

ACORN

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Editor
David Acorn

Editorial

Hello everybody! We now enter another year – our tenth, and I don't have to ask if any of the enthusiasm for the subject of penises has waned. It seems that once it's in us, generally from boyhood, it stays forever, and, whatever anyone may say, it is generally healthy. My only hope is that everyone can be happy with what they've got, or can change what they don't like, without duress, one way or the other.

At last I feel that the long survey is ready for distribution and it will be going out first to those who have already renewed their subscription. I'd like a 100% take up, which shouldn't be difficult as it will only take a few minutes and can be totally anonymous.

I know I keep repeating this, but we are always requiring material for the newsletter. If everyone made an effort to send in just one piece over the year it would be great. It doesn't have to be long or a masterpiece. Everyone could write something starting with one of these; I noticed the difference first... My first sexual experience... I found out how 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.

masturbate when... My biggest sexual embarrassment was... How I felt about my status when a boy... etc.

As you'll see, we've had a take up again of 'Contact Corner'. Please use it if you wish, and don't be embarrassed to state all your interests, just like the second one in this issue, as members then are left in no doubt about your requirements.

Finally, if you have any problems at all, including lack of self-esteem through the way you view yourself, loneliness, rejection – any of the rough things of life, or anything physical, please let us know. Who knows, we may be able to help and we've masses of support.

David

Chinese Non-Circumcision

A propos of your claim that the Chinese do not generally circumcise (8/96), I can offer this personal experience. I trained at a gym (and showered) for three years with a Chinese man I assumed was circumcised. One morning I explained to him that I couldn't come to the gym the following day because I was going to a "bris", and explained that this was a Jewish ceremony involving cutting the skin off the end of the boy's penis. I then added, "You must have had the same operation." My friend said that this wasn't the case. He had had a foreskin until puberty, when one night it had retracted of its own accord. His penis, he said, "opened like a flower." It was quite painful for a few days. He added that this happened to most boys of the same age in China.

Gary – London

Parental Rights – Parental Duties

There is a very strong suggestion these days, emanating particularly from the NOCIRC camp in America, that parents do not have the right to have their sons circumcised. We even hear of sons threatening to sue their parents for assault in having had the operation performed, although I have yet to hear of such a case being successful. I think therefore that the situation in which the parents of a newborn child find themselves vis-a-vis circumcision bears some analysis.

The first point which should be made about the circumcision decision is that it is a decision for life, whether it is for or against the cut. We often hear that leaving the child intact effectively places choice in the boy's own hands. When he is an adult, he can himself determine whether or not he wishes to be circumcised. I believe that the so-called choice which is being preserved is illusionary. Picture the 18-year-old, newly arrived in adulthood. Are the arguments for or against circumcision put to him? Is there literature available which explains clearly to him the advantages and disadvantages, what the

operation would involve, and how to obtain it? Of course not. And if the 18-year-old, in his wisdom or foolishness, decides he wishes to be circumcised, how should he proceed? He will get little help from his GP unless there are definite medical indications, with no chance of a referral to a consultant or an operation on the NHS. If he is streetwise, persistent and can accumulate a fair sized pot of money, he can go to a private clinic. But how many 18-year-olds have the knowledge and experience, let alone the funds, required to pursue this course? We must face the fact that, although adult circumcision remains a theoretical option, for most it is never a realistic choice. In practice, if a father leaves his son uncircumcised at birth, the son is highly likely to die with foreskin still intact. To circumcise or not to circumcise, either way it is in effect a choice for life.

But suppose that the father is convinced by the arguments in favour of circumcision. Suppose he takes seriously the evidence that urinary tract infection, with consequent kidney damage, is more prevalent in uncircumcised than circumcised boys, evidence which persuaded the American Academy of Pediatrics to revert to advising in favour of circumcision. Suppose the father is persuaded by the prophylactic arguments: that circumcision will prevent phimosis, paraphimosis, balanitis and other diseases of the foreskin which can require surgical intervention in up to 10% of boys and men: that circumcision gives added (but by no means complete) protection against venereal disease and AIDS. Suppose the father thinks that circumcision is an aid to genital hygiene, knowing that the fact that a foreskin is retractable is no guarantee that it will be retracted and cleaned on any regular basis.

If a father is convinced by all these arguments, what is he to do? Wait until his son reaches adulthood and deprive him of the benefits of circumcision for 18 years? Surely, if he believes that he is acting in the best interest of the child, he has a duty to have him circumcised.

In our society, people are often placed in positions of authority which give them the right to influence or direct how others act. In the place of work, the employer determines how the employee shall act during work hours. Police officers have the power to arrest; judges and magistrates the power to imprison; and prison officers the power to confine. In all walks of life, people are daily taking decisions which will affect the lives of many others for better or worse.

This is particularly true of the parent. A parent's responsibility is awesome. For an extended period of time, the child is totally within the parent's sphere of power and influence. Decisions have to be taken daily, hourly, on behalf of that child, when there is no certainty that those decisions will be right. Children are indoctrinated into the religious, cultural and social mores of the parents. If a child is born into the Christian, Jewish or Moslem faith, he may drift into indifference, or atheism; very few will cross the boundary between one religion and another. The education chosen for the child will significantly affect his ways of thinking and his opportunities in later life. The diet chosen,

the environment in which he lives, whether or not his parents smoke, all are likely to have a significant influence on his future and well-being. There are even routine medical decisions to take – to immunise or not, for instance; whether to risk the possibility of damage through inoculation in return for the protection offered against serious disease.

Nevertheless, these responsibilities are borne lightly. People weigh up the pros and cons, take a measured decision and act for what they hope will be the best. There can never be any certainty that a decision will be right; if such certainty existed, no decision would be required. Nor is inaction necessarily a valid option; always to do nothing as a matter of policy is a decision in itself, and will many times bring results infinitely worse than if a positive decision for change had been made. Life is uncertain and full of risk. Most of the time we accept that risk – we still drive cars even though we know the relatively high chance of an accident. We trade that chance against the advantages of speedier and more convenient travel. In medicine, all drugs have side effects for some people. After rigorous trials, a drug is accepted for clinical use, even though it is known that its effect on some patients will be deleterious. And when we are that individual who is affected, we rail against the system, feel ourselves ill-used and demand compensation. Such personal anger is justified, but it is against the fates that we should fulminate, not against those who took decisions in good faith and with the best possible evidence. As humans we crave certainty when there is no such thing.

There is little doubt that the actions of parents have a profound influence on the child, for better or worse. The parents must take these actions and decisions. The child cannot be left uneducated until adulthood to decide for himself the education he wishes to receive. The child cannot be raised in a religious or cultural vacuum. If immunisation is delayed, the protective shield is lost. Mankind depends upon each generation being raised to succeed its parents and to take its responsibilities in turn. The responsibility for raising the next generation has, from time immemorial, been given to the current generation. We, as individuals, may not like what our parents did: “They fuck you up, your mum and dad...”, as Philip Larkin so eloquently put it. But who can doubt that most parents act as responsibly as possible towards their children., caring for, and nurturing them to the best of their ability, accepting as part of that role the necessity to take decisions on behalf of their children, and to act positively for their children whenever such action is required.

In this context, circumcision is just one of many decisions which a father must take on behalf of his son. Society has given him the right to act. It is his duty to take that action in what he deems to be the best interests of his son. If he is convinced of the merits of circumcision, he has the duty to confer those benefits on his son. To do otherwise is to surrender his role, to abnegate his responsibility, to fail to act as a true father.

I.G. – London

Awakening

Being circumcised makes me feel cross, due to the fact that it was an amputation to a part of 'my' body in which I was not able to give my consent. Because of others' fears and concerns I am left un-whole. The procedure is also inhuman towards infants, who greatly feel the pain. I believe being circumcised robs me of a 'fully' intact functional penis.

Foreskins are beautiful! Perhaps those with them feel differently. I believe the foreskin is there for protection, pleasure, sensitivity, lubrication and 'privacy'. A penis with a foreskin is like a beautifully wrapped parcel, and what a wonderful surprise some of the contents can be (as seen from magazines and videos).

I have heard of the success stories of men who have regained their foreskins through devices that 'stretch' the skin back into place over a period of time. As one of my New Year's Resolutions I hope to achieve this also.

Ever since I can remember I have been curious about other men's penises. I was never taught about sex from my parents; never given the 'talk' by my father about what to expect when my body started to change during puberty. When these changes occurred, I felt strange and didn't realise this was normal. I grew up with fears about my body and became very insecure, which I am still trying to overcome.

Growing up in a very large city, one would think that I would have seen 'all kinds of men in the flesh'. I am sort of shy, and embarrass easily. The only way I was able to see what men looked like without their clothes on was by frequenting porn cinemas and buying magazines. Many of these men were 'idealised' and far from what a normal man was said to have looked like.

Last Christmas, I spent time with a friend in London and experienced seeing a real penis other than my own. It was also my first sexual experience and helped to break down many of my fears and misconceptions of how a man's body should or should not look. I enjoyed all aspects of our fortnight and wanted to safely try everything and anything possible. He said it was like opening 'Pandora's Box', and being that he was older, was not up to any of the kinkier things. That first time was very special to me.

Because this was my first sexual experience, it is only fair to claim myself as a bisexual. I say this, not for any fear of being labelled as gay, but more for the fact that all I want is a relationship with a person, either male or female, who is genuine, and would care for me as I would in return. Personally, I would rather find a nice guy, someone with whom I could explore further. I find it sexier to explore and grow with a partner than to have multiple partners. But who am I to say, since I have not really experienced either.

Thank God for the ability to fantasise, and yet it is still quite lonely. I love to masturbate, especially with a good lubricant. I really find it erotic, and love

to feel and see my hand slipping over my shaft and glans. This would be an extraordinary bond with another man, lover, or even several men. Also to learn and see other techniques. Other rubbing techniques excite me also, especially using someone's stationary palm or foot, and not to leave out 'penis'!

I would like to start exposing myself to others – (OK – I'd better start this again). I would like to be more in tune with others who have the same feelings as I do. Having just moved to the Midlands from Scotland, I feel alone and isolated, and hope greatly to find others who are genuine with similar interests. What I really wish is to build further my confidence level, and this would greatly help whilst around those who are understanding.

I hope that I haven't evaded the main topic – that is the last thing I want to do! I just feel that at the moment I have not had enough experiences to say, "I only like..." or "the penises that...", da blah de blah de blah. I feel the rewards are greater once one has seen what is out there, and for the most part, if the penis happens to be big, little, fat, skinny, circumcised or uncircumcised, it doesn't matter. I truly feel all that matters is that it's attached to a genuine guy with a good sense of humour, who is understanding, caring, daring, and who likes to try new things. Am I asking too much?

I have so many other questions and feelings, with great hopes to share them with others in the near future.

J.P. – Staffs

Two Replies To D.T.'s 'Learning the Hard Way' 6/96

I am French and I have some reasons to suspect that 'La Florentina' means anal sex.

But outside of that, I believe that you would have to read "Bagwan shree Rajneesh" or "asha Rajneesh", the guru of the Oronge people. Somewhere he explains that you can have more intense sexual pleasure without orgasm. I personally tried it and found it to be true. The first time I fucked, restraining my orgasm, I felt that I was giving up my soul. The second time it was less hard, and the third time it was OK, and I had more pleasure without orgasm.

Some people learn how to do it as above, but some people tend to do it unconsciously. It may not be so in your case, but one never knows, it could be.

But for that one has to know meditation, and the first part of meditation is relaxation, and plenty of doctors could teach you that.

J-P. – France

You pose a question about what you describe as 'La Fiorentina' and which a friend had mentioned to you but then failed to discuss or detail for your benefit. As soon as I read your letter my memory clogged with something I had read years ago and I actually turned up the book concerned. Alex Comfort, in his book, *Joy of Sex*, page 180 of the updated and extended 1986 print, states this, but under a slightly different title:-

Florentine – Coitus a la Florentine – intercourse with the woman holding the man's penile skin (and foreskin if he has one) forcibly back with finger and thumb at the root of the penis and keeping it stretched back all the time, both in and out. Excellent way of speeding up ejaculation, and greatly boosts intensity of male sensation if you get the tension right.

This I think is the answer to your main question, but if I had the time now I'd say a lot more on it, also how to perfect the technique yourself when alone, and also use it during or after extended intercourse.

You also mention your love of wanking and how you feel you have desensitised yourself. Whilst I am now cut, having had the benefit of an ample foreskin and also shared your loves, I can understand why it is so appealing. I'd merely say here that perhaps you are being unnecessarily hard on yourself, and perhaps in fact you are misunderstanding what is happening and why.

Take this item of advice from Dr Ray Hamble who advises on male problems (and is a member of the Society too), that wanking as much as possible, (and more besides), can't be bad, both with or in the absence of shared sex. In other words it is a form of sex in itself, but has got a bad press by others not sharing enlightenment.

Richard – West Norfolk

Indonesia

An item and reply culled from the Internet by Vernon.

My interest springs from working in Indonesia for many years where Muslim circumcision ceremonies are a festive event and very public. The concept of being uncircumcised is unthinkable. While I have observed many of these ceremonies I am interested to learn of other cultures' methods of circumcision. In Indonesia it is done by a member of the mosque using an implement that resembles a pair of scissors, though I have seen it done in villages with the equivalent of a cut-throat razor. Generally the circumcision is done to boys between the ages of 6 and 10.

John Phillips <antique@gist.net.au>

Most of the comment you wrote about Indonesian circumcision are right, but as you know, Indonesia has thousands of different cultures, so in some parts the boys are circumcised between the ages of 6 and 10, in others,

before 6, some over 15, etc. but for sure it is very rare to find circumcision performed on the newborn, maybe because it is an initiation and also a mark that we are become true Moslem from now on (like baptism in Christians).

Circumcision in Indonesia has now become more and more popular. Even the non-Moslems (mainly Indonesian-Chinese) are also having circumcision shortly after puberty. They just go to the doctor alone or with friends (no parents) and ask for it.

To be uncircumcised is a bit embarrassing and for sure some of our friends will tease us (during childhood). Even when you grow older they will still ask if you have been done or not, so sometimes you have no choice but to lie or have it done.

Anwar Tedjamulja <anwar@indo.net.id>

Books

Recommended books to all who are interested in background reading on Acorn-associated matters, particularly from a historical viewpoint.

First, a Victorian classic, *My Secret Life by Walter*. There are three major background points to make about the Victorian times through which Walter lived and fornicated. Firstly, circumcision was unknown, secondly, ladies did not wear knickers, and thirdly, the WC had not been invented!

Walter discovered early in life that he had a tight foreskin. His first recollection at the age of 7 or 8 was of his nursemaid continually playing with his penis and trying to pull his foreskin back when she took it out for him to pee, causing him to feel pain as his prick tip showed. Once she also masturbated herself with his hand as she played with his foreskin.

Later, he and his cousin Fred took a pee against a hedge, and when they compared cocks he found he could pull Fred's foreskin back and forward, but not his own, causing Fred to jeer at him for having a tight skin. The same thing happened at school and he developed an inferiority complex over his foreskin.

Walter then finds that one of the maids does not object to him putting his hand up her skirt and feeling her vulva, and in return she would feel his cock and try to pull his foreskin back, without success. As a result, Walter worried about his foreskin, thinking the maid would think it odd and that he would not be able to have sex.

When eventually he was old enough to seduce a young maidservant, his foreskin got quite sore from her handling of it and from the vigorous act of copulation, so he asked the advice of a chemist who told him he could have a snip (a minor dorsal slit to relieve the restriction) or just leave it – it would

stretch of its own accord. Walter wisely decided to leave it and sure enough it soon started functioning normally. Circumcision was not on the menu in those days.

Walter grew up obsessed with sexuality and, in particular, the size of the male member and the function of the female organ, particularly how women peed. The fact that there were no WC's in those days made it sensible for women to wear no knickers, since it was quite normal for them to pee in the street. Walter tells how he followed three housewives, who had been celebrating, as they went round a back street for a pee, and induced them to let him watch. After offering them half-a-crown apiece they agreed and each lifted her dress and peed in front of him, letting him feel their pussies as they did so, which made it go everywhere. Afterwards, each in turn held his penis, one pulling his foreskin back as he did the same thing. He talks of his amazement at seeing one woman sit on her heels with her long skirt hiked up to her waist, laughing at his confusion as she propelled a cascade of urine six feet out in front of her before it hit the ground.

Later he spends a page or two philosophising about what most turns younger women on sexually, and came to the conclusion that it is the sight of a big pego, and the opportunity of sliding the foreskin back and forward to reveal the knob.

A century later, Walter had a female rival who did her best to follow his example as a sexual athlete, but whereas he claimed to have serviced over a thousand women, she only managed a couple of hundred men. The woman in question, Anais Nin, was a true nymphomaniac who wrote prolifically about her sexual achievements in her diaries, recently published as *Henry and June*. She claims to have slept with five men in one day – and then masturbated afterwards. She said she felt guilty afterwards – about masturbating! Her husband apparently was fairly happy about her sexual activities, providing she avoided confronting him with them. One of her lovers was her own father, Joachin Nin, who apparently abused her sexually as a young girl. But instead of hating him for it, she was grateful to him for introducing her to the world of sex, and it was she who seduced him later on in life. These episode are mentioned in *The Erotic Life of Anais Nin* by Noel Riley Fitch.

The most prominent of her lovers was the notorious American author, Henry Miller, who wrote such classics as *The Tropic of Cancer*, describing his (and her) sexual activities in the grossest of four letter terms: he had an adolescent obsession with “cunt”, which was the only thing about a woman that interested him. He would definitely not be a cult figure in today's feminist environment. This didn't worry Anais at all, who took pleasure in his brutal lovemaking and encouraged him to write “books to be read one-handed”, as she described them. She showed her gratitude to him for giving her sexual fulfilment by picking up all his household bills (courtesy of a rich husband).

Henry Miller described Anais as a foreskin hunter, saying she wore a necklace of imaginary foreskins as an emblem of her conquests. She apparently preferred sleeping with Henry who was uncircumcised to her husband who had the overdeveloped mushroom glans associated with the roundhead, which she found uncomfortable. Henry was quite proud of his foreskin, but, as he describes in his book, he nearly lost it to the urgent persuasion of an American doctor friend. This fellow would not stop hounding him to get rid of it, although there was nothing wrong with it (although it was rather long), ignoring Henry's protests that it gave him no problems. Eventually, despite Henry's reluctance, this doctor tried to force the issue by making an appointment for him at the clinic to be circumcised. (What is it with these guys?) Anyway, Henry suddenly took stock at the last moment, and with Anais's energetic and vocal support, told his ex-friend to piss off, saying he had decided to keep his precious foreskin.

In her diaries, Anais described how she embarrassed a new lover, half her age, she had just met, by pulling the petals of a rosebud back and making – in a public place – suggestive remarks associating her actions to the fact that she intended to pull his foreskin back for him when they got home. As well as being a self-confessed foreskin fancier, she was also hooked on oral sex – both giving and receiving – and said how much she enjoyed drinking sperm.

J.F. – Bedford

[The final book will be in the next issue. — D.A.]

Another Sort Of Book

Had to write and tell you that I've just bought and read *Circumcision – a Guide to a Decision*. A most interesting little publication.

Initially, it purports to be completely unbiased, setting out the pro's, maybe's and con's in a cogent and easily assimilating fashion, to help one decide – one way or the other. I don't think anyone who wasn't more pro than con would buy it in the first place, and, if you're considering it, you don't really want anyone to say, "No – don't do it". Anyway, by the appendix, the author is declaring himself virtually 100% in favour. So much for unbiased advice! This is not a criticism of the author, or the booklet – it's just that the content, for the most part, is 'A Guide to a Positive Decision'.

One or two points caught my eye in particular. One – the categorical statement circumcision will lead to an increase in glans dimensions (even if one already makes a consistent practice of wearing the skin back???). Also, under 'hygiene', the declaration that 'circumcision renders the penis permanently clean' (with no other attention whatsoever, on circumcision the penis is somehow made magically, permanently clean???)

New to me, but with the right ring of truth about it, is the idea that a long-foreskinned cock is 'infantile', and, 'a failure of normal development' – in nearly half of the male population... This is an interesting selling point for circumcision – hopefully encouraging a guy that he would look more of a man if he had his 'little boy's skin cut away'. To most of us, at least, little boys don't look sexy. Uncut guys do, but only when they have a hard-on. Cut guys virtually all the time. Moral – if you want to look more sexy – which you do, don't you – just eliminate that redundant scrap of skin.

Where you have a medical/religious rite which has been around for in excess of 3,000 years, performed by men, on men, perhaps initially at upper levels of society and its bravest warriors, is such a practice, if it is likely to interfere with sexual performance, going to last that long? I think not. Therefore, it seems that whilst some would say there really is no good reason to get circumcised, if one is so inclined, there is, conversely, no good reason not to be circumcised.

ZED

Sensitivity

One reads so much on the topic of 'sensitivity', or rather 'loss of sensitivity' of the circumcised penis and writers never seem to be able to decide whether there is any loss at all. I would have thought that the obvious thing to do to find out, is to ask anyone circumcised as an adult. I had thought I could have contributed here to what they did not know. However, I was very surprised to read in the introductory letter that membership is about 66% circumcised (mostly as adults). It appears that there is a vast amount who could contribute to the so-called 'loss of sensitivity' debate. I do hope there will be articles in the newsletter by some of them on their reasons for circumcision as an adult.

J.G. – Australia

Comments On Issue 8/96

Anthony's "Prospective Owners Guide" quotes a figure of 9% as the UK circumcision rate. This is equivalent to 1 in 11 being circumcised. I don't know where he got this figure from as all the evidence I have seen, including my own observations of men and boys, puts the rate at about 1 in 7, ie around 14%. That clinics are now openly advertising circumcision on peak hour commercial radio seems to indicate that there is a considerable demand which had not hitherto been satisfied. It seems likely that the circumcised proportion will grow in the future rather than diminish further. Any official figures for circumcision rate must greatly understate the facts by 2-3 times, since there are probably more circumcisions performed privately (in clinics,

by mohelim, and in doctors' own surgeries) than are done in NHS hospitals and thus included in official statistics.

2. His reference to circumcision being favoured by gays is irrelevant since gay men are as equally divided on its merits as are heterosexuals. This was obviously intended to be a damnation of circumcision by association.

3. Unless a man is in the habit of ignoring his wife's feelings, and just 'sticking it in' without any form of foreplay, there is going to be little difference in friction, etc. during penetration between circumcised and uncircumcised. During erection, the average foreskin retracts to be fully behind the coronal rim of the glans. Foreplay will almost always result in the glans and inner foreskin being dried out considerably from the damp state they were in before erection. Lubrication is primarily provided by the female herself, with a contribution from the man's pre-cum.

If, on the other hand, the foreskin is so long and tight that it has not retracted at full erection, then it will be most likely that the penis will be inserted into the vagina with the foreskin still over the glans. There will be no contribution to lubrication from the outer skin of the foreskin. A number of wives of uncircumcised men with long foreskins, have complained that their partner's foreskin simply sticks to the walls of the vagina and he virtually masturbates himself inside the foreskin without giving her much pleasure.

4. Although I am a member of the circumcised minority, I have never been the subject of adverse comments about my circumcised state, and neither has any other circumcised male I know. This basically just doesn't happen in Britain the way the opposite is said to occur in the USA.

5. In the line drawings submitted by David I would not have immediately recognised the left hand picture as being a circumcised penis. I saw it as typical of a flaccid uncircumcised penis with the foreskin retracted. Whilst my own infant circumcision is far from complete, the remnant of foreskin doesn't lie in rucked up folds as shown, but instead forms something more akin to the cup of an acorn. A properly performed circumcision would have removed a bit more foreskin anyway, so as to leave the coronal ridge and groove permanently free of foreskin.

V.Q. – London.

[It was a drawing from a photo. If you look at the film *Dick*, showing hundreds of American cocks, your hypothesis would make it clear that the great majority of men in the US all have foreskins. — D.A.]

Medical Fetish

My initial sexual experience (if it can be called that) took place many years ago at a school medical examination when I was thirteen or so. After the school nurse had completed the usual sight and hearing tests etc. I was introduced to an elderly retired(?) doctor who proceeded to conduct a very thorough and comprehensive genital examination. The inevitable occurred – I developed a ferocious erection and the medic expertly masturbated me into a pile of tissues he had conveniently standing by.

The experience was stimulating and arousing whilst being shocking and embarrassing at the same time, and I cannot deny I found it intensely exciting. When I had a college entrance medical at 19, the same thing happened as I once more became engorged and the middle-aged doctor commented strongly.

A circumcision at thirty followed with the usual 'swellings' and a more than clinical approach being adopted by that (older) doctor.

The problem, if indeed there is a problem, is that I am now seemingly hooked on so-called intimate examinations, and tend to see specialists up to four times a year. As I go privately and they are well paid (my health insurance covers the cost) do you see any problems occurring with my fetish? So far, the urologists I have seen have been all too keen to be a part of the charade and indeed, some reciprocate fiercely.

Do you think I am compromising their medical standing or integrity, as I would hate there to be repercussions? Also, are male patients of this nature rare, as I gather the female of the species is the more prevalent, and often problematical?

