew kindergarten). I had about a dozen kids to look after, and when a gentile friend asked me to accept her two boys for a couple of days I thought nothing of it. It was mid-summer, and I let the kids play in the paddling pool in their birthday suits. Of course the two gentile boys were uncircumcised and immediately became a source of curiosity because their penises looked so different. Later, two of the children were withdrawn by indignant parents, but the others were OK about it when I explained that it was only for a few days.

When I was at college I had two boyfriends who were both uncircumcised. Later, I had a Jewish boyfriend. I am now married but separated from my Jewish husband and have a gentile lover with a foreskin. With my Jewish blood I am supposed to take the Jewish line on circumcision and the avoidance of relationships with men with foreskins, but at the same time, being only half Jewish, I have the good fortune to be able to keep my options open.

One thing I notice is that Jewish mothers treat circumcision with much more concern than non-Jewish mothers who decide their sons should be circumcised. The reason is that the Jewish mothers are usually present or within earshot when junior gets the chop. They consequently hear, and see the effect it has on the baby, whereas the gentile mum just hands her baby over to the nurse and picks him up later, with only the aftermath to indicate what he's been through, although that can be bad enough – it's always distressing to see a baby in shock. So traumatic do some Jewish women find the whole process that they pray for a girl when they know they are pregnant so as to avoid seeing their offspring go through such an ordeal. I was there when my little brother was circumcised and shall never forget it. As a result, if I ever have a male child, I shall have to face a dreadful dilemma: my Jewish blood indicates that all Jewish boys should be circumcised. My maternal instinct, backed up by my gentile blood, insists that no child of mine shall ever be circumcised. I honestly don't know which way I shall go, but think that my maternal instinct will probably win.

Having experienced sex over a number of years with men with and without foreskins, you probably would like me to state my preference. I will content myself with quoting the words of Moses Maimonides, the great and respected 12th. century philosopher, physician and rabbi who said in connection with the penis and circumcision, "The use of the foreskin to that organ is evident. The bodily injury caused to that organ is exactly that which is desired. There is no doubt that circumcision weakens the power of sexual excitement and sometimes lessens the natural enjoyment. Our sages say distinctly: it is hard for a woman with whom an uncircumcised man has had sexual intercourse to separate from him." Who am I to argue with him?

*Hannah Morris – Cranford
(Comments but no correspondence)*

Thoughts On Others' Letters

The latest magazine makes interesting reading – particularly the comments of C.P. regarding his circumcision. I can almost feel his elated relief...what an uplifting experience it must have been, to at long last see this redundant appendage, finally severed, wither and die in front of him.

I too stay smooth 'down there', my pubic area having had electrolysis treatment. I look forward to the eventual realisation of a fantasy of 'complete nudity' to some extent, the sheer 'vulnerability' of a bared, 'unprotected' circumcised cockhead is an exciting prospect. Annual progress reports on members' cut cocks (members' members!!!!) sounds like a good idea...K.H. seems to have been cut in the style I visualise for myself, ie. well back from the glans, with minimal loss of 'inner skin'. I wonder just how loose the remaining skin has to be in its flaccid state. I suppose this depends on the individual's erectile size-gain. i.e., if one is fairly large in the soft state, and erection not a great size increase, one could achieve a tighter-skinned flaccid shaft...for me this would be ideal if it were possible.

I must say I feel a little sorry for Anthony (3/96) – sorry he seems to feel so bitter at the loss of his foreskin, and sorry he has never been able to experience owning one. I do, however, also feel (nay, know) it is not the intense sensation he perhaps conceives it to be. Firstly, regarding any involuntary movement (in all things, I can only speak of my personal experience, of course) one has no awareness of it happening at all, tucked away inside one's underpants. On manual retraction, I would say the sensation is one of 'peeling', plus, in this case, there is also the visual impact of gradually exposing the glans – and, yes, by virtue of the circumstances surrounding it, it is more exciting to have someone else do it for you. Basically, unless thoughts are sexually orientated at the time, the glans does not 'react' to washing etc. – especially if you have a bus to catch – unless the water is too hot! Regarding stimulation by urination, in short, the answer is no (you can't piss with a hard-on anyway). And how does it feel? It feels damp – probably due to perspiration and/or residue from the last piss.

Inner surface of the foreskin more sensitive than the outside? Yes – hence, when I get myself cut, I will want to retain as much of the inner foreskin as possible, and lose as much of the outer as is practicable. The inner skin does indeed vary in sensitivity, peaking on the underside at the frenulum, but is not as sensitive as the glans. For me, certainly, masturbation is definitely glans orientated. I see the foreskin really as a means of stimulating the glans. For me, this is more distinctly so, as I prefer to actually hold the foreskin back and stimulate the glans by direct friction – with or without lubrication.

Foreskin disadvantages? Yes, there are some. Some guys' skin fits over the glans so tight they can't pull it back. Or if they do, it nearly strangles the glans – i.e. phimosis...the last drips of urine that leak out under the skin leaving the

glans damp and smelly. Most cut cocks almost invariably looked stripped for action, sexier – and yes, your relatively insensitive glans would be fine by me – making sex last longer, and partners more amenable to oral sex. And the prominent scar – well, to me that's the mark of a real man!!

Zed

[The following is a letter from a man who was sent a copy of *Acorn* by a member, not from a member himself.]

Another Unhappy One

Whilst I am 'cut' myself, I am only interested in others who are not, but who do not find the fact that I have been clipped an instant turn-off, as I would myself. Frankly, I am one of those who, given the choice between an uncut 7-stone weakling and a gorgeous cut adonis, would have no hesitation in picking the former. I simply find the unaltered version far more sexy and interesting, adding to the standard thick/thin/short/long so many extra permutations of skin length/thickness/tightness/moistness etc. For me, the biggest yawn is the average American porn magazine with the inevitable collection of clipped cocks.

The impression given me by your magazine is that it is primarily for those who are cut, or wish they were, [I often get accused one way or the other! — *D.A.*] whilst I am exactly the reverse. I agree that there may be a very few instances where circumcision is unavoidable, but from what I read there are other alternatives for solving foreskin problems without immediately resorting to the knife. I suppose it all really comes down to what the guy with the problem would feel happiest with, but I reckon that too many medicos look at it as a knife only solution.

I am certainly glad that circumcision has waned in post-war years. In my youth, and from my sort of class background the ratio of cut/uncut in my experience was 60/40. My greatest anti has always been against the ritual circumcisers. Whilst there might be a slim case for the practice of primitive tribes to use it as a sign of adulthood, I always think that the height of arrogance is typified by the Jews, who, since biblical times, whilst making such a big thing about God's laws, then proceed, within 8 days of birth, to alter God's design of the male form! If men weren't meant to have foreskins they would either have been designed without them, or had them attached in a way that they would fall off at a certain age in the same way that milk teeth do.!

I hope that you don't mind my replying in my own, fairly vigorous point of view!

George

Winges!

I am renewing my subscription reluctantly and under protest, because over the last year or so I have noticed an ever increasing volume of anti-circumcision letters. I joined the Society believing *Acorn*, by its very name, to be a group of like-minded people who believed in the merits of circumcision, and were there to celebrate and propound the visual joy as well as practical benefits of the operation, whether infantile or adult. I am perfectly aware there is a place for the 'other side' as in all viewpoints, but why on earth do we need to hear the whines and wings of men who bemoan their fate. Why do they bother to join a group supposedly in support of the procedure, and anyway, how do they know what they are missing? It seems to me the only people qualified to give a balanced and knowledgeable opinion are those like myself who elected to have it done in adulthood with considerable sexual experience before as well as after (with both men and women), and I can tell you fellows, if you have still got one, get rid of it.

My other bone of contention is with the way women are beginning to dominate the columns, the majority being anti. While they may be on the receiving end, and a once in a while, well thought out, non-emotive opinion might be of interest, what do they know about our bodies. Dicks belong to men, and we know what is best for us, and we can do what we like with them. Women have protested endlessly about their own rights – rights to do what they want with their bodies (e.g. abortion), and it gets up my nose the way they now want to dominate us. Ironically, it is largely the decisions of women over males not in a position to protest, that has given rise to all these men who claim to know they would be better off with their foreskins.

Your member who recommended vitamin E is quite right. I began to use it on my glans (having done so for years on my face) after my op., and it not only keeps it supple and smooth and moist, but has helped reduce wrinkles and lumps left along the scar line.

R.H. – London

Question Corner

I am curious about the reason for the familiar and unique shape of the human glans. I can see the evolutionary sense in having a cushion on the end of the cock, but why this particular rather intricate design? Has anyone any theories? How does it fit into the pattern with other mammals? Are glans and foreskins universal and, if so, what forms do they take?

T.F.

[A job here, maybe, for our several doctor members. — *D.A.*]

Who Wants It!

I was brought up in various rural parts of the country and had never heard of circumcision until I was about twelve when it cropped up in a religious lesson. Judging by the class reaction and the jokes afterwards, nobody else had either, though many in the class were circumcised, including the person who asked the question as I recollect.

Prior to that I had assumed that foreskins were worn 'up' or 'down' as a matter of personal choice, although I could never understand how some got their skin to look so smooth. From about ten or eleven I put it down to a condition (probably as having misread some medical book – which were few and far between in those days) known to me as 'tight-skinned'.

The point being that for as long as I can remember, since about three or four years old, I had always preferred the look and feel of my penis with the foreskin drawn back and, apart from in front of my parents at bathtime or whatever, that's how it remained. On discovery of masturbation and a rudimentary knowledge of sex, the existence of a foreskin became even less logical (to me). My parents were never approachable on sexual matters, so I had to wait until I was twenty-one to get the thing removed. I've not looked back, and even now cannot understand why anyone should want a foreskin or, if they've got one, why they should want to keep it – or for that matter, why some people should get so uptight at the mention of circumcision. I can't think of one good reason for keeping a foreskin, other than personal preference.

A.K. – Leicester

Neonatal Pain

Circumcision causes severe and persistent pain that lasts for at least two hours, but most infants get no pain relievers for the procedure, a study says.

Researchers at Rochester (NY) General Hospital and the University of Rochester said they based their finding on a study of 67 newborns before and after circumcision. Some of the infants in the study were given acetaminophen, but all showed increases in crying and heart and respiratory rates after the procedure.

“One probable explanation for the failure of acetaminophen to control pain in the immediate post operative period, is that the pain of circumcision is too severe”, lasting for at least two hours, the study said. The infants given the pain reliever, however, did show signs of being more comfortable six hours afterwards.

The report said circumcisions are performed on about 86% of newborn American males, but most are done without anaesthesia or pain relievers. “It

is imperative that safe and easily administered methods of anaesthesia and analgesia be found and utilised,” said the study, in the *Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics*.

Reuter – Chicago

Circumcising baby boys may make them more sensitive to pain, Canadian doctors have reported.

Dr Gideon Koren and colleagues at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto tested boys who were being vaccinated against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and flu, and analysed their response to the painful jabs. Circumcised boys were found to have significantly longer crying bouts and higher pain scores.

“Neo-natal circumcision may affect pain response several months after the event,” the study said. Other studies have shown that the body “learns” how to feel pain, and Koren said circumcision – often a baby’s first experience of pain – may prime them for future trauma. “Because memory of pain is believed to be important in subsequent pain perception...it is conceivable that pain from circumcision may have long-lasting effects on pain response and/or perception,” he wrote, and “male circumcision is the most common neo-natal surgical procedure. It causes intense pain and measurable changes in behaviour that last up to one day.”

Koren said there seemed to be no other explanation for the different reactions from the infants. They came from diverse backgrounds and were all healthy. “We also looked at cultural background and maternal intervention on pain response, but no significant associations were found.”

Reuter – London

Hairs

I’ve been asked on a few occasions if trapped hairs have ever been a problem. These are generally caused by the penis alternately swelling and shrinking, and happens more often if you own a slack foreskin or a slack circumcision. In my case it generally happens when I’m doing something like straphanging on the London underground. What I do is slowly (quick movements frighten people in enclosed spaces) pull down my zip, take out my penis and free the hairs gently. Then I retract my foreskin to examine whether there are any old hairs clinging to my glans. If anyone gives me more than a passing glance, and these are generally office girls sitting in the seats immediately in front of me, I give them a nice smile before slipping my penis back inside my trousers and doing up my zip. Then everything’s all right with the world again. We all fantasise, don’t we?

D.A.

Television

I was very pleased to see quotes from *Compuserve* and *Internet* sources in *Acorn*. To paraphrase the *X Files*, “the truth is out there”, maybe?

Readers may like to watch *The Good Sex Guide, Late* broadcast by ITV during the early hours of Saturday mornings. The panel, which includes Toyah Willcox and Dr Ian Banks, have discussed foreskins, circumcision, and even the controversial tearing of the frenulum. It is well worth setting up the video to record this informative programme.

I have always advocated circumcision on hygienic, sexual and aesthetic grounds, and have fully enjoyed these advantages for nearly thirty years.

Finally, in view of the difficulty of obtaining a circumcision on the NHS, or privately at a reasonable fee, has the Society compiled a list of medical practitioners sympathetic to its aims and interests.

A.W. – Sussex

[Over the years we have compiled lists of circumcisers. Whether they are still in action we do not know. Unless they advertise it is impossible to ask. We do have one doctor who is very good to us. — D.A.]

Premature Ejaculation

While there's some speculation that circumcision increases the risk of premature ejaculation, sex researchers Masters and Johnson believe this is “probably not true”.

Two factors, they say, make it unlikely. The first is that the foreskin of the uncircumcised penis retracts when erect. This exposes the glans, much the same way as circumcision does. The second is that researchers have found no difference in the rates of premature ejaculation in circumcised versus uncircumcised men.

Premature ejaculation very rarely results from an organic condition. Masters and Johnson say that, in over 500 men suffering from premature ejaculation, only one had an organic problem that contributed to the dysfunction.

Premature ejaculation often results from faulty conditioning: a man's being introduced to sex in a way that demands quick ejaculation. Sex in the back seat of a car, for example, or in living rooms with parents close by, conditions a man to ejaculate very soon after beginning sex play.

News Item

Finding Out

At a boys only boarding school in the late 50's and early 60's, there was a great deal of pent-up sexuality and testosterone wanting to get out! I was no exception and, inevitably in such a closed society with constant thoughts of sex, wanking was the favourite pastime. Although I was never to experience a proper 'circle jerk', I did experience mutual wanking with a couple of classmates. The strange thing about this was that there was never any hint of homosexuality – it was purely sexual release and possibly gaining knowledge about each other's bodies.

As a cavalier I was naturally in a minority – at a rough guess, roundheads made up about 75% of the numbers, but I never felt that cavaliers were made fun of, although it did seem that all the successful boys in the school, those who made up the 1st and 2nd rugby and cricket teams etc. seemed to be roundheads! I personally felt an 'outsider' as a cavalier and always wished to be circumcised so that I could be like the others. But here I am at over 50 still sporting a full foreskin, having seriously considered the 'cut' on many occasions, but fearful of the irretrievable nature of it!

My main problem as a cavalier was a tight tapering foreskin which would not retract. When I had a hard-on, just the tip would show, enough for me to shoot, but if the skin was pulled at all, the pain was excruciating. Strangely enough, we never had medical inspections, and I am sure that if this had been the case I would soon have joined the ranks of roundheads. We did occasionally see a cavalier return after the holidays now a roundhead, but I never knew the particular reasons for these circumcisions.

By the time I was 17, I was getting worried about the state of my foreskin, and the urge to explore sex with females was curtailed by knowing that I would have a major problem with my foreskin as I inserted my cock. My dilemma was solved by a roundhead friend. When discussing the problem with him, he said this was ridiculous, and was sure that I could do something about it. So he made me try to pull the skin back, very gradually and with a great deal of pain. I remember we sat in an empty classroom on a Saturday afternoon. Of course, as I manipulated my cock so it got hard, which made the task even more difficult, but I eventually achieved a full retraction and at that moment shot a huge load over the classroom floor! Never having been exposed before, my knob was incredibly tender, but from now on things improved, although it took years for me to lose that tenderness, and even when married a decade later, I had to be careful with premature ejaculation.

I was fortunate in having one roundhead and one cavalier wanking partner at school, so I learned quite a lot about the anatomy of the cock. The roundhead was very cleanly circumcised with no loose skin at all – probably average to large, say 6-7" with low hanging balls. The cavalier was smaller and, at rest, had a short foreskin which covered probably two-thirds of his knob. I was

always conscious (and still am) of my small size – 5" length and about 4.4" girth when hard. However, one friend referred to it as 'a nice handful!' Do I hear the expression 'pencil-dick' being mentioned?

Still, despite its faults, my cock has performed well over the years, and gives me much pleasure when wanking or fucking. Although retaining my foreskin, I do not make use of it sexually – I always wank with the skin fully retracted and direct stimulation onto my knob (I can manage this now without lubrication) – and also in sexual foreplay I prefer the foreskin to be out of the way. I wonder whether this in a way is trying to emulate being a roundhead. But, the one part of the foreskin that is important to me is that 1.5" or so of inner foreskin which is behind the knob in full retraction, and which provides so much sensation. This is the section I would miss if circumcised and probably what makes me hesitate. Having read recently several newspaper and magazine articles about foreskin restoration, it appears that this area is important in regaining extra sensitivity.

A couple of final observations:-

I notice I am sprouting several white pubic hairs now – but only on my balls. This is a worry!

I occasionally notice a cock which has a distinct twist to one side (we used to call this a 'left-hand thread' at school), but I have only ever seen this on a roundhead. Does it also happen to cavaliers, or could it be something to do with the individual circumcision?

I observed recently in a changing room a roundheaded cock with the most incredibly deep rim – it must have been at least ¼" if not ½". Is there anything in the theory that the exposed knob expands more than the one covered by a foreskin?

I have also occasionally noticed cavaliers with apparently very tight foreskins – the outline of the knob is very apparent and the foreskin overhang tapers into a thinnish tassel. I've never been able to ask such guys if they have problems with retraction, and they seem to be prime candidates for circumcision. Does anyone else have any experience or knowledge of this phenomenon?

I wish we guys could be more open about discussing sex, cocks and circumcision without being thought weird. It was good to be able to do so at the first *Acorn* AGM I attended.

Anon

Reply To Questions

In Issue 2/96, David asked about scarring of the glans as a result of freeing the adhesions during an infant circumcision.

I have looked at quite a few circumcised penises in pursuit of my interest in the subject. Neither my own nor any that I have seen are scarred. The anti-circumcision lobby use this as an argument, but it is not born out in practice.

As for parental retraction of an adherent foreskin: in this case there are two surfaces to consider. The inner surface of the foreskin is very delicate and is easily damaged. It is primarily the foreskin which will be scarred if roughly pulled away from the glans in infancy. The scarring of the foreskin will reduce its flexibility so that, even when there are no adhesions, it will not retract over the glans because it has become too tight – thus a true phimosis results and circumcision will have to be performed to correct it. The glans, on the other hand, will remain relatively unaffected.

Whilst it is good advice not to try to retract the foreskin too early, I would seriously question the logic behind making no attempt at all before the child is four years old. Various published surveys show that the majority of adhesions have separated by the time the boy is five years old – but none note whether any attempt was ever made to retract prior to this age. It is only by manipulation of the foreskin by the parents and child that the adhesions are gradually broken down. Furthermore, by the time a child reaches school age, he should be aware of the need to wash every part of his body, including under the foreskin.

Parents should probably leave well alone whilst the boy is still in nappies, simply splashing a little plain water over the covered penis at bathtime. By the time the boy is two or so, the foreskin should be very gently retracted to the point where it naturally stops. The exposed area should be washed and rinsed, and the foreskin allowed to return. Gradually the skin will slip back further and further. The boy will also learn that this area too needs to be washed.

Urologists have repeatedly written that the majority of serious penis problems, which they see, have been preceded by neglect of good hygiene, most often starting in childhood. One survey showed that nearly a quarter of all boys entering a British university had never retracted their foreskins. What an appalling state of affairs! Urologists are almost unanimously in favour of infant circumcision as a preventative measure. Paediatricians, who never see their patients beyond childhood are, however, the ones who advise on circumcision – usually to condemn it!

Vernon – London

A Big Acorn

Have you got a big Acorn? While in London on business recently, I paid a visit to the local Homebase Centre. There, near the checkout till, was this stand displaying big acorns, plus a selection of other fruits. These acorns are about 1.5" in diameter and 2" long – made of solid wood. They are impregnated with perfume/odouriser, and are intended to hang up in the car as an air freshener, this particular 'flavour' being Vanilla Oak.

This product is made by Holt Products Ltd., a common supplier of car accessories, so I suspect it is probably at numerous outlets. The product is correctly called 'fruits of the forest', of which six are available in the range. What better way to advertise your status than by hanging this in your car window or on the end of a keyring – as a bonus it even smells nice. The taste however, in case you were wondering, is dreadful.

I.W. – Dorset

Corrigendum

The gremlins somehow managed to attack the Editorial in Issue 4/96 between proof reading and final print. The damaged sentence (at the top of page 2) should have read:-

...We grew from there, but as we grew it was obvious that members couldn't write in to Cardiff and then have their letters sent on again, envelope out of envelope, paying double postage. So we took out the P.O. Box of our own here in Weston....

David & Vernon

ACORN

Issue
No 6 1996
Editor
David Acorn

Editorial

Got another apology to make. Although 5/96 was finished a few weeks ago, Brian has been so snowed under meeting deadlines at his work, and not getting home till late at nights, the issue had to come out late. At the same time, he tried to organise an *Acorn* meeting in Edinburgh for all the northerners, but the response has been so dismal that he has had to abandon it and start all over again for a meeting in the south. Anyway to all those who wrote in wondering where we'd got to, thank you for all your caring.

In June, one of our members, I know not whom, joined in a discussion on circumcision in the newspaper *Boyz*, writing a letter purporting to come from me, asking all those who wanted to know the pros and cons of circumcision to write to me. Since then I have been inundated with letters, 60 or 70, from young men. I have written to them all, telling them what we are about, but it struck me that we have never had a written treatise on the pros and cons. I wrote a short one out myself, but thought it might be a good idea if everyone mucked in to write a proper one. How about it!

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Letters for forwarding should be marked in pencil with the recipient's identifier. They should be stamped 1st class and be enclosed in an envelope addressed as above.

On the subject of writing, we seem to have got down to a minority of members who are keeping us going. Can I make a plea to the silent majority to take up pen and paper and write anything about the penis and associated subjects that comes into their head. It doesn't have to be long. And to the new members, I know you'll probably think that whatever you write has been written before, but no two people get the same slant on a subject, and in any case, a little repeating only shows the interest in the subject. Our lifeblood is your letters, your opinions and your experiences.

I have had a few letters from members who have written to other members and either not had a reply or been sent their letter back with no covering note. I can only think that a spouse or someone else saw the letter first and dealt with it, as I'm sure all our members are polite enough to respond.

There have also been some requests by members to know if they could get in contact with near neighbours. I would suggest that, if that is your wish, you write two copies of a short letter, giving such information as your age, your sexual status (so as not to cause any embarrassment), how you stand on the circumcision debate, and any other interest you may have on associated subjects, plus what you yourself expect from the recipient. It might help if you put in a note for me as well, stating if you have a preference for someone of a certain age or circumcision status, etc. Send the letters to me and I will try to tie you up. If you can put your telephone number or address in the letters it would speed things up, otherwise the first correspondence can come through me. I must add though, that in this case, if you don't receive a reply don't be disheartened, just remember it is unsolicited.

D.A.

One Of The Original

I am just writing to say that I am one of the 'original six' and to thank you and your committee for all that you do to produce such an excellent newsletter, which I'm sure is read, and is of interest, to many who are not even members. I have kept all the newsletters and they make most informative reading, going back some eight or nine years.

I was interested in your remarks regarding the sweat glands under the foreskin. I had always thought that the rim of the glans, in particular, was liberally supplied with sebaceous (Tyson) glands, whose secretions form the main component of smegma, and which can be a nuisance, causing irritation and soreness (balanitis) to the inner surface of the foreskin. Hot climates do seem to aggravate the condition, hence the recommendation for circumcision for those who experience trouble. It would be interesting to hear from anyone who has further comments on this matter.

Bill – Surrey

Where To Shove It In

Contributors' accounts of their wanking techniques are fascinating. And how about the related subject of 'things I have stuck my cock into?' I can recall when young, the urge to have my cock gripped – obviously quite a natural instinct. The problem was to find something the right size. I don't think texture came into it at that stage. I think a milk bottle was quite exciting – at one stage in my development I could get in when soft, then as I swelled the neck would grip me, quite painfully in fact. But it was only a partial grip, not along the length of the shaft. Then there were the cardboard tubes inside toilet rolls – about the right length, but too loose I remember.

Portnoy's raw meat didn't occur to me, but there was an embarrassing incident when I finally found an opportunity to put one bright idea into practice: the earth (I feel somewhat uncomfortable to use its common maternal title – the incestuous implications!) I had hit on this as potentially mouldable to my size and shape, and hopefully thereby supplying that need for all-round grip. I'd had the idea for some time, and one day about the age of thirteen, walking through a wood and feeling randy, as was not unusual, I found a patch of mud the right texture and set about first boring a hole with a stick, working it to what seemed to be the right size and smoothness. Then I had to pull down my trousers, lie on top of it, get my stiff cock into it, mould the mud tight around it, and try in effect to fuck the earth.

I can still recall the rather disappointing coldness and clamminess when, horror, I heard steps coming along the path, from which I would be visible. I stumbled to my feet, pulling up my clothes and facing away, made out that I was pissing, while I 'adjusted my clothing' and tried to tread the hole out of recognition. Then I turned to speak to the neighbour, very awkward and probably looking very guilty. I still wonder if he caught on – he was probably pretty amused.

I never tried the earth again, nor have I any experience with some of the other devices one hears about – vacuum cleaners, suckling calves (though I used to feed them sucking on my fingers in a bucket – rather erotic!), chickens. Can any other readers report on suchlike, or other childhood (or adult) inspirations?

Another vivid recollection. How good it felt when I finally got into a woman – how it felt so 'made for the job': gripping all over, warm, soft. The feeling of 'This is what I've been looking for!'

T.F.

Learning The Hard Way

I am a confirmed Francophile and have a French girlfriend. It is no secret that the French are not circumcision-minded: foreskins are the norm and are expected to be present. The French edition of *Marie Clare* for women ran an article on the penis a couple of years ago and declared that the thought of having their offspring circumcised like the Americans do would never enter the mind of the average French mother. Consequently they can expect virtually all the average French males to be uncircumcised. Since, for a very good reason, the subject of foreskins (and circumcision) is often on my mind, as I describe below, I find there is no wavelength even to discuss the subject with French people, who regard interest in the subject almost as evidence of a character defect.

I recently read a French erotic classic called *Les Pisseuses*, (a light-hearted description of teenage girls in France) by 'Dorothee R...', in which a young man describes an episode when he was ten: "– my sister Catherine showed me her bottom, then took down her knickers, laid back across the bed, lifted her skirts, opened her legs, and introduced me to the reason why they called her madamoiselle! At twelve, Cathy possessed a most appetizing vulva, long and narrow, formed with two big fleshy lips, prominent, bulging, deeply notched, but still deprived of hair.

Then commenced, over several weeks, the apprenticeship of our senses and bodies. The following year, a girl older than my sister explained to her the mysteries of life, she even came to visit us a couple of times. She rubbed herself off in front of us, rubbed my sister and then turned her attention to me. She had no problem in pulling my foreskin back and to masturbate me: when I was young, mother had instructed me in the way of cleaning myself; for the first time, with her long slender fingers, she had pulled the foreskin back off my glans. But if I did have a prick which was already thick and hard during my erections, I still wasn't able to ejaculate yet. This depraved young lady disappeared from our world since mother found her too forward for her taste. Cathy and I resumed our little games."

If only my mother had taken the same trouble with me as that French woman did with her son! My problem is that I don't get enough friction to achieve orgasm from even the most energetic workout, and I have to ask my girlfriend to finish me off by hand long after she has finished. The difficulty is that, even though I pull my foreskin right back before I slip it to her, it flips forward again after the first couple of strokes and stays there, completely shielding my knob from the sensation it needs. A friend at work told me that 'La Florentina' would help, but never got round to explaining how.

The thing is that I've always had a long tight foreskin which completely covers the knob even with a full hard-on. My mother, unlike the French lady, firmly believed in leaving foreskins for nature to take care of, and

consequently it wasn't until I was nine that I saw my knob uncovered for the first time. This came about when my parents took a young Australian girl as an au pair, mainly to babysit for me and my sister when they went out. She was very outspoken, and the first time she saw me in the bath she expressed shocked disapproval that I still had a foreskin, virtually suggesting that Mum was somehow neglectful, since she had not had me circumcised. Mum just laughed and said that such notions were out of date: no kids got circumcised these days.

The au pair then took it upon herself to teach me genital hygiene. She seemed fascinated by my foreskin, having never seen one before. The first evening my parents went out, she made me undo my flies and produce my cock, and under the curious gaze of my sister, proceeded to examine this long sprig of unfamiliar flesh.