K.G. – London

[I would think that if you like it and they like it and no one grasses, then everyone should be happy. I'd love to know more detail, such as your excuses for going and what does 'reciprocate fiercely' fully mean. Any other comments from members? — D.A.]

Circumcision On The Internet

Members with Internet access may care to visit a pro-circumcision Web site which is to be found at:-

<http://www.users.dircon.co.uk/~vernon/ICIRC/index.html>

Vernon

Sky TV And Circumcision

Recently, while watching a programme from Granada called *Health & Beauty*, there came a half-hour slot called "Appointment with the Surgeon". Under review were the following subjects: Malaria, Breast Cancer and Circumcision. The first two topics were dealt with at length, with diagrams, photographs and a discussion by a panel of interested parties. When it was time to talk about circumcision, we were treated to a 1-2 minute dialogue by the surgeon (I didn't note his name) without any illustrations, or participation by others. The surgeon gave his viewers the following information:

Circumcision is carried out for religious or medical reasons. Most people think that the Jews invented circumcision, but this is false. They picked it up from the Babylonians, who in turn had picked it up from the tribes of West Africa. Non-religious circumcision is carried out on men and boys for only one reason – a foreskin that will not retract. For both groups it is a day procedure, although men are usually given a general anaesthetic. Where boys are concerned, they have a sore willy for 2 or 3 days. The procedure is very traumatic for their mothers as the willy looks as if it had been shut in a door. Adults have a worse time of it. They get erections while asleep (don't boys!!) and this is very painful. The adult willy doesn't heal for 3 to 4 weeks, and if during this period the owner is so foolish as to make love, he only has himself to blame for the consequences. The surgeon then looked straight at the camera and pronounced, "Circumcision, the cruelest cut of all". My wife commented, "Utterly ridiculous!" I couldn't have put it better.

I can't remember seeing a more disgracefully biased programme in my life. Why wasn't the well-documented reduction in urinary infection as a result of this benign operation touched on? The likely, if as yet not 100% proven, fact that circumcision may give a significantly better chance of avoiding AIDS was not touched on. Nobody with an opinion on the matter was questioned, and no traumatised mothers were to be seen. Can you explain to me why there is this conspiracy in the UK to put down circumcision? I am completely baffled.

Moving on, I have read every issue of our newsletter, and really appreciate the work that you put into it. However, in my opinion it ought to be a celebration of circumcision. Unfortunately there seems to be a surfeit of wingeing letters from people who seek foreskin restoration for example. It is hard for me to feel sympathy, as the first 20 years of my life was ruined by the possession of one, but there you are. Then there are the nymphomaniac grandmothers who love long, tight foreskins and the hints that circumcision may cause homosexuality. I know that you try very hard for a balanced content, and I don't want to sound negative considering the great service that the newsletter provides, but perhaps you could make it a little more pro-circumcision in the future.

J.W. – France

A Cut Below

Part of an article from the magazine *MAXIM*

Although circumcision may be performed for medical reasons, some doctors now question how often the operation is justified. If the foreskin's too tight, they argue that less drastic alternatives, such as stretching or loosening, should be tried first.

In the past, medical evaluation of the surgery has been delayed by the enthusiasm of its supporters, and a fear that any criticism might be seen as anti-Semitic. But, as we reach the end of the 20th century, even some Jews are beginning to question the desirability of a practice which, they're taught, is a vital part of their cultural identity and an essential covenant with God.

Their dilemma is understandable – it's difficult to question a custom sanctioned by 3,000 years of tribal experience and sanctified by religion. However, the truth is that the rite is not an essential part of Judaism. Put bluntly, it's an act of mutilation from a primitive biblical world where God demanded human sacrifice – more akin to cutting off the hand of a thief than the welcome a new-born child might expect on entering the world. The question increasingly being asked is: does this sort of practice belong in modern society?

In fact, medical opinion in Britain has been turning against circumcision since as long ago as 1949. Before the war some 30% of British men were circumcised, mostly around the time of birth. In the 1950s circumcision of new-borns declined rapidly to 20%; these days only around 7% of boys are circumcised, mostly for medical reasons.

In the US, however, circumcision remains the norm – around two-thirds of men are circumcised. (Take a quick peek at an American sex book and, if you've got a foreskin, you could feel distinctly unfashionable.) Many American doctors still believe it is cleaner and healthier to have the operation. But their views often seem to be based on the religious idea that the uncircumcised are unclean in a ritual sense – and medical argument is then used in an attempt to justify and objectify it. Close examination, however, shows there is absolutely no scientific basis for this view.

Smegma, the normal secretion of the healthy penis, accumulates under the foreskin, and certainly smells if it's not washed away regularly. Maybe that explains why it has been readily endowed with unhealthy attributes. Cancer of the penis, for example, was thought to be caused by accumulation of smegma on the uncircumcised penis, and cancer of the cervix by the transfer of smegma during intercourse.

It's true that these cancers are rare among Jews – but then, cancer of the penis is less common among rarely circumcised Swedes than among Americans who've generally had the op. Other studies have failed to show that cervical

cancer is any more frequent in women whose partners are uncircumcised, even when the number of previous lovers is taken into account. It's now widely recognised that this particular cancer is caused by a virus transmitted through secretions during sexual activity, as with cancer of the penis. Possession of a foreskin makes no difference at all.

Indeed, none of the claims made today by its supporters – that circumcision promotes good health – make any more sense than the 19th-century belief that a man with a foreskin was likely to masturbate more frequently, causing madness.

Contact Corner

Bi-guy, 42 year old, circumcised at age 19 from choice, seeks correspondence Band/or meetings with like-minded guys in the Beds, Bucks, Herts, Northants areas.

P.H. – Milton Keynes

Gay, 36 yr-old, fair cropped hair, good looking, blue eyes, 5'10", 12 stone, good body. 7.5" cut (birth), thick with large knob, shaved balls, 5mm Prince Albert, tattoo on cock and buttock.

Interests:- Leather, rubber & 'real men'
Piercings, heavily tattooed men, genital tattoos.
Radical adult circumcisions and/or long tight foreskins that won't retract with a hard-on, on big dicks. Perhaps with a circumcision fantasy.
Well-hung men generally.
Fascinated by sub-incisions (but never seen one).
Light watersports.

Would like to meet or correspond with anyone under 50 with some or all of the above interests, preferably in London but not necessarily so.

M.C.

ACORN

Issue
 No 2 1997
 Editor
 David Acorn

Editorial

Running a bit short of material again. Maybe there's some provocative items in this issue which will make a few members pick up their pens and write their own opinions. We'd most like to hear from those members who have been with us for years but never written a word.

By the time you read this the venue for the spring meeting will have been published. I'll enjoy, like we all do, meeting old friends, plus some who have never been before.

David Acorn

Nurse Memoirs

As a former nurse in a GUM (Genito-urinary medicine) department of a major hospital, I was privileged (if that's the right word!) to see, touch and examine more penises than most other females, except maybe an enthusiastic call girl. I have been reading *Acorn* for some time, often with a smile on my lips, but also with a lot of interest and some sympathy with those who write such unhappy letters about their penile state. If only you men could all be granted the sexual

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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.

organs you would like to have, the world would be so much happier (thank heavens women don't seem to have this problem).

One point mentioned in a previous copy of the newsletter was the difference in attitude to circumcision between urologists, who are sometimes pro and paediatricians who are solidly anti. I couldn't agree more, but this is an oversimplification, and the situation needs to be discussed. Firstly, although a lot of senior urologists favour circumcision, it is nearly always the case that they are circumcised themselves; what they were taught in their student days was very different from what they are taught now, and medicine being one of the most hidebound and conservative of the professions, they would hardly admit that they were wrong – or admit that they themselves had been done unnecessarily.

Most younger specialists are intact (I speak from experience of a select cross-section!) and they take a different attitude entirely, having lived with a foreskin all their lives, and thus being able to separate fact from fantasy. After all, the vast majority of men go through life with a foreskin, without the need or inclination to get rid of it. In addition, a large proportion of urologists these days are women, and they are even more reluctant to circumcise.

The facts speak for themselves. Nowadays, conservative procedures (such as steroid creams and minor surgery which removes no tissue) are well understood on the continent, and are so effective in preventing foreskin problems that, except in cases of BXO, circumcisions need hardly ever be done. It seems scandalous, but these procedures are unknown to the vast majority of British GPs, a lot of whom refer kids for circumcision unnecessarily. The fact that so many such circumcisions are still entertained can be laid at the door of the older, dyed-in-the-wool specialists who refuse to update themselves and accept modern methods. But they too are becoming cautious at the possibility of court cases brought, not through the British courts which tend to sit on the fence, but the European Court which sets a lot of store by the rights of the individual – and has no experience of circumcision.

Certainly, over the years, I have seen some heartbreaking cases where men have been so horribly disfigured that they finish up virtually impotent for life. I have seen men with too much skin removed causing pain and distortion on erection: blood vessel damage giving rise to an agonising haematoma on erection (an 18 year-old kid, sadly suicidal), and appalling botch jobs which serve as a living monument to criminally ham-fisted surgery.

I remember being lectured once on the advantages of circumcision to men from the hygiene point of view, with the danger of smegma build-up being stressed. I mentioned this later to a female specialist and she just laughed. She told me to go away, get a mirror and look under my own prepuce and tell her what I found. The point being that in normal washing of the vulva, the foreskin of the clitoris does not usually get retracted, and smegma can,

and does, build up there – because it is entirely natural and no one any the worse for it!

It is now recognised that medicine has advanced a long way since the days of M&B tablets, D&C ops and tonsillectomies, which are recognised to have achieved absolutely nothing, whilst latterly, hysterectomies and episiotomies have been largely put in the same category, not without opposition from those old fashioned consultants who are unable to accept rationalisation and modern methods. It is clear that circumcision also comes into this category, and in medical circles in this country it is now widely recognised that it causes more problems than it cures.

As far as non-medical operations are concerned, female circumcision has been banned in most countries, including UK, for years, and the docking of puppy dogs' tails has recently been outlawed on the grounds of cruelty to animals. Meanwhile, little boys' foreskins are still to some extent fair game for the dwindling number of doctors prepared to operate. Perhaps this has something to do with the fact that we have a Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, but only a National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Marjorie Mitchell

Speculations

I have just been reading through some back editions of the magazine, which has prompted some speculative thoughts to come to mind on the effects of circumcision on society. Being circumcised myself, it has struck me that, throughout my life, most of my friends and most of those I would have liked to be friends with, have also been circumcised. I cannot work out if this is a class problem or whether being circumcised leads to a friendlier disposition, or some sort of common outlook on life. Have any other readers noticed anything like this?

My working life was spent at various collieries – coalmining I suspect being thought of as a fairly down-to-earth and working class profession. Yet I have always been impressed by the friendliness of the mining community. I have also noticed that a higher proportion than I would have suspected were circumcised, possibly as many as a third, young or old (old being under 50 in recent years). Do men who work closely together, and bathe together, prefer to be circumcised?

Most speculative is the divorce rate. Divorce has increased as circumcision has decreased. Are modern uncircumcised partners more fractious and harder to get on with? Is their sex life not as good? Or pure coincidence?

On a slightly different topic. On this week's Channel 4 *Seriously Funny* programme, a large female comedienne (possibly Roseanne Barr, although

I'm not too familiar with these modern comics) stated that all women see a penis when looking at a man. This being so, do they see a circumcised penis or not? Perhaps our female readers or readers' wives can help. I once read that women view a circumcised penis in much the same way as men view breasts. Do women try to find out a man's penile status before dating, or just take pot luck?

Lastly, over the years, I have built up a small scrapbook of features and letters about circumcision on a random and ad hoc basis. Of the letters, culled from many sources, 53 are for circumcision, 44 against. These include 26 from women for circumcision and 15 against. You will observe that this leaves men slightly against it, but if you remove the letters from men embittered by being 'mutilated' at birth (10), men are for it too. At least as far as people who write letters are concerned, or possibly the press who print them.

It's just struck me that my wife left me for an uncircumcised man, having always said that she preferred a circumcised one. So perhaps it's not that important after all.

A.K. – *Leics.*

Yohimbe

I came across the following on the net and found it very interesting. Have any members come across it or are using it? If so, would you please write in and tell us of your experiences. If you are using it, I would appreciate it if you could correspond with me and advise me with relation to cost and availability.

B.H. – *Leeds*

Yohimbe

Yohimbe has shown particular promise as a herb that can make erections harder and firmer. Studies show that yohimbe, a tree bark extract, has been shown to increase blood flow to the penis.

A recent clinical study in Rhode Island (published in the *Journal of Urology*) tested the active ingredient in Yohimbe on a group of men who had experienced chronic sexual dysfunction. For those who had been impotent for less than two years, the improvement rate was an astounding 81% – simply from taking a moderate dosage of this amazing substance over a period of one month. Two out of three patients who previously had experienced only partial erections, and had failed in normal intercourse at least 50% of the time, now reported fuller and more lasting erections, leading to consistently successful lovemaking.

Yohimbe Successful in Treating Both Organic and Psychogenic Impotence

Earlier, less systematically controlled medical studies had reported 70% - 80% "good to excellent" results with impotent patients. A landmark strictly

controlled Canadian study in the 1980s showed that the active ingredient in Yohimbe could be a significant aid in restoring potency in diabetic and heart patients who often are prey to impotence.

Overall, the study's success rate for serious organic cases was 44% – startling enough to be prominently reported in *Science Digest*, *Time*, and *Health* magazines, as an alternative to invasive treatments.

The Yohimbe extract triggers chemical changes in the body that can also aid psychogenic cases of impotence, due predominantly to fatigue, tension and stress. In a 1994 Italian clinical study, half the patients received the active tablets for 8 weeks while half received placebos. The Yohimbe group showed a 71% positive recovery rate compared to the placebo group's 22% rate. Then the placebo group was changed to Yohimbe and scored a 74% success rate. Something in Yohimbe, then, obviously stimulates the male libido.

Yohimbe Suppresses Action of 'Aging Hormones' and Bolsters Critical Erection-producing Hormones.

As an alpha-adrenoreceptor blocker, Yohimbe reduces the effect of hormones that cause constriction of blood vessels which often increase with aging. Yohimbe particularly aids blood flow to the corpus cavernosum to more readily engorge the penis. At the same time, Yohimbe increases the body's production of norepinephrine, known to be essential to erections (this, too, diminishes with age). Plus Yohimbe steps up adrenaline to nerve endings, which can quicken male sensual stimulation.

Without drugs, Yohimbe can rejuvenate male libido by restoring and enlarging the chemical pathways needed for full functioning.

Unhappy

I am a very new member of *Acorn* which makes me feel I have entered a conversation halfway through. But having just read through some past issues of the newsletter, I would like to write about my own experiences.

I had the misfortune of being born in Australia in the early 1960s. I say misfortune because at that time circumcision was automatic. Unlike in England, where circumcision was an indicator of social status, in Australia, caught up in the post fifties panic about hygiene, circumcision was standard for nearly all newborn baby boys. I had never seen a foreskin until I moved to England.

While at primary school, I think I was about 9 or 10, my class went on a journey to a museum. I remember us all sitting on the floor with our legs crossed. We were watching a film about Aboriginal tribal customs. Part of the film included a complete close-up depiction of the circumcision of a boy in the

tribe. (I clearly remember one of the male teachers exclaiming in sympathetic pain at the footage). I still vividly remember the 'ritual' very clearly. Whether we were meant to see this footage or whether it was an accident I cannot say.

In my reading of *Acorn* back issues there was one point that appeared to elude most writers/contributors who are pro circumcision for infants/children, and that is choice.

I am deeply unhappy about being circumcised. I have no idea of what my own body should be like. Part of me was removed before I had the consciousness or ability to give consent. I will never know what I have missed out on by not having a foreskin. While I have always been aware of there being something missing from my penis, it has taken me many years to acknowledge the anger I feel about it. It is almost as if my own mind has taken years to absorb what happened so many years ago. For a long time I held the attitude, 'Oh well, there is nothing I can do about it now'.

I remember when I was about 19, sitting in the university bar talking to friends. Everyone was comparing scars. There were tales of childhood accidents, car and motor cycle accidents, mishaps with machinery etc. I remember pronouncing that I didn't have any scars. Of course it took me years to consciously realise that I did in fact have a very significant scar.

Life is about choice. We all make choices. A child with a foreskin can, when an adult, make the choice to remove it. That is fine. Every adult has the right to determine the condition of their own body. I personally cannot understand why an adult would wish to have his foreskin removed, but I respect his right to choose. The child who has his removed through someone else's choice, does not have that luxury. It is my dick! Why wasn't I afforded the right to make any decisions about it? If you have a son, let him decide what kind of dick he wants to have. What right does anyone have to remove healthy parts of a newborn child? Endless surveys may conclude that circumcised penises are preferable, but it is my dick, and I demand the right to decide what my own dick should be like.

I have had many discussions with my mother about why she had me 'done'. I am the fourth boy of the family. My brother, the second boy of the family, was not circumcised until he was about 6 months old, after he developed problems with his foreskin (that, I believe now, could have been cured without resorting to amputation). Subsequently, the rest of us were cut. My brother is unhappy about being 'done', and has not had his own son's foreskin removed. In fact, none of my Australian nephews have been cut.

No one has the moral right (while they ludicrously still have the legal right) to make those kind of decisions about another individual's body, unless life is threatened. What happened to concepts such as self-determination? Or the rights of a child? Circumcision is child abuse of the most base kind. Legislation in Britain forbids the tattooing of people under the age of 18, in the belief that

they may regret the tattoos in later life. Yet it remains perfectly legal to slice off part of an infants genitals.

I am currently restoring my foreskin. It is a slow process, and will not of course restore the lost nerve endings or the sensitivity to the glans that was originally there. But what else can I do? I am a victim of circumcision. At least I am doing something. I have gained a centimetre of skin over the glans in the past year. The colour of the glans under the new 'foreskin' has changed, and it has become softer and slightly moist compared to the glans skin still exposed. Because both the glans and the 'foreskin' are slightly moist, there is a vague stickiness and the two pieces of skin cling to one another. Sensitivity has increased to such an extent that it is now painful to the glans, due to rubbing on clothing, to walk without my restoration device in place. Previously, in my cut state, I felt nothing even when wearing jeans without underwear. The regrowth is a slow process, but finally, after thirty four years, I am reclaiming my body as my own.

Do most circumcisions occur in infancy because babies can't say 'no'?

R.H. (5/96) displays a great deal of intolerance when he complains that the magazine is being over-run by the "whines and wingers of men who bemoan their fate" and yet goes on to talk about his own 'op' (the removal of his foreskin). Is this a man who is telling others not to rally against their condition, and yet resorted to surgery to rectify what he himself was unhappy about? I thought *Acorn* was a forum for all points of view?

St. S. – London

Hospital's New Service

Article in the *Huddersfield Daily Examiner* of 25.1.97

An NHS hospital is stepping in to help Huddersfield parents who want their babies circumcised for religious reasons. Its new service will help increase safety, it is being claimed.

Bradford Royal Infirmary, which launched the service for its own city six months ago, is extending it to people in Huddersfield and other towns. The hospital is one of only a handful in the NHS to provide a circumcision service. Staff carry out the procedure for a £60 fee at a clinic every Friday in the hospital's maternity area.

Religious leaders who carry out circumcisions charge up to £200. Most ritual circumcisions take place in this fashion. The hospital's move has been welcomed by the Racial Equality Council, which said it would increase choice. A health support worker able to speak Urdu and Bengali will be at the clinic.

The hospital is extending the age range for the procedure, and will carry out circumcisions on babies aged between three and nine weeks. Previously,

they had to be six weeks or younger. Extra staff have been taken on and new equipment installed. An explanatory video has been made for parents.

The service, set up primarily for Muslims, is available for other faiths, such as Jews. Hospital chiefs said circumcisions for medical reasons would continue to be free. But, by law, charges have to be made for those done on religious or cultural grounds.

Letter from America

I was born in 1942 and was circumcised shortly after birth like many (but not all) American boys at that time. The fee for the operation was \$10. As a young lad, before and after puberty (which for me began at age 11), I was quite self-conscious and shy about being cut (circumcised), and also greatly fascinated by circumcision and foreskins, because (a) many of my schoolmates were uncut; (b) my parents never informed me about circumcision (they didn't want to talk about it); (c) I am a shy and diffident person anyhow. Later, I was much more accepting of my circumcised condition, and became quite pleased with it.

Three of my cousins, roughly the same ages as me, and my two brothers were all uncut. Of course, we compared 'equipment', and as a teenager and young man, I had many pleasant jack-off sessions (wanks, as you would call them) with all three cousins. In my small high school class, as well as I can remember now, 32 of the boys, or 56% were cut, and 25 boys, or 44% were uncut. So I have had more exposure to uncut cocks than many American males. Later, when I went to university, and then into the army, the 'cut rate' was much higher than it had been at my high school. Nowadays, or at least a few years ago, 90% or more of the boys in most U.S. schools were cut.

As far as I know, all the U.S. military services (not only the Navy) strongly encourage circumcision. If a boy is born in a U.S. military hospital, whether Army, Air Force or Navy, it's almost a sure thing that he'll be circumcised unless his parents put up a big squawk, or there are medical reasons against it. I've read much anecdotal material of adults being 'modified' in the U.S. forces, but I personally know of only one case. This man served in the Coast Guard in World War 2 and was circumcised in a Navy hospital. He's very glad he had it done.

Till about 1986 I believed that my continuing interest in circumcision was very unusual, if not 'weird'. I then learned that I was very far from being alone: that lots and lots of people, both male and female, are fascinated with this matter. However, many of these people are very shy and bashful when it comes to talking or writing about circumcision; they are 'closet enthusiasts' if you will. I discovered Chuck Thompson in Hollywood and got most of his lists (of 'Celebrity Circumcision Status') and newsletters. Later, I joined a group called *The Cut Men's Club of America and Canada (CMCAC)*, and later still, I

subscribed to the *GNU* newsletters out of Washington D.C. However (and I'm not alone in this opinion) I feel that Chuck and his contributors are becoming bored, boring and 'written out'; they're running out of good material. *CMCAC* fizzled out and was a big disappointment, while *GNU* lately seems 'dormant'. A recent amusing development over here is the willingness of some publications such as *Rolling Stone* and *Village Voice* to ask certain male celebrities (mainly singers and athletes) if they are circumcised.

Within my overall interest in circumcision generally, there are several 'sub-topics' I am especially looking into, viz. (1) 'annular' or 'partial' circumcision, in which only a small part of the foreskin is removed; (2) Islamic circumcision (it's not easy to find worthwhile literature on this subject); (3) the history of 'routine circumcision' (i.e. of infants) in the U.S., U.K., Australia, New Zealand, Canada and elsewhere: and (4) circumcision among significant minorities or special groups in countries that are generally uncircumcised, such as most of Europe, South America and Japan.

Books: I'd like to mention two in my own library that are of special interest. You may already know of these books.

Circumcision: A Parent's Decision for Life, by the late Aaron J. Fink, MD (1st edition: Mountain View, Calif. USA: Kavanah Publishing, copyright 1988) is a small paperback intended to acquaint parents and other interested persons with the benefits of newborn circumcision. There is a good discussion of these (alleged) benefits in the text, but to my mind, the most valuable part of the book is the 75-page annotated bibliography (nearly all the titles are in English). There is only one illustration – a line drawing. I bought my copy direct from the publishers several years ago and I've written to ask them if it is still in print and available.

The other book is *Histoire de la circoncision: des Origines a Nos Jours* (History of circumcision from its origins to today), by Malek Chebel (Casablanca: Editions Eddif Maroc, c 1992,1993).

This book would be useful to those of your subscribers who can read French. It includes, among other things, a glossary, a list of circumcision in works of art, a 15-page bibliography (mostly titles in French, but some in English and German), and several fascinating photographs (focusing on circumcision in Africa). My copy came from a Dutch penpal who bought it for me in North Africa. Both these books are pro-circumcision in viewpoint. Dr Chebel's book is in fact dedicated 'to the circumcisers: surgeons of enlightenment'.

A question of semantics (or at least, vocabulary). My UK correspondent says that in his experience, 'helmet' is slang for a glans penis or cockhead, especially a circumcised one; whereas in my experience here, 'helmet' is slang for the foreskin on an uncircumcised cock. Do you have any further information on this point?

M.S. – U.S.A.

Infant Physiology

Paraphrasing of a paper issued by Montreal's principle children's hospital

Canada is a country of two halves, in language and in customs. Infant circumcision in Quebec in 1987 was 3% compared to 38% in Ontario. Only those circumcisions which are medically necessary are covered by the Quebec Medicare insurance, those for aesthetic or religious reasons having to be paid for. Medical necessities are acute paraphimosis, or cases of repeated infections of the glans caused by diabetes in adults. Problems can also be acquired by parents forcing the foreskin back in babies causing tearing and subsequent scarring of the foreskin. All other problems can be adequately dealt with by non-invasive solutions.

A Dr Williot gives a run-down on the growth of a penis.

“At birth there are two reasons why the foreskin cannot be manually retracted. The first is that it is too narrow at its extremity, like the collar of a turtle-neck jersey. The other reason is that the glans and the foreskin adhere completely to one another; there is no cleavage, therefore, between the foreskin and the glans. In the majority of cases, infants don't have any cleavage at birth.