Under such attention I naturally enough rose to a stiff erection. Although impressed, she seemed surprised to see that my knob remained totally covered, and was horrified when I told her that I had never yet pulled my foreskin back. She accused me of being dirty and immediately took steps to 'rectify' the situation. Ignoring my protests, and watched with intense curiosity by my sister, she painstakingly stretched the skin back over my knob until it clipped into the groove behind – and there it was – my raw little knob, soaking wet, and feeling cold for the first time ever. With my sister following eagerly behind, I was led firmly by my erect prong into the bathroom "to have the filthy thing washed"!

The au pair liberally soaped her right hand and, wrapping it around my engorged penis, started rubbing it hard back and forth over the exposed glans, and the wet folds of skin trapped behind it, with a brisk wanking motion. I nearly took off at this rough treatment of my sensitive knob, but soon found myself swooning with delight at having my erect penis masturbated, and by a girl at that! I soon shuddered to a dry climax, whereupon she rehooded my deflated willy and tucked it back into my trousers. She and my sister were all flushed, and I realised afterwards that they had enjoyed the exercise nearly as much as I had. This 'cleansing' operation became a near nightly occurrence.

The result is that now I'm a hopeless wanker, and because my glans has become desensitised by so much direct friction, I am unable to achieve orgasm from the gentle friction of my girlfriend's vagina when muted through the intervening layer of foreskin.

There is absolutely no question of circumcision, since my girlfriend takes the traditional French view of it and, although I'm interested in the subject, it doesn't seem a good idea from what I've read about it. Does anyone have any bright ideas? Or can anyone tell me who 'La Florentina' is, and how she could help me perhaps.

T.H.

The Kindest Cut Of All

Circumcision for all ages as Russian Jewish immigrants exercise their rites.

By Raphael Sugarman

Published in *Urban Gazette* (New York, November 1992)

“This will feel just like a little mosquito bite,” says Abrom Romichon, double edged scalpel in hand, as he prepares to circumcise young Boris Belfer.

Belfer wears a wan grin. “I have never had a mosquito bite in that area,” he says.

Belfer, 20, always knew that moving to America from Russia would mean new experiences. A second language. Freedom of expression. The challenge of life in New York City. A ritual circumcision. More than 75,000 Russian Jews have moved to New York in the last ten years – many of them settling in Brooklyn’s Brighton Beach – with more than 65,000 of them having arrived since 1989 alone. And for many, undergoing a ritual circumcision, or ‘bris’, is not only a necessary rite of Judaism, but a celebration of religious freedom in the U.S.

“Such a thing was not possible in our country,” says Boris’s mother. Religious rituals like circumcision were illegal in the old Soviet Union, and punishment could be severe.

Assisting Russian immigrants with circumcisions has long been the calling of a Brooklyn group called ‘Friends of Refugees of Eastern Europe’, or FREE. Founded in 1969 by Rabbi Hershel Okunov and his brother Meir, immigrants themselves, FREE has coordinated circumcisions for nearly 10,000 males. While at least half were between the ages of 10 and 20, many who have undergone the procedure were in their 30s and 40s and even older.

“My Rabbi told me that it might be dangerous for me to have this done at my age,” says 62-year-old Talman Kopelevitch. “But I was in the Russian Army and I was not scared. I feel much more clean physically and spiritually.”

Romichon, the ritual surgeon or ‘mohel’, estimates that he performs about 14 circumcisions a week at Brooklyn’s Interfaith Hospital. He used to award each patient a silver cup, but stopped when his list of patients reached into thousands.

The mohel is assisted by a ‘sandek’, or godfather, who performs the liturgical part of the ceremony, offering wine. Nearby is Aaron Pasternak, the coordinator of FREE’s circumcision programme, who was a chemist in Russia and chief of a military factory that built missiles. He has turned down lucrative job offers in the U.S. because, he says, “I believe in God, and this is a better job for someone who believes in God.”

Also near is Dr. Sung Kim, a urologist who supervises the procedure. "Circumcising an adult is not terribly more complicated than an infant," he says, "though an adult may require more stitches."

Boris Belfer's circumcision takes only an instant. He, who now adopts the Hebrew name, Berel, for Bear, looks down sheepishly as he is stitched and bandaged.

"Mazel tov," everyone cries as the godfather plants a kiss on his flushed cheek. "Before this I thought that I would never go to a synagogue, that I was not worthy," he said, "Now I can go."

FREE, which is affiliated with the Lubavitcher Hasidic group, also helps newly arrived residents find housing and employment, runs an accredited high school and summer camp, and organises social and educational programmes.

Sent by Bil Brierley

Answer To Anthony (3/96)

- 1** Any kind of sliding movement of the foreskin has always been pleasurable to me. I think that many intact readers will confirm that merely retracting the foreskin is sometimes enough to produce an erection.
2. What does it feel like to retract? I can only equate it to baring my soul. Lytton Strachey found Jews aggressive because, to him, circumcision suggested an 'unsheathed sword.' If someone else pushes back my foreskin, the feeling is more intense because it usually prefaces oral sex.
3. Because it's not often exposed, the glans is very sensitive. If merely retracting the foreskin doesn't produce an erection, washing almost certainly will. Friction from, say, a towel can be painful.
4. Because I have been trying to loosen my foreskin, I retract it before urination. I believe many men have done this from boyhood. Apart from anything else, it helps aiming. If there is piss on the floor all around the toilet bowl, a man with an unretracted foreskin is most likely to blame.
5. Until recently I haven't been able to masturbate with my foreskin retracted. To me, masturbation has consisted specifically of rubbing the foreskin to and fro over the glans.
6. There seems to me now, there are no disadvantages to having a foreskin. There are disadvantages to having a tight foreskin, but that's another matter!

Gary – London

Creation According To Ancient Egypt

Recently, there was a documentary on TV regarding the source of human creation as believed by a religion in Ancient Egypt.

Throughout time there were different gods worshipped in Egypt, each starting generally in smallish communities and spreading wide or disappearing after a few centuries. In all cases a temple was built to the god.

In the 1800's, Victorian archaeologists discovered a huge temple to one of these gods, in fact three temples in one. No facts were published on this temple because of the nature of the belief of the worshippers. Wall drawings in the temple showed that the God originally came up as a head out of the sea. He then fashioned his body to his own liking, turning out to be the human form as we know it. The drawings then show that he put the knob of his long penis in his mouth and masturbated until he filled his mouth with semen, swallowed it and regurgitated it as people. He later transferred some of this process to the women he created. Every morning the priests of the temple went into an inner sanctum and masturbated in his honour, and it seemed that masturbation by everyone was a high social and religious act, although nothing was said in the programme about the difference between solo and mutual.

Centuries later, when Christianity was riding high in the world, the Christians found the temple. In their ascetic disapproval of all pleasures of the flesh, they chipped off most of the penises in the wall drawings (those that were left seemed to still have their foreskins, so it must have been really ancient), and presumably let the desert consume the temple.

So when the Victorians found it again, they couldn't very well tell anyone at home as the national prudishness couldn't tolerate such a lump of history. Full marks for the TV company who broadcast the story, although I can't see it as bringing the greatest international pastime into the open.

D.A.

As Puppy Dogs' Tails

A medical article in *The Times*, by Dr Thomas Stuttford

For at least a hundred years many breeds of working dogs have had their tails docked. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons has in recent years decided that tail docking is unnatural and an abuse of the puppy.

Doctors never like to be eclipsed by vets and so they have been having their own ethical discussions on a mutilating operation of infancy. The standards committee of the General Medical Council, the governing body of the medical profession, discussed the morality of cutting the foreskin off baby boys.

Circumcision is to some doctors every bit as much an outrage as docking puppy tails is to some vets. Boys occasionally may bleed, and in some unfortunate cases become infected.

The members of the G.M.C. debated the problem at length, and reached no conclusion. Further discussion with interested groups will take place.

Rather than improve the standards of circumcision so that the occasional baby boy does not bleed, or if he does, there is somebody there to arrest the haemorrhage, and to make certain that infection does not occur, many paediatricians have advocated that circumcision should be abandoned altogether, unless there is an obvious medical condition that it would rectify. The difficulty is that, whereas paediatricians see baby boys when they have only one use for the penis – to help them to urinate efficiently – other doctors later look after the man when the penis has a sexual function. One of the only three pieces of original research in which I have been involved was in evaluating the merits of circumcision.

For the survey, we questioned prostitutes who attended a busy genito-urinary clinic about the relative merits of sexual intercourse with circumcised and uncircumcised men.

Nobody would claim the survey was statistically sound, but the results were striking. More than 90% of the women, who were chosen as their views on the pleasures of sex were unclouded by emotion, and their experience wide-ranging, thought that sex with circumcised men was more pleasurable.

There is evidence from Australia and Kenya, countries where circumcision is related neither to social nor income group, that circumcised males suffer less from all genito-urinary infections, including HIV. Whereas doubt is now cast on statistics that circumcision is associated with a lower incidence of cervical cancer in their partners, figures show it is related to a reduced likelihood of developing cancer of the penis and a disabling skin condition, balanitis xerotica obliterans (bxo).

I do not suppose a week went past in the busy genito-urinary clinic I attended in which I did not see a case of bxo, and hence a man who wished that he had been circumcised in childhood.

Sent in by several members.

A Letter In Reply To The Above Article

Dear Dr Stuttaford,

Thank you very much indeed for your article on male circumcision. Almost all other pieces written in the press on this subject are so anti, it is refreshing to have the pro points put so gently and so well. I hope this note gives you some

comfort for your bravery in expressing your positive convictions against some of the shrill letters which may reach you from the other side of the divide.

Perhaps through your contacts in the medical profession, you might pass on the message from my generation, born in the middle of this century when neonatal circumcision was widely practiced. It is to say that the great majority of us are well pleased with the hygienic, health and sexual benefits that this operation has given us. This is no lone voice; I have canvassed many friends and read surveys which confirm it. Our main frustration is that, due to changing and prevailing fashion, we have been prevented from passing on these perceived advantages to our sons! Many will say that our GPs placed every obstacle in the way of our request or inquiry.

Of course there are a few dissenting voices from our company as statistically you might expect. These are largely due to botched and mutilating surgery or poor parental counselling. Unfortunately, doctors have tended to regard circumcision with some contempt, as a trivial operation to be delegated to the junior and the inexperienced. In consequence, the results have not always been of a standard that the patient has every right to expect. To its owner, the penis is as much a vital organ as the eye, brain or heart, and is worthy of care and competence, both to avoid complications and achieve a good cosmetic result. Much of the criticism which is levelled at circumcision should be an indictment of the operator, not the procedure.

A large ambition of medicine in modern times has been aimed at prevention. Hence we are advised to modify our diets and our lifestyles (but not our penis) to avoid trouble ahead. At-risk groups for some cancers are continually being identified and are advised to undergo preventive surgery, even to the extent of mastectomy! Isn't it strange that in the singular of male circumcision the medical profession turns proven practice upside down? Moreover, we are not offered the choice as many other patients are in elective surgery when doctors feel the responsibility of decision is too great for a professional. There is a very good case for a clear document setting out the pros and cons of circumcision. This could be included in all maternity packs and parents left to decide. If they wish to have their son circumcised then this should be respected and the operation carried out with care and competence on request. We are, after all, allowed to take many other decisions on behalf of our children which have more far-reaching consequences in shaping their lives.

It was good to know from your report that the General Medical Council Committee have as yet reached no conclusion. I note they are to enter further consultations with interested groups. Doubtless these will be ethnic and religious communities where circumcision is upheld as part of their religion and culture. I think it is important that the larger group to which I belong, who have no other label than their conviction in the value of an age old procedure and their wish to see it carried out competently, should also be heard. Perhaps you may find a way of advancing awareness of this to your

colleagues in Council and the wider public through your journalism, which I always follow and appreciate.

G.D.

The Good Sex Guide – Late, Discussion

In a recent edition of *The Good Sex Guide – Late*, the team spent about ten minutes discussing circumcision. The host, Toyah Wilcox, kicked off by posing the question – Does having a foreskin give you more sexual sensation and make you a better lover? She went on to say that in the U.S. more than 80% of Americans are circumcised, but that Americans are increasingly feeling incomplete and want their foreskins back. Footage was then shown of an American, assisted by his wife, fitting a weighted foreskin stretcher to his circumcised penis with surgical tape.

Toyah then turned to the programme's resident doctor, Ian Banks, who described the operation and then referred to the film, saying that the fact that the procedure took from two to six years before anything remotely resembling a proper foreskin was achieved showed the depth of feeling and the degree of importance it held for those who didn't like being circumcised. This was to the shame of the medical profession who had a lot to answer for, since there were no good reasons for performing the operation, only excuses. The vast majority of problems arising disappear of their own accord in time.

Toyah then said that she had received lots of letters from men worried about how women react to circumcision, and was there a difference sexually; would they be missing something? Ian replied that common sense dictates that if you cut off a sensitive structure loaded with nerve endings, there was bound to be a degradation in feeling, but those circumcised in infancy would have nothing to compare it with, so wouldn't know what they were missing.

Toyah then turned to the other team member, Suzi Hayman, and asked her what women thought about circumcised penises and foreskins. Suzi gave the diplomatic answer that women would usually stand up for the sort of penis sported by the guy they were sleeping with at the time. Whilst some thought that the circumcised penis looked 'prettier' and appeared cleaner – giving rise to the hygiene myth – women with uncircumcised partners found the foreskin much more fun to masturbate, and thought the foreskin 'prettier', with the frilly bit at the tip being particularly attractive.

Ian Banks then spoke again about the dedication needed for stretching the penile skin to form a foreskin, and said that skin grafts did not work and usually looked awful. Toyah picked this point up and said she had received a sad letter from a man circumcised as a baby, who was done so badly he needed a skin graft. Now he was grown up he was aware that his penis was totally disfigured and wanted to know if another operation would help. Suzi

said he should go to his doctor – procedures had improved over the years. She said that there were really deep feelings involved for so many men who feel mutilated by the operation, castrated even, and were aware that something precious had been taken away from them by their parents and the medical profession.

Ian Banks then mentioned paraphimosis, and explained the procedure for reducing it by squeezing until the foreskin popped forward again, whereupon Toyah said that some of her teenage boyfriends had been circumcised because of a torn frenulum. Ian said that it was a minor problem and that circumcision need not have been carried out. Suzi intervened, suggesting that boys and girls should curb their natural enthusiasm in handling the penis and use a lubricant to avoid tearing the frenulum. She then closed the discussion by saying, with conviction, that the body should be left as nature designed it.

I go into the detail of this extract because it indicates how much the message conveyed by NORM UK is getting through. After our joint letter was published in the *British Medical Journal* deploring circumcision and the damage it causes, of which I was proud to be a signatory, the reaction from the media and public at large has been intense. Several young people's magazines have published articles supporting our (NORM's) point of view (*Marie Clare*, *Cosmopolitan* and others are said to be in the pipeline), and there have been a number of articles in the national press, some mentioned in *Acorn*, not to mention reports on radio and TV.

Now, finally, a serious national tabloid is offering to publish a full page spread on the problems caused by circumcision, giving case histories of victims and their wives, on condition of finding someone prepared to come up front and be photographed for the article. Herein lies the problem. The main reason NORM did not exist decades ago is the very private nature of the distress felt by men circumcised in infancy, and the shame they feel in admitting their state to others or even discussing it. Consequently we are having a problem finding someone courageous enough to stand up and make his feelings public. Would any of our (*Acorn's*) disgruntled circumcisees be prepared to have a go? If so, please waste no time but get in touch with David Smith, NORM UK, PO Box 71, Stone, Staffs. ST15 0SF.

R.B.W.

I Like 'Em Cut

A friend of mine has shown me *Acorn*, which I must say is most professionally reproduced. It was Issue 3/96. For what it is worth I offer some observations, but please do not identify me in any way. Nor do I want any correspondence with men. Okay?

In answer to your question, "What do women prefer?", may I, as an Englishwoman, say a circumcised penis, unquestionably. It is both aesthetically and physically more pleasing. But there is another matter. I remember in my teens it used to be said that a boy/man who was circumcised was far more virile, and that he had been 'done' to stop him masturbating. Of course, that's rather extreme, but I would have thought that it reduces the opportunity. From my point of view I can confirm the American research on every point: indeed, there is no way I would fellate an uncircumcised man. Absolutely no way! A friend of mine who is what might be described as a 'professional therapist' sees all shapes and sizes, and takes a similar view. As soon as she sees an uncircumcised penis the condom goes on immediately. And that used to happen before there was ever a risk of AIDS. Condoms were de rigueur for foreskins but, because she had her own protection, not required for muscles that were cleancut. Indeed, she actually enjoyed some of her clients in the latter category.

If Princess Di refused to allow her sons to be circumcised, all I can say is that it just goes to prove what a stupid woman she is.

Mrs X.

Soreskin

From *Forum* magazine, Vol 28/11: Adviser Queries.

Q. As an older reader, I would have liked to have been circumcised earlier in life, but really there was no medical reason for it. However, I am finding now that when I masturbate, which I still do fairly frequently, the piece of skin which attaches the underside of the shaft to the glans gets rather sore, as I have a tendency to pull back fairly vigorously.

I've been wondering if it would be advisable to slit through this piece of skin to allow easier retraction of the shaft and relieve the soreness.

Your experienced advice and the best method of carrying it out (or not) would be much appreciated.

A: The piece of skin you refer to is the frenulum and it contains a small artery called the frenal artery. Although this artery will vary in size, if cut it can bleed in a very troublesome manner and may need ligation or cauterisation in order to control it. The scar left may remain tender and weak, and show a tendency to split after vigorous intercourse.

It happens on occasions that this slip of skin is so short and tight on erection that intercourse is painful and the frenulum is torn – and once torn, the tendency will be for recurrence. In this case, division of this may be needed, and sometimes the skin can be divided, leaving the artery intact. Nevertheless, the problems of the weak and tender scar remain.

As in any surgical procedure, the possible end result must be weighed against the reason for any operation being performed – there should be compelling reasons for any operation and the benefits expected must seem to outweigh any possible disadvantages. On balance, I would say that it would be better to try to be less vigorous in your manipulations, and use liberal amounts of some lubricating cream, such as KY Jelly, body lotion or any suitable face cream, for three months and see how you get on. I would not be in a hurry to proceed to surgery.

Richard

Question Corner (1)

Still talking about the frenulum. This must be the point where the artery going through the penis turns into the returning veins. Having indulged in a heavy amount of self-inspection, I notice that as soon as the major vein leaves the frenulum it divides into four or five still largish veins, one of which turns a right angle going around the tip of the foreskin before turning another right angle to go down the length of the shaft, on the top side, to the root. This vein is always obvious if you look at pictures of a penis with a foreskin, but is missing in the circumcised. The other veins coming from the frenulum artery also move around the foreskin, joining each other at times like country lanes, before journeying down to the root.

So, during circumcision all these veins are severed, and in some cases the frenulum artery itself. The inner foreskin is also covered in a myriad of tiny veins, red this time, not blue. Obviously, circumcision does nothing to impede the flow of blood around the area, but why should they be there in the first place if they can be done without?

D.A.

Question Corner (2)

Recently, in the local library, I leafed through a book entitled, *The Bible: Myth and Medicine* by Margaret Lloyd Davies and T.A. Lloyd Davies. In a section on circumcision, it states that, traditionally, “circumcision was performed by banging the foreskin between two sharp stones (usually of flint)” There is a reference to Joshua 5:2. I have never heard of this method before. I had always assumed that flint knives had sharp edges and that the foreskin was cut off. Banging between two stones seems a highly inefficient and painful method since, surely, it would just leave a mess of mutilated skin. Can anyone throw a light on this?

In the same section of the book, there is reference to soldiers in the Gulf War requiring circumcision because of balanitis caused by sand. I have seen similar references to circumcision being necessary for soldiers serving in the

African Campaign during the Second World War. Are these stories merely anecdotal, apocryphal, or is there any published evidence/references to this actually taking place?

Ivan Goodhart

Restoration

As I said in newsletter 7/95, I am very happy with my restored foreskin, achieved entirely by stretching. There is only one thing that is missing, and that is a tight ring of skin at the tip, which would presumably require minor surgery, though I am not sure what benefits it would give me.

It has been said in your columns that the purpose of the frenulum is 'to flip the foreskin back in place'. But it seems to me that the tight ring at the tip of the foreskin is:-

- a) to hold it back behind the glans when wanted.
- b) to flip it forward when not wanted.

Any comments please.

I.D. – Herts

[You're quite right. The tight ring will do that, but only if your foreskin is tightish at the tip. You would then think that a loose foreskin would move back and forward with no motive, but it doesn't, so it has to be the frenulum that pulls it forward, unless, of course it is the sheer bulk of foreskin behind the glans which forces itself over. Any other comments. — D.A.]

Prisoners Circumcised In The Madras War of 1780

Raleigh Trevelyan's family was linked by marriage with the Macaulays. Both families were actively involved in the British administration of India for more than two centuries. Raleigh spent his early years there before attending the famous public school at Winchester, and later developed a career as an author and publisher. His book, *The Golden Oriole* (New York, Viking Penguin, 1987) is the tale of his Indian travels, motivated by the wish to visit the places associated with his distinguished relatives. The story is interspersed with accounts of the leading parts they played in the historical events of India.

One relative, Colin Macaulay, was born in 1760 and enlisted in 1777. In the very junior rank of ensign he served in the Madras army in 1780, when the Indian ruler Hyder Ali, furious at a breach of faith by the British, launched the Second Madras War, ably assisted by his son Tipu. The small British garrisons were rapidly overwhelmed and those not killed in the attack were

imprisoned in dungeons at Seringpatam. In March 1781 all officers were put in heavy irons, chained together in pairs. Trevelyan (p.352-3) writes that many of the prisoners had “been forcefully converted to the Moslem faith, involving circumcision. As time went on, more circumcisions took place, the youngest and handsomest soldiers usually being chosen.”

Reading the diary of one of Colin’s companions, Thomson, one is surprised by the number of European boys who were brought in. Some were drummer boys, but others came from ships. On December 11th 1782, forty-seven seamen were mentioned as having arrived, sixteen of them not more than twelve or thirteen, all being immediately circumcised.

At my public school in the 1940’s, to see anybody uncircumcised at the swimming pool, where we bathed naked, was a matter of curiosity. In the eighteenth century, the “vile” practice of circumcision was regarded, according to Thomson’s diary, as something that “every Christian of the universe abhors”. A captive sergeant, writing to Captain Lucas, told how he and some other soldiers had been dragged out, stripped and shaved all over, then left lying in a state of “cruel uncertainty”. At last they had been given doses of the drug majum, and a dark-skinned surgeon had come in to do the deed, while some ‘caffres’, presumably rough workmen, held them down. The drug had “wrought differently”, some men becoming insensible, others not at all. The eventual pain in any case was dreadful. They had remained “under cure” for a month, and afterwards had been compelled to give drill instruction to Tipu’s battalion of captured Carnatic boys. A silver pearl was put in the right ear as a badge of servitude. Sometimes Colin and the rest would see the European boys on a roof-top: the boys would make signals, and “in floods of tears” remove their turbans.

At the end of March 1784, the prisoners were told that peace had been made. The irons were knocked off, and Colin and other captives went home on leave. Tipu secretly kept about a hundred men and boys in his service, but by 1796 only nineteen had survived, the rest having perished through “ill-usage”. Those nineteen had been trained to sing and dance, but were put to death in case they would be discovered. The (presumably) circumcised Colin was promoted to Captain in 1796, and continued to serve in the army as private secretary to General Harris, the Commander-in-chief. He was promoted to general and retired in 1828. By 1833, he was MP for Saltash and died in Clifton aged 76. W.Thomson’s two volumes of diaries were published as *Memoirs of the Late War in Asia* (London 1838).

Tony Acorn

ACORN

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No 7 1996
Editor
David Acorn

Editorial

Not much to say this time. By the time you get this edition the meeting in High Wycombe will be over. I know from the names who are coming that I will be making new friends as quite a few have never attended a meeting before.

For the benefit of the new members: we have an ongoing item called Contact Corner. If you wish to get into correspondence with other members, just write an ad, putting down what you're interested in and what you expect from others. Post through me and see what happens.

Again, for the new members. I have many of them write or call me asking for an interpretation of the correct names for items of the male genitalia. You'll find this on the last page. I would just like to say here, that if there is anything you don't understand with our subject, or have any other queries, please don't hesitate to ask.

David

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Reply To 'Finding Out' — 5/96

I am now 76 years of age and have lived with a fairly tight foreskin which tapers to a long end. My foreskin does not roll back when I get erect, although I regularly retract the skin for penile hygiene and for other sexual reasons if I so choose. My father was a Jewish GP, my mother a Christian, and I was brought up in the evangelical religion. I never received any sexual enlightenment from my parents. My foreskin was never retracted. I was never told to wash under there. Even after I had full sexual intercourse my foreskin was not retracted, although I guess my glans would project from the foreskin while in the vagina.

At some time, when I was having regular and frequent intercourse, I developed a terrible infection caused by the accumulated smegma. A specialist doctor was the first to pull my foreskin back. I was taken aback and enormously surprised. I vividly remember the disgust of the doctor at what he had found. I was treated with a silver-containing ointment and given a cleaning solution, and have kept clean ever since.

I have always been very sexually active and being lucky in having found an equally sex-orientated wife. We normally had intercourse 10 to 12 times a week, now having fallen back to 2 to 3 times a week. I enter the vagina normally with the foreskin not retracted, but I am certain it does retract inside the vagina, although when pulling full back during thrusting so as to leave and re-enter the vagina, my foreskin slips back on again. I feel uncomfortable with a naked glans, and only enter the vagina with a retracted foreskin on rare occasions. If I use plenty of lubricant on my penis, I can enter and thrust with the foreskin always covering my glans. My wife takes great delight when I pleasure her clitoris with my foreskin, and much of our foreplay activity is with my erect penis sliding along the inner vaginal lips, meeting the clit. I usually hold down my foreskin to pass over her clit, thus pleasuring myself and her simultaneously. My most intense pleasures all come from the foreskin. The foreskin loses some of its sensitivity after it is first retracted. In oral sex my foreskin remains forward, by my choice, though for variety I occasionally bare my glans.

I cannot imagine how my first girlfriend could stand being near to what must have been a very smelly organ, and kiss and suck it. However, this she did. Much later I had the chance to ask her how she could have done this. She was a virgin until we made love and didn't know better, she told me, and, "I used to wash it with my saliva." Now, there was love indeed!

In conclusion. Although my foreskin was, and still is, tight, it is retractable. My first retraction occurred comparatively late in my love life, and it did hurt, although only momentarily, but not after that. We are, of course, all different, and there are of course plenty of cases of phimosis which do need circumcision.

The condition the writer also describes, bending of the penis, is, of course, the well-known Peryones Disease and to my knowledge can occur to both roundheads and cavaliers, but seems to occur more frequently with roundheads.

J.T.D.

My Penis

May I offer to those interested a few observations based on my own circumcised penis?

The remaining skin on the upper side is of exact length to fit the erect penis when at right-angles to the body. On the underside there is three inches from the glans to the scrotal skin. Thus, if fingers are placed at the intersection of the penis with the pubic bone, the skin of the upper side of the penis is taut and no movement possible. This, however, does not mean that the shaft is covered by a drum taut piece of skin. It is possible to pull the shaft skin 3" to 4" away from the body at the root of the penis (giving a bell tent effect). This effect is greatest with the penis pointing towards the navel, and non-existent pointing below horizontal. On the underside the scrotum could be connected to the glans and there still be some spare movement. All this allows adequate mobile skin for draining urine and masturbation, particularly by a woman. Anybody considering circumcision and expecting a drum-tight effect, be warned; it would be that radical the penis would need almost complete flaying, and a very stiff erection. However, you still lose a piece of skin, by my reckoning, about the size of half a page of *Acorn* – can't be bad.

And on the point concerning sensitivity of the glans (which is only as sensitive as the sole of the foot anyway), if circumcised, it is certainly less sensitive to light touch. But all the nerve endings are still there, and moisture seems to soften and re-sensitise the glans, as during intercourse, fellatio, or particularly, your missus giving you a slow, soapy one in the bath! The tugging effect of the shaft skin on the glans is also very pleasant, and many masturbation techniques don't even employ glans contact at all, yet lead to exotic orgasms. This is speculative as I've never seen it on any diagrams, but it's always seemed to me that there is an orgasmic centre like a little clitoris buried somewhere towards the centre and rear of the glans somewhere below the coronal ridge, and can be stimulated with downward and forward pressure by the thumb in the coronal groove, top centre of the penis. My ex-wife was a master of this, using circular movements of the thumb in a thumb and three-finger, push-pull, claw-like grip just behind the coronal ridge, palm over glans, leading to exquisite orgasms with minimal movement or effort.

Lastly, concerning D.A.'s question "Does the glans sweat?" Yes, I think it does, or something very similar. If the glans is placed in contact with a plastic sheet, such as the plastic sleeve one might find on a paperback book, it very

quickly becomes moist from some secretion which dries to a rather nice glaze. It also tans readily in the sun – odd, surely for an ‘internal’ organ.

Question:-

Is a small glans more sensitive than a large one? Does everybody have the same number of nerve endings, or are they on a number/area basis?

A.K.

My Circumcision

Circumcision was totally new and unknown to me until about the age of 12 or 13, and even then I didn’t fully know what it was.