Usually, Mother Nature herself takes care of the problem with time. At the base of the glans there is a portion that we call the coronal sulcus. At this point on the glans there are usually no adhesions. Cells from the mucous membrane of the foreskin and the skin of the glans will desquamate, or form flakes if you prefer. These desquamated cells will accumulate at the base of the glans, in the sulcus, and will form a sort of paste called smegma. Smegma will accumulate over the years and the pressure it contributes in creating will result, eventually, in a space between the glans and the foreskin. This, then, is the physiological mechanism of the freeing of the adhesions. Most of the time, this works. Irritated by the smegma, some children will manipulate the glans to find relief, thereby contributing to the disengaging of the foreskin from the glans. Erections, of a mechanical rather than a sexual origin in young children, also play a role. The glans exerts pressure on the foreskin, thereby contributing to dilate the phimotic ring and to free the adhesions.”

The doctor points out that when one explains this phenomenon to parents, they generally abandon the idea of exposing the child's glans by circumcision, which requires general anaesthesia and causes pain. Knowing this, parents usually opt for a much gentler method, that's to say, manual retraction done with patience during the child's bath. If at five years of age the desired result is not achieved, parents can, at that point, help the dilation process with a cortisone or steroid cream. One must allow nature the chance to do its work.

Off the Internet

[Editor's note:- This for me was very interesting as I have always wondered why, at the age of twelve, after being shown by a boy at school what my glans should look like, I had to break away the last bit of my inner foreskin from my glans, where it was adhering all the way around at the rim. Some harsh masturbatory treatment up to then had not altered it. I didn't do it all at once, but about a quarter of an inch at a time round the rim, as it hurt a bit but didn't leave any scarring. Underneath, it was as clean as a whistle, and after reading the above, it would appear to have been caused because I don't apparently make smegma. I've written before in the magazine that I've never seen it or smelt it, another example of not having experienced everything in life! – D.A.]

Maldives

A recent letter from a friend in the Republic of Maldives runs:- “We are about to start the month of fasting, so people are bingeing beforehand. Also, this is the month of circumcisions. Again, family and friends of the boy collect and there is non-stop, 24-hour-a-day eating and feasting (no drinking of course) for one week until the boy is deemed to have healed up.”

While everyone knows about Ramadan, I did not know about this custom. I did of course know that the family collect and do celebrate, while the poor child cries.

Anon – London

Weighty Matters

As a newish member I've found the newsletter very good and some possible answers to my problem of restoring my foreskin. I try each morning to stretch the skin by hanging 28lb weights on my penis. I do this for about 20 minutes while I am shaving, but after a year I cannot say that the skin has moved very much, although I have put an extra inch on my prick length. This seems to have stretched the skin above the pelvis and moved my balls along the underside as well.

D.H.

Nursing Wisdom

My wife made a career move when she was 40, and went to train as a nursery nurse at college in the mid-eighties. Most evenings I would ask her about the day's lectures and took an interest in the subjects so I could help her revise each exam time. One day, with a gleam in her eye, she told me that one of the lectures had been given over to male circumcision. It was pointed out to the class that, despite a reduced incidence, a few of the students would still find that this operation had been carried out on some of their young charges. The discourse was given by a woman in her fifties with many nursing qualifications and years of experience on the wards. I calculated she would have trained in the fifties when circumcision was frequently routine. She had clearly emerged as a keen advocate as a result of her observations and deplored the emerging trend to avoid the procedure.

One of the more interesting tales she related in support of her view was an incident when she had been nursing a middle-aged man. Together with a colleague they had bathed him very thoroughly several times, but to their dismay he continued to emit a strong cheesy pong. When they reported this to the sister she smiled wisely and directed them to two of his bodily crevices which they had surely neglected; inside his navel and under his foreskin. These were duly investigated and the condition of both found to be rather revolting. In particular, the accumulated smegma and detritus around the glans convinced her there and then that all boys should be circumcised for the good of their own health and that of their partners.

The students, most of whom were sexually active girls in their late teens, were fascinated enough to continue discussing the subject over the following coffee break. One, a Muslim girl, said thankfully that the routine practice of circumcision in her culture would ensure that her future husband would be circumcised. My wife was able to tell them proudly that I was, and likewise, the other mature student in the group confirmed that her husband (born in the forties like me) was a roundhead. The girls were very intrigued because all of their current partners had foreskins, and they yet had to encounter a male who had been cut.

It seems a shame that so many young girls growing up today are going to be denied this experience, and I shudder for the sexual health of some who will end up with males who are less than fastidious about their penile hygiene.

G.D.

[Surely it was the nurses' fault to let the poor man get in that condition. Are they not taught to wash under the foreskins of helpless men? – D.A.]

Hypospadias

A few boys are born with an unusual condition called hypospadias. This occurs in about 1 in 350 boys and is noticeable from birth. It's a failure of the urethra (the pipe that carries urine from the bladder) to reach the tip of the penis. This means that it stops short and exits the penis usually from underneath the shaft causing problems when urinating. Surgical repair often turns out to be successful, producing a socially acceptable urinary stream whilst standing.

However, it is crucial that the foreskin is conserved so that it may be used in these corrective procedures.

Dr Harry Brown – Realm Magazine

A Lady's Best Friend

Can we ever look forward to seeing *Acorn* available to the public on the magazine shelves? If you ever got round to it you could make a fortune. I'd be the first in the queue, but at present I have to rely on my best friend whose husband gets it. I find it so much more interesting than the trivial "women's" magazines on the top shelf, even though they sometimes have good pictures, which *Acorn* sadly lacks! I foresee a rush of those people for whom the cock has a special interest, ie females and gays, lining up to buy it. It may not be of so much interest to the average man in the street who only looks on it as something to pee through – and for a weekly workout on Saturday night as a bonus! I do find the moans in *Acorn* rather depressing though and, although they mostly have my sympathy, they should stop going on about it and get themselves cut or start restoring. What I really go for are those who rejoice in what they've got and tell us all about it! Particularly those who describe how women react to their offering, whether as mums giving it a wash, or as girl-friends giving it a wank.

If you firmly believe that size doesn't matter, then you should take *Acorn's* advice of a couple of years ago and buy the video film *Dick*, although a lot of people might consider it more as a comedy with its hundreds of shots of the most hopeless and inadequate little floppers you could imagine. But if, on the other hand, you are sure that size does matter, you should head straight to see the breathtaking photography of a Robert Maplethorpe exhibition when it next comes to town. My boyfriend took me as a birthday treat and I'm still marvelling. Maplethorpe, being a gay, sadly deceased from Aids, was obsessed with cocks, but only took pictures of those which stood out in a crowd – and his taste was immaculate! A large proportion of his pictures are close-ups of men's pride-and-joys with half of them belonging to whites and the other half to blacks. The whites are stupendously endowed but they all look a little uniform since they are mostly circumcised, with one or two with short foreskins. The

blacks on the other hand are quite majestically endowed, and being mostly uncircumcised, show a greater variety, with foreskins ranging from the coy – the pee-hole framed in the taut skin ring, through several lampshades, to one or two which could be used as umbrellas! The exhibition is backed up by a series of picture books featuring his work and giving even more fantastic shots of a girl's favourite vaulting pole. I felt quite flushed at them all, but the one that really caught my attention looked almost as fat as the guy's thighs, bulging slightly over a smallish glans and then tapering further to a tulip head with the end belling out into a wrinkle of loose skin. I can see why so many white girls go for black boyfriends!

After all this excitement I decided to thank my boyfriend by giving him a special treat and dropped into the Ann Somers sex shop. I asked the advice of the girl behind the counter about sex aids for my boyfriend and she asked me what size, and whether his foreskin was short, long, tight or loose. I said longish and tightish, and she produced a latex rubber ring with smooth knobs all round it, which she suggested I should fit on him before he got erect, by pulling his foreskin back, slipping it into the groove behind the knob, then pulling his foreskin back over it. She said if his foreskin was reasonably tight, it should stay there throughout intercourse – and said she could personally recommend it! She was right. One night I produced the ring and told lover-boy to present arms. Everything went fine, except that the opening at the tip of his foreskin is rather tight and I had a job to pull it over the bulky knobby ring. But once it was there the fun started. It looked quite spectacular before he got a bone on because the ring bulged his penile cylinder out a lot more than usual, and it had the effect of pulling a lot more skin forward of the knob and extending his spout forward.

The effect was electrifying. The sensation as his inner foreskin moved over the knobs on the ring drove him mad, and the extra diameter, with the feel of the knobby bits moving to and fro did the same for me. He was so impressed he put the thing on again next morning and went to work with it on. No fear of it falling off since it's trapped firmly in place and is quite difficult to dislodge.

Hope your readership find this helpful. I'd love to read any reactions, but not to me personally.

Cathy

The Cutting Edge (unsigned article from an H&E)

Most circumcised men can't comment on the pros and cons of their state from anything but a subjective view. As they've usually been 'done' at a very young age, they are unlikely to remember anything about life with a foreskin.

There are many cases of adult men who have the operation these days, but again, it is difficult to pin down an average reaction. Many men who are

circumcised later in life have it done to relieve a problem such as phimosis. The result is bound to be an improvement, so their judgement is hardly unbiased.

Some men, however, decide to be circumcised purely for reasons of personal preference. There may be no particular discomfort or medical complaints; just the simple belief that it will look nicer. They are probably the most able to make a distinction between the haves and the have-nots. But again, reaction varies. One 27-year-old reported, "There is a bit more sensitivity than before, but not a huge difference. It hasn't really affected my sex life", while another chap, in his early forties, was astounded at the increased sensitivity, and the resulting increase in intensity of his orgasms.

Of course, women are more able to make comparisons, as they have the chance to experiment with a range of penises, rather than being stuck with one for their whole lives. Many of the women I talked to were definitely pro-circumcision, agreeing that, quite apart from the look of the thing, a cut willy was generally a cleaner willy. One said, "I think it's prettier, it's neater, it's easier to handle."

There are, of course, just as many people who find the idea of circumcision unnecessary. Foreskins are natural, they are part of the male body, they exist for a purpose, and there is no logical or practical reason for getting rid of them.

Indeed, they do exist for a good reason – that of protection. The end of the penis is filled with tiny nerve endings which make it extremely sensitive. What's more, the penis has a fairly important role to play in the whole reproductive process, and nature wants to keep the possibility of damage to a minimum. If you are a Western urban animal, this may mean protection from no more than catching your willy in your trouser zip. But if you are an Aborigine, leaping naked through the thorny undergrowth of the Australian outback, you can't rely on your boxers to prevent accidents.

However, most of the reasons for the preservation of the foreskin are to do with morals. It just isn't natural to hack off part of the body, especially for no apparent reason. To perform the operation on babies, who have absolutely no say in the matter, is downright barbaric.

The cleanliness argument doesn't wash either. One guy we talked to reckoned that washing the penis is as easy as washing your hands – though I wouldn't fancy his chances if he were discovered doing it in a public toilet.

The fact that the operation was routinely performed on the sons of middle-class families until the middle of this century gave vent to the criticism that it was simply a way of increasing social status – that a cut cock implied higher standing in society.

But it could be argued that the pro-foreskin feeling is due to deeper worries. Scarification is generally seen as a characteristic of 'primitive' societies, as seen

in National Geographic illustrations of African tribes, with skin carved into intricate designs, or pulled into unusual shapes. This body art, obtained in the main without the aid of anaesthetics is, to Western eyes, at once fascinating and horrifying; the thought that someone could do – or allow to have done – such an unnatural, painful and unnecessary thing.

The people of these communities think otherwise, and it is for them an important part of life, whether as a rite of passage at puberty, a mark of tribal status, or as a declaration of religious belief. But it is possible that those who are strongly against the idea of circumcision, see it as another form of primitive – and therefore uncivilised – mutilation.

There are other reasons, say foreskin fans, why it's better to be uncut. The penis loses sensitivity if exposed for long periods, which reduces the man's pleasure during sex, and means he takes longer to orgasm (Although many women would see this as a plus point).

As for the idea that circumcision makes the penis more attractive – it is always possible to pull the foreskin back to get that aesthetic touch without resorting to knife wielding. And if a man is considering the operation as a means of removing the discomfort caused by a too-tight foreskin, he can have a simple procedure which stretches and widens the foreskin, thus relieving the problem without removing part of his pride and joy.

Quick Quotes:-

“I have no regrets – since having the op I've had the wildest orgasms.”

“Several people have said how much better it looks.”

“I know it's supposed to be natural, but I think a foreskin looks weird.”

“Foreskins are for wild sex – circumcised ones are just too polite.”

“A foreskin gives you more to play with.”

Female Quick Quotes:-

“I prefer the feel of a foreskin, but a circumcised penis is more aesthetically pleasing.”

“I've had both kinds of men – there's little difference in my opinion.”

“Why is there so much fuss about it all?”

“They keep telling us that size isn't important, so why should appearance make any difference.”

ACORN

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No 3 1997
Editor
David Acorn

Editorial

I don't think there's much room in this issue for me to talk a lot, so I'll just say hello and let you get on with your reading.

David Acorn

Rising Damp

The other day I found evidence to back up my feeling that, with the exception of some of our members, the British want to eradicate circumcision as keenly as they protect their shores from the menace of rabies.

We had been lent a video by some ex-pat friends entitled *Rising Damp*. You are most likely familiar with it as it was a popular UK sitcom some years back. If not, briefly, it revolves around a landlord who is very mean and a bit of a cad.

In this episode, a new lodger, a white art student, ends up sharing a room with a black medical student. After the new arrival has settled in a bit, apropos of nothing, he asks the medical student if he has been circumcised. After initial surprise, he replies, "If you must know, yes." Art student then says, "So am I. Rotten, isn't it?" Black student

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replies, "You should try it at thirteen years old, in the jungle with a blunt knife!"

What I should like to fathom out is, why didn't the script writer put down, "So am I. Great isn't it!" Why are only blunt instruments referred to when non-hospital circumcisions are discussed, when it is logical to assume that in 99.9% of all cases the sharpest instrument available is used?

J.W. – France

Rubber Ring Method

I remember, in my mid to late teens (1974ish) a couple who were friends of my parents had a son of about 4 or 5 who they wished to be circumcised. I don't know whether a doctor or hospital was visited, but the boy was circumcised by means of a rubber ring method. I remember hearing his mum tell mine that his penis had swollen dreadfully and he had cried all night. They were tempted to take it off but had been told to leave it in place as the surplus skin would wither off in a few days, which I assume it did as I never heard any more.

As I was only young at the time, and it is quite a while since, this is all I can remember, although it has puzzled me ever since. Was this method used a lot, and successfully, or was it just a new idea that was being tried at the time. Is the method still used in this country or elsewhere?

H. – West Yorks.

Graft Away

I have always taken a pride in my appearance, love the attention, and let's face it, admiration which my figure earns me. I have a full-length back-lit mirror and frequently delight in standing in front of it after a shower and weighing up my physical assets: five ft-8ins tall, slim, well-rounded swelling bust, slim hips and thighs, and a small densely-haired pubic patch. I have long honey-blonde hair, and recently, to please my husband, I bleached my pubics straw blonde and trimmed the hair right down to an even quarter of an inch. It now looks really spectacular glinting in the light, and is much paler than my surrounding all-over tan. It also leaves my private parts in full view, to the delight of my husband – and recently to a few selected men in our circle of friends.

We were invited to an evening swimming party at a private club in the area with a dozen other couples. Before long, swim suits were being shed along with inhibitions as the drink flowed, and we were all quickly in a state of glorious nudity. I and my husband, who is also a good-looking specimen, six feet tall,

and blessed with a fine male physique, were without doubt the stars of the party. Several of the other guests, women as well, admired my pubic decoration as I laid sprawled in a pool of light on my towel. I saw several willies twitch and thicken as their owners surreptitiously eyed my centrepiece.

Every woman wants to be the centre of attention and none more than me. But what spoils the evening for me was the constant awareness of how tatty my husband's cock looked compared with the others. He was the only one there with a circumcised penis and it stood out like a sore whatsit with its bare knob and puckered red scar. Frankly, my husband's cock looked about as appetising as a lump of cat's meat! But what really brought my attention to it, and choked me right off, was when one of the girls whispered in my ear, "Dishy bloke – pity about his wrinkle!" It does seem a rotten shame that his parents had to ruin his masculine beauty, especially since we are both very keen to experience the ultimate ego-trip of a nudist holiday.

But it struck me that in these enlightened days of advanced cosmetic surgery, where nose jobs and tit jobs are commonplace, is there any reason why a penis job should not be possible? I know stretching techniques are available, but frankly, I don't want to wait another five years to achieve what I want. I'd really love to see my husband sporting the smooth uninterrupted lines of a long heavy foreskin, and I'm sure he would too. If such a thing as a foreskin graft is possible, who should we contact? Perhaps one of your readers could advise.

Chris Short

Comments On Past Items

If any information has been forthcoming about the rings referred to in Question Corner 8/96, perhaps E.S. would like to disseminate it.

It is, surely, also a Parental Duty (1/97) to ensure that their children are taught genital hygiene, and that any problems occurring in that area receive medical attention. I seem to come across an increasing number of young, and not so young, men who completely neglect to attend to this necessary cleanliness. Some have very tight foreskins and are totally unaware of the reasons why the foreskin should be fully retractable and kept well cleaned.

Long before Sky TV (1/97) was thought of, the son of two good friends had to be circumcised, for medical reasons, at the age of five. Neither parent was traumatised by the result of the operation. They were just cross. They had wanted the operation done when the boy was born, but the hospital had refused to do it. The boy was more upset at spending his first, ever, night away from home, in hospital, than by the operation. From where do the TV companies get their information?

Various figures have been bandied about for the current circumcision rate in Britain. It no doubt varies widely from area to area, even if the religious

and ethnic groups are discounted. I am surprised that Vernon puts it as high as 14%. My interests in steam and transport take me to many rallies, meetings and exhibitions, which appeal, mainly, to the indigenous British people. Making observations at these events, it is now extremely rare to see a circumcised penis on anyone under thirty years old. Most teenagers and younger seem to have volumes of foreskin. Is it possible to separate out the religious and ethnic content from the figures quoted?

Talisman

More Thoughts On Past Issues

Firstly, in response to 8/96 when David said he'd had a large number of letters following an article in *Boyz* magazine about circumcision, and how it might be helpful to hear from more men who had had the operation as adults, and can offer a 'before' and 'after' insight.

I'm 29 and got cut six years ago. Each individual has, in deciding whether they want this done, to listen to the evidence, then decide themselves and make up their own mind.

I had a fetish about circumcision since early adolescence. I found the whole idea of being circumcised extremely erotic. I also had a tight foreskin, one I could retract fully but remained tight and at times uncomfortable if not actually painful, a tight band of skin around my glans when I had a hard-on. It also wouldn't slip back of its own accord if I had an erection, and that used to annoy me. Despite good hygiene, I used to get minor infections and frequent soreness and irritability under my foreskin. I also disliked that 'slimy' feeling just before or just after I'd come.

After I was circumcised and it had completely healed, I was interested to discover that my cock didn't actually feel particularly different. A hard-on felt much the same only better since I no longer had a band of tight skin constraining my knob just below the glans. I expected the shaft skin to feel taut and stretched when I had a hard-on but this wasn't really the case, either, although there was considerably less movement and elasticity.

I found this loss of movement really sexy, along with the prominent scar line which encircled my dick. I feel this is almost like some form of sexual negation. I don't know, I've often been of the opinion that only months of Freudian psychoanalysis could satisfactorily explain my circumcision fetish.

For me, it isn't so much about loss of sensation or sensitivity, but about change in sensation, sensitivity. After I was circumcised, the sensations I felt in my dick changed subtly. On one level it didn't feel particularly different, and on another level, when I was sexually aroused, it certainly did. On the whole it's better. I feel an erection more fully, more completely now. Before, I found the foreskin something of a nuisance, an impediment.

There are times when I miss having a foreskin. If I'm being sucked off, I miss the sensation of it slipping back inside someone's mouth. If I'm with another guy who isn't cut, that can be quite strange, the contrast between his cock and mine. And I sometimes think it might be quite nice to have one to wank with.

Most of the sensation is concentrated around the scar line which, as I said earlier, I find really sexy. Being circumcised hasn't altered my fetish at all, still finding the whole subject really erotic.

In response to I.G. of London, who wrote an interesting article about parental rights/duties, and how a father is to decide whether to have his son circumcised. I would say that, on the whole, anyone circumcised as an infant, without their consent, well, their parents presumably believed they were acting in the best interests of the child. To me it really is pointless getting worked up about it. Some of these people are more in need of psychotherapy than foreskin restoration. If it wasn't circumcision they were going on about it would surely be something else. Having said that, I fully accept their feelings of resentment about this being done to them when they were not in a position to object.

But one has to move forward, get on with one's life, and not having a foreskin makes no difference whatsoever to the function of a penis. And if it's any consolation, those circumcised at birth do have a lower incidence of all sorts of diseases.

That said, going back to I.G., I really don't think anyone has the right or duty to impose circumcision on their son. For my part, ideally, I'd like any son of mine to be circumcised. My father is circumcised and as a child I wished I was too. But I wouldn't dream of imposing this on any boy of mine. Besides, his mother might raise objections! I feel the fairest, most sensible course of action would be to offer one's son the opportunity to be circumcised when he's of an age sufficient to make an informed choice, say ten or eleven.

In many cultures, circumcision is carried out at this age as a puberty rite, so to my mind this is entirely appropriate. Conversely, if the boy decides he wants to keep his foreskin intact, then this means he's asserting his wishes as an autonomous, maturing individual. And those wishes ought to be respected.

Ideally, every boy or man should have the dick they want, be it cut or uncut. If everyone was the same, what a boring place the world would be.

Finally, to K.G. of London. I don't think you need worry about compromising the professional integrity of the medical profession. The only integrity you may be in danger of compromising is that of your fantasy life!

T.P.

Reasons

I have been wondering whether any of the circumcised readers who are dissatisfied could shed light on what it is about having an exposed glans they don't like. Is it a feeling of mutilation? Is it the fact that they have no choice as to whether or not to expose part or all of their glans? Do they feel naked because of what is probably one of the most private parts of their body is on display whether they like it or not?

It's interesting that many of those who possess the wherewithal to cover their cockhead enjoy exposing it and show it off, whilst many of those who have no choice in the matter regret not being able to cover it.

I enjoy the feeling of knowing that other people are aware that I am exposing a part of my body which I could easily keep hidden if I so chose.

D.T. – North-West

You Do Have To Be Jewish

Foreskinwatch activated the *Acorn* grapevine on Wednesday March 12th. when a few members may have tuned in to BBC 2's fly on the wall documentary, 'Jewish Wedding'.

To whet our appetites we had been told in the listings blurb that the tale had a twist; "She's Jewish, he isn't!" As Steve converts to Judaism in order to be allowed to marry his beloved Michaela, he has to forfeit his foreskin, and the cameras had the incident covered.

"Greater love hath no man!" some would say, but bridegroom Steve was calm about it all and only "felt a little prick" at the start of the procedure when the local was administered. What might have been fleetingly glimpsed from the operating theatre footage was shot at a distance, and further obscured with a 'spot the ball' cross. Afterwards, the curious cameraman asked to see the shed element. The surgeon then called into question his dexterity for performing such an operation by dropping the specimen phial on the floor. When it was retrieved, a small bottle of blood was waved at the camera for a split second and re-pocketed. We were told it would be sent off to the dermatological laboratory for tests. And I always thought they were made into handbags for rich Jewesses.

Why the tests? Had Steve been having some problem with this part of his anatomy? Was this Jewish wedding all a ruse to obtain a circumcision which had hitherto been denied him on request or surgical demand as it invariably is? Was he a secret roundhead wannabe?

Best moment was sometime afterwards when his intended was confiding to her female friend over a cup of coffee. "I probably shouldn't be telling you

this”, she confessed, “but it does look much better.” Thereby she betrayed she had been ‘nibbling beforehand’. No doubt she’d harboured a Jewess’s curiosity about cavaliers and taken the opportunity to make a comparison. Heartening for us roundheads was her declared preference. But then she would say that, wouldn’t she? Their conversation was concluded with a giggling round-up of jokes about him being brave and his friends telling him that he was now only half a dickhead, not a full one etc.

The circumcision aspect was never raised in several interviews with his parents. Surely his mother must have had a view, having preserved his foreskin for him until he reached adulthood, only to see him wantonly abandon it for love of a lady. What do they say? “A standing prick has no conscience.”

G.D.

Variety

I am not a member, but through the kindness of a friend I do read all the magazines, which I enjoy. I’m not a member because the controversy between foreskins and circumcision does nothing for me, possibly because I have both worlds anyway.

My fetish, if you can call it that, is awareness of my penis. I retain awareness all the time by ensuring different feelings. Each day I wear a different kind of underpants. There is, unless you wear tight jeans all the time, a different feeling with different styles. Boxer shorts, Y-fronts, tight briefs, pouch briefs, pouch thongs, wearing no underpants at all: they all give your penis a different feel, as well as a marked contrast in how you get it out to pee.

On top of that, I am lucky inasmuch as I have a shortish foreskin which stays back when it’s put back (which is my best of both worlds), so I have that choice, and cock rings of either stainless steel or rubber round either both penis and balls or just balls. These can be felt whilst walking but without hurting.

All these items permuted in one way or another ensures that there are different feelings every day and I’m aware of my friend down there, which leaves me with that slight breathlessness all the time.

To finish with I feel I must take up the cudgels with those circumcised naturists who write and denigrate those who wear their foreskins retracted when nude, as if it’s only the circumcised who have permission to show their glans. If a foreskin can stay retracted, then it’s up to the owner whether to leave it one way or the other, when and where he likes. He is not trying to imitate a circumcised penis, but just being what he is.

Darren – London

Three States

After reading the piece by J.G. of Australia, I imagine he was cut as an infant; hence his question about sensitivity.

I can speak with some experience as I can remember all three states. A long foreskin: partial circumcision: a radical cut.

Intercourse with a foreskin was a disaster for my girlfriend of the time as I came so quickly, being so sensitive. In fact, after I had pulled out and the foreskin was back over the knob, the glans was almost 'vibrating': it was so sensitised I hardly knew what to do with myself.

After partial circumcision I was far less sensitive, and could bring a girl to a climax without trouble as I could last much longer.

When I finally removed the last traces of foreskin (a DIY job) and acquired a radical cut, the sensitivity was definitely reduced. But the gain was in the look, the overall feel, and in sex, the wonderful feeling of being in a vagina when the corona was not obscured by shaft skin. Also noticed by my wife at the time.

Sadly, I am now free and open to offer! Also I will be pleased to enter into any correspondence.

B.W. – Surrey

Vacuum Cleaners

Items culled by *Private Eye* from the *British Medical Journal*, sent in by several members.

Case 1 – A 60-year-old man said that he was changing the plug of a Hoover Dustette in the nude while his wife was out shopping, and “it turned itself on” and caught his penis, causing tearing around the meatus and deeply lacerating the side of his glans. The external meatus was reconstructed and the multiple lacerations of the glans repaired with catgut.

Case 2 – A 65-year-old railway signalman was in his signal box when he bent down to pick up his tools, slipped on some oil, and “caught his penis in a Hoover Dustette which happened to be switched on”. He suffered extensive lacerations to the glans, which were repaired with catgut with a good result.

Case 3 – A 49-year-old man was vacuuming his friend’s staircase in a loose-fitting dressing gown, when, intending to switch the machine off, he leaned across to reach the plug: “at that moment his dressing gown became undone and his penis was sucked into the vacuum cleaner”. Because he had a phimosis he suffered multiple lacerations to the foreskin as well as lacerations to the

distal part of the shaft of the penis, including the external meatus. His wounds were repaired with catgut and the phimosis reduced with a dorsal slit.

[Firstly, always check the suction of the Hoover, and secondly, if you get into trouble, have a much better story than these pathetic three. — D.A.]

The Cost Of Circumcision

I feel I must bring to the notice of all our readers the increased cost of circumcision. It is quite ridiculous the way the cost of getting circumcised has gone up in the last few years. When I was circumcised the cost was £350 at the Surgical Advisory Service. This was increased from £190 a short while before. I was advised a short while ago to have a revision circumcision to remove another 1.5cm of foreskin because too much skin was left on the first time, and it still causes irritation and some soreness at times. My own doctor, who incidentally is a lady, tried to get it done at our local hospital but without success. I have now been going around the private sector again and have been quoted £900, £750, £500. These are the prices that are now being charged in various places in London, Manchester and Rotherham.

Surely there must be a surgeon around who is prepared to circumcise, or do a revision circumcision for a sensible figure that people can afford. I have many friends who would love to be circumcised but cannot afford the high cost. I also know women who would like to have their husbands and boyfriends circumcised but cannot come up with the cash.

It would be helpful if any reader knows where one can go to get a reasonably priced circumcision, especially in the south of the country. A half hour's work surely doesn't warrant these prices. My first circumcision lasted 20 minutes, and for £350 I thought even that was expensive. No one minds paying for the privilege of circumcision, but let's have it at a price we can afford. Please get in touch via *Acorn* if you have any good ideas, or if you know of a sympathetic surgeon who is in favour of circumcising adults at the right price, or if you would just like a chat about it, male or female. I am always ready to discuss the problem.

C.P. – Wiltshire

[*Acorn* gets a number of enquiries from members seeking doctors who are willing to perform circumcisions on request. We are therefore compiling a small booklet listing all those of whom we know.

It would be very helpful if any member who has made contact with a doctor or clinic willing to circumcise would send us the details. We would like these even if you decide not to use the doctor on cost or other grounds.

We would like as much as possible of the following information:- Doctor's (or Clinic's) name, address, telephone number. Method(s) of operation offered and type of anaesthesia used. Whether circumcision is available for infants, children and adults or only one or the other. Cost of circumcision (for each age group if possible).

Details will be published in *Acorn* magazine and added to the list to help other members. — V.G.]

Juices

I wonder if Dr Hamble could bring us up to date on any research projects into the nature and function of prostate secretions which have appeared in medical literature over the last five or six years? Since retirement I have not had the same access to journals and monographs that I enjoyed while working in the NHS. I note with great personal pleasure that my secretions are as liberal as ever at the age of 66, and my regular daily masturbation (or in warm weather twice daily) can produce up to 10ml at a time, and may be repeated three or four times before orgasm occurs. There appears to be no reduction in sensitivity of my glans (yet), and my urethral meatus is still able to admit the tip of a little finger with ease, which also increases the flow of juices, although these may be in part from urethral glands.

Since we are now public on the Internet, perhaps it would be opportune to comment on my observations on the change I have observed in the state of foreskin presence in the art form of gay videos. I have not so far noticed any mention of them in correspondence, but suspect that some members (!) may have seen these items.

My first opportunity to watch was in Copenhagen in the mid-70s, and it was clear that all models on American videos were circumcised while all models on Continental videos were not, so far as my experiences showed at that time.

Twenty years on and many happy hours after, the picture has changed somewhat. The videos made on the Continent still show models with foreskins – sometimes retracted throughout the performance. Those made in the US however, have now become about 50% circumcised and 50% not, at least in those films I have access to.

One very interesting observation I have made is that the films made by K. Bjorn have the majority of models with foreskin present, and well exercised, since his travels around the world in search of ever more presentable models take him to places where circumcision is not the norm, the exceptions being America, Canada and Australia. But in the films made in these locations one foreskin at least is present.

P.U. – Edinburgh

Make Someone Happy

It was with absolute delight that I came upon an article recently in the *EROS* magazine, where your details were given as being devoted to penis activity.

I sincerely hope that (a) you do still publish such a magazine.

(b) that you send to 'desperate' overseas subscribers.

(c) that you do in fact cater for all PENIS related items.

There is such a plethora of female and gay orientated literature that I have almost given up hope of finding one kindred spirit in the whole world! Seems silly, doesn't it, but that is how difficult it is to obtain material devoted to the PENIS in all its outstanding glory.

If you want articles from a person with many years of self experimentation and a very fertile mind then I will be only too happy to submit fact and fiction articles if required.

However, my real ambition is to make contact with other men who enjoy using, displaying, playing and experimenting with their penises. Please let me know if you or any other interested soul can help.

Dave – South Africa

[I've written to tell him all about us, so I expect his heart has burst. But I do expect a heavy postbag shortly. — D.A.]

Tribal Circumcision

A news item from a magazine.

Bush Surgeons in the Eastern Cape are responsible, it is claimed, for dozens of boys being mutilated during tribal circumcision ceremonies. In fact, many die from their injuries.

These mutilations and deaths have prompted calls for the closure of 'initiation schools', but traditionalists are opposed to such moves. They see the ceremonies as an inalienable African rite of passage.

The initiation is supposed to be a joyous affair for families as the teenager becomes a man.

Talisman

A Girl's Initiation

My first remembered sexual experience was as a nine-year-old schoolgirl when a classmate of mine accepted my exchange offer of "I'll show you mine...etc" and produced his plump little prick for me behind the girls' outside loos. I studied it closely and, being duly impressed, declared it "a smasher" and asked him to do a pee with it. Proud as punch at such praise, he immediately loosed off, and then said with some pride that he would turn his cock inside out if I wanted him to. I told him scornfully he was kidding, whereupon he started pulling back on his skin until the spout on the end was stretched open to reveal his peehole. Having no brothers of my own, he had my undivided attention as he continued sliding his skin back until the whole of his glistening ruby-coloured knob was revealed, steaming slightly in the cold air, with the narrow opening of his foreskin pulled right back behind it, and pinching the shaft of his penis into a wasp-waist.

I had no idea such exciting things could be done and felt sorely deprived in not having anything to compare. But hiding my envy, I asked him if I could have a go with it, whereupon he pulled his foreskin forward over his knob again and generously invited me to help myself. Bending low in concentration, I took it between finger and thumb and gave it a squeeze. He obviously enjoyed this and I was dead flattered when he honoured me with a fierce little erection. In no time at all his little prickle had doubled in size and was sticking straight up, with the skin stretched tight over the swollen knob. The boy answered my query by saying, "no, it didn't hurt", but often went all stiff like that when he was in bed in the morning. I was dead keen to see his purple knob again and started pulling back on his skin. He winced a bit and told me to be careful.

With some effort I succeeded in pulling his skin back until it slipped firmly in place behind his swollen knob, looking like a taut elastic band. He then asked me to pull it forward again as it was a bit tight, which I did, pulling a lot of loose skin beyond his knob before I managed to get the narrow opening back over it again. Some inner feminine instinct then prompted me to go on: this wasn't the end of the story. So I started moving my grip up and down, noting with satisfaction how I could feel the soft swelling of his knob through the foreskin as it slid smoothly to and fro over it. The boy started showing a sense of urgency and encouraged me to speed up until eventually, with a loud yelp, he achieved a dry come, pulling his penis out of my hand and wanking it furiously as he backed off. I have to tell you that I was deeply impressed! But the memory of this introduction to the exciting world of male sexuality stayed with me ever since, and the fantastic buzz I experience when I unhood a guy's foreskin for the first time represents for me a real sexual turn-on.

Consequently, the impression when I encountered my first circumcised penis some six months ago was puzzlement. I do find it difficult to understand why some men are so keen to get rid of such an exciting and fascinating

plaything which seems tailor-made for a girl to play with whilst giving and receiving pleasure. The gradual appearance of the moist red knob is for me an important introduction to the sex act. Since I am certain I am not the only female to enjoy a nice foreskin, could it be that circumcision appeals mainly to gay men?

I noticed recently a letter from a gay, complaining that letters from females should not be published, since they mainly support foreskins. I think he ought to read *Acorn's* terms of reference in the editorial of the same edition, which clearly mentions foreskins as well as circumcision, and remember that females have been asked to write in with their views.

The claim that circumcision is cleaner is plain ridiculous; cleanliness is a personal choice needing soap rather than surgery. As far as urinary infections are concerned, we need to have a sense of proportion since, as reported in the magazine, girls suffer from them far more than boys, circumcised or not, and nobody makes a fuss about it.

To my mind, circumcisers are killjoys, and girls are entitled to the enjoyment of a foreskin on their chosen male partners. This is why most mothers these days wouldn't consider having their kids done.

Sue S. – *Islington*

Cause Of Impotence

Paraphrased from an article in *STYLE* magazine

How does an erection fail in the first place? The penis contains two cylinders, known as the corpora cavernosa, which need to fill with blood to produce an erection. The blood then has to remain trapped within them to maintain the erection. Dysfunction can happen for both psychological and physiological reasons. Physiologically, it is usually caused either by a malfunction in the tiny muscular valves within the veins of the penis that should relax to retain blood, or poor circulation, or even a leakage within the veins. A genetically inherited problem, high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, some drugs, local nerve damage or scar tissue and smoking are all known contributory factors.

Sometimes it is impossible to discover what is causing the problem, but it's usually a combination of both factors. If an erection fails for any reason, it is very easy for a man to become trapped in the vicious circle of performance anxiety, making the condition worse. Offering medical treatment helps to sort out both the physical and the psychological aspects of the condition in one go. People always feel better if they are actually doing something about their problem.

Erectile dysfunction is not the same thing as infertility – as a rule, the condition does not affect sperm count, and most men with this problem can usually father children perfectly well. What it does mean is that a man can get an erection of sorts, but not one that is rigid or long-lasting enough to have intercourse.

The most popular and effective treatments in the UK at the moment are prostaglandin injections that encourage the valves to relax and retain blood during an erection, or a manually operated vacuum pump that helps to fill the penis with blood and retain it with a small rubber ring at the base. Although neither is a cure, some men find that they quickly regain confidence once they realise that they can achieve and maintain an erection – and their own natural erection eventually starts to return.

But treatment could soon be revolutionised by a new drug due to be launched in 1998. It is being tested on hundreds of men in the US and reports are extremely positive. Known as Sildenafil, the drug appears to block an enzyme that breaks down nitric oxide, the chemical essential for helping the valves to relax and retain blood.

There are also new developments in prostaglandin technology. A waxy pellet that can be massaged down inside the urethra and a new way of injecting the drug into the urethra are both currently being researched.

Boyhood Games

The article 'Medical Fetish' by K.G. – London in 1/97 got me thinking about my early experiences.

The first time I can recall any real sexual pleasure was when I was aged seven and in hospital waiting to have my tonsils removed. As I lay on my back in bed, along came a doctor who pulled the curtain round and proceeded to pull down the bed covering and my pyjama bottoms. He then carried out a very thorough and prolonged examination of my penis and balls. I remember well how he repeatedly pulled my foreskin right back and then as far forward as he could. I have a lot to thank that doctor for, not only the sensational experience to get me started regarding the pleasures of sex, but also a good 'lead in' line to get to see other boys' cocks and play with them in the same way.

A few years later, at junior school, I was invited one lunchtime by another boy to join him and his friends who had started a special club. I went with this boy to the boys' toilets and was taken into a cubicle where there were already three other boys. The boy that took me explained that what happened was that we were all to get our cocks out and were free to look at, play with, whoever we wanted. Needless to say, it was a bit crowded and one boy (named Keith) stood on the toilet seat. When he dropped his pants there was this 'most

unusual', but wonderful, looking cock with its head fully exposed – right in front of my face!

It took several club meetings to work out how Keith's cock had got like that. Later this was confirmed, as several other boys disappeared for a few days to have a 'minor operation'. It didn't take me long to work out that that doctor had probably been considering circumcising me.

I became obsessed with circumcision. Once at secondary school, it was easy in the changing room/showers to find out which of my classmates had been done – and, from my point of view, which to make friends with. A group of us, who were none too keen on P.E., took to cross-country running. This meant running around a couple of mile circuits and through a wood. We would slip away into the trees on the first circuit and rejoin on the last. This left us an hour or so when we would strip completely naked and masturbate ourselves and each other.

My first experience of full gay sex was when I was thirteen. During a school holiday a circumcised classmate and I went camping in a field belonging to the parents of another classmate (also circumcised, as if you didn't guess!) The boy whose parents owned the field joined us early one evening and we played with each other as usual. After he had gone, in the dim light of a candle, my friend said there was one thing he would really like to try – that was to fuck me 'properly'. I agreed to give it a go. It took some time, but we eventually made it with liberal applications of butter – the only lube we could think of in the situation. I enjoyed it and so did he. He couldn't stop talking about it the next day, so we did it again that evening.

I eventually had myself circumcised as an adult, and still seek out friends in the same condition. I must say that I wish to this day that the doctor had gone ahead and done it. Adult circumcisions do seem generally to leave a more obvious scar, as those done young often appear totally natural with a smooth and even tone of the shaft skin.

I feel very sorry for some writers to the magazine who regret their parents having them circumcised as youngsters. I understand that they will never be convinced, but it really is better and, despite what some say, from my own experience there is no loss of sensitivity.

C.H.A. – North Kent

Special Offer On Back Numbers

The current design for *Acorn* magazine was introduced in 1994. All the issues from the first in 1988 to the end of 1993 have now been re-typeset and are available on Special Offer as a complete set of 6 years magazines for the bargain price of just £35. All 9 years back numbers to 1996 can be obtained for only £50. Please allow 28 days for despatch.

Contact Corner

Gay, 46, circumcised as a child, seeks correspondence and/or meetings with others interested in circumcision, piercing, and things to do with men's cocks.

P.R. – West Country

Bi guy, 29 years old, cut as an adult would like to hear from anyone circumcised during boyhood. Discretion, confidentiality, respected.

T.P.

Gay guy, 45, circumcised at birth, loves circumcised cocks and would like to meet other gay guys who are circumcised. I'm 6'2", slim, dark cropped hair, clean shaven, reasonable looks. I am based in Yorkshire but can travel. I'm a friendly, outgoing guy with lots of interests – in addition to circumcised cocks.

R.O. – Yorks.

Liberated bi/gay male, 40's, with neat expert circumcision, has a foreskin fetish (preferably tight/phimosed). Other enjoyable likes are foreskin abuse, piercing, and introduction to sub-incision and rituals. Videos of any of the above and the wearing of Y-style underwear and/or trunk/boxer shorts. Does anyone share any of these pleasures and are proud to have a foreskin (or could be circumcised) and would like to contact me?

D.T. – Manchester

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ACORN

Issue
 No 4 1997
 Editor
 David Acorn

Editorial

Many of you have written worrying about where at times we've got to. We must plead guilty again to getting our triple timing out of sync., although of course it isn't our intentional fault – our jobs and life problems keep intervening. Nevertheless, eight editions you have been promised and eight editions you will get. Also, I can tell those who are waiting for certain back numbers that the copying into second format is almost complete.

It's encouraging that Contact Corner has started up again and most of those who have advertised have had several replies which I have posted on.

Now read on!

David Acorn

Self Circumcision —

A Personal Experience

The first time that I can remember my foreskin being retracted and my glans exposed was when having a bath at the age of five. As my mother retracted my foreskin she told me that the boy next door had

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gone into hospital to have “that bit of his willy cut off”, and that in future I should wash my willy this way when having a bath so as not to need that very painful operation. Unfortunately, our neighbours moved away shortly after this and I never had the opportunity to view the surgeon’s handiwork. This began my interest in the foreskin and circumcision. But back to the beginning...

Born in 1961, I left the hospital with my foreskin intact. Whether the possibility of being circumcised was ever discussed I do not know as my parents and I have never talked about it.

During my years at a rural primary school, we often had games or swimming lessons with the class above and consequently I regularly had the opportunity to observe the other boys’ penises – this was a mutual interest. It was during one of these periods that I saw my first circumcised penis. Several of the boys regularly retracted their foreskins when urinating, but out of the thirty boys only one was circumcised. From about the age of six I regularly retracted my foreskin, and even tried to keep it retracted, but it would always slip forward again.

On going to the grammar school, out of the thirty or so boys in my year, only two were circumcised. One boy had a circumcision scar so fine that it could hardly be seen, the other having an extensive and disfiguring scar around his penis.

At about the age of twelve, my initial interest in circumcision was renewed, and I began to read any articles that I could find regarding the penis, and circumcision in particular. By the age of fourteen I had developed a deep desire to be circumcised, but at that stage had no way of achieving that desire. At about this time a new boy moved into the area who had, I later discovered, a foreskin with a dorsal slit (scout camps are a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other!) Having found an anaesthetic cream which successfully anaesthetised the foreskin, I cut my foreskin with a pair of sharp scissors on its dorsal side. The cut bled for only a few seconds and healed completely within a few days. The dorsal slit did, however, have a few disadvantages:

- 1) If the foreskin was not retracted during urination there was a tendency to dribble uncontrollably, and the aim was poor.
- 2) When the foreskin was retracted there were two lumps caused by the scar.
- 3) The dorsal slit was not aesthetically pleasing to me.

By the age of eighteen I was fed up with the dorsal slit and its disadvantages, so decided that I would be circumcised within the year. At this stage my foreskin was quite long, extending beyond the glans of my flaccid penis by about an inch, and when my penis was erect the foreskin extended beyond my glans by about half an inch unless manually retracted and kept retracted. The dorsal slit extended about half an inch from the tip of the foreskin so that when the penis was erect the tip of the glans could just be seen at the base

of the slit. As my nineteenth birthday approached nothing had been done to fulfil my resolution. I could not discuss the subject with my parents and was too embarrassed to consult the doctor (there was no medical problem with my foreskin – only my conviction that I wanted to be circumcised).

Having read many articles on the subject (my aunt was a nurse), the only answer was to perform my own circumcision. My parents being away during the first weeks of the school summer holidays before I went to university gave me the ideal opportunity to perform my circumcision, as my penis would not be seen by any of my old classmates, and if anything went wrong and I ended up in hospital, I should be discharged by the time my parents returned. So one evening I got to work.

I would not recommend the following surgical technique to others, but fortunately it did work for me without any problems. All tools used were sterilised by being boiled for 15 minutes. Having bathed, a line was drawn around the erect penis indicating the position of the coronal sulcus. The foreskin retracted, a bandage was wrapped tightly around the penis, starting at the tip of the glans, and tied very tightly at the base of the penis to form a tourniquet. After a couple of minutes, the bandage was unwound, again starting at the tip of the glans, and the surplus bandage cut off, leaving the tourniquet at the base. The whole of the penis was liberally covered in anaesthetic cream. Once the skin was anaesthetised (as determined by pricking the skin with a needle), the penis was washed with surgical spirit and the operation proper began.

The foreskin was replaced into its normal position and pulled forward so that the marked line was beyond the tip of the glans, and a clamp was applied to keep the foreskin in this position. The textbooks had indicated that a pair of 'bone cutting forceps' should be used to clamp the foreskin. These looked in the photograph remarkably like a large pair of electricians side-cutters, but previous experimentation had indicated that they would not be large enough (probably OK for an infant, but not an adult), so I used a gas tubing clamp. Using fine, sharp dissection scissors, the foreskin beyond the clamp was cut off. There was no pain felt except when cutting through the skin in the ventral mid-line, which was quite painful, but as the foreskin was attached at this stage by only a small piece of skin there was no option but to cut through. Because the skin was clamped there was no bleeding, but as the clamp was loosened there was a small amount. It had been my intention to trim the skin back close to the coronal sulcus, but it was very sore as I tried to cut the inner skin, and I did not cut any further.

The skin was replaced behind the glans and the cut edges drawn together using 'steri-strip' plasters. The tourniquet was gently released, giving rise to some bleeding from the circumcision, but this soon stopped and my penis was then bandaged up. The operation had taken about fifteen minutes. I then realised what I had done – I was now circumcised.

Two days later the bandage was removed and the plasters gently soaked off. The penis looked a bloody, bruised mess, but didn't bleed as the plasters were removed. Once cleaned up it looked a lot better. There was some bruising where the clamp had crushed the skin, and a large scab at the cut, but otherwise OK. The steri-strips were replaced and another bandage applied, these being removed two days later and not replaced. It took a further week for the bruising to disappear. There was no discomfort the day following the operation, in fact I did my paper round on my bicycle as normal, although I did wrap my penis in cotton wool before putting on my underpants.

The results. The circumcision scar is about an inch from the glans on the ventral side and about one and a half inches from the glans on the dorsal side when erect. The frenulum is intact with the scar at the end of the frenulum. When flaccid, the skin can just cover the coronal sulcus, but the rest of the glans is uncovered. When the penis is erect, there is enough skin left that it is not pulled too tight, and allows some movement of the shaft skin. It took several years for the colour of the scar to fade to that of the surrounding skin. The sensitivity of the glans has changed since the operation. Before being circumcised, my glans was so sensitive that the slightest stimulation was often painful. After the cut these sensations were pleasurable. For some time after being circumcised I was reluctant to let my penis be seen in public. When using a urinal I made sure that the scar could not be seen. After a few years, a friend, who I discovered was circumcised, and I took up swimming, and the communal changing room made me lose my shyness, and now I am proud for others to see my circumcised penis in the changing room or on the nudist beach.

Since being circumcised I have pierced my frenulum and normally wear a ring which encircles the glans just behind the coronal sulcus. Other piercings of the glans have not been successful and have been removed.

I have a few regrets concerning my circumcision. Sometimes I wish I had cut more skin away, giving tighter results, with the scar nearer the sulcus, and I have considered re-operating. But the main regret is that I had not been chopped eighteen years earlier!

J.C. – Devon

Some Thoughts

Today I was reading an article deploring female circumcision. No one would want to promote that if it was a cause of pain. Male circumcision can also be a cause of pain – emotionally if not physically.

I've long sought the answer to 'Is circumcision good for boys?' As I was only five when a doctor decided that I needed trimming, I can't remember what it was like very well. I never saw my glans until the surgeon exposed it.

I think I have been quite neatly trimmed. I'm pleased that I still have my frenulum, so I understand this is like a Jewish cut. A guy that I met reckoned it was done by the 'cuff resection' method – the cut line being about half an inch behind the corona.

It seems generally accepted by the majority of informed opinion that there are benefits from the operation. If these men and women are not too fanatical they may admit disadvantages too. What are the pros and cons, and what is the balance of opinion?

As most Englishmen are uncircumcised it seems our opinion on balance is against. Apparently, in the USA, despite declining percentages, the opposite appears. Over the whole world it seems it is done principally for religious reasons, and secondarily for social reasons.

So the implication is, if you're not Jewish or Moslem and don't yearn to be cut, you won't get circumcised unless you have a foreskin problem.

I haven't liked being cut because I didn't choose it, but I do have an obsession about it. Part of me wants to believe it's great being cut because I don't want to have to try and stretch the skin and admit I think it's wrong to circumcise. The doctor reckoned I needed it because I had a 'pinhole meatus', but surely if a boy has an unretractable foreskin there are other treatments. I don't remember that my foreskin caused me pain, but I remember how tender the glans was to hot bath water after I had been circumcised.