I think I discovered it by accident when I was walking along my local beach (which is probably how I discovered naturism as well!), when I came across a naked man sunbathing, and who appeared to be asleep. Believe it or not, I actually went back to have another look, and I think from then on I was taking a closer look at other boys’ and men’s willies.

A few times I would try to keep my foreskin pulled back, which I found a quite pleasant sensation, even if one effect of doing this was that I would start dribbling. After a while my foreskin just seemed to do as it pleased, and with it being so long I was surprised it stayed back as long as it did.

When I left school I started to write to several people all over the country, both male and female, but the females never wrote for long and they didn’t seem to want to write about much, anyway. My naturist interest was now starting to grow and so did my group of naturist friends, the majority of whom were male, and several of them just happened to be circumcised.

At the same time I was visiting the beach whenever I could, and always preferred to walk up to what I called the ‘quiet end’ as I wasn’t too keen on big crowds or noisy families. Even then it took quite a while and some coaching for me to strip off fully and let others see my foreskin was pulled back.

Anyway, I started asking a few questions with friends who were circumcised, and even wrote a few letters to various magazines asking if they could help. I think it was in 1989 when I managed to get the address of a clinic in London who did the operation for about £150 as an outpatient, after being advised that it was unlikely that I could get it done on the NHS unless I had a very good reason.

I wrote off, asking every question I could think of, and telling them what I wanted. They weren’t too bad at giving advice and about a year later, when I was 25, I made an appointment and sent a deposit, which was a lot for me then.

I took a day off work and went down by bus on my own, telling no-one I was being circumcised, which I now think was quite brave of me as I didn't really know London, or know what I would feel like after the op. Anyway, when I got there I had a chat with the surgeon as to what I wanted and what he was going to do. He gave me one of those silly back-to-front gowns and told me to strip off my shoes, trousers and knickers, then go into the operating room.

Once in, he told me to lay on the operating table on my back and just relax. As I did so the nurse came over and pulled up my gown to shave me, but made a comment when she was pleasantly surprised to find that my willy was already clean-shaven (but that's another story). The surgeon then gave me several injections around the base of my willy to numb the area, and this I must admit was the most painful part of the operation, especially as I don't like needles. But it wasn't long before my willy was totally numb and I couldn't feel a thing.

Next, my willy was cleaned with a surgical solution and marked out for the op., then some sheeting put around to protect my clothing from any unwanted mess etc. At this point I wasn't going to watch any more, but can honestly say I didn't feel a thing but can just about remember a slight smell of burning as blood vessels were sealed, and then some pulling on my willy as he stitched it up. Lots of bandages went on, leaving just the smallest of holes for me to wee through.

When I got dressed I had some trouble getting my knickers on fully as there was so much bandaging, the size of the bulge being quite noticeable, even impressing me, but I knew it wasn't all mine.

After I'd dressed, the nurse came out to check the dressing and even added some more where the blood was starting to seep through. She advised me to wear some plastic pants for the next few weeks to save any blood staining my trousers, and then gave me a prescription for painkillers, antibiotics and some cleansing solution to wash my willy with. I was also given two A4 typed sheets of what I should and should not do, what to expect, and an emergency telephone number should there be any problems.

Once back home I was back at work the next day as if nothing had happened, and luckily my overalls covered the tell-tale bulge in my trousers, but it was a week before I took the first bandages off and had a much wanted bath. I must admit my willy didn't look a pretty sight, almost like a burnt sausage, and quite tender when the water touched it for the first time. It was also about twice as thick as usual (which would impress I'm sure). After this bath I put new bandages on, which wasn't the easiest thing to do, and from then on the bandages got smaller over the next few months as I washed my willy more and more and it started getting back to its normal size. After about six weeks the stitches started to dissolve, which I was glad of as they were starting to annoy me.

I went to stay with a naturist friend at about the tenth week, not expecting any naturist activity, especially as I was still using bandages on my willy, it being a little delicate. Anyway, it turned out that a few friends had been invited round for a small naturist social, some of whom I knew and some I didn't. I explained to my friend and showed him my bandaged willy, which he was pleasantly surprised about, and told me not to worry as no one would mind or expect an explanation as they would probably guess anyway. One or two of them already had an idea that I was thinking about a circumcision, and it turned out that they were all impressed that I had gone ahead with it and couldn't wait to see the unveiling.

When I did get rid of the bandages completely the sensation on my glans was quite overwhelming, and it wasn't long before I started dribbling. Even now, some years later, I'm having similar feelings when the underside of my willy rubs against something, and one friend has started putting tissues down when I visit.

On the whole I'm glad I had it done. I'm only sorry that I didn't have it done earlier as I would have liked my shaft skin to have been tighter, which seems is best if it's done much earlier. What has surprised me a little is the number of friends, even close relatives, who saw me nude before I was circumcised, have seen me since, but have never mentioned anything about my circumcision. Mind you, I'm lucky that I managed to get some nude photos of before I was circumcised, and some after as well!

R.L. – Notts.

Politically Correct

I have been an interested reader of *Acorn* for a few years now and there is one aspect that has never been covered, the association of circumcision with political views. It used to be true that circumcision was a class thing and therefore Tory men were much more likely to have been circumcised than Socialist men, but I've a feeling that these days, things could be slightly different. Since your organisation preserves anonymity anyway, why not ask your members to give their political leanings when they declare their penile preferences, just to see? You would also need to get their religious persuasion so that Jews and Muslims could be disregarded, since they are 'captive' roundheads, so to speak.

I was brought up in a wealthy family back in the fifties and, as a girl, all the males I knew, including my brothers and schoolfriends were circumcised. My first realisation that there was an alternative version occurred when I was 10. Four of us, two boys and two girls, used to play tennis on an old secluded court behind our house. After a couple of games one day, my friend, who was considered to be a fearless 'tomboy' and tried to live up to it, said she needed a wee but couldn't be bothered to walk round to the house. So

she dropped her knickers and peed at the side of the court in full view of us all! The boys were shocked to the core at first, much to our amusement, but then decided they couldn't be outdone by a girl, so both got their cocks out and peed too. It was then that I saw my first foreskin because only one of the boys had been circumcised, the other peeing from a long hose of skin at the end of his knob. We soon found much more exciting things to do than playing tennis, and after an exploratory spell of mutual comparison, we graduated to touching and feeling, where I discovered the dynamics of the uncircumcised penis with the very noticeable difference in handling characteristics. Although we all eventually managed to give each other orgasms, we never actually tried intercourse. It was, nevertheless, the most stimulating sexual episode I can remember.

Thereafter, most of my boyfriends were circumcised, and it wasn't till I went to college and was able to get away from my background that I first experienced full sex with uncircumcised men. At the same time I was going through an 'equality' episode and felt considerable satisfaction in getting away from my privileged lifestyle and bucking the system, but I don't remember being all that interested in the difference between the peeled and unpeeled versions of the penis – mainly because differences are not apparent in the sex act when both are in action mode with all the covers off, although wanking is a different matter, of course.

My first husband, who was a member of my social circle, was circumcised. He was a dead loss as a lover, although I doubt if his circumcision had much to do with it – he was just plain selfish when it came to sex and often left me high, dry and gasping. He seemed to get little stimulation from normal sex, and often pulled out and used his hand to come, just when I was getting seriously orgasmic. Eventually I divorced him and five years ago married my present husband who has a long and tight foreskin.

Like me, he came from a wealthy background, but, unlike me, he was brought up in what is now known as a 'champagne Socialist' family. His parents were well-off with a posh house in Hampstead, but both were ardent left-wingers, much interested in peace movements and rights demonstrations. When my husband was born in a local hospital, the nurse came to see his mum and said the doctor had asked her to fetch the baby for his 'little op'. Apparently it was standard practice in that hospital to circumcise all babies in the fee-paying ward, and if any mum objected, the doctor sweet-talked her into having it done, so that virtually all the infants of the better-off had their wicks trimmed.

Anyway, when she heard what they wanted to do she went off her trolley and said that if the doctor tried to circumcise her son she'd take a pair of boltcroppers to his cock! So junior went home with a pristine penis and his mum in a state of righteous satisfaction that her son was not going to be identified with the despised upper class from which she sprung.

Eventually my husband joined the army and went to the military college at Sandhurst, much to his mother's annoyance – she wanted him to be an actor or playwright. He had previously gone to a fee-paying school, of course, and was aware that he was in a minority, since a lot of boys in those days were circumcised, but it never troubled him. In fact he found it rather an asset in the dormitory after lights out when the boys took up 'wanking stations' with a partner for mutual masturbation. He was apparently always in demand, presumably because of curiosity about, and possibly envy of, his foreskin and the ease of manipulating it.

He also tells of amusing episodes at Sandhurst. In particular, junior cadets' gymnastics, where some 200 cadets were paraded in the nude for the compulsory shower afterwards. He was interested to see that a good half of the cadets in his company were uncircumcised. The overseas cadets were interesting because the Moslems were very unhappy about undressing before others, but the Hindus and Buddhists couldn't care less. He thought that the difference in attitude was because the Moslems were sensitive about their circumcised penises, whereas the Hindus and Buddhists were all uncircumcised. He had the feeling that the roundheads were much more shy about their cocks than the cavaliers. He said it was the most hilarious thing to see 200 young men charging around the gym with their cocks and bollocks flopping about all over the place, and the variety in size and appearance would keep one of your statisticians happy for a month – I'd loved to have seen it! One interesting point was the fact that most cadets destined for Highland regiments were uncircumcised because 'a Jewish cock doesn't look right under a kilt'.

I enjoy having my husband's foreskin to play with and now look on it as a luxury, although previously I wouldn't have been so appreciative. However, his foreskin is very tight, and in fact, so tight that he cannot under normal circumstances uncover more than the very tip of his glans. He says his mother was unconcerned about it as a child, and anyway, he's not aware of any problems with it. He has no trouble at all in performing the sex act to his entire satisfaction – and mine. He suffers no pain on insertion and I love the feel of his skin moving inside me. In masturbation too, he has no problems. His skin is long enough for me to work it the whole length of his penis, and he loves it when I do so. He reckons on keeping it clean by urinating into the skin and forcing it out in a rush, and in the bath he can get hot water inside it by pulling his skin forward and pulling the opening apart with both hands. Neither of us have any plans to alter the situation – I can't imagine sex could be any better than it is already.

I thought you might be interested in circumcision attitudes in that centre of upper class privilege, Eton college. A survey entitled *Evaluation of the Routine Examination of 13-year-old Public School Pupils*, done by Dr. J.H. Briscoe in 1978, shows that 48% of the boys born between 1953 and 1965 had been circumcised. If you deduct the high proportion of boys from rich Jewish and

Arab families you get a clear picture that a majority of the upper strata of British society had forsaken circumcision by then. Now that Princess Di has set her own trend in this matter by preserving the Princes' foreskins, you can be pretty sure that the vast majority of the upper classes have followed suit and stopped circumcising their kids. Comments anybody?

Cynthia Armstrong – Finchley

[It might be of interest to members to see some of the tables in the above mentioned survey. Note circumcision as an illness. — D.A.]

Incidence of Past Illnesses

	%		%		%
Chickenpox	92	Asthma	7.3	Infective Hepatitis	0.7
Measles	78	Appendicectomy ...	7.0	Rheumatic Fever	0.4
Mumps	58	All Allergies	6.3	Urticaria	0.4
Rubella.....	55	Eczema	5.8	Aspirin Allergy	0.4
Circumcision	48	Fracture.....	4.9	Acute Nephritis	0.3
Tonsillectomy	36	Chest Infection	3.7	Psychiatric Illness	0.3
Refractive Error	18	Herniorrhaphy.....	3.3	Diabetis Mellitis	0.2
Whooping Cough ...	17	Penicillin Allergy...	2.9	Congenital Heart	
Dental Plate.....	15	Orchidopexy.....	1.9	Disease	0.1
Otitis Media.....	14	Glandular Fever ..	1.7	Torsion of Testicle	0.1
Hay Fever	12	Squint Op.	1.5	Poliomyelitis.....	0.1
Broken Incisor	9.1	Scarlet fever	1.2	Diphtheria	0.1

Incidence of Conditions Requiring Investigation or Treatment

	%
Warts (including verrucae) ...	4.3
Obesity.....	3.7
Refractive Error.....	3.1
Eczema	2.4
Phimosis	2.0
Poor Posture.....	1.0
Stutter	1.0
Asthma	0.9
Undescended Testicle.....	0.9
Enuresis	0.8
Urticaria.....	0.5
Dental Caries	0.2
Glycosuria.....	0.1
Congenital Heart Disease	0.1

Smooth And Cut

As many *Acorn* readers will know from my past correspondence and articles, I am not only very proud to be circumcised (from birth) but also a completely dedicated total 'smoothie' for life. In a nude environment I have an incredible feeling of openness, hiding absolutely nothing at all.

With this all in mind (it seldom is out of my mind, often highlighted by appreciative comments being made to me in naturist environments such as clubs and saunas), I inevitably found interest in the letter in Issue 4/96 from J.F. – London, where he expresses largely like-minded thoughts.

Although J.F. has experienced the joys of being circumcised for only about a quarter of his life, he completely endorses views I have always held that to be circumcised is more hygienic, provides better staying power during intercourse, and is aesthetically so pleasing – especially so when nude with others – as well as having various other well-documented advantages.

Like J.F., I am married and, together with my wife, am a keen naturist and freely admit that to be circumcised in a situation where everyone is naked gives one an incredible feeling of openness amongst others. But to be *totally* open and exposed at his naturist club, J.F. really must, like his wife, try shaving (at least pubically) as well! I have been pubically shaved for some 20 years now and totally shaven (except my head) for about 7 years and, with my excellently crafted circumcision (thanks, Doc!), I appear in naturist environments totally open and *barer than nude* – incidentally the title of the journal of *The Smoothie Club* to which I have belonged for some years. Furthermore, I can assure J.F., from my own experiences, that to be circumcised, smooth, and have a partner who is smooth also heightens the intimacy of sex a thousandfold. This is so for both oral sex – whether heterosexual or gay (no nasty hairs plus totally clean fully exposed knob) as well as during full penetrative hetero intercourse which is magnificent!

Like J.F. I often fantasise about meeting a collection of circumcised guys – even more so if they are shaved as well – perhaps in a sauna or in the privacy of a building where such social nudity would be acceptable for an evening. But why not go the whole hog? The erect penis is so much more interesting to see and perhaps best for J.F.'s group photo, though his essential line-up and inspection would obviously be better carried out on the flaccid organs to stop any foreskins infiltrating! Which other *Acorns* would be interested?

I have written separately to J.F. endorsing his views and showing my keenness to be involved in any meetings he may care to organise. My comments in this article are naturally in no way to be considered insulting to my many friends who still choose to remain intact and/or hirsute!

J.H. – Middx.

Counsellors

In response to the short item from G.C. – Staffs (4/96), there seems to be a need for some kind of personal counselling about penile matters, including circumcision and its effects. While I agree wholeheartedly with David that counsellors must be impartial, this is difficult to guarantee in many areas of counselling. People, being people, are not perfect and do have their own bias and hang-ups, even if well-hidden and controlled. This applies even to counsellors; professional training does serve to make one more aware of potential personal bias and how best to deal with it, but no counsellor is perfect and many are far from this ideal.

I do feel that *Acorn* could offer more than an indirect approach to counselling through its pages. As a young man I had a very big hang-up about my status as a circumcised male; it caused me many mental agonies for many years. It was only in my middle thirties that I began to realise the true source of my sexual and penile concerns, narrowing it down to the fact that I had been circumcised as an infant and never told about it by my parents. Some personal counselling from someone who could understand would have saved me untold mental misery and uncertainty about my sexuality. I am certain I am not alone, and the contents of your pages indicates that there are many who could benefit from personal correspondence with another who would understand and help bring about a wider and more balanced view of a person's concerns or problems. I particularly note the number of men who feel that they would prefer to be circumcised, but are unsure about actually going ahead. Equally, there are those who have been cut, either through choice or before they were old enough to be aware, who experience psychological, sexual or physical problems because of their circumcision or the finished result being far from acceptable.

While the newsletter and the contact service does offer some help, there does appear to be a valid need for something more in the area of personal support and discussion. I use these terms in preference to actual counselling. While being a roundhead or cavalier may naturally lead any man to some preference for or against the cut for many different reasons, there are many well balanced males who have no major bias one way or the other. As a roundhead, happy to be so, I equally understand a man who should be deciding to keep his foreskin as I do someone who has a preference and makes a fully informed decision to be cut. There is a great support and confidence to be gained from being able to discuss these matters openly with an understanding friend who is willing and able to listen and draw out the deeper concerns that may be under the surface. There have been a number of men who have had themselves cut, only to find out too late that it was not the right solution for their problem; there was a deeper agenda which caused them to think that they should be cut, when the real problem was nothing to do with a foreskin, or lack of it, at all!

Let's consider this issue very carefully. Of course we don't want members persuading every cavalier they ought to be cut, and equally we don't want the opposite view forced that roundheads have lost something vital to their pleasure and performance. However, there are some well-balanced individuals among our membership who I believe could give timely support and confidence to those who are, for various reasons, concerned about their penis, its looks, performance, or have difficulties of emotional or physical origin.

What do other members think? Do any members, or others, have problems they cannot raise outside of *Acorn* circles, and feel unable to raise them publicly through the pages of the magazine?

Bob – Midlands

[I'm afraid I have to admit to doing something of this sort already. If I feel a new member has a problem I generally start a correspondence or telephone communication with him, and try to help. Some of these I have passed on to Vernon who acts as our circumcision operation agent. We also have members who, after reading a letter in the magazine from someone who appears distressed, write to him to see if they can help. Still, something official wouldn't come amiss. — D.A.]

My Surgical Experiences

I first had a circumcision performed at the ripe old age of thirty. Two reasons being, firstly cosmetic as I had a long foreskin and have always preferred the 'neatness' of the roundhead. Also I was taking high doses of antibiotics as acne therapy and was consequently plagued by attacks of thrush! As I was told the surgery was simple and likely to be problem free, I was admitted to a private hospital for a routine circumcision.

However, on discharge, I formed a haematoma, my eighteen stitches burst and I needed further urgent corrective surgery which resulted in more tissue being removed. Again I was told not to worry as 50% of men have the op, and in some societies it is regarded as universal. Furthermore, I was told the eventual cosmetic result would be eminently acceptable and there would be no loss of sensation or major scarring. However, approximately one week after my remedial surgery, I developed further complications, ie. a grossly infected circumcision scar, a urethral discharge, swollen testicles and, most distressing of all, prolonged priapism, which could only be resolved with frequent excruciatingly hot baths. The urologist was concerned (not to mention embarrassed), and treated the infections with the local application of betadine paint which stung somewhat. He also managed to manipulate the shaft in such a way that the penis temporarily detumescd (again, uncomfortably embarrassing) I then had to massage Heparinoid cream into the body of the organ to reduce swelling.

One month later, when I saw the original Consultant Surgeon, the infection had largely cleared up, leaving only small ulcerated areas, and there was some partial detumescence. I was advised to wait some six months before seeking further treatment, eg. the direct injection of a steroid into the keloid scar, which is very painful. My GP's opinion was that there 'was a very radical circumcision performed that exposed the entire glans penis as far as the sulcus'. In the months (and years) that followed, the remaining tissues contracted and the scar became more pronounced, which led to a diminution of pleasure and frequent tearing of the skin.

Finally, some three years after my abortive operation, I was referred privately to a Harley Street specialist (this time a Cosmetic Surgeon, not a urologist) who said it would be possible to graft an area of skin to repair the denuded area. He said the scrotal sac could be used on non-hairy men with pendulous scrotums, though, since I was hairy and dark, and had a 'tight' sac (his words) he would have to use a strip of skin from my hip or other non hair-bearing site.

The restorative surgery was performed at the Cromwell Hospital and took several hours. It cost £6,500 which my insurance paid, and resulted in me spending one week as an in-patient. The term skin-graft is a misnomer, skin patch being more accurate to describe the final effect. Cosmetically, the appearance post operatively can be bizarre, though my results were reasonable, and there can be a permanent loss of sensitivity. A large graft is prepared leaving an eight-inch scar in the donor site, but a sensitive and clever surgeon can site this in the inner thigh area where the scar will be masked, or at least indistinguishable from an appendix wound. Strong analgesia, antibiotics, sedatives and potent beta blockers are necessary to control infections and suppress the more vigorous erections. They have little effect. My doctor referred to me as 'Mr Dickie', and was of the opinion that I could ejaculate vigorously within minutes of coming round from the anaesthetic!! He also seemed to think that my normal position was upright.

In short, the surgery isn't to be taken lightly, and there are many pros and cons involved. I can refer anyone who is interested to the Plastic Surgeon in question if they like, as he performs about six of these operations a year, and is therefore one of the few practitioners who can adequately do so. Other post-operative results I have seen have been very good.

K.G. – London

What I've Missed

One of the things which those circumcised against their will, ie. in infancy, wonder about most is what it is like to have a foreskin. Until now that has not been possible, but at last – in issue 4/96 – we have a letter from someone with the ability and articulacy to spell out in graphical terms what

his experience of life with a foreskin amounts to. I am referring of course to David's excellent letter answering Anthony's wistful questions on the subject in 3/96.

So now at last I have a yardstick by which to measure what I see as my deprivation (and what some others see only as unjustified whinging). Firstly, I found your vivid description of how pleasurable any involuntary movement of the foreskin is, most instructive, since such pleasure is denied to me, despite the fact that I now have a manufactured foreskin. The reason for this is a total lack of sensitivity in the glans, loss of the sensitive inner mucous membrane, and an opening much slacker than that of a normal foreskin. So I'm afraid the restored foreskin cannot measure up to the natural article.

The second point, about how the most delicious part of having a foreskin is retracting it when it is moist underneath, will make discontented circumcisees green with envy! The effect of drag as the foreskin is pulled back and the intense feelings this generates is something they can only dream about.

The next point about the newly exposed glans being marvellously sensitive to temperature is something else which is unimaginable to a lifelong roundhead. I dimly remember as a child the unpleasant shock of hot water on my poor denuded glans when I took a bath. But numbness set in years ago and I'm not even aware of it nowadays. The experience of arousal from a powerful shower jet is sadly not an option since it does not happen.

Urination with a foreskin was always a matter of fascination for me as a kid, since the cavaliers could do so many exciting things denied to me – like playing balloons and winning the longest range competition through the added pressure created by the elastic skin reasserting itself afterwards.

The comment about the inner and outer foreskin being packed with nerve endings, and consequently very sensitive, brings home to your unhappy circumcisee that his distress is not just imaginary, or something to be shrugged off by 'pulling yourself together'.

The final point in this illuminating letter is the most telling of all. The answer to the question about the disadvantages of a foreskin from the possessor's point of view has the writer foxed, since the only drawback he can think of is that he only has one!

My only criticism of this informative and interesting letter is that D.A. didn't get his lady friend to add a few words of her own on the subject. I've been hoping for some time that she would expand on her valuable contribution, so well expressed a couple of years ago. [Sorry, the lady went and married, her husband not allowing me access! — D.A.]

I know that not every cavalier's experience is the same, but this puts into perspective those who yap on about how much everyone would benefit from being done, without exception being made for those who don't, or might not want it. In this connection, David, I have to mention the letter in 5/96 from

our new American member D.L. It is always illuminating to get a view from the other side of the pond, and so far, unless I'm mistaken, every American contribution published has been expressed in forthright terms which brook no argument. Even the one letter from the States in favour of foreskins (from IMAC) was worded so strongly that I, of all people, found it O.T.T.! But to return to D.L.'s letter, I can't help wondering if he was taking the piss. His loving description of his deeply-envied schoolfellows' transports of joy as they pulled their sawn-off and exquisitely deadened equipment to fulfilment was difficult to take seriously. The question arises. If D.L.'s ancestors had stayed in Europe instead of migrating to the States, would he still feel the same way? Of course not! The whole thing comes down to peer pressure, and he should be asking himself if it's always right to follow the herd, especially in contravention of current medical opinion. He should, instead, consider the original reasons for its adoption there: puritan punishment of sin and a 'sinful' part of the body, neurotic (and insulting) fear of 'lack of hygiene', and then sheer greed on the part of the richest doctors in the world.

Finally, a word of warning to those who write in claiming that circumcision has improved their love lives. Make the most of it while it lasts! If my experience is anything to go by, your skinless sausage will gradually lose sensitivity as you get older, finishing up with the texture and responsiveness of your average parsnip. But if that's what you want, good luck to you.

R.B.W.

The Love Of Circumcision

There is a basic true Psychology of Circumcision that we, who have been circumcised, fully understand and can explain quite simply to those who haven't.

All men have an innate feeling that the glans of their penis should be permanently exposed, and most are therefore fascinated by circumcision, which is the way to accomplish this. With circumcision, your glans is permanently exposed for you to see and enjoy, and for others to see when you are before them naked. Your circumcised penis attests to the fact that you are a member of a special initiated group. Your glans is exposed because you have undergone a wonderful ritual called circumcision. The most masculine part of your body, your glans, is not hidden. Your masculinity is laid bare, thereby expressed; and you have a bond with all other circumcised men, a subtle, but deep, bond which exists between males who know each other to be circumcised.

D.L. – New Hampshire

Amendment To Letter In 4/96, Page 11

Thank you for publishing my letter in the magazine. I now have reservations on the first paragraph re the circumcision of the four-year-old adopted boy. We were not told a lot about the case, only that the five-year-old had been circumcised at birth. I say this in spite of what I said later in my letter.

D.R. – Cornwall

Male Genitalia Nomenclature

Penis	Cock
Testes	Balls
Testicles	Balls
Scrotum	Ballbag
Glans	Knob
Prepuce	Foreskin
Meatus	Pee Hole
Frenulum	Strip of skin under the knob
Corona	Rim round the rear of the knob
Sulcus	Valley directly behind the knob
Raphe	Marked line running from the anus, through the centre of the scrotum and up the underside of the penis
Urethra	Tube through the penis for peeing
Sub-incision	Cutting through the underside of the penis lengthwise through to the urethra
Bifurcation	Cutting the whole of the penis vertically, lengthwise. (sometimes called butterflying)
P.A. (Prince Albert)	Inserting a ring through the meatus and coming out through the frenulum
Priapism	A hard-on that won't go down
Tumescence	Engorging of blood into the penis
Detumescence	Subsiding from the swollen state

There's much more, but that's about all the usual ones.

D.A.

ACORN

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 N° 8 1996
 Editor
 David Acorn

Editorial

Another year is coming to an end as we enter our tenth year, and I still marvel that we are here. But this year has seen more new members than any other year and the interest of our longer standing members doesn't seem to wane. It must be a really powerful obsession we all have.

Looking back, we seem to have had more problems than before. My first illness since 1967 laid me low for all those weeks, Brian has had more than his share of viruses, 'flus etc., and Vernon retired to find himself busier than he was before. Let's hope next year will be much smoother.

The meeting at High Wycombe was great. First-rate hotel and organisation, thanks to Brian. He and I went to great pains to try to match up room-mates in ages and what we knew of their interests etc. We couldn't be sure we'd got it all right but I think it worked as no complaints have been forthcoming. For the first time since the first meeting there were more newcomers (17) than 'old-hands' (13) present. At the beginning the amount of trepidation by the newcomers was marked, asking many questions on what was going to happen and what

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was expected of them, but they soon found that they were among a bunch of like-minded friends who they could talk to openly. Some obviously thought that the weekend passed too quickly, and I was one of them. I must thank everyone for the friendliness and the care regarding my health shown to me, and am only sorry that there wasn't time to talk longer to everyone.

With this issue will come the annual subscription forms. The sub remains the same at £10 and we hope that everyone will stay with us. As each of you resubscribes, I will be sending the in-depth questionnaire out, and hope that you will assiduously (there's a nice word) fill it in and return (all anonymously).

You may like to know that we have members in the following countries:- Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Holland, Indonesia, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Tenerife, and America. We send them all greetings and would ask if they would keep us acquainted with circumcision/foreskin trends, history etc in their respective countries.

The team wish you all a very Merry Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

David Acorn

Rites And Wrongs

I There was a small typographical error in Hannah Morris's intensely fascinating letter in which her Israeli friend asked if male colleagues were "are!". The question may have been indelicate for a young Jewess, but hardly an exclamation!! The Hebrew for unclean is 'Arel', with the collective noun 'Arelim' for the uncircumcised. (The Arab equivalent 'Aghral' for uncircumcised, and 'Aif', shame, conferred on an adult Moslem remaining intact, is comparable to the uncleanness of the state of Judaism).

It is quite amazing that Jewish ladies eagerly prize the 'forbidden fruit' of foreskin knowledge and experience. (No wonder Arel Flynn was so popular!!!)

2) Ivan Goodhart was right to question circumcision in biblical times by banging between two sharp stones. (Ouch!!) The charbuth zurim (Hebrew for stone knife) used by Moses' wife, Zipporah, on her son, must have been sufficiently painful used on its own (Exodus 4/25). Joshua used the flint instrument on the children of Israelites around Mount Sinai (Joshua 5/7). The instrument was more of a tearing than a cutting one, so the 'Ismol', iron blade, was later substituted for it, and even today the steel knife is whetted on both sides to a regulation based on an interpretation of Psalm 149.6.