So I will briefly list the pros and cons:-

Pros.

1. People think it generally looks more sexy.
2. Foreskin can't be caught in zip.
3. Easier to keep clean.
4. Less likely to smell.
5. I may be wrong here, but I think that if people have a preference it is often for cut men. Aren't people more fanatically for than against?
6. There must be other reasons but I can't think of them.

Against.

1. There's more to play with, and more to do with the penis.
2. There must be more sensation.
3. Penetration must be easier, with more natural lubrication too.
4. Getting cut costs time and money and may be painful, the circumciser may be over-enthusiastic.
5. It's very difficult to reverse after it's done.

The fact that I haven't given an equal number of pros and cons shouldn't be seen as clear evidence in favour, since 1, 2 and 3 against are very significant.

I guess the greatest blessing, however, is having sex organs, and being able to use them to enjoy ourselves, please others, and possibly generate children. I believe that I can do these.

I suspect that I am cut for various reasons. I believe in reincarnation and think that long ago I may have been a Jew. Secondly, it may be a punishment, especially in view of a time that, as an uncircumcised Greek, I mocked some circumcised Egyptians. Thirdly, it may be relevant to people I will meet in this life and my attitude, especially my opinion regarding circumcision.

Surely no one would say that I'm less of a man (as I tended as a boy to believe) in a moral or social sense? I am the first to declare that physically I'm less than 100% male or man. Am I 99.98% a man – or 99.99%?

Peter – London

More On The Medical

As regards my earlier letter on medical experiences, may I elucidate further? I feel that those doctors who participate regard male patients as fair game, whereas female patients, regardless of how seductively they behave, are forbidden flesh. Moreover, it is now a legal pre-requisite that gynaecological examinations are always performed with the attendance of a female nurse or chaperone, which effectively curtails any wandering hands.

This does not apply to male patients however... I also think it is a long held belief that the slightest signs of tumescence in the patient signals compliance and acts as a trigger to further activities! Fair game. Most of my experiences of this nature have been with the more mature, if not elderly, specialists, who have probably seen and done everything in their forty-year careers, and seem to have the confidence to dive right in. The young medicos, however, seem to lack this assurance and often either get embarrassed, annoyed, or go too far and actively participate or worse.

My most blatant example came (?!) when I was referred privately for a circumcision. The Harley Street Consultant I saw was in his seventies, but reassured me by saying he no longer operated as he was largely retired, but would perform the necessary examination.

We chatted easily about career plans, hobbies etc. and then asked me about my penis? He told me to strip from the waist down and lie on a couch with my legs apart and my shirt lifted above my nipples. He wanted to look 'knees to nipples' as he quaintly put it.

I was embarrassed, and perched semi-naked on the couch with my genitals covered with my shirt. As an ex-army medic, he told me in a booming voice to

lie back, and exposed me completely. He performed a visual examination and then palpated my testes, studying my scrotum, and at one point squeezed my testicle to 'test sensitivity'. I gasped in pain.

He checked the distribution of my pubic hair and began on my appendage. He gently retracted my (long) foreskin and studied the glans, sulcus, etc. I was naturally nervous and felt myself getting a slight erection. He asked me about the irritation and I showed him where the thrush and phimosis were problematical. Again he studied the areas involved, at one point using a magnifying glass. My erection was by then complete.

Mr C. asked about the angle, and pointed out a slight curve; again palpating the by-now engorged shaft. To distract him I asked about the surgery, and he slowly and luxuriously moved my foreskin back and forth to 'show' the effect of circumcision! I asked about scarring, which prompted an even more thorough 'examination' with comments on 'engorgement', 'tumescence', etc.

The good doctor gently opened my meatus and checked my urethra for strictures. I was by now near the point of no return... The consultation came to an abrupt end when the specialist thrust an ungloved and unlubricated finger up my back passage whilst palpating my glans. I told him it was uncomfortable and he went on to ask about 'homosexual tendencies'.

He reassured me about the workings of the organ in question and said I seemed healthy. Sadly, he did not attend me post-operatively as that would be another story to tell...

K.G. – London

Australian Story

I came from a South-east Asian country (my mother is a white New Zealander – I'm Eurasian) when I was three. That's when I first noticed that penises came in different forms, and even at such a young age I suspect I wanted to be circumcised. When I first saw a cut penis I didn't find it ugly or threatening – I thought it was quite interesting.

Up until the mid-late 80's Australia was a country with a very high circumcision rate (about 85% in my age group). Consequently I grew up surrounded by 'roundheads' and couldn't help feeling a little strange. Well, more like an alien is more accurate. There were other kids with foreskins – mainly Greek – but, all told, we were a very small minority. It was always a source of insecurity for me that someone should find out – especially girls – as I'd overheard one of them once describing how ugly a foreskin was.

This continued through my teenage years and through university as well. The girlfriends and partners that I did have were pretty much all of the same opinion – foreskinned penises just weren't very desirable, and I have to agree. I don't personally think they add to the aesthetics of a penis.

When I left university I went backpacking through Europe for a year. At the same time I'd been wearing my foreskin pulled back behind the glans (it wasn't long or tight and after a month it would just sit there nicely). Things stayed like this for a while, but deep down inside I still felt different, so I decided to get rid of it.

The surgeon I was referred to all but suggested I see a psychiatrist – he wasn't very warm and had a typical doctor's God complex. To shorten the story he did do the surgery for me but removed next to nothing – just a little spade-shaped piece of foreskin right above the glans. My penis isn't very large, and when it (the remaining skin) retracted, the rolled up tissue caused a rather spectacular fluid build up/oedema, especially on the underside next to my frenulum. Lymph just wasn't circulating. I went back to him and he said that he would have to remove the skin underneath the penis as well. Like I said – I didn't like him – and also didn't want to risk another general anaesthetic, so I asked my referring GP if he'd do it for me instead. He was happy to, but he still didn't remove enough. I don't really have problems with oedema any more (sometimes when it's cold), but my penis looks a little like the hind end of the saggy baggy elephant! I still have enough skin left to pull up onto my glans – at least three-quarters of the way up when erect. I can wear my foreskin pulled forward if I want to. Essentially, there really isn't much difference to how it was before I had the operation.

Am I satisfied? Well – I have to admit, I really seem to enjoy a lot more sensitivity now. I have no explanation for that. I'm not satisfied with the way the first operation was carried out but, yes, I'm glad I was circumcised. I'd still like to have a normal looking penis and am seriously considering another revision (maybe by an aesthetic surgeon? I'm not sure if they'd not be more cosmetically sensitive).

I do like the look of this super-tight 'lubricant only' penis that seems quite common in American porn films, but I'm fairly sure that kind of effect can only be achieved through neonatal circumcision.

J.T. – Australia

And An Australian Lady

I was having lunch with a group of girlfriends recently and put the question of circumcision to them. Interestingly enough, all came to the same conclusion. We were all in our 40's and 50's, and of the generation when boys were circumcised, almost without question, for hygiene reasons. Thus, being used to the circumcised 'look', we all agreed that it does look better done than not done.

As for performance, my personal experience is that in the heat of the moment it doesn't matter a toss either way! There is so much more to it than circumcised or not, if you get my drift.

As for women being very interested in whether their prospective boyfriend has been done or not, they, in my opinion, are more interested in size and performance.

Anon – Australia

Those Medicals

It occurred to me, after reading of the member who likes to present himself to doctors for intimate medical examinations, of a similarity of experiences as myself. His is not quite my story, but I will explain.

Many years ago whilst in the army overseas, it was the custom, when there was nothing else to do, to have a medical inspection. We would go as a section of about 30 men and, upon arriving, strip down to our trousers and await the doctor (who was probably still drinking). His assistant would call the first one up, the doctor would look you over and might ask a question. Then he would tell you to drop your trousers, have a good look at your equipment, and tell you to turn around and bend down.

Now, believe it or not, some of the boys did not like doing this a bit, but I rather liked the ritual. So, for a drink afterwards, I used to go up twice, once for myself and once for him. I thoroughly enjoyed showing my genitalia to the doctor. Also to the other 29 men present. I did not receive all the other delights though that your other writer mentions, but it is a great experience to see 30 different penises. I would say that $\frac{2}{3}$ were roundheads.

I never got an erection during these little games, and after all these years, it would seem hard to believe, but I can remember many of the penises as if it were yesterday.

Richard R. – London

Royal Events

A week or so ago, Princess Margaret briefly hit the headlines after voicing displeasure at the shenanigans of the younger royals. It was pointed out how lucky she was in her time to have been immune to the goldfish bowl treatment – and contempt – with which the Royal family is treated these days. In following up her relationships with Roddy Llewelyn and her ex-husband Lord Snowdon, a farmer was interviewed who lived next to a commune frequented by Princess Margaret. His main recollection was in seeing Margaret welcomed by the inmates – all of whom were bollock-naked!

This reminds me of an article in the French magazine *Paris Match*, which in those days was always prepared to publish material our own pulp mags shied away from. The article was on the Princess's taste in extra-curriculum entertainment, and showed a full-page picture of her on the French Caribbean

island of Guadeloupe in a swimsuit, flanked on either side by a grinning nude male, whose private parts she graciously shielded from view with a top hat held in each hand.

In the next picture the Princess had disappeared, leaving the two men in a disrespectful state of nudity. Both were clearly uncircumcised. Could this be a sign that, despite her disapproval of Di's presence in the Royal family, she nevertheless shares her partiality for foreskins, fuelled possibly by the lack of such a commodity in her own family? We shall probably never know unless someone writes an unapproved biography of her.

The mention of communes rings a bell with me because, as a younger chap, I spent several happy months in one in the Cotswolds. We were a bunch of young idealists of both sexes with an ambition to explore the delights of free love and nudity, with the total abolition of petty jealousy, envy, inhibition and outdated moral constraints. Sadly, the reason for the evolution in civilised societies of the nuclear family gradually became apparent with twinges of jealousy, envy of others' physical attributes, and eventual revulsion at constantly seeing girls getting singly and collectively fucked on the living room carpet.

In fact I met my current girlfriend at the commune, where she arrived with her husband one day, starry-eyed like the rest of us, and keen to get stuck into this new way of life. Her husband lacked her enthusiasm, giving the impression of only coming along to humour her. He was very reluctant to strip off, but had his leg pulled by his wife until he did so. She explained to us that, as the only circumcised man there, he felt rather self-conscious. We, of course, were careful not to say anything to upset him about it, although his wife, who totally lacked inhibitions, twitted him mercilessly about it, making him – and us – feel quite uncomfortable. Later, when the commune broke up in a flash of spontaneous and mutual disillusionment, she left her husband and joined me in a new and more conventional lifestyle in Cheltenham.

Unlike most, she suffered none of the inherent feelings which caused the breakup, and looked back with fondness on the group sex and shared sensuality in which she participated with more zeal than most. She had – and has – an enthusiasm for sexual pleasure which I have not encountered with any other female. To this day she likes to laze in bed on a Sunday morning, gradually and systematically stoking our sexual fires until we finally fuse in a high octane sexual conflagration, before repairing in a haze of contentment to the local for lunch. She starts off by asking me to give her her weekly twatty-shave, which always gets my dander up. She is equipped with a particularly neat-looking vulva with the opening modestly closed up into a thin slit. I never cease to be surprised how it stays closed, even when she spreads her thighs apart to give more access. Meanwhile she gets her own enjoyment from languidly playing with my penis, every so often stretching my foreskin out and twanging it like a piece of elastic. The next step is usually mutual and simultaneous oral sex, which we both dote on, before the finale.

She is a keen reader of *Acorn*, and spends a lot of time discussing the pros and cons of circumcision, of which she does not approve. She constantly voices her awareness of the fact that her circumcised ex-husband, besides being unhappy about his state, was never able to share the intensity of sexual response she enjoyed. She claimed that not having a foreskin made it difficult for her to fire him up when she needed servicing: he lacked the instant response she obtains when she pulls my foreskin back and forth. His sexual response tended to be a gradual heightening of sexual tension followed by sudden release, but without the pleasurable sensations she experienced. She certainly takes – and gives – a lot of pleasure from manipulating my foreskin and has the view that it is there for a very good reason. One thing she read in *Acorn* which still makes her laugh is the claim that foreskins are the favourite playthings of little boys and big girls. She goes along with that.

F.B. – London

No Hands

The other morning something occurred which has never happened before. I woke up quickly from a dream that I was wanking, and at the moment of waking I orgasmed. The peculiar thing was that my hand was nowhere near my cock and I wasn't even hard. More peculiar was that the orgasm was dry. This surprised me so much that I thought I would try to repeat it again, so I put my hands behind my head, closed my eyes and pretended I was wanking furiously. Sure enough, it happened again, my body involuntarily doubling itself up slightly. Then I did it a third time. I didn't get the feeling of loss of interest that always comes after normal orgasm.

I thought that this was marvellous. I'd heard that some men could get multiple orgasms, but not me, into middle age. What's more it didn't wake my wife up. She doesn't like the thought of me masturbating anyway, thinking that it's something that excludes her. Several tries since have, unfortunately, produced absolutely nothing, but maybe the right circumstances will occur again to make it possible.

This type of thing has been on my mind for a while since I read an article last year by a man in *Forum* who wrote about 'teaspooning'. In this, you wank until you're just about at the point of no return, then stop. You then don't have the feeling of orgasm, but ooze out some come, although not as much as normal. You do this once or twice more on the trot and then you get a dry run. I tried this a few times. It didn't work at first because I couldn't call up enough willpower to stop at the given time, but I eventually did. Again, one or two comes didn't lead to a loss of interest.

From this I have to gather that the loss of interest one encounters must only occur when the two parts of orgasm happen simultaneously. The writer

went on to say how, by stopping wanking a split second before that method, you could have a dry orgasm. But I couldn't make that work.

Maybe other members have some experience of these things. If so, maybe they could let us know.

Anon

A Bit About S&CN

Smooth & Cut Naturists (S&CN) is a new venture for naturists (nudists) started at the end of 1996 with the sole aim of joining together for discussion men and women who practise depilation (body hair removal at least of the pubic region, by whatever means), with the men also being fully circumcised.

The idea of an exclusive club for smooth and circumcised naturists/nudists evolved from the Organiser's association with other clubs with allied topics of interest. In particular the Organiser (John) – a dedicated naturist who has a completely shaved body and who was fully circumcised at birth – is an established member of *The Smoothie Club* which started in 1990, and is a member of *The Acorn Society* and *Smoothie Club Leisure* as well as *WNN* (the Dutch Smoothie Club).

S&CN Members of either sex are of the firm opinion that to be smooth (ie without body hair), and for the male to be circumcised, forms the perfect combination, especially when nude, with so many distinct advantages which set us above other ordinary members of the population. We are unashamedly an elite group.

The many advantages of being smooth and, in the male, circumcised range from being totally open and concealing absolutely nothing when seen nude, to being able to keep scrupulously clean, to being far more appealing to look at when nude, to having unbelievable sensitivity and enjoyment during more intimate times.

It is the intention of the Organiser that, whenever possible, members of S&CN should spread the word about of the distinct advantages of depilation and circumcision of the male, and to recruit others (especially nudists) to join our special club either as Full Members or Associate Members.

Full Members must meet the basic three criteria, namely: a) they are naturists/nudists (or are at least happy about being in socially nude company); b) they must have removed at least their pubic hair totally; c) (for men) they must be fully circumcised.

Associate Membership is a discretionary section into which the Organiser may invite individuals who, while not meeting all the criteria for Full Membership (above), will probably fall into at least one of the above categories

and be able to demonstrate their interest and determination to become Full Members by qualifying in more in the future.

Many women are keen on the advantages of male circumcision from the “end user’s” as well as the cleanliness and aesthetic points of view and their contributions to discussions will be extremely valuable. Their enthusiasm for this alone will be enough to qualify them for Associate Membership. However they need only to be smooth naturists/nudists to be Full Members. Qualifying females will be made to feel welcome at meetings and at all times they must be made to feel relaxed about expressing views on club subjects amongst other members, whether men or women.

It is intended that membership of S&CN will be enthusiastic and vibrant with Full Members’ ideas being implemented by the Organiser when practicable. Group meetings will be held for general discussion in convivial (hopefully nude) surroundings. Suggestions for suitable venues are welcomed by the Organiser.

A short – probably two-sided A4 – news sheet *Ultimate Nudity* (usually in colour) will be sent to all Full Members (and Associate Members upon request) about twice a year. Members’ views, opinions and experiences appertaining to Circumcision, Depilation and Nudity will be welcomed for inclusion. The Organiser/Editor reserves the right to shorten submitted material, which may include line-art or photographic prints. (Enclose SAE for return.) Members will also be given the opportunity to send short contact ads via the Box No to the Organiser/Editor who, at his discretion, will list them in the news sheet. After initial contact has been made through the Box No (SAEs for reply *must* be enclosed), further correspondence will take place on a person-to-person basis. Members’ first names, town and county only will be published.

The Organiser (John) may at any time use the services of other willing Members to help run our club.

At all times be kind and considerate to all other members and, without being unnecessarily pushy, spread the word that we are a very friendly and exclusive club to non-members who may wish to join us!

SCN, PO Box 164, Northwood, HA6 2QR

Mixed Feelings

Why is it that from almost the beginning of time, man’s most intimate, private and sensitive possession has been the target for modification? For some races, the nominal reason for justifying circumcision is religious, for others it is given as hygiene, for the modern western culture it seems to be a matter of social fashion. However, these ‘reasons’ are but a rationalisation of some deeper motivation to modify the penis and expose that formerly hidden symbol of sexual maturity and prowess. Can anyone bring a deeper

enlightenment on what is almost a compulsive tendency of much of the human race to circumcise its males.

Before readers conclude that this is going to be another letter from a disgruntled roundhead, I will state my own feelings; past and present. Circumcised as an infant when it was a fashionable routine in the UK, I was at first shocked as a child to learn that my little willy had been cut and changed permanently without my earlier knowledge. The impact of this enlightenment faded after some months of coming to an acceptance. After all, I was very pleased with the look of it and much preferred my circumcised appearance to those who were intact. I was told boys were better for being cut and looked nicer and more manly. Of course I believed that, coming from the authority of my father who had one just like mine!

Throughout life I have been a great believer in circumcision, although respecting the individual's right of choice where possible. I have always been glad to be a circumcised male; that is, until recent years. I am now finding that my quite generous inner foreskin remnant is shrinking. This does not affect intercourse, but does seriously affect my main technique for masturbation. I am also finding that 'getting started' takes much longer and the buildup to climax is much slower than of earlier years. Of course, I'm getting older, but I do believe that circumcision and the reduced remnant of inner skin is also playing its part in desensitising and prolonging matters.

Have other readers found similar changes with the years, and do those with very little remnant foreskin find problems with sensitivity throughout their lives? Is a decline in loose skin and sensitivity purely a consequence of being circumcised, or do those with foreskins experience a similar reduction in amount of skin and/or sensitivity as the years progress? For some time now I have become less in favour of circumcision and have had great yearnings to have been left intact, although I have to say I still prefer the look of a nicely circumcised penis. Am I alone in feeling this way; what do others think?

Well, I hope that stirs up some worthwhile discussion in the columns. While I ask the questions, I am satisfied in general with my circumcised status and have no major regrets. In the modern world there still seems to be a socio-religious disposition to circumcise males in many countries; is there any information as to exactly which countries and the percentage of males circumcised? Long may there be the variety of circumcised and intact organs. It certainly adds considerable interest, at least to one *Acorn* member.

R.R.

Books

Following on from 1/97, there is that classic for all those who eagerly scan the literature for mention of the words foreskin and circumcision – *The Hand-Reared Boy* by Brian Aldiss, in which he devotes a lot of his character's

(ie his own) childhood to his thoughts on his circumcised penis and other boys' foreskins, and later to his seduction by the 29 year-old school matron (wishful thinking?). This book is a must for any new members who may not have come across it before.

Our hero, Horatio, kicks off his sexual career when his big brother aged thirteen initiates him into the joys of masturbation. Sister Ann then gets involved and takes to the exercise like a duck to water, insisting on doing them both at the same time, although neither of them achieve an orgasm. Horatio first realises his altered state when he stops for a pee in a field with two friends and notices that they had 'the other kind of prick – with skin'. Later, one of them lets him have a look at it – it seemed a very strange object to Horatio, long and pale with the skin coming right over the red knob, ending pink and pursed, like a flower bud. His sister Ann, who has also found out about foreskins from other girls, says she would like to manipulate one and gets him to ask his friend if she can 'have a go with it', but to Ann's disappointment he refuses. Horatio then describes how his interest in uncircumcised cocks was renewed when a fat boy his age called William offered to show him his cock, which he discovered was covered by a very thick skin. It became erect in his grasp and he let Horatio draw the skin back to reveal his glistening knob, brightly coloured. He then urged Horatio to wank it up and down, which he did until the boy shuddered and gasped into orgasm. This was an exciting revelation to Horatio who knew nothing about orgasms. When William then tried to return the compliment he found his penis did not respond. He experimented by inserting his knob under William's foreskin, which did give him a charge, but he still could not come, and so contented himself thereafter with manipulating William's foreskin to orgasm whenever the idea entered their heads, but stopped William having any more goes with his.

Later, Horatio goes to boarding school and gets involved in the universal dormitory wank session, which they called insurance clubs. Groups of four boys got together and took it in turns to masturbate the others. Horatio describes in detail how this allowed him to reopen his investigation of uncircumcised penises, since all the other members of his clubs were endowed with foreskins. That extra piece of skin, he said, seemed to him an extraordinary luxury. It drew back so sumptuously and was juicy underneath, not unlike Beatrice's fanny (Beatrice was the family maid who allowed – and took – liberties with her, and his, sexual organ). Smith's foreskin peeled back of its own accord as his penis swelled to erection. Partington had inches of it and could only draw it back with difficulty; he liked it to be manipulated with his foreskin up, and took ages to come (good *Acorn* material here), whereas Rivers preferred it with his foreskin drawn right back. He then goes on to describe another school friend who had a penis which was 11" long when limp and 13" when erect (wishful thinking again!) The boy never tired of flashing it for the benefit of the other boys, who begged him to let them have a wank at it. One day the boy decided to favour Horatio, took him behind an armchair in the library and produced it – 'It rose before me in all its glory, the foreskin not quite long

enough, so that a glimpse of the knob was temptingly revealed. I began to move the flesh reverently up and down'. The boy watched him doing so and then demonstrated how he could put the end in his mouth and suck it, graciously allowing Horatio to finish him off afterwards.

This variety of foreskins fascinated and troubled Horatio. He goes on to say how sister Ann had watched their father changing on the beach once, and discovered that the end of his penis was covered in skin. Horatio wondered why then he had taken his foreskin away, saying that it seemed an unfriendly thing to do. He ends by admitting that he worried about it a lot, and much of his masturbation at this time was directed towards massaging the skin in the hope that it might grow back.

All of these books are classics in their own way, and no keen *Acorn* member should deprive himself of the pleasure of reading them – they are available in most public libraries, although in some you might have to put in a special order for them.

J.F. – Beds.

Contact Corner

Athletic, circumcised nudist, 40's, wishes to hear from others who enjoy the feeling of displaying a permanently exposed glans. What about an informal get-together at a leading sunclub 20 miles from London? Conversation, display, visual appraisal only. No Physical contact or improper behaviour – just proud to be cut!

J.F. – London

Bi, 33, ex-public school, uncircumcised, would like to meet or correspond with circumcised ex-public school to compare school experiences and differences.

J.C. – London

Newish member, interested in everything regarding the penis would like to meet other members who live in W. Yorkshire or Lancashire.

H. – W. Yorks.

ACORN

Issue
 N° 5 1997
 Editor
 David Acorn

Editorial

The time is coming along for our next meeting. Brian has asked me to say that it will be either the weekend of October 12th or 19th. He will inform us as soon as he can to be definite, but since members want as long as possible prior notice we thought it best to narrow it down a bit now.

In the meantime I'll have my own piece of 'contact corner' and say that if any member with time to spare wishes to visit for a chat they are quite welcome. Have a day at the seaside and I can accommodate overnight. Just dropping me a telephone number will do.

We are still getting nice reviews for the newsletter, so thank you to all the contributors for their diverse views and opinions. Keep them coming.

David Acorn

Mandella

I was recently staying at a hotel in which were piles of back copies of glossy magazines. In *Country Life* for Jan 12th 1995 was a book review of Nelson Mandella's autobiography,

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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.

Long Walk to Freedom. The review, which was written by Sir Geoffrey Howe, included this sentence:-

“The Africanism of Mr Mandella’s adolescence in Thembuland’s royal household (he was indeed ‘to the manor born’) is underlined by the chilling account of his own circumcision ceremony.”

The book is priced at £25 (published by Little, Brown) and is rather a lot to buy if you are not interested by the rest of Nelson Mandella’s life, but I should think it will be available from public libraries.

It would be interesting to have the extract published in *Acorn*, but I suspect it would be infringing copyright laws to do so.

E.S. – Lancashire

Shocking

I hope I have found in you a place for my obsessions. I get aroused merely hearing the word ‘circumcision’.