Acorn members would certainly be amused by a gem of Arabic folklore; Abraham was supposed to have circumcised his son with an axe, and was rebuked by an angel for his haste!! That certainly adds punch to Hannah Morris's mention of Junior getting 'the chop'.

3) In 'The Kindest Cut of All', there was mention of a Sandek present during adult circumcision ceremonies on Jewish Russian immigrants at Brooklyn, even if only for the liturgical part. In the infant operation, the Sandek (godfather) restrains the baby in his lap with the legs spread apart, bent at the knees, and flexed outwards. The godmother (Sandakit) passes the infant over for circumcision, as the mother is ritually unclean for 40 days after the boy's birth. The mohel (circumciser) is a Hebrew archaic word meaning father-in-the-law (father-in-law!)

Many will be amused that in-laws and godparents originate from ritual infant circumcision. Perhaps that might promote the C of E (circumcision of Englishmen)!

4) My reading has unearthed curious Arabic words related to circumcision. First, 'Hatana', the Arabic for nuptials, is actually a blend of 'to marry', 'father-in-law' and 'circumcise'. From Hatana comes: - 'Khatan' - son-in-law, with 'Khitana' - male circumcision, 'Khatana' - daughter-in-law, with 'khafd' - female circumcision.

Circumcised parts, both male and female (Al Khita Nani), have to come together for sexual intercourse to have taken place. This has a bearing on fast breaking! Glans insertion is no misdemeanour provided the scar remains outside. Should the penis go in as far as the circumcision scar or farther, the fast is broken. (This could add fresh insight to 'scar crossed lovers! and the offence of circum-sinning.)

Because male circumcision in Islam involves less foreskin removal than in Judaism (which is decidedly less vigorous than the surgical methods used in the U.K.), the site of the scar on the erect penis is midway down the shaft. This would permit the sensuous, impulsive, Musselman to introduce up to half his penis without breaking the fast of Ramadam in daylight! (Night-time intercourse is allowed during Ramadam, as it is during the Jewish Sabbath.)

Anthony

An Opinion From Macrobiotics

For someone who has been interested in Macrobiotics, it is obvious that it is the theory of the yin and the yang, the Chinese philosophy which explains basically, circumcision.

The flag of South Korea is the symbols of the yin and the yang. Yang is the penetrating, and yin the receiving. Yang is the physical strength and longevity, while yin is the growth and intelligence.

An important point is that one cannot exist without the other, and that nothing is yin or yang in itself. Anything is more yin or more yang than

something else, and the wise man is supposed to be the perfect association of them both.

So, in the diet, what is said to be yang is what gives strength and longevity, and what is yin is what makes children grow and gives intelligence.

But there is, too, what the Chinese call old yang and old yin. They could be said to be bad yang and bad yin. It is not exactly that but it helps the understanding. It is what happens when one principle arrives at the excess of its nature and begins to have some of the characteristics of the other.

So, for the diet, what is animal is yang and what is vegetable is yin. Macrobiotics advise eating mostly complete cereals because they are the most yin in the vegetable kingdom, and the more well balanced. So brown cereals are young yang and meat, especially cooked, is old yang. Cereals give more longevity than meat.

Globally, too, yang drives to violence and at the limit, to violent death. At the extreme to a child, idiocy. While too yin drives to weakness, and all the bad mixings of the both to all the illnesses.

Once I read in Mishio Kushi that too yang hate hairs. When they see cats in the street they shave them – and it was the revelation. I am not at that point, but I hate hairs touching my skin where there are no hairs – my ears for example. And it was exactly the same for my foreskin touching my knob. And I realised at once that circumcision was typically something of the shepherds of hot and dry countries. Nearly only an animal diet – milk, cheese and meat – hot yang, dry yang. No primitive population of cold or temperate countries ever circumcised, but was very common in all hot countries. Also, more in the dry ones than in the wet ones (less fruits and salads). And more amongst the shepherds than amongst others. And at the origins, Jews and Arabs were primitive shepherd populations living in hot dry countries. And it must be pointed out that the main place of excision is central Africa, which is the hottest place in the world, and dry.

Kushi believes that most of the bad problems of our society – drugs, violence, and so on – come especially from eating too many animal products like milk, cheese, butter, fish, eggs and meat, cooked and salty, which makes them more yang. The Japanese usually eat fish raw for avoiding too yang.

Well, here is, I believe, the problem. A too yang diet makes contact with the foreskin unpleasant. As much for the man himself as well as his partner, man or woman. And that unpleasantness is a warning of danger of bad luck. And so people by intuition feel attracted by circumcision; that it would reduce a feeling of danger. And so people feel more pleasure being circumcised or with circumcised men. Anxiety obviously reduces the pleasure, even unconsciously.

But on the other hand, I have reason to believe that circumcision reduces the energy of the man. It can be a lesser bad, but it would be better to eat less animal products.

Compared to men, women are yin by nature, physically weaker, but more intelligent (I sometimes doubt this but it is the theory). So most women will prefer a man with a foreskin and only a few women, with much yang, will prefer a circumcised man. While the proportion of men attracted by circumcision will be greater.

Astrology says the same thing in another way. Mars is the planet of strength, efficiency and energy. But if too strong, it drives to physical accidents, wounds in war, car crashes, and so on. And at the limit – violent death. And the foreskin is an organ receiver of the energy of Mars, so cutting it reduces the energy of Mars. So if Mars was too strong at your birth, it can reduce the danger of accidents, but it reduces the global energy.

Globally, young yang drives towards energy as a rule, while old yang drives towards violence, conflicts and violent death.

Here's what I believe. Let us imagine that a man naturally, can have 100 in intensity in sexual pleasure. With a too yang diet he will fall to 30. Getting circumcised, he will get 60. But by being circumcised, he will never reach 100 any more. Therefore, is not circumcision better or not outside of the diet.

Our French Correspondent

My Interest In Circumcision

I can date my interest in circumcision back to the academic year 1977-78, when I was a boy of 10 at prep school. The school had religious inclinations and we were given a very thorough introduction to the Bible by a spinster lady. Plodding through the Old Testament, we came to an episode known as 'the circumcision at GilGal', when all the Hebrews born while Moses was leading them around the desert for 40 years were cut en masse. The spinster lady was prepared to teach us about this obscure period, but refused to explain what circumcision was, and said that we had to ask our fathers. I just looked in the glossary in the back of the Bible and realised I couldn't ask my father about that, and set about finding out more from other books.

There wasn't much nudity at that school, although I knew that some boys had different-looking willies, but later that year I went to a different school as a boarder, where things were very different. Here, we had to take our baths in two tubs in the middle of the communal bathroom, with no form of privacy whatsoever. A matron stood by and kept her beady eye on everything. On getting into the bath, one had to stand up, scrub your legs, then ask permission to sit down. So for a short time everyone else got a full frontal. Although most boys were uncut, there were several Muslims, and at least one

Jew, sporting circumcised cocks, in addition to a few English boys and the Hong Kong Chinese contingent. Interestingly, most of the English circumcisees were from army families. I don't recall that anyone ever commented on their appearance; it was common enough to be unremarkable, but on one occasion I recall being asked whether I was a roundhead or cavalier by a couple of the roundheads. Ever since, I wished I'd joined in that conversation.

In my class were thirty boys, five of whom were cut: I could recount their names immediately. One Muslim, one Chinese and three English non-Jews. Again, it was never commented on. Glimpses in the showers after games filled me with curiosity, and I began retracting my foreskin in private, with occasional panics when it wouldn't return afterwards.

Progressing up the years in public school, I found that I had more privacy, and in the fourth year (c.1982) I decided to try the experiment of keeping my foreskin permanently rolled back to pretend that I was cut, much preferring the appearance of the exposed glans to a wrinkly bit of foreskin. It has been kept that way ever since, although it gets plenty of exercise back and forth each night. I find that retraction is permanent if I wear briefs, but that the wretched ugly foreskin slips forward if I wear boxers.

This alone is enough to convince me that I want to be circumcised, a conviction that has now lasted over ten years, although finances and opportunity have never coincided. I have thought about doing it myself, but couldn't, and I might have had it done when I was in Africa were it not for the fear of horrible infection. So I buy a copy of *Playgirl* most months and envy the Americans their cut cocks. Once, in an embarrassed hurry, I got an Englishwomens' magazine and was horrified to find nothing but foreskins!

Although there is always the slight doubt as to whether it will really be what I want, I know that one day I'll get myself cut, sooner, rather than later, I hope. I would welcome any comments – I was going to say tips – from other members, recently cut as adults. Especially on how much skin should be taken off, and recommendations of reliable surgeons in the south of England.

Mike

[All our information so far has been that the Chinese, like the Japanese, do not generally circumcise, but ensure that from babyhood the foreskin is kept retracted so that in adulthood they appear to be circumcised. Can you remember, Mike, whether there was much skin bunching behind the glans? – D.A.]

Question Corner

In Issue 1/96, page 6, an item culled from the Internet by V.Q., contains the sentence, "I also frequently see ads in magazines (not dirty) about rings you put around the penis for a few months to make it look better by permanently

keeping the foreskin retracted.” Bud Berkeley also mentions these rings (or similar) in one of his books.

I would like to know what these rings are like, how they can be obtained and the cost. Can anyone help?

E.S. – Greater Manchester

Support the Cut

Over the last year I have read the magazine with interest, but can I now make a plea for a more positive response supporting the benefits and pleasures of being circumcised.

I admit to having a vested interest – I was clipped as an infant and am very happy with what I have – and it is very unlikely that it could be changed, so why not be happy with what you have. Surely it is more important to have a happy sex life than to constantly worry about what might have been – look forward, not backward. Having a satisfactory sexual experience depends on many more things than the shape of your penis. Does the absence of a foreskin really make that much difference, or is it used as an excuse to cover up other sexual problems.

Having been gay since my early teens, and now in my 50's, I have obviously seen many penises, all shapes and sizes, and have never found that a foreskin or its absence made any difference to sexual performance or pleasure. So much appears to be in the mind, not in the real action.

I am always interested in learning more about the history, rituals and people's experiences of circumcision. I will be happy to correspond with any members who are interested. Size, shape or sexuality do not really matter as long as there is a detailed interest in “man's best friend”.

S.S. – Teddington

Circumcision — A Prospective Owner's Guide

In reply to your inquiry regarding your interest in circumcision, there are several 'pros' and 'cons' you should consider for a state that rarely occurs naturally. The circumcised state is a minority condition, with the UK rate currently about 9%. Most circumcisions are performed in infancy and boyhood, with 81% of circumcisions by 15 years of age, adult operations amounting to only 19%, with a longer healing time of 2-3 weeks and associated discomfort. The overwhelming majority of those agreeing to or electing circumcision are satisfied with their new status, as indeed are many circumcised in infancy without their consent for whatever reason. Despite majority contentedness, there is a small minority unhappy at an unnatural state considered unsightly, mutilating and possibly sexually and psychologically disabling. Should you

still wish to consider circumcision as a personal preference, and not as a medical necessity, the following should be weighed carefully:-

Advantages of Circumcision.

1. With the glans cover removed, there is nowhere for smegma to collect, so the penis is permanently cleaner, with hygiene made simple and easy.
2. The glans surface will change from the original mucous membrane to a condition similar to other surface skin, and be less prone to genital herpes, thrush, warts and other venereal conditions.
3. Permanently bared, the glans will become plumper from the near bullet shape to the familiar fireman's helmet shape of the circumcised. Even flaccid, the penis takes on the form of an uncircumcised erection, available for sex.
4. The dry, clean surface of the glans will give the owner confidence, and be appreciated by ladies, especially for fellatio. (Some women find foreskins sticky, smelly turnoffs.)
5. For the macho man, circumcision renders the penis more virile, even threatening. For the exhibitionist, as the ultimate nudity. Virility can be enhanced by a Prince Albert piercing always on view with the penis.
6. Urination is simplified with a stronger, more accurately aimed stream, and no dripping onto underclothing afterwards. (From the preputial sac.)
7. Reduced sensitivity prolongs intercourse, with the larger glans providing more intense vaginal stimulation.
8. Circumcision has a social significance, originating as a tribal mark in antiquity. It has been popular with the British Royal Family, upper classes, and nudists for decades, and is currently favoured by gays.

Disadvantages of Circumcision.

1. Circumcision is not without risk. Complications like uneven skin removal, haemorrhage, and infection can occur. The final effect can occasionally be unsightly, with twisting to one side, painful erection, and even surgically created phimosis.
2. With lost cover and protection, the glans is susceptible to cold conditions (in winter and swimming), sunburn, harmful substances and abrasion (rubbing). (On a personal basis, on harmful substances, I used to quote, as an industrial chemist, that you washed your hands *before* going to the toilet. Many chemicals are toxic by skin absorption. I found rubbing quite an irritant, especially when the glans sulcus caught in the Y-front opening, leaving the glans trapped outside, rubbed by trouser material with each step. In public there was no chance for relief for considerable endless minutes and hundreds of steps.)

3. Reduced surface sensitivity reduces potential pleasure significantly, added to by the loss of highly sensitive foreskin inner membranes.
4. Masturbation requires more forceful handling, and restricted movement necessitates a change in technique. Lubrication may be necessary to avoid chafing of the scar line or glans rim. (Even Jewesses have preferred foreskins for handling!)
5. Should glans thickness be excessive, intercourse for the woman could be painful; not helped by its dryness and the lack of loose, lubricated folds of foreskin that would reduce friction.
6. The stark uncompromising appearance of the flaccid circumcised penis is often considered stumpy and unnatural. It is instantly identified in showers, changing rooms, urinals, and medical inspections, and even through sheer bathing costumes (when the plump glans has become excessively ridged). Circumcision can produce times of intense embarrassment socially and sexually where foreskins are the norm in a predominately uncircumcised population. The foreskinned penis is more aesthetic, as evidenced by its monopoly depiction in art.
7. Circumcision is irreversible. Any dissatisfaction cannot be put right by other than rudimentary restoration, taking great effort over several years. Some glans cover, but no properly functioning, fully sensitised prepuce, can be artificially reproduced. Even in the simplest Jewish procedure, a second stage of the operation was introduced as early as 140AD to prevent future attempts at glans coverage by Jews!
8. Being in a physically marked minority, the circumcised person is subject to jibes and ridicule, contemptuous use of the term 'roundhead', ethnic quips and other forms of contempt. Circumcision without religion, or necessity, could prove psychologically harmful to a sensitive person.

Having balanced the 'pros' and 'cons' of being circumcised, and are still in favour of the operation, you should remember it is your penis, and that any cutting would be on your instruction. Do you want to be clean-cut, American style ... tight as a drum, with no residual foreskin; a Gomco clamp method would give a neat result. If sensitivity is important, then all the inner membrane of the foreskin could be retained. Should access to the glans be the aim, a partial circumcision would leave most of the glans covered, and the circumcised state not apparent.

Anthony

Same Subject — Australian Thesis

In the latest Issue you ask for articles about the pros and cons of circumcision. It happened that I had already written such a piece (for a local baby magazine) which they don't seem to have published (at any rate they hadn't

paid me), so I thought I'd send it over to you. It's written from an Australian perspective, of course, but I imagine it would still be of interest.

“Congratulations – it's a boy!”

Now comes the question you may have been expecting – or dreading: should he be circumcised? Here in Australia, twenty years ago you would have been encouraged to say yes; ten years ago you'd have been encouraged to say no. Five years ago you wouldn't even have been asked, but now *The Question* is being asked again. What should you decide?

Sadly, most of the information (or misinformation) you'll see comes from those with heavy axes to grind. On one side a group called NOCIRC (at least they make their intentions clear) puts out propaganda calling it a mutilation. On the other, various less organised, but more mainstream, campaigners make out that it is as essential as vaccination. Neither is true.

There are medical benefits from circumcision. Circumcision at an early age prevents cancer of the penis. This cancer is uncommon, but generally fatal. Treatment means amputation of all or most of the penis, which is not very pleasant. In Australia, about one uncircumcised man in 1,500 will contract cancer of the penis, generally in later life. Uncircumcised men and boys are much more liable to urinary tract infections. These infections usually just need a course of antibiotics, but they can sometimes have serious consequences. Infections of the head of the penis – medically called balanitis – don't occur in circumcised boys. 10-15% of uncircumcised boys will suffer from these infections, which are uncomfortable but not life threatening. Some individuals are more susceptible to them than others, and even if you decided against circumcision when your boy was born it's worth reconsidering the question if he gets these infections often.

The foreskin of a newborn baby generally cannot be retracted. This is normal, but if it persists beyond the age of four or five it is called phimosis, and a secretion called smegma starts to accumulate under the skin, causing irritation and an unpleasant smell (from a bacterium which infects it). If phimosis continues into his teenage years it will not help his sex life. Around 10% of uncircumcised boys are likely to have this problem (though the figure is higher in some Asian countries). More serious is the case of a tight foreskin which is pulled back and cannot be got forward again (paraphimosis). This is a medical emergency and failure to seek prompt attention can have serious consequences, such as loss of the head of the penis.

These are the only medical problems which are definitely prevented by circumcision. Most other claims, such as the idea that circumcised men are less liable to STD's, belong to the world of fairytale. A few – such as the question of cancer of the cervix (in the wife) and susceptibility to AIDS – must still be regarded as neither proven nor disproven.

What are the medical disadvantages? There is one problem which only affects circumcised babies – ulceration of the meatus (the hole at the end of

the penis). This is not common, and requires no more treatment than a mild ointment, but left untreated can lead to narrowing of the opening. Even so, this is rarely sufficient to cause trouble; surgical rectification (a tiny cut) is simple but not often necessary.

This, though, is only part of the story – there are also hazards of the operation itself. The major risks – death, or serious damage to the penis – are very low indeed. Your baby is much more likely to die from a urinary tract infection resulting from being uncircumcised than he is to die from the operation. If you include the risk of cancer in later life, circumcision is hundreds of times safer than having a foreskin. However, the risk either way is very low. It is not comparable to the risks your baby faces if you don't have him immunised against the common infectious diseases.

The risk of less serious complications – haemorrhages, infections etc., is higher, though still lower than the risk of urinary tract infections in uncircumcised babies. But the most common risk is that you (or your son) won't be happy with the end result. In my survey (of which more in a minute) quite a few men and women mentioned minor problems with their own, their lover's, or their son's circumcision. These were either cosmetic defects, such as an uneven cut, unduly prominent scar, or complaints about the style of circumcision (usually not enough skin removed, but occasionally the opposite).

I carried out this survey a few years ago, with the help of Australian *Forum* magazine and the Family Planning Association. Its aim was to find out the things about circumcision that medical researchers have mostly ignored – how people feel about it, and how it affects their sex life. It found that, if anything, circumcised men and their partners enjoy better sex than uncircumcised. A foreskin was more likely to be a hindrance than a help to a happy sex life. Circumcision didn't make the penis less sensitive, but neither did it reduce the likelihood of premature ejaculation. So you will not be doing any harm to your baby's future sex life by having him circumcised. Equally, provided he is able to retract his foreskin in due course, you won't be doing his sex life any harm by leaving it there. If he isn't able to retract his foreskin – and about one boy in ten will have this problem – he will have to be circumcised in any case. (There are alternatives, but they are generally less successful – worth considering only if you have a deep-rooted objection to circumcision.)

Which brings us to the question, "Should you leave it till later?" Many parents are now taking this line, and as a result many school-age boys are being done. The advantage is that you only need do it if it's necessary, and that the boy can understand what is to be done and why, and contribute his own opinion. The disadvantage is that complications such as bleeding and infection are about ten times more common when circumcision is carried out on older children.

Whichever choice you make, there is a chance that your son will wish you had done the opposite. This is inevitable, but the survey shows that

circumcised men were generally happier with their lot than uncircumcised men. In other words, Australian men prefer to be circumcised. However, you can't put a foreskin back, but a man who is unhappy about having one can have it removed. Even so, it is not always easy for a worried teenager to go to his parents or a doctor and say, "I want to be circumcised". The survey brought me several letters from people who desperately wanted to have it done but didn't have the nerve to ask. If you intend your son to choose for himself, make sure he knows the choice is available.

There is no single answer. Circumcision is not something that has to be done for the health and well-being of your baby, but it will be beneficial to his health and well-being. It is easier now than later – but it can be done later, and it can't be undone. If you do have it done, there is the possibility that you – and he – may not be happy with the result. Which way you choose will depend on which factors are more important to you. You do have the choice! Nobody has the right to forbid a minor procedure which will improve your son's chance of survival to a healthy adulthood. Equally, nobody should force you to cut off his foreskin if you want it left – it is a natural part of the body, and the risks aren't all that great.

J.B. – Australia

View From Canada

As a recent subscriber, I can report that your issues have been very interesting so far. I am very interested in the viewpoints of people in other countries. Over the past couple of years, I have undertaken an extensive research project on circumcision, and most of my material has been raised from Canadian and American sources.

From what I have found, the circumcision rate here is still very high, even with insurance companies no longer covering the cost. There is still a very strong push from the medical profession for routine circumcision. There are several methods used here: Gomco clamp, Plastibell, Freehand method, Mogen clamp. The Mogen clamp has recently been touted as the quickest and easiest method. Also recently, some professionals suggest the freehand method should be used more often.

Recent radio and television shows on circumcision have seen hosts and callers pro the cut. Magazines who have polled women readers also found that the cut penis was a positive preference. One magazine ran a feature article on the uncut version. Reader reply mail again was mostly pro the cut.

Of great interest here is the scar left behind – it is found quite erotic by some; is it light or dark; how far up the shaft is it; symmetrical or not? Many see it as a form of body art which is beautiful, as is the fully exposed glans.

I would really appreciate hearing from other readers so I can further my research on the topic, with views and facts/stories from other countries.

Personal views, medical procedures used with end results – and male/female preferences and why. Perhaps correspondence can be sent to me via *Acorn*. I can certainly supply additional information for future issues.

By the way – what is the meaning of ‘cavalier/roundhead’, and where did they originate. These terms are not used here at all (slang here is cut/uncut).

R.Y. – Canada

[May I start the ball rolling a little. In the west where you come from circumcision is the norm and has been for years, but in the east the French Canadians and the ex-British Island Colonies predominantly favour foreskins. Is there a culture battle over this? We would love to hear more about the circumcision culture, and if you’d like to ask any specific questions, I know that you’d get plenty of response. The cavalier/roundhead slang comes from our last civil war in which King Charles’ men wore frilly feathers in their hats, and Oliver Cromwell’s men wore round steel helmets. The likeness of these to our cut and uncut states brought about the simile. – *D.A.*]

Reply To T.H. 6/96

What an incredibly lucky fellow to have had his foreskin retracted for the first time in such an erotic way. I was not so lucky, being taken to the family doctor on numerous (or so it seems) occasions at, I suppose, around the age of 5. He used to retract it, somewhat painfully, and send me on my way with some gauze between the glans and foreskin which my father used to remove later – the gauze, that is!

Eventually my foreskin settled down, but after puberty became very long and loose, overhanging the tip of the glans by a good inch or so when erect. I can sympathise with T.H. because, in my case, when having intercourse, my foreskin would stay still inside the vagina and my glans would move within my foreskin – not too bad for me but not too good for my wife. I assume that T.H.’s predicament is similar.

We found that several things were possible:-

1. One of us hold my foreskin back while having intercourse – uncomfortable and not really practical.
2. Sticking or tying back my foreskin – it worked but not really practical again.
3. Circumcision

Eventually, we opted for 3; at the age of 26, and frankly we have never regretted it. The surgeon did a very good freehand job and, although the remaining inner skin varies in length slightly, the skin remains neatly behind

the glans when flaccid, and taut when erect. I have a small amount of frenulum which I would not be without.

I know from the letters in *Acorn* that circumcision does not suit everyone, but if T.H. is unhappy with his present state then he should seriously consider it. If he could prove to his French girlfriend the benefits from the enlarged glans, corona, and consequent improved stimulation of her vagina, then he might well overcome her prejudices.

J.R.

Frenulum Thoughts

Presumably, the intention behind the design of the penis was that the foreskin was provided to protect the sensitive glans, which, by the same token, could be exposed when required for action. In order to ensure that the protective foreskin returned to cover the glans once its required function was fulfilled, the frenulum was created to pull the foreskin forward again. It does not appear, to me at least, to serve any other purpose.

I have carried out some experiments on my own cock to try and give some idea of what difference it would make if my frenulum were no longer attached. With a full erection, and foreskin retracted as far as possible, the tension on my frenulum is clearly apparent, and on release my foreskin immediately begins to return to rest at the rim of my glans. However, if, instead, I press the tip of my glans downwards, thereby relieving the tension on my frenulum, my foreskin is then quite happy to remain where it is, without moving forward towards the glans. I wonder if any members have any direct experience of an uncircumcised penis with detached frenulum, and what difference the detachment has made?

I was fascinated to read about I.D.'s restored foreskin and would like to ask one or two questions about it. Has he managed to achieve that slightly adhesive quality which exists between the underside of the foreskin and the glans? I occasionally use a technique to tuck part of my foreskin back under itself, which obviously has the effect of exposing a greater amount of my glans, and what little part of it is still covered is in direct contact with the outer surface of my foreskin. I have found that no matter how long I leave it like that, the same adhesive-type quality is never achieved, presumably because of the different nature of the skin on the outer surface of the foreskin – and I wonder whether this is a problem with a restored foreskin?

As he presumably doesn't possess a frenulum to do the job for him, does he experience problems in keeping his foreskin forward or, if he lifts it into an upright position, does his foreskin simply fall backwards with the effect of gravity? Similarly, is he still able to achieve the same circumcised appearance

as previously, or has the stretching affected the elasticity of his foreskin so that it simply falls forward again?

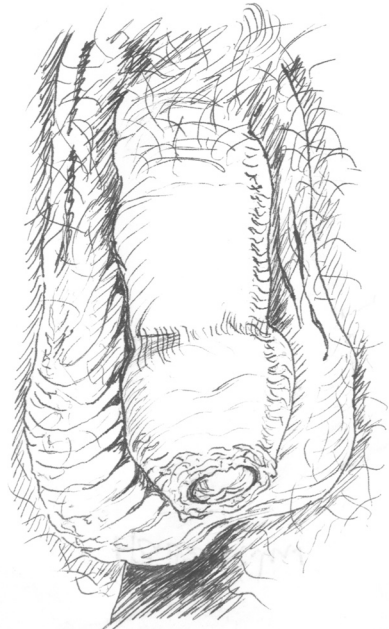
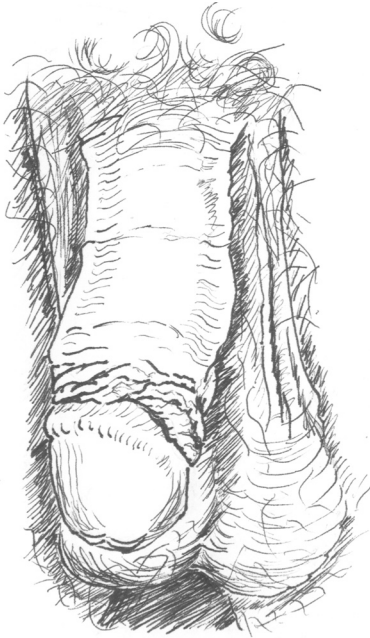
Finally, has he noticed any change in the texture and sensitivity of his glans as a result of the protection it is now getting?

D.T. – North-West

Line Drawings

Requests are always coming in for pictures and drawings. I've explained previously how difficult it is to transpose pictures, especially coloured ones, into our format. A member sent me in a couple of pages from the magazine *Arena* covering a debate on circumcision. Two whole pages, one each, was given to two photographs of penises, one natural and one circumcised. I asked a lady friend of mine to make two line drawings of the photographs and these are the results. I liked the photographs because they seemed to me to be typical of each type in repose, the ruckle of skin in the sulcus of the circumcised and the foreskin not quite covering the whole of the glans.

D.A.



Comments On Last Issue (6/96)

Regarding the last newsletter, I should be delighted to receive any letters to initiate correspondence: it would be nice to get to know some of our members. In view of your comments about letters being sent back, I am a little chary about initiating correspondence in case they fall into unwelcome hands.

On page 2, one of the originals, Bill, remarks on the sebaceous glands. I have always made a point of looking for these when examining a penis. My findings are that when circumcision is done at birth, these are very atrophied and hardly visible compared to an uncircumcised penis. On mine, cut as an adult, and only completely exposed since my radical cut some 15 years ago, I still have the knobbly remains of the glands. Not as obvious as they were in my uncut days, but still evident.

One suggestion with regard to getting new members. May I suggest you place an advert in *H & E Magazine*. There are a lot of people, both male and female, with an interest (as I know), and I'm sure we could easily double our membership.

On page 13 – the frenulum debate. I suggest you remind members about the letter I sent from Amanda (via *H & E*) in which she snips her boyfriend's frenulum to such good result.

Finally, I am getting sick and tired of these NORM people (R.B.W.) constantly on their soap box. It's about time we who enjoy our cut state should do a bit of tub thumping and get articles printed in such mags as *Cosmopolitan*. It's all too much one-sided.

Bob – Surrey

[I can only print what I am sent. In Issue 4/96, I wrote an article in which I described the delights of a foreskin without once slagging circumcision. Could not some circumcised members do the same regarding their own cocks, as they surely give just as much pleasure in a different way. You might note that in this issue there is a bias towards circumcision, which is how things turned out this time. – D.A.]