Let me tell you something about myself. I am a 22-year-old student, cut since I was 18. I never had any problems with my foreskin, I just found that I didn’t deserve it. Nice guys are foreskinned, but as a sign for my evilness I wanted to ‘bear’ the sign of circumcision.

I loved it when other boys pointed at my clipcock, ridiculing me for being cut. I’d love to meet someone who could insult me for being a littly cutboy.

From this point springs another fantasy of mine – I’d love to take revenge on each guy ridiculing me by eventually circumcising him myself. I am mean – I want to show these nice uncut guys.

I hope these fantasies are not too shocking for you – until now I have never even dared to tell anyone about it. What can you make out of it? Do you think I should pursue psychiatric help?

I would love to hear about other boys with equal obsessions – if they exist. I would really appreciate any help from your side.

P.K.

Prostate Secretions

Edition 3/97 caught up with me yesterday morning and it makes a good read. I see that P.U. from Edinburgh (Juices – page 10) asks me some questions about prostate secretions. I don’t have any especially new research findings to offer him because, like him, I am retired and confess to being rather less than diligent when it comes to keeping up with the latest developments in the field of medicine.

However, I am intrigued by his ability, at 66, to ejaculate as much as “10 ml at a time” and that this may be repeated “three or four times before orgasm occurs”. I do hope he isn’t boasting, tongue in cheek, because those kind of quantities are, quite frankly, enormous. I wonder what he means by three or four times before orgasm? Is he suggesting an overflow of semen on three or four occasions during one masturbatory session before proceeding to full orgasm? The dribbling of quite copious quantities of clear viscous, so-called ‘pre-cum love juice’, during the masturbatory build-up of excitement is common enough, but I have never heard of anyone producing anything like 30-40ml of the stuff. This is produced by the Cowper’s Glands in the urethra and is, essentially, a lubricant.

I am 64, and there are few who can be more dedicated to at least twice-a-day masturbation than I am. During a long session I may overflow a few ml. of genuine semen quite a long time in advance of full orgasm without apparently reducing the final volume of my ejaculate. But even in my younger, and more virile, days I don’t suppose I ever ejaculated more than an occasional 7ml. The average was about 4ml, in line with most guys. 5ml. must be considered a ‘top of the range load’ by virtually anyone. Only once, many years ago, have I been gob-smacked by a truly incredible ejaculation. I was with a guy in the back seat of my car and when he announced his impending climax I handed him a plastic picnic beaker as the nearest available receptacle. He more than half filled it, and the memory of it still utterly amazes me.

Prostatic fluid is alkaline. Its two principal purposes are to provide an activating medium in which sperm can swim, and a means of neutralising the acid secretions of the vagina. In any one ejaculation, as much as 95% of the fluid involved is from the prostate gland. The solid equivalent mass of the sperm cells amounts to a mere 5%.

On another subject. I have recently been seeing a guy from the West Country who maintains that semen is poisonous to the human host in whom it is produced. Only when it is regularly ‘got rid of’ through frequent masturbation/partnered sex can the guy who produced it feel at his peak of health. I must say that this hypothesis is a new one on me, but I confess that I always do feel much fitter, and mentally more content, when I’m in the middle of one of my ‘sexually busy’ periods. I wonder if this is a West Country ‘old wives tale’ or if it is a widely believed concept which has simply passed me by. Do other readers have any comments to make? In particular, what do they personally think of the notion.

R.H.

Them And Us

In these days of Political Correctness, when the minorities have to be given due deference, would it not be a good idea to form a women’s group – or

create a women's section for the newsletter? After all, most men are only concerned with their own penis whereas women take an interest in them all – or at least those of their boyfriends, partners, children and so on. True, they are unlikely to take up entrenched attitudes on the circumcision issue, if only because it cannot happen to English girls. But in this context, the subject of female circumcision is a very highly emotive one for most women, and we have succeeded in getting the practice, associated only with immigrants, outlawed in this country. Those women involved in campaigning against FGM (female genital mutilation) of course will, naturally enough, feel duty bound to oppose male circumcision. However, the majority of us won't have a clue what it's about, since we're unlikely to encounter either male, let alone female, circumcision in today's Britain. Consequently there are probably a lot of women who are likely to be interested in your movement since the subject breaks new ground for the majority of us, and precious little information is available about it elsewhere.

Having established my credentials as a staunch member of the feminist group, I think it might be useful to your members if they knew what makes us tick, and how our thoughts can be relevant to the subject of penises in general. Firstly, there is the matter of penis envy. Imagine the fascination to a young girl of that sprig of flesh which is capable of so many exciting manoeuvres: the sudden appearance of the tiny scarlet cherry when the skin is pulled back, and the amazing ability of the organ to stiffen and lengthen when handled. And then every little girl feels short-changed the first time she sees the pride with which her brother can pee, standing up and aiming a neat little jet with a precision which she cannot hope to match. The feeling is reinforced if the boy then shows off by ballooning his foreskin, which can be startling, and indeed disturbing, to a young girl (and to big girls too on occasion). Consequently, she feels distinctly inferior in having to squat down to pee in an unseemly fashion, and being able to produce only an untidy and haphazard torrent, unstoppable once started. This envy usually lasts a couple of years and then fades away as girls learn to appreciate the very distinct advantages of what they've got, except in the matter of taking a leak.

Feminists on the other hand have not forgotten this area of male domination – and female humiliation – and hate the thought that men can stand proudly peeing with the ability to direct their neat, if puny stream wherever they want. In recent years in the States, prominent feminists have decided to take a stand in this matter – literally. Learned treatises have been published by feminists in various ranking positions in society explaining that women too can be just like men and pee in a standing position.

I shouldn't imagine men are all that interested in the techniques used to achieve this desirable stance, but I'll mention them just the same. Firstly, it is generally recognised that if women stand and pee in the normal male position, quite a lot gets to run down one or both legs. However, if both hands are used to pull the flesh above the privates upwards and outwards, the stream tends

to hang together much more, and is directed forward instead of straight down. If directional accuracy is still lacking, another dodge is to fold over the top part of the inner lips so that the bottom part forms a funnel which can give quite good directional accuracy.

In the States, which is famous for its cunning gadgetry, they have devised a plastic funnel which fits snugly inside the inner lips and directs the stream in as neat a jet as any man can achieve, with the added advantage that the inner lips can be kept relatively dry. On this point it is worth noting that American feminists are now not only advocating the standing pee but have also decided that females should no longer use toilet paper after peeing. Why should they have to when men don't? I'm not sure I go along with that because even if you take a daily shower you will still have a minor hygiene problem at the end of the day.

Another thing that feminists find irritating, due not so much to the absence of the male organ as to the presence of the female slot, is the problems which arise when riding a bicycle. Have you men ever wondered why, in the days of women running the marathon and going into space, the Tour de France and similar long-distance cycle events are restricted to the male sex? The reason is simple – the narrow racing saddle necessary for high speed cycling is just not compatible with the female anatomy, and although some girls get sexually aroused by friction against the vulva, over a period of time it becomes very sore and bruised, since it has to bear most of the girl's weight. As a result, long distance cycling is out as far as the cloven sex is concerned. In this case there is virtually nothing feminists can do to balance the discrepancy. They just have to grit their teeth and write it off whilst bemoaning nature's scandalous unfairness.

Finally, one of the triumphs for the feminist cause was the recent all-women expedition to the North Pole – which so many men have failed to achieve in the past. One of the built-in disadvantages that the girls faced was once again the lack of a penis to pee through. You just cannot bare the backside when the temperature is 40 below! Consequently a great deal of thought and planning went into the expedition – and was discussed in fascinating detail – and at considerable length in the media – about how a girl could take a leak in the Arctic. The leader of the expedition explained with satisfaction that their suits were equipped with a zip that went from the navel round to the bottom of the spine. Underwear took the form of late Victorian 'drawers' with an open crutch. Although it makes me proud that we have overcome such problems, I can't help thinking that it's a hell of a palaver just to take a pee. Surely the American plastic funnel would have been easier.

Ms S.W. – London

Doing Things

The arrival of the latest newsletter has spurred me into action to write to you again – given me more to write about, even. What a most interesting issue. For example, the advert for the smooth and cut naturists club, although, alas, currently I could only be an associate member – partly due to the cost of circumcision (another important angle raised this time). And I really hope we hear again soon from our new South African friend. He sounds a very interesting individual. I hope to find out what ‘self experiment’ he has performed. It would of course be great if there were ideas I could utilise. I guess this is a part at least of what the *Acorn* organisation is about, pooling ideas for altering and continually improving the feeling and appearance of one’s cock. The ultimate, naturally, is circumcision, but there are many and various other new sensations we can discover through communication.

Meanwhile, having missed my ‘target’ date for getting cut, I decided to make some dramatic alterations to my foreskin, on the basis that if anything went wrong it wouldn’t matter as I was going to get rid of it eventually anyway. I used to have about half a dozen piercings in it which have lately fallen into ‘disuse’. In a revival of interest I decided to make some more, then joined some of them together, creating three large holes, whilst others I simply cut away with the sharp upward thrust with a scalpel. The rim now has an interesting ‘ragged’ look. Stretching continues on the three main piercings whilst, incidentally, other minor ones are also ‘growing’. The big three are approximately 2 cms across, one slightly more, one slightly less, and all three can be easily slipped over my cockhead to sit nicely in the coronal groove. I find I can only do this with two at a time. I often sit for periods, ie. watching TV, with fingers hooked through, pulling to maintain tension. I have a no limit stretching project here. Helpful suggestions would be gratefully received.

Many years ago I had a persistent urge that I wanted to be able to get a finger into my pisshole, and I wanted the hole to stay open, kind of like the end of a hosepipe, instead of closing ‘flat’ after every piss. Wouldn’t this make it easier to piss, increase the volume of the flow. I imagined a bigger, stronger stream, bladder emptying much faster...in fantasy anyway. I soon learned that I could cut away the thin membrane at the underside end of the slit. A Prince Albert piercing also helped until it too was cut away. Things were opening up at last...I could part my pisslips. Stretching that sensitive inner skin was magic. I wanted more. I had a new P.A., substantially anchored further down – too substantially really, plenty of room to cut a bit more of that piss tube, and exposed a bit more inner skin...brilliant...I can now part my piss lips so that the underside of my cockhead will open out flat! Blood oozing, it is not always easy to immediately see how deep a new incision is...sometimes deeper than originally intended at the time. However, the final split happened of its own accord. Big piss hole...no P.A.

Nowadays my stream is flowing slower than it used to (muscles weakening?), and with an increasingly stretched, loose, wrinkled foreskin collecting more residual drips!

Pulled back, my foreskin will usually stay back these days, in which case residue makes increasingly large, damp, brown patches on underwear. I have been wearing light-coloured slacks recently for work, and consequently had more than one near embarrassing accident. Sometimes, unnoticed, my piss flow splits into two, going in completely separate directions. Obviously, the more alterations you make, the more diligent you must become! Being much more aware of your cock, and the way it performs, is no bad thing. I enjoy the greater awareness that I have to observe, and plan to continue changing my cock for the better, not least by eventual radical circumcision.

Having decided on circumcision, I feel it best to take a very positive stance and have the maximum amount of redundant skin removed. One good reason for this is to reveal to maximum advantage the delightful unique helmet shape of the male cock head, and not spoil the profile by leaving too much skin to roll up under the rim. Another is to achieve, to quote a delighted circumcisee, a permanent 'tingling, stretching sensation' when erect. Skin so tight as to make his cock curve upwards. Sounds good to me.

May I put in here a note, as an *Acorn* member, of support for your oft repeated request for newsletter contributions from some of our 'silent' friends. I guess in some cases silence may be due to the lack of privacy to compile confidential correspondence, but one reason why we all subscribe to *Acorn* is surely to read about other guys' experiences appertaining to their cocks. I for one would enjoy reading even quite basic information, so don't feel that you have nothing to say, your cock is totally unique to you – and we'd all love to know about it... How long is it?...How long have you had it(!!?)...What is your 'cut' status?...What else have you done to it?...What would you like to do with it?...Does it come(!!) with any special attachments or ornamentation? There are so many of you out there – so many cocks waiting to be revealed. Everybody would love to hear from you – HONEST.

ZED

Simple Procedure

I was intrigued to read in the article quoted from *H & E* in 2/97, that "if a man has a tight foreskin he can have a simple procedure which widens and stretches it, thus relieving the problem without the necessity of removing part of his pride and joy". What exactly is this simple procedure? If it is so simple, why is it not better known? Why should it not be used on boys of a very early age?

Marjorie Mitchell, also in 2/97, who is a nurse, writes in the same vein, "Nowadays, conservative procedures, such as steroid creams and minor

surgery which removes no tissue, are so well understood on the Continent that circumcisions are scarcely ever needed to be done..." Again, what does this minor surgery consist of, and why is it not understood in this country?

On another subject, I agree with your contributor who would like to see more contributions from women. Cannot Tuppy Owens be persuaded to write about her preferences.

I.D. – Herts.

[Tuppy gave her views in a circumcision pros and cons article in a women's magazine, the whole of which we published. — *D.A.*]

No Hands Comment

The feature by Anonymous in 4/97 under this heading didn't cause me any great surprise. It is traditional in Western culture to consider the male sexual climax as being a single combined event of orgasm and ejaculation. Because we expect things to happen in this way we rarely make any effort to behave differently but, in fact, the two happenings are entirely separate, and Oriental Taoists have recognised this for centuries. They have trained themselves so that it is quite natural for them to reach orgasm without ejaculation. It is ejaculation, not orgasm, which results in the explosive release of body energy leading to the subsequent 'refractory period', during which re-arousal is not possible. By avoiding ejaculation, Taoists can enjoy long sexual sessions with multiple orgasms, all of which are just as fully satisfying as any Western man's single climax after which he is suitably 'knackered'.

Personally, after a period of arousal, I have experienced spontaneous full semen emissions (much to my embarrassment) without any sensation of orgasm and, similarly, in my younger days I trained myself to enjoy the full thrill of orgasm without contracting the muscles leading to ejaculation. I'm afraid I've lost that trick now, which is a pity, because 1) non-ejaculation saves a bomb on paper tissue or stained sheets, and 2) the multiple orgasms referred to in paragraph 1 were a great bonus.

The psychological stimulus to sexual climax is often forgotten in the rush to achieving it through physical means. Both elements are very important. A 'no hands' wet dream can, in fact, be 'wet' or 'dry'. In either event the brain has led the individual to full-scale sexual climax during sleep without any physical stimulus being applied. The thrashing around in bed which accompanies a full ejaculatory dream of this kind can create a degree of apparent wet messiness far in excess of the actual volume of semen produced. But a dry nocturnal sexual climax can often be far more erotic and exciting than the real thing because the brain isn't hampered by any psychological inhibitions.

Your contributor has proved that he is capable of separating orgasm from ejaculation. He should concentrate on repeating the process by thought alone or by holding back upon the completion of manual masturbation. It will give him the opportunity to enjoy a multi-orgasmic sexlife to the full.

I suggest he reads *The Multi-Orgasmic Man* by Mantak Chia and Douglas Abrams Arava (ISBN 07225 3325 X). I have a 'Soft Back Preview' Book Club edition. It makes both interesting and enjoyable reading.

Ray Hamble

[If any member has any experience of this fascinating subject, or can add more, please let us know. — D.A.]

The Ostrich Man

Why Ostrich Man? Well, **man** because it is **me**, with a **penis**, and ostrich because if you are familiar with the ostrich's ability to get all manner, shapes and sizes of objects down its neck, and then think of my urethra in the same way, you will begin to understand.

I have, for almost the past 40 years or so, inserted things into my penis, and having a vivid imagination as well as being inventive, and having the means to manufacture accordingly, has left me with a lot of 'toys' and mischief. This may not appeal to many people, which I find difficult to understand as the human nature seems to be to investigate all orifices. However, I have seen only three insertions on videos, but feel convinced that there must be more 'ostriches' in the world.

My introduction to this 'hole' delightful sensation is the result of schoolboy inquisitiveness!! A friend and I one day were resting in a field during a cycle ride (aged about 12), when one of us needed a pee. I was chewing the soft end of a grass stalk (when one pulls the centre from the root section the lower bit is quite flexible) and playfully pushed the soft tip into my 'tip'. This was quite intriguing to both of us, and it was not long before both of us were trying it to see who could take the longest straw and how many in a bundle. Well, that was many years ago. Naturally, in all the years I have been an 'ostrich' I have both learned, and stretched, to accommodate surprisingly large, long and sometimes bizarre items down my penis.

Should there be any kindred souls who may wish to correspond further on the subject, I, naturally, would be absolutely delighted.

Ostrich

Woman And Hair

Having been a regular contributor to the naturist magazine *H & E* for many years, my attention has been drawn to your newsletter No 4/97. Firstly, let me say how pleased I am to see such matters as circumcision and pubic shaving discussed, both of which are of interest to naturists – and so few people are prepared to speak out on sexual matters. After talking to naturist friends of both sexes who agree with my sentiments, I should like to make a comment on two articles given coverage in your newsletter.

The first concerns the new organisation for 'shaved and cut naturists' (S&CN) of both sexes. Now I'm no prude, heaven knows, but for me naturism means being natural in all things. All God's female creatures except human beings walk on all fours and have their parts hidden by two legs and a tail. We who walk on two legs have a pubic bush to achieve the same object. And the reason? To avoid inflaming sexual feelings in the male at inappropriate times. (Men, being mere derivatives from the female, share possession of the pubic bush, although with them it serves no purpose).

Consequently, at the risk of appearing old-fashioned and fuddy-duddy, I can only declare those women who shave their private parts and put them on public show to be shameless and immodest hussies! The only reason a lady nudist can have for removing the hair which nature ordained should conceal her sexual cleft is to attract men by the crudest possible method – giving them an uninterrupted view of Venus' fly-trap! I therefore disapprove of the practice, although I realise that some men, including my husband, do not share my views on this one. As for male shaving, I cannot imagine what is achieved by it.

Another matter requiring comment is the widely held presumption that most nudists prefer men to be circumcised. There is no doubt that a lot of letters to *H & E* support circumcision, and a lot of their photographs feature circumcised men. This is mainly because the magazine has a wide circulation in the USA, but in this country the idea does not appeal to everyone by any means, and in this matter I am strongly supported by my uncircumcised husband and two uncircumcised sons! My ideal of masculine perfection, both visual and functional, is a medium sized or smallish organ equipped with a nice heavy-duty foreskin which conceals the glans totally and is fully retractile.

Whilst on the subject, I must also comment on the deplorable fact that some men choose to walk about on a nudist beach with their foreskins retracted. Why they should want to do such a thing, heaven only knows! It strikes me that this practice involves a similar degree of exhibitionism with a liberal whiff of masochism: nature intended man's working part to be protected from the outside world of UV rays, thorn bushes, rough towels etc. It should only be revealed when it is to be put to its traditional use. Seeing grown men walking about with their willy shaft strangulated by the drawn foreskin tip

is as ridiculous as if they were walking about with their tongues stuck out, and while many women feel affronted by the sight (it is a popular method for young – and not so young – boys to insult and play up females), I don't mind telling you it sets my teeth on edge.

Finally, I must comment on the breathtaking account of self circumcision in the same issue. Assuming that it is a factual story and not someone's pet fantasy, I have to say from my experience as a prison visitor that self mutilation is a manifestation of deep unhappiness and self hatred arising from severe neurosis. If there had been some problem – constant pain or inability to retract – there might be some logic in feeling frantic enough to commit such an act, but from his own account there was nothing wrong with him, and he had a fully functional and mobile foreskin. The poor fellow, in my view, should urgently seek psychiatric help, since a lot can be done for such problems nowadays.

Doreen Chase

[I think this letter will engender some colourful comments on all the issues dwelt upon, so please make them open. — D.A.]

Colonial Cut

Routine circumcision on infants for purely cosmetic reasons can generally be attributed to the Anglo-Saxons. Their migration to the rest of the world created little pockets of predominantly circumcised communities. The USA, Australia, Canada and South Africa were, and still are, the major players in this routine operation. Except for the occasional Euro-Royal, as far as I know, no other European country has the tradition of infant circumcision. Incidentally, the Euro-Royals I mentioned were relations of the British Royal family, hence their puritanical leanings. I say puritanical because one major reason given for circumcision is the cleanliness it provides, and cleanliness is next to godliness. The other major reason for circumcision was the belief that it deterred self-abuse, the Anglo-Saxon fear and snobbery of sex. The chances of a non British born Anglo-Saxon being circumcised must be quite high.

I'm not very well informed about South Africa. I would like to know how common it is for circumcision amongst the white population. Is it only practised by the English speaking community, or do the Boers/Afrikaans practise it as well? I've often heard that Catholics in the USA were less likely to be circumcised. Is this true, and what Catholic community do they refer to, the Irish, Italian or Polish? A lot of Anglo-Saxons worldwide are still circumcised because of their country's colonial history. These traditions, handed down, are part of a heritage that doesn't exist any more. Ironically, in the U.K., the old colonial master has turned its back on this practice and moved on.

Anonymous – London

Madagascar

The island of Madagascar, 240 miles off the east coast of Africa, is the fourth-largest island in the world. It is geologically part of Africa, but its peoples are of mixed Polynesian, Arab and African origin. Tribal divisions were resolved in the late 19th century. The island was colonised (rather half-heartedly) by the French in 1895, and became independent in 1960. Despite its rich variety of unique flora and fauna, and its potential fertility, it is frequently devastated by major storms and is poor in consequence. The people's religious beliefs are a mixture of Muslim, Christian (as a result of much missionary activity since the 19th century) and ancestral beliefs. *Fady* is a widespread set of customs, beliefs and superstitions which govern many aspects of life, regardless of adherence to one of the main belief-systems.

In her *Madagascar Travels* (Hodder & Stoughton, 1995, £16.99, pp 111-113), Christina Dodwell visited much of the island, including Vohipeno on the south-east coast, an area inhabited by the Antaimoro, an old Arab tribe whose few elders have kept up use of the Arabic script and a written history. Of the local customs, the most important one for the young men was the circumcision ceremony that only happens once every seven years.

"We slaughter an ox and the feast goes on for several days. We all dance, and every day more boys are circumcised in public by various skilled elders, and then they become men. Boys long to be circumcised. Their friends tease those who are not, and make them ashamed. You tell your parents that if they don't get you cut you no longer want to be their son.

Fady has a lot to do with this. Uncircumcised boys are not permitted to eat legs of chicken, which are reserved for men, nor wear a hat, nor handle sharp iron instruments. This latter at least seems sensible for children, though the logical extension is a bit extreme. Because you are not allowed to cut an uncircumcised infant boy's fingernails with metal, the mother must bite his nails short with her teeth. Until you are circumcised, you are not of course allowed to marry. And if you die, you do not have the right to be laid in the family tomb.

The ancestors have to attend the ceremony to prevent accidental bleeding complications, to stop any squabbling between participants, and keep things correct. The prayers are in Arabic, and with the songs and felicitations, they stress the importance of sexual fertility and procreation. In fact, almost the whole of Madagascar practices circumcision as a fertility rite. It is an order from the ancestors."

This account seems to indicate that circumcision, while probably inescapable, may be done at any time from infancy to near marriageable age.

Maurice Bloch has studied circumcision among the Merina of Madagascar, laying great stress on the very little change in the rituals over almost

two centuries, 1780-1970. His accounts emphasize the customary and anthropological aspects, and give little detail of the procedure itself, which is done with great ceremony for infant boys. Unambiguously non-Christian, circumcision of boys of the royal family became a large-scale state ritual and an act of allegiance, important to the nationalist movement as a way of showing resistance to the foreign intrusion represented by Christianity.

Tony Acorn

Pro-Masturbation Doctor

I was very interested to read Marjorie Mitchell's letter (2/97) about the GUM practice in UK and the fact that tight foreskins should now be treated by steroid creams and non-destructive surgery. Consequently, I was doubly interested when browsing through the Internet to come across a thesis by Michel Beauge, a French doctor with considerable experience in treating tight foreskins among older children and young adults at university, entitled *Conservative Treatment of Primary Phimosis in Adolescents*.

Unlike the British approach, this doctor, who claims that his treatment of 30 to 40 boys has resulted in no known failures, firmly believes that dilatation is the natural and effective method of treating a tight foreskin, and that all forms of surgery are damaging, unnecessary and psychologically traumatic. His observations are most interesting. Firstly, he declares that, whilst most infants have a tight foreskin, 10% of 18 to 22 year-olds have varying degrees of tightness, from inability to expose, to a tight ring that tends to stick in the groove after retraction. He goes on to say that most of these young men are virgins and that their masturbation methods differ from those with no problems: whereas most boys masturbate by sliding the skin back and forth, uncovering the glans in a simulation of intercourse, the boys with tight foreskins stroke the glans through the foreskin, but pulling it forward instead of back; rolling the penis between the palms; rubbing the penis against bedding without using the hand; rubbing it between the thighs; using a vibrator or shower; occasionally practising self-fellation (by the very supple); or who do not masturbate at all (very few).

Dr. Beauge argues that conventional masturbation is a natural and desirable preparation of the penis for normal sex with a female, with the ring of the prepuce and the fingers simulating the effect of the vagina in pushing the foreskin back off the glans. Those who masturbate in such a way as not to uncover the glans tend to suffer from phimosis since the foreskin orifice does not experience the expanding pressure of retraction but remains in its naturally tight infantile condition. The main problem this causes is the possibility of paraphimosis (ring sticks in the groove) on first intercourse when the boy has little control over the degree of retractile force applied, especially if the girl is too eager. This does not apply, though, to boys with very long and tight

foreskins where penile penetration can be achieved satisfactorily with the glans covered.

Now the controversial bit. Dr Beauge consequently analyses his patients' methods of masturbation and instructs them in the masturbatory technique of pulling the foreskin back initially to uncover the tip of the glans. This can be a problem with boys who are used only to gain stimulation from the non-retractile methods and who find the normal method unrewarding, and perseverance is required. Thus the opening of the foreskin is 'moulded' under pressure against the erect tip of the penis, although in some cases the prepuce opening can be stretched with two fingers. The treatment is usually successful after four weeks, and Dr Beauge claims that in 15 years he has never had to refer a boy for surgery ie. circumcision.

All this sounds very reasonable and logical, but can you imagine any British doctor asking young boys about their method of masturbation and prescribing proper wanking procedures to relieve tight foreskins? The tabloids would have a field day and the doctor would probably face disciplinary action by the BMA.

Dr Beauge goes on to roundly condemn the practice of circumcision as a partial castration for which the ulterior motive is prevention of masturbation based on a religious fear that sexual enjoyment is basically sinful. He makes the point that a circumcised man in European society feels disgusted – and his girlfriend or sister disturbed – by a permanently exposed glans. The raw appearance makes those who see it feel uncomfortable at the sight. This can lead to psychological damage of varying severity.

He goes on to deplore the loss of sensitivity from the amputation of part of the erogenous zone which is the trigger for creating an erection, and which has more sensitivity than the glans itself. The only frictional contact that the glans appreciates, savours and tolerates, is the moist and padded vaginal (or oral) mucous membrane. The rough dry friction of the hand or fingers would soon become unbearable if mother nature had not interposed the foreskin as a screen. Above all, though, the loss of skin damages the process of coitus since the primary function of the foreskin is to allow vaginal intercourse under ideal conditions without friction. Dr Beauge illustrates what he has to say by suggesting an experiment. Try holding the tip of the erect penis of an uncircumcised boy and you can find you can move your fingers to the base of the penis without the fingertips moving from their point of contact with the skin. The foreskin unrolls and slides on the penis. There is no other part of the body capable of such skin mobility. Consequently, intercourse can be prolonged indefinitely without the friction, and thus irritation, which can and does arise after circumcision (as I know to my cost!)

My view on all this is that if the doctor is to be believed, and he should be, there is absolutely no excuse for cutting off a boy's foreskin merely because

it is too tight. Just teach him how to wank properly and his problem is at an end.

R.B.W.

Twice Under The Knife

My first circumcision was when I was 6 months old. I had to be 'done' as my mother said that I couldn't wee. In those days, the 1930s, one had to pay. I was taken to the local hospital where the operation was performed while my mother waited. She had had a hard time delivering me and subsequently suffered with phlebitis. On boarding the bus after leaving the hospital, the bus jolted and she fell with me in her arms. On arrival home she found that some of the stitches had come away. Being on a small income she could not afford to take me back for the operation to be repaired.

In later life when I began to masturbate, I was able, with plenty of lubrication, to pull the foreskin back. It hurt like hell at first, and with the friction I discovered that the skin within the foreskin tore on many occasions, especially if I was very vigorous with my wanking. This went on for some years, and many were the times when just as I was enjoying myself with another person I had to give up through sheer soreness.

Finally, at the age of 31 I got married. Not from choice, but for respectability. Living in a village it was considered that there was something wrong if you didn't marry.

Intercourse had always been a problem and it became worse once it was a regular thing. At times I was so sore that I could not perform to order. Two daughters later, my wife decided that she didn't want any more children and the subject of a vasectomy arose. I visited the surgeon who agreed to perform the operation, and I spoke to him about the tearing of my skin when having sex. He said that he would repair it, doing the vasectomy privately and the repair on the NHS. About two weeks later I received the summons to go into hospital and was duly operated on.

The day after the op, when the male nurse came to change the dressing, rather than being sore, it tickled, and I did nothing else but laugh. He was getting very annoyed, but as he had never experienced it, finally saw the funny side of things and finished up laughing himself. A week later I was discharged from hospital with dissolvable stitches in, and told to take frequent salt baths until the stitches came out themselves, which they did after about a week.

I returned to work with the stitches in, and as I was working at the time as a telephonist in a large London hotel I was able to sit down all the day during my shift. It was in the very hot summer of 1976 and I found the most discomfort travelling on the underground system, where one was jammed against other people, and being knocked with bags etc. The funniest thing

was that I had lots of padding in my trousers, and the looks I got! Well, some of the faces were a sight to behold. 'If only', I thought.

The final outcome was that two weeks later I was to take a sample of my sperm to the path. lab. It was painful to wank into a small jar, but I managed it and took it along. The lady promptly held it up to the light in full view of the other people in the waiting room and said, "There's not much here". I told her that that was all she was getting.

I am very pleased that I was 'repaired', as I found that my penis had grown at least half an inch in length and the same in girth. I spoke to someone years later about this, who had been circumcised later in life, and he confirmed that the same had happened to him. The surgeon had left quite a bit of skin for me to get a full erection, and I think that this was the cause of the growth, so I feel that if this had been done in the first place properly, I might have had a bigger penis than I have now.

It would be interesting to know if there are others out there who have experienced the same.

BN 14 D

Contact Corner

Age 62, but looks 52, circumcised, likes nude sunbathing and being nude around the house. Would like to meet up with other members, no age preference, for get-togethers and discussions. Can accommodate overnight. Sussex and surrounding areas. Would also like to become pen-friends with overseas members.

D.A.

I have been trying to purchase a nude male statuette, preferably a big boy, but without success. If anyone knows of a shop or store who stock such an item I would be very pleased to hear from them.

J.C. – Ayrshire

ACORN

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 Editor
 David Acorn

Editorial

Brian has asked me to urge everyone who can, to make the meeting on October 18th. weekend. You can generally book right up to the last minute. And, of course, everyone always enjoys it. Also, would those attending please bring along any penis gadgets or paraphernalia that you use or have used in the past.

I've been asked to say that if you put an advert in 'Contact Corner' and receive a reply, please reply to that in turn, even if it's in the negative, as it is very frustrating to await a reply that never comes.

David Acorn

Joke

Two five-year-olds were talking at school:-

Boy 1: I'm going into hospital next week for an operation.

Boy 2: Oh Yeah. What for?

Boy 1: I'm going to get circumcised.

Boy 2: Boy! I wouldn't want to have to do that again.

Boy 1: Why not?

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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.

Boy 2: I had it done when I was born. I couldn't walk for a year.

Submitted by V.Q.

Reply To Ms S.W. (5/97)

I admired your article in our mag. which is mostly about circumcision of adults and sometimes of young lads. You are obviously very interested in the subject. I fully agree with you that a woman's page would be ideal, as, after all, women and young girls are usually on the receiving end of the penis, circumcised or not, so it would be nice that they should have their say.

I was circumcised as an adult about four years ago and I watched the operation being done. It was nice to see that foreskin being cut off as it had caused me lots of problems. It was about two and a half inches long but the opening in the end was very small and made it difficult to pull the skin right back. Since I have written articles for *Acorn* I have had many requests to show my scar to quite a few women in person who have been interested in having their husbands, and even boyfriends, circumcised. Being a naturist, one sees many men and young lads and women naked, but the circumcised ones are generally the older people rather than the young ones.

I was also very interested in your article regarding the way we pee and that unfortunately how women have to squat to pee. Men are interested in the way that women pee, and we men are fortunate to be able to pee anywhere quickly without having to pull our pants down. As you say, it is possible for women to pee standing up if they pull their labia open and up. This is what I have always wanted to see but have never been fortunate enough. I think it would be a great turn-on to watch. I remember before I was circumcised that if I didn't pull the skin back to pee I would get the same problem as a woman, with pee trickling down everywhere. As kids we used to pull our foreskins back just to see how far we could pee and how high. I should have been in the fire brigade.

I have had shaven pubes ever since the nurse shaved me to be circumcised. I'm sure a woman would find it easier to pee without hair to get in the way. I am not familiar with female circumcision and what they do. I can only suppose they cut away the clitoris area. As you say, cycling could be very painful and sore with those saddles up in the slit. I loved your article, so keep sending them in as we need the women's comments.

C.P. - Wilts.

Response To Peter's 'Thoughts'

In his article 'Some Thoughts' published in Issue 4/97, Peter – London makes some sweeping generalisations which appear to be totally without foundation and cannot go without challenge.

He is right in stating that the majority of informed opinion accepts that there are benefits from circumcision. His conclusion that opinion in England is against circumcision fails to take into account the fact that this is not informed opinion. The benefits, and the few potential disadvantages, are never spelt out to parents nor are they taught to teenagers during their sex education lessons. If the facts were made properly available, and doctors accepted their responsibilities to circumcise when requested by patients or their parents, then the rate in Britain would be much higher – approaching that of the more enlightened USA.

The list of Pros totally ignores the medical research findings which show:-

1. 10-fold reduction in infant UTIs.
2. Total elimination of phimosis, paraphimosis, balanitis and frenulum breve.
3. Reduced rates of penile and cervical cancer.
4. Elimination of the potentially very serious bladder and liver damage caused by back pressure and reflux due to infant phimosis.
5. Reduction in some STDs and a possible reduced susceptibility to HIV/AIDS.

In the Against list he says there's more to play with and more to do with the penis. This is true in a sense, but the foreskin can also inhibit sexual activity. A recent survey showed that circumcised men enjoyed a much more varied sexual repertoire than uncut men.

He sweepingly states "there must be more sensation" without any facts to back it up. Masters and Johnston found there was no difference in overall sensation between circumcised and uncircumcised men. What one loses from the foreskin, one gains from direct stimulation of the coronal ridge and other parts of the glans.

Penetration is not necessarily easier or harder with a foreskin. The majority of the natural lubrication which aids penetration comes from the woman not the man. Men who have a long or tight foreskin can find that it actually hinders penetration, particularly of a small vagina, because it doesn't retract out of the way and the floppy end cannot be guided in so easily.

Circumcision costs time and money – but these are greatly reduced when done in infancy. One Canadian cost/benefit study concluded that the net national benefit in financial terms was to be obtained from routine infant

circumcision. Although not everyone would need it if deferred to adulthood, the extra costs – for those who did need it – necessarily involved in hospitalisation and loss of working time for convalescence decidedly outweighed the costs of circumcising every baby boy.

Peter states that his doctor had diagnosed him as having a pinhole meatus. He suggests there must have been treatments other than circumcision. There are, but these are mostly ineffective in the long term and both painful and embarrassing to the boy in the short term. It is possible to attempt to stretch the foreskin to enlarge the meatus. Firstly, if the meatus of the foreskin is 'pinhole' it will be very difficult to insert a dilator into the foreskin to start stretching it.

Secondly, the act of stretching the foreskin enough to overcome the problem almost inevitably introduces minute tears into the tight tip. These heal with scar tissue which is even less flexible than the original tip. Stretching attempts can thus do more harm than good.

Thirdly, stretching takes many weeks of treatment before any noticeable result can possibly be achieved. During this time the urine flow remains obstructed by the pinhole meatus. This puts a strain on the bladder which can often cause reflux to the kidneys and long term damage to these vital organs.

Removal of the foreskin makes one no less of a man than removal of a tooth. Indeed, for millions of men all around the world, circumcision improves virility and the sexual pleasure for both partners.

Vernon – London

Sensitivity

There have been a number of articles recently by members interested in the difference in sensitivity between the circumcised and non-circumcised penis, and asking why members who have been circumcised as adults do not write to give their experiences.

Well, here is my experience! I am a recently circumcised man and am able to tell you all exactly what changes in sensitivity occur after this operation.

I was circumcised as a baby, so that I spent my adolescence and adult life with my foreskin cut but covering half of the glans when my penis was flaccid; the glans was totally exposed when my penis was erect, as with many uncircumcised penises. I had a very strong sex drive and extreme sensitivity in both my remaining foreskin and the glans.

Three years ago, 4th July '94, I had a revision circumcision where absolutely all foreskin, inner and outer, was removed, along with the frenulum and part of the shaft skin under the shaft. The edges of the incisions were not stitched,

but left to heal naturally, forming scar tissue. Naturally enough, the pain from the operation was very considerable, and I was not able to have an orgasm until three months after, and even after that, only infrequently, because of the pain from the scarred area. However, after about a year and a half, the pain diminished.

Initially, the sensitivity in the glans, particularly around the corona, was greatly increased and was very intense (almost too intense). However, after a year this sensitivity declined and then ceased. So, during that period, I suffered pain and extreme sensitivity simultaneously; for me, a very unpleasant experience as I'm not a masochist. There was no sensitivity from any other part of my penis. It was only then that I realised that the major part of the extreme sensitivity I had formerly enjoyed had come from the inner foreskin (even though already partially cut away) rubbing against the corona. The inter-connecting messages between the brain and the foreskin, which encourage erections, had gone, and stimulation became extremely difficult. Erections now are difficult to achieve and maintain (due, I think, to the absence of messages from the foreskin to the brain), and because of this intercourse is a thing of the past. The glans is still sensitive to a certain extent, but now needs extreme stimulation for a long time – several hours of vacuum pumping, stimulants and/or drugs – before orgasm is possible. For me the situation is far less satisfactory than before (it would not necessarily be unsatisfactory for everyone of course). Some readers will say that gradual loss of sensitivity is normal as one gets older, and I agree with this. However, I am talking about a change from extreme sensitivity to zero sensitivity in approximately six months.

The sensitivity question, of course, depends entirely on what is meant by 'circumcision'. The more inner skin that is left, whether inside or outside, the more stimulating an orgasm can be, although, as R.R. notes in 4/97, inner foreskin exposed on the shaft, as in some circumcisions, inevitably retracts and loses sensitivity with time and/or age. We should really not talk about 'circumcision' at all, but of the various types of circumcision. An extreme type of circumcision like mine is very different from a circumcision where only the tip of the foreskin is removed.

From a personal point of view, what I miss most from not having a foreskin and frenulum is the lack of sensuality (a word we do not often see in *Acorn*) – the slow build up to orgasm as you or your partner play with the various parts of the foreskin. Or the quiet pleasure that comes (came) from feeling the penis nestling between the thighs; this sensation does not exist with a severe circumcision, and so must come from the slowly moving foreskin: this is sensuality. It is totally different from the feeling of orgasm. I think it is possible that many circumcised men have never experienced this wonderful sensation, which is accompanied by marvellous feelings of love and happiness. I think it may be one reason why American men (circumcised) are such notoriously bad lovers and continental men (uncircumcised) such notoriously good ones. Without a foreskin an orgasm is purely sexual – a striving towards the

climax, which suddenly appears and is gone. For this reason, advocates of circumcision are frequently single men into masturbation. For loving couples into sensuality, circumcision is often a disaster.

It needs only a little reflection to see that man is born with a foreskin designed to give maximum pleasure in order to maximise sperm dissemination in a species. The penis is very ingeniously designed with the inner surface of the foreskin packed with sensitive nerve endings to maximise pleasure, and this foreskin covers, protects and lubricates the glans to keep it sensitive, so that during intercourse a female is inseminated as rapidly as possible. Circumcised men who experience pleasure from their frenulums do so because that is a sensitive part of their missing foreskins. Seen in this light, circumcision, in all cultures where it is ritually practised, can be seen:- a) as an unconscious attempt to inhibit sexuality in a society, and b) as a system of sexual control of young men.

For those of you who are thinking of having a circumcision, think about this: my adult circumcision has left me with a hard callous on my circumcision scar (a constant irritation), and a permanent blister on my glans around the urethra. What is more, the operation has reduced the length of my penis by three quarters of an inch! Hey you guys, are you worried about being conspicuous because your dick is too long? Would you really like it to be an inch shorter? Don't bother with expensive and uncertain plastic surgery! Have a circumcision!

William

Stiffener

I wonder if any of your cock-curious (like me) readers saw the recent article in the press about a possible new method of cock stiffening? Alas I didn't note it down at the time, and the man in my life has been having a few problems in recent years (he's 55). He's also a bit shy about going for advice, and anyway doesn't need the psychological therapy approach, so maybe a medical reader or someone who has had experience of a cure could advise us.

He's tried a vacuum pump, but he reckons it affects his bladder control so he's not too keen on that. Pity - I liked the idea of enlargement! Speaking of which, a girl at work says she had a fellow once that she couldn't get her finger and thumb round. Now my guy seems OK to me, and maybe I haven't been around enough, but that sounds...well (shiver shiver).

Anyway, sex is great in all the other ways, and it's not that he can't get it in at all, but as your other female readers will know, there's nothing like a delicious male pole deep inside you. A cucumber just isn't the same, even though it looks wicked and really turns him on.

So...hoping to hear some advice. Meanwhile I'll keep on getting into those wonderfully undignified positions that are all part of a woman's life (and fun).

Marion

[Open replies only, please. — D.A.]

Glans Sensitivity

There have been letters to *Acorn* complaining about loss of sensation etc in the circumcised penis head. I have found that a daily massage with Boots A&E cream does wonders and leaves the glans as soft and as sensitive as a baby's bum. I would suggest any member who is troubled with this problem give it a try. Get your partner to do it for you and lie back to enjoy the pleasure. It seems to be more effective if done after a hot bath or shower as the cream is absorbed more easily. This cream is a moisturiser and the ladies will tell you that a good moisturiser is a godsend.

For those of you who are into massage using oils, and also use condoms, it means you have to break off and 'clean up' before using the condom. Well, there's no need to do this any more. Try the new Avanti condom from the USA. It is made of polythene, it is thinner, and more sensitive than the latex condom, and is not affected by oil, vaseline or any other lubricant. Having tried them, I can report very favourably on them, and would recommend them to anyone who likes to use oil. Ideal for gay members, as you can use vaseline instead of the messy water-based lubes.

B.H. - Leeds

Growing Pains

The desire by a circumcised male for a restored foreskin has its roots in antiquity. Both surgical techniques and instruments were devised to achieve an artificial foreskin, though the process was often bloody and painful. Arelius Cornelius Celsus (55BC–7AD) introduced a technique for uncircumcision in which the penis could be peeled back and stripped, with the peeled tissue bound to the glans. (Polish doctors used a modified Celsus method to save circumcised males from execution at the hands of the Nazis.) During the persecution of Jews by Antiochus Epiphanes through to the reigns of Kings Achau and Jojakim, artificial foreskins were formed by drawing out with blisters, a process called epispasmus, using a 'spadister'. The spadister drew the skin forward so that it could be sewn to the glans. Such was the popularity of artificial foreskin renewal by the Jews that a second stage was added to ritual circumcision in the year 140AD, the Peri'ah. It involved tearing the exposed mucous membrane, and skinning the glans with the sole intention of preventing foreskin renewal at a later date.

This century, the USA has developed most of the modern circumcision instruments and pioneered novel circumcision techniques. With not all of the 80% of American males trimmed neonatally deliriously happy with their inflicted status, foreskin clamps and the PUD (penile uncircumcising device) were developed. Not only can the PUD be conspicuous, but there has to be a sufficiency of foreskin present to grasp, stretch forward, and tape to the device. Those close-cropped, like myself, would hardly be helped by the PUD (costing about £80 made in America, or a UK made alternative at £40).

I came across an alternative technique from NORM, devised especially for those with insufficient skin to grasp at the scar line, using Micropore tape. Paraphrasing the method described in the newsletter:-

With the flaccid penis on the stretch, it is encircled with 12.5mm Micropore surgical tape about half an inch below the scar line, running approximately parallel with it. When the glans is released, 'waisting' occurs at the tape line. The shaft skin is pushed forward from the abdominal side of the tape to enclose the glans where the tape 'waisting' holds it in place.

I found the arrangement short-lived, rarely surviving a nocturnal erection. With the application of Friars Balsam recommended to increase adhesion, I sought a less messy solution. I reinforced the micropore taping with the use of three strips of 12.5mm zinc oxide plaster, two about 6cm in length, and one of 12cm. With the glans skin enclosed using Micropore tape, I applied the two short strips either side of the meatal slit and parallel with it, half covering the 'foreskin' edge and the other half on exposed Micropore tape and glans tip. The 12cm length was run around the 'foreskin', half covering the two small strips and forming a secure cap which resisted nocturnal erections, and even careful masturbation, for up to two days.

Nine months taping has resulted in significant changes. On release of the tape 'cap' the shaft skin slowly curls back over the glans, pausing for some time at the corona. The original scar is less visible as it is partly concealed by the bulking, almost duplicature of skin at the base of the glans.

Whether flaccid or erect, the glans rim is less pronounced than previously. All the glans area has greater sensitivity and has become much smoother to the touch. During masturbation, the shaft is no longer tight and chafed by friction, since the skin has greater mobility even to easily covering the glans when drawn forward. A further nine months' treatment should lead to an untaped Jewish appearance, with the unsightly scar concealed from view when flaccid, and partial glans cover.

I recommend the process to those wishing to conceal an untidy scarline, make their circumcision less radical, or restore some glans cover in due course. With sufficient dedication and about £8 of materials, some change can be assured. If the circumcision debate can be described as 'Scar Wars', then "may the 'fore be with you!" I hope after over 50 years of being burdened

by the shame and disfigurement of circumcision that the 'fore' will be truly with me.

Anthony

[There are accompanying drawings covering Anthony's method, and are available for anyone with a consuming interest. — D.A.]

Naval Circs

I was circumcised on a hospital ship of the US Navy at the tender age of 19, so as to be permitted to assist at the circumcision of sailors and do their post-operative care. The mythology at the time was such that my circumcision was a pre-requisite – it would never have done to have an orderly handling the boys who had never been through the experience himself. Most of the sailors we did were US Blacks who had been born at home to mothers without health insurance. The circs were a rather cheap shot compared to what we did most of the time. The station I did duty on performed mostly reconstructive urological surgery to soldiers who had stepped on mines.

E.H.

Circum-sceptic

I have seriously considered having a circumcision for many years, partly because of recurring foreskin infections and, I imagine, partly because of cosmetics and a background of boarding school where we cavaliers were in a minority.

The infections have all cleared up eventually and I now find that, with proper lubrication, sex is much better and my somewhat tender foreskin is protected.

My original idea in joining *Acorn* was to find out the experiences of those cavaliers who had gone for the chop, and I have gathered interesting information both from the newsletter and from meeting some members circumcised as adults.

To me, the ideal roundheaded cock is one with no loose skin up against the knob, but most that I have observed seem to have this loose skin as well as a fairly untidy cut with odd bits of skin left behind.

Of course, a tight circumcision leads to other problems, as I have discovered – a loss of sensitivity during sex because there is no loose skin to move back and forth. I can simulate this by holding my foreskin back tightly when wanking, and I obtain much less of a sensation than if I have some of the loose skin moving up and down with each stroke (I always wank as a roundhead would, with knob totally exposed and direct stimulation).

My fear of being circumcised is that it may result in a botched job and I would regret it with the loss of sensitivity. So, in the end, I think I will remain intact unless I have any serious foreskin problems in the future.

In current society, the cavalier is far more acceptable than 35 years ago and, in fact, more the norm, so I don't feel self-conscious exposing a foreskin.

I still find the long tapering foreskin visually unattractive, hence my system of folding the skin under itself so some of the knob is exposed. The resultant 'stubby' end looks more purposeful, as well as making peeing easier, not having to retract the skin each time, and I also find it far more comfortable than having this long piece of skin hanging over the end of my knob.

I suppose my ideal would be a tightish foreskin which came half over the knob when flaccid, or a knob large enough so that I could retract the skin and hitch it behind the rim to enjoy the best of both worlds.

It would be interesting to hear from any other cavaliers within *Acorn* (there aren't many, are there?) and exchange views on the merits of remaining intact.

Anon

Family Divisions

My interest in circumcision began early in my life. I'm of the generation (born early 60's) and class where my father is circumcised and I'm not. I'm grateful to my father for explaining to me how he was circumcised and why, saying it was a common practice in those days. I'm also grateful that he gave me the choice to make up my own mind on the subject. This must be quite a common occurrence for people of my generation. I would like to hear from others.

I remember the first time I saw another boy of my age circumcised. I was about ten and my next door neighbours were American who had two sons I used to play with. One day, we were out having a walk when we stopped for a pee. I couldn't help but notice how their urine shot out into a perfect straight line, and I couldn't take my eyes off their penises. Up until then I had assumed that all boys my age were uncircumcised. At public school about an eighth of the boys were circumcised. The Australians, Americans and South Africans were circumcised automatically at birth. The English boys that were cut came from lower middle class families with social climbing aspirations. The upper classes were always comfortable with what they'd got and did not aspire to anything.

Anon – London

To Be Radical

In September 1986 I finally achieved one of my greatest desires: to be circumcised! I'd seen an ad in *Forum* magazine and eventually plucked up courage to ring and make the appointment. The operation took place at the Marie Stopes Hospital and the surgeon who performed the op was called Mr Hasan.

Although very pleased with the neat result, I have, ever since, regretted not having asked Mr Hasan to do as radical a circumcision as possible, with the scar line well up the shaft. Shortly after the op I got in touch with 'Tony Acorn' (After joining *Acorn* at that time I wrote an article about my 'circumcision experiences', and about my fantasy to be radically circumcised in a sort of tribal ritual – such was and still is my strong desire for such a 'cut'!) On inspection, Tony thought that more skin could be removed as there was still a little loose skin even when my penis was erect. It was then that I got in touch with Dr Sifman, known to some of your readers, for a 'tightening up' op. Unfortunately it didn't seem to make much difference, so I went to see Mr Hasan again who managed to take some more skin off.

There is now hardly any loose skin when erect, but still quite a lot when my penis is flaccid. Tony had told me that if there is quite a difference in penis size when comparing flaccid and erect states, as is the case with me, then it is not possible to remove so much foreskin. The problem/worry I have is that by achieving a well-cut look for my penis in its flaccid state, I might have too much skin removed, resulting in painful erections.

For several years I have been trying to forget about having more skin removed, telling myself that it couldn't be done without the problems just mentioned. Unfortunately, the thought of having a 'radical cut' wouldn't go away so, three years ago, I contacted Mr Hasan who, on inspection, said that he could remove another quarter of an inch. The op would have been about £500 at the time (well, he is a Harley St. man) so I didn't have it done, telling myself that £500 was a lot of money for a small cut!

Recently I went back to Dr Sifman who was reluctant to do any more work on it since, admittedly, it does look very neat with the corona exposed. However, he did have some magazines for me to look at in order to show him the sort of effect I wanted. (Incidentally, it's the circumcisions I'm interested in, not the blokes who have them!!) One man had the sort of cut I could only dream about, completely unwrinkled with the scar line about one and three-quarters of an inch behind the corona. Dr Sifman said that he could cut and scrape away more skin in order to achieve this result, but was very reluctant to do so because of the potential problems about being too tight when erect, as mentioned earlier.

He did give me some recent copies of *Acorn* to read, and I have decided to write and rejoin. I don't have those back numbers now, but there was an

article in one of them by, I believe, 'John of London', who told of his radical circumcision while in a Middle East country (all of the frenulum removed, hardly any loose skin at all, etc.). In the article he also said that he would like to meet anybody interested in the type of op he'd had (or words along those lines), and I would certainly like to meet him if possible. Also, in a slightly later edition, somebody else, in commenting on and praising John's article, also, I believe, welcomed correspondence. (He was the man whose article also contained something about having a meeting at a jacuzzi, or somewhere similar, and starting off the proceedings with an examination to prove that all present were actually circumcised!) Was he the one who was also into body shaving (another subject I've become interested in in recent months), or was that yet another article? Anyway, I'd like to get in touch with this person as well.

I'm sorry to have rambled on for so long, but since everybody's interested in circumcision someone might be able to help me achieve a well-circumcised penis or accept that it is not possible for any more skin to be removed. It's not knowing one way or the other which probably causes my frustration, hence my request to rejoin.

T.H. – Middx.

At The Swimming Pool

Recent reports of an 11-year-old boy fathering a child brings to mind an event in the ladies' changing room at our local swimming pool. I was drying myself when the hubbub of conversation dried up, and all the women grabbed their towels as a tarty looking woman marched in with an 11-year-old boy, and proceeded to undress him totally in front of us, before stripping herself and putting on a costume. She let the boy put his own swimsuit on. I politely asked her if she didn't think the boy a bit old to bring into the ladies' changing room. She replied that he was only a kid and she "wasn't leaving him in the men's locker room to be touched up by perverts."

I felt very sorry for the boy who was obviously very embarrassed to be naked in the presence of unclothed mature women, and to make matters worse the poor kid developed an impressive five and a half inch hard-on which was so erect it was pressed against his tummy. It looked like a small adult's penis to me.

Since I was only a few feet away I couldn't help noticing it and was impressed by its appearance. His foreskin was very thin and was stretched so tightly that the darker shade of the swollen glans showed through it. It terminated in a narrow tube of surplus skin extending just beyond the tip. It looked like a smooth baton of polished ivory, and I couldn't help contrasting it with my husband, who is circumcised. Unlike some women who prefer the circumcised

appearance, I have always felt uneasy at the unnatural whitish grey and grainy appearance of his exposed knob which always reminds me of a toadstool (or Toad's tool?), and the ring of scar tissue round it I find off-putting. It also has a bend to the left as a memento to the circumciser's lack of skill and, all in all, I think he was shortchanged by his parents in comparison with the elegant perfection of the boy's penis in its natural state.

It made me thankful that I had resisted the efforts of our GP who had tried to have our son circumcised. He claimed that at three years old he was suffering from phimosis, since his penis wouldn't unskin. Both his father and I were dismayed and went to see the nurse at the clinic. When she heard what the doctor had said she gave an exasperated sigh, said not to worry and gave us a leaflet to read, highlighting a passage which said that most small children have a degree of phimosis present which automatically corrects itself as the child reaches puberty. It goes on to say that circumcision need hardly ever be performed for medical reasons. We breathed a sigh of relief and changed our GP. Needless to say, our son has grown up with a perfectly normal functioning penis. I wonder how many poor kids are needlessly circumcised because of a GP's ignorance? The leaflet is called *Advice to Parents of Baby Boys* and is available at hospital outpatients' departments and some surgery waiting rooms. Other parents in our predicament ought to read it before unquestioning acceptance of their GP's advice.

A.G.

Richard Branson

The *New York Post* carried this story: Richard Branson likes Jane Fonda so much it hurts. The Virgin Records founder was compelled to tell her and hubby Ted Turner about it during a recent dinner party, he told *New York Magazine*.

"I was circumcised quite old, at 18, rather than, whatever it is, one," the randy Brit recounts. "The only problem was that the day after I was circumcised, I watched the film, *Barbarella*, and I split all my stitches." Branson said Jane seemed more amused by the tale than her spouse.

Letter In VIZ

By pulling my foreskin slightly away and upwards from my penis, I can create a 'willy tulip'. Can any other readers transform their little generals into dutch flowers?

P.D. - Newcastle

How I Found Out I Was Circumcised

I recall reading somewhere that circumcision was one of the subjects the British Board of Censors would not allow to be mentioned in movies. Now, there were lots of boys being circumcised in England at the time. The practice had probably been introduced into the royal family in the nineteenth century and was then imitated by the middle classes. It may have been an adaptation of 'homo europus' to the colonial environment, and it is easy to see how convenient it must have proved in the bush before British engineers brought the advantages of civilised plumbing to those regions. The British predilection for Moslems under the Raj must be either the cause or the consequence of this practice. So, the question was not whether or not it was alright to cut off a baby's foreskin, but rather whether it was in order to talk about it once you had.

Thus it was quite possible to be circumcised without knowing it, and to find out only when someone else passes a remark, which will remain in the memory with a clarity that will not fade with the passage of time. The penis, insofar as the circumcised thinks about it, appears to the imagination as being circumcised.

Towards the end of the 1940's we had some wonderful summers; endless fine days almost too hot to bear; our parents had too much to do to take us to the seaside. My mother used to help me make tents from old curtains that she would hang over the clothes line, and we would keep the ends of the curtains taut by weighting them down with bricks from a bombsite. I spent happy hours playing in these home-made hideaways with a little neighbour who, as I was later to learn, was what is called a 'Jew'. One day, when we were wearing bathing trunks, he asked me to show him my penis. I firmly refused. So he got his out, and I was gratified to see it was much the same as mine. This seemed to overcome my reticence, and I was then happy to show him what he wanted to see. I hope that in the respectable life he probably now leads, he has not repressed this memory. The joy of recognition, of being the same, got me no nearer to understanding why this was the case. I cannot understand why I might have thought at this early stage that some boys might not be like us, but I think I must have had a vague suspicion.

It was years later, in Chalky White's woodwork class that this suspicion was confirmed. As Chalky never turned up, it was inevitable that the subject of dicks should arise - as did the dicks themselves soon after. The workshop was at the end of a long corridor which it took five minutes to walk down, so we could be fairly certain of remaining undiscovered. JW and S had a little pink mushroom at the end like me, while McB had a bright purple knob inside a skin that went on for ever, would not come all the way back, and that I found as unattractive then as I do now.

As in many English schools at the time, our house used to go on an annual camp. We slept in huts where order was occasionally restored with a gym shoe or padda-bat. I wasn't really cut out for this kind of togetherness, so I chose the bed next to the wall by the door. I therefore only had one neighbour, G. One night, a boy who wasn't in our year, and whose bed was – doubtless for that reason – at the other end of the hut – said, as a lull came in the chatter, "David P and G are circumcised." The word wasn't totally unknown to me. I had heard it in Bible texts where it seemed to mean 'what you were supposed to be', and hence 'pure', 'good' etc. I couldn't quite understand what I might have done to deserve such praise, so I kept quiet. However, G, who also didn't understand, wanted to know more. "It means you haven't got a foreskin. You don't have any skin around the end of your cock: you had it cut off." I fell onto the bed with amazement: so that was it! The others were paying no attention to me because G, who was a born clown, had leapt under his covers to have a look. Having examined it attentively, he emerged and said, "It's true." I might have felt very alone at that moment. I was lucky G was by my side. I have always been grateful to him for it. Later on, when we were towards the end of our teens, he would come and squeeze me in his arms till I thought my ribs would break. I never knew whether it was a gesture of affection or aggression. I never begged for mercy. I do not think I would, even if he really had broken my ribs. I felt – however briefly – at home.

These are fond memories. Of course, once I had realised I was circumcised, I came to understand just how lucky I was.

David P.

Advert

Gay magazines for sale. Good condition. Reasonable prices. (*Playgirl, In Touch, Zipper* etc.)

K.G.- London

List Of Circumcisers

A list of potential circumcisers has been prepared from material previously published in *Acorn* plus some personal recommendations and lists of Jewish and Muslim circumcisers. The majority of the operators are located in the British Isles, but there are some listed for Europe, Scandinavia and even South America.

Members who would like a copy can have one free of charge by sending 2 First Class stamps to the PO Box number with the address to which they would like the booklet sent.

Vernon

Acorn Weekend At Hayes, 18/20 April 1997

This was my first 'Acorn weekend', as in the past, family commitments had prevented me from attending previous meetings. Imagine the excitement with which I checked the venue and prepared for the weekend and AGM.

The venue was easily located near Heathrow airport, and I was made very welcome by David and Brian. My only regret was that an old and close friend was unable to be present.

During the evening several other members booked in, and we all enjoyed a drink and well-cooked dinner, chatting of course continuing late into the night. Saturday morning was similarly relaxing as we explored the local area.

Business commenced at two sharp with the AGM, conducted with good-humoured formality by the officers of *Acorn*, various problems were discussed and appointments made. Refreshments were served and the rest of the afternoon spent in general conversation and chit-chat.

A very good dinner was served and the food was good. In all, we had a most interesting and enjoyable weekend, and I shall certainly try to attend future meetings of the Society.

A.W. – Sussex

Internet Forum

An Australian member has written to say that there is an interesting item on the Internet called *Uncut Guy's Circumcision Forum*. It appears to be a popular forum managed by 'Uncut Guy' – a regular at *Bianca's Smut Shack*.

D.A.

Contact Corner

Foreskin enthusiast, slim, friendly, 49, seeks other keen uncut guys. Can travel in South and Midlands or sometimes accommodate. All letters answered.

T.F. – Berkshire

Gay male, self-circumcised at age 19, wishes to correspond/meet with others who had similar experiences or were circumcised as teenagers

R.T. – Northants

ACORN

Issue
No 7 1997
Editor
David Acorn

Editorial

Tomorrow is the Meeting and having finished this edition it will go with me for processing. It looks like we will have around 25 come to the Meeting with several new faces. I'm sure we'll all enjoy it again.

I get many letters asking many questions, and I'm sorry to say that I cannot answer them all. Perhaps, if you have a question regarding any of our subjects, you could make it as an open question. We do have a question corner, which isn't used as much as it should be. With regard to back numbers, Brian tells me that virtually all the reprinting has been finished and everyone should be happy.

David Acorn

Reply to Doreen Chase

I feel I must reply to Doreen Chase's comments in 5/97.

Firstly, the account of myself is true and not a pet fantasy.

Secondly, I think it is important (in my case) to separate the desire to be circumcised from the actual operation. My desire to be circumcised had been a

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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.

long-standing desire based solely on personal aesthetics. I preferred the look and sensation of the exposed glans, and wished to make it permanent, and, as such, I think that my desire was no more based on self hatred or neurosis than a woman wishing to alter the shape and size of her breasts or nose. I agree that it is unusual to perform the operation on oneself, but this was simply because at the time I knew of no way of contacting a surgeon to perform the operation. Had I known of a surgeon I would have had a “professional cut”. Clinics performing circumcisions, unlike breast and nose jobs, do not advertise in the weekend magazines and supplements.

My experience dealing with students is that self-mutilation is usually an impulsive action without prior preparation or consideration. My self-circumcision was long thought out, planned and prepared for, and I cannot consider it to be a self-mutilation, nor do I need the help of a psychiatrist.

J.C.

Another Reply to Doreen Chase

I would like to start by saying how much I enjoyed 5/97. Perhaps not surprisingly, I would particularly like to make comment on Doreen Chase’s letter.

Interesting that she should choose to start by telling us she’s no prude, and then proceeding to produce a series of evidence demonstrating that’s exactly what she is. With the type of repressed and rather puritanical attitudes she adopts, I would suggest that she is very hypocritical to recommend psychiatric help for others.

I find it extraordinary that someone who appears to be a practising naturist should hold such extreme views regarding the exposure of genitalia, whether it be the vulva or the glans. I find such a contradiction in terms hard to reconcile.

Whilst I am quite happy to accede to her preference for a fully concealed glans, she might like to consider that not everyone shares her point of view. A great many of us uncircumcised men are able to remain retracted without our “willy shaft strangulated by the drawn foreskin tip” and maintain the appearance of a circumcised penis. I have been mistaken for, and mistaken others for being circumcised on numerous occasions.

Why on earth she should think that having one’s foreskin retracted involves a “liberal whiff of masochism” I do not know. Whilst I would agree that we were provided with a foreskin for protection purposes, I find that most of the time I am unable to tell (without looking) whether or not my foreskin is retracted, there being no difference in sensation. I would not wish to tackle a thorn bush, whether retracted or not!

I can only assume that her opinion is based on information from her husband or possibly her two sons, who I would guess possess long tight

foreskins which they rarely retract and probably suffer with ultra-sensitive glans as a result.

I would strongly support the right of uncircumcised men to display as much or as little of their glans as they choose. Similarly, why should women be reviled for revealing their vulva. I would imagine it is rather difficult not to display at least part of it during the course of a day, it being impossible to remain with legs firmly clamped together indefinitely.

Nature does not allow all of us to have our glans completely hidden (perhaps Doreen would be happier if I took to wearing a clothes peg to hold the opening of my foreskin together just in case someone got a glimpse of the glans lurking beneath!), nor indeed does it enable all women to have their labia neatly tucked away.

I believe we should be proud, not ashamed, of our genitalia. It does after all form part of the overall beauty of our bodies. I feel privileged when someone is willing to share the most intimate parts of their anatomy with me, and I hope they feel the same when I do likewise.

I expect Doreen's letter will have produced a great deal of reaction, and I feel better for having expressed my views, whether they make it into print or not!

D.T. – North West

Third Reply to Doreen Chase

I read Doreen Chase's views on circumcision and depilation with interest, and agreed with some of what she says.

My wife and I are naturist/nudist club members, and love to play tennis, volleyball, badminton and swim in the nude. We are happily married with no interest in relationships with third parties, but are both (mildly) exhibitionists.

I had myself circumcised as an adult around ten years ago because I wanted to maximise the enjoyment of social nudity at clubs and beaches by having a permanently exposed glans. I took advantage of a series of visits to Saudi Arabia and had myself expertly and irrevocably done by a Muslim surgeon. I say irrevocably because the surgeon I chose has a radical procedure which removes both foreskin and frenulum, leaving just enough loose skin to allow a full but straining erection. It has left me with a prominent, bulbous glans which there is no possibility of ever re-covering using the stretching techniques recommended by organisations such as NORM.

I freely admit that I love the feeling of being able to show it off at clubs and beaches without ever allowing myself to appear that I am sexually stimulated.

My wife is a tall attractive blonde who is always immaculately shaven. In a way, this is really the female equivalent of male circumcision. It specifically invites attention to a particular part of the body. The difference is that it is a clearly personal and even a provocative decision by the female to shave, whereas male circumcision can be excused as being outside the circumcisee's control (done in infancy or to relieve a medical condition).

This is presumably why Doreen uses words like shameless and hussy. My wife is usually in a minority of one in most naturist venues we go to, although a few other women remove a large part, but not all, of their pubic hair. She is shaven because she likes the extra discreet attention it brings her. I say discreet, because naturists are almost all paranoid about making any remarks with sexual undertones, let alone making a pass. In short, she can enjoy displaying herself in the knowledge that, while everyone can see her, nobody has ever commented, and this is all part of the attraction for her.

She is quite often asked to pose, and occasionally does so. We have a nice collection of nude photographs taken by me and other club members which we would be happy to exchange (but not sell) with other *Acorn* readers. We also keep an album of her in our clubhouse 'library', which is very popular on wet days! The album includes some (very tasteful) shots of her dressed only in long dark stockings and suspender belt (hardly naturist material), but not one comment has been passed....

One thing Doreen did not mention, and presumably cannot comment upon, is the sexual eroticism of circumcision and depilation. For a circumcised male (especially with a radical cut) the sensation of a taut penis and hot dry glans entering a moist, smoothly shaven vagina is out of this world. Yes, it is true that it facilitates repeat performance because there is no foreskin to become sore. In fact, the only negative aspect in my case, is that masturbation is difficult without a lubricating jelly to compensate for the lack of foreskin movement.

We are both proud to be members of what *H & E* used to call the 'circumcised and shaven brigade', and our only regret is that both practices are becoming so relatively rare in naturist circles.

J.F. – London

Cavalier Questions

As a cavalier member of *Acorn* (an endangered species?), I am interested in how other cavaliers live with their foreskins.

My long overhanging foreskin was never retracted until I was 17, which meant that I had a very tender knob for a long time and, in order to toughen it, tried to keep it retracted as much as possible. Not easy with a long overhang and small knob.

However, I gradually developed a way of pulling the skin back, pinching it at the frenulum then rolling it forwards again in on itself. This gave the result of some exposed knob, varying accordingly to how tightly I pinched the skin, a stubby appearance and more prominent knob than with the long, tapering foreskin, and made peeing easier, not having to skin back to do this. (Incidentally, do most cavaliers retract their foreskin to pee?)

Nowadays, if I wear my foreskin in its fully forward natural state, it feels very strange, as if something extra has been added to the end of my cock. So I suppose I am experiencing in a minor way the difference between a cut and uncut cock.

Years ago, when I got a hard-on, the skin stayed almost completely forwards with only a small amount of knob showing. Now, if I go hard from a fully forward state, the skin exposes at least two-thirds of my knob, so it has become much more flexible over time. I am interested in how far back other cavaliers' skins go on erection.

My foreskin will stay retracted in a flaccid state only if it is fairly restricted, as it is when I swim in a tight Speedo type costume or wear a jockstrap.

As my knob has become tougher and less sensitive I have always wanked with it fully retracted, not using the foreskin back and forth, and using lubrication. I find wanking the foreskin most unpleasant and irritating, and there is not much sensation without direct stimulation. However, I do think that the foreskin helps improve my orgasms. If I hold the skin back tightly, although the initial effect is tremendous, at the point of coming the sensation is much better if there is a little foreskin movement.

Your correspondent Doreen Chase's comments about men appearing on nudist beaches with retracted foreskins amuses me. What's the problem? One of the joys of having a foreskin is being able to wear it in different ways. I often shower in public changing rooms after sport, and after retracting my foreskin to wash it (which most men do very furtively with their backs turned. Are they shy or afraid of developing a hard-on with the skin back?) I always keep it back. I've noticed only a few other men do this, but I don't think it bothers anyone! All men are basically exhibitionists and want to show the world their manhood (small though mine is!).

Another phenomenon which other cavaliers may care to comment on is whether with age (45+) the knob becomes less sensitive. I certainly have found this, and it needs much more stimulation than before – both in wanking and in foreplay. I have heard of roundheads experiencing this.

Having seriously considered circumcision for a long time, I think now that I have finally decided to stay intact, unless anything serious goes wrong. I enjoy the best of both worlds and it must be very dull with just a bare knob to play with. Sex is more fun with a foreskin.

My Life

Thank you for letting me join *The Acorn Society*. I have dreamed for years of finding people or individuals who, like me, have had so many thoughts and ideas, whether negative or positive, about their cock.

I have been circumcised since birth, so really I cannot even remember actually what it would be like to have a foreskin. All I know, and can vividly remember, that when I was seven I knew that my cock was different from other boys my age. And even at that age I knew that I was drawn to other boys' cocks, and used to daydream and fantasise about them. I have a brother two years younger than me who is more fortunate than me in possessing his foreskin. My father on the other hand is, like me, circumcised. I expect this was done again at birth for hygiene reasons or because of a medical problem, but I have never asked him why his parents had him circumcised.

I do know that when I asked my mother why I was done she said it was because I was unable to pass urine as the foreskin was so tight it was restricting the flow. But because I was a baby I never knew any different.

I went through puberty afraid of showing my cock to other boys because I felt that I was not normal and I thought that all boys had a foreskin. It was not until I was about eleven years old that I eventually saw my first adult circumcised cock. It was when I had been at the swimming baths with the school and a teacher had taken his swimming trunks off. I was really fascinated to see his cock and I never after that felt afraid to show mine.

It was not until I really got started into the gay scene that I realised that I was not the only person on the planet with my cock cut. Over the years I have seen so many individual men and can only say that they all have very different cocks.

My anger at not having a foreskin has at long last subsided over the years and I feel at last a sense of ease with my cock. Over the last three years I have been heavily into the body piercing scene and I can honestly say that since I have had a Prince Albert and Apadravya piercing I feel a lot of sensitivity has come back to the head of my cock, which I had lost over the years.

When I was younger, even though I used to use a good lubricant to wank with, baby oil, I never used to be able to come for ages, and even then sometimes, because of lack of sensation, I used to have a problem in keeping my erection. But since I have had my piercings I have actually found that my cock is too sensitive at times – my erections, though, stay much longer, and when I am wanking I have such a lot of pre-cum flooding out you could swear I have actually come.

I have a substantial amount of skin that I seem to have acquired over the years just behind the ridge of the glans. It resembles a rolled up bit of foreskin, and sometimes when I have a flaccid cock it actually covers the ridge. I would

love to be able to see if I could find out from the *Society* if there are exercises to stretch this skin further. I suppose you can say that I still feel indignant about not having a foreskin. I know there are people, after reading the leaflets that you sent me, who say that those who are circumcised should not moan about their cocks. But if people who have never experienced a foreskin cannot think or fantasise about it then it isn't worth a person living.

I would have never dreamt years ago about modifying my cock with piercings, but until a person does, he cannot realise what there is in life to achieve. As I have already stated, that through my piercings, I have at long last found that I can have tremendous sensations and pleasure from my cock. Also, while looking in the mirror, I can see a really nice looking cock because the jewellery makes it look more attractive and pleasing to my eyes. If people do not like the look of genital piercings, it is their hang-up, not mine. And I hope now that I have become a member, other people who have had genital piercings are also going to enter into my life. If you have had communications from others about this subject, then what I have written may be of interest to them. Please see Contact Corner for my advert.

Clayton – Rhondda

General Medical Council Guidelines

I have been sent cuttings from the broadsheet press from members, for which I thank you, (and please don't stop sending them because your particular item from a newspaper doesn't get published. It just might be the only one that arrives) regarding a recent item in the *General Medical Council News*, Ethical Guidance Section, dealing with child circumcision. As I received the actual page of the *GMC News*, I thought it best to publish that, and here it is.

Doctors circumcising male children must have the necessary skills and experience, must keep up to date with developments, and must discuss the issues carefully with those who have responsibility for the child. These are the central messages prepared in response to a number of complaints about doctors' standards, and letters questioning the ethics of male circumcision.

Circumcision raises difficult questions about rights and freedoms. Many would argue that the right to practise a religion includes a right to have male children circumcised. Others feel it cannot be right to undertake a surgical procedure for religious reasons alone on an infant who cannot consent.

In 1996, the GMC invited comments from religious organisations, anti-circumcision groups, professional and patients' organisations and civil rights and children's organisations. Some strong views were expressed, though many acknowledged the difficulty of balancing the rights of the child with the rights of individuals to practise their religion.

These are not primarily medical questions. They must be resolved by society as a whole. At present, though, the law gives no definitive guidance on the matter. The Standards Committee considered the views as objectively as possible and prepared guidance to help doctors provide a good standard of care. The guidance draws on the principles in the booklet *Good Medical Practice*. A leaflet setting out the full guidance is now available from the GMC and the essential principles are set out below.

Standards of practice for doctors asked to circumcise

Doctors who decide to circumcise male children must:

- have the necessary skills and experience both to perform the operation and use appropriate measures, including anaesthesia, to minimise the pain and discomfort.
- keep up to date with developments in the practice of male circumcision, including when the procedure is, and is not, necessary for medical reasons.
- explain objectively to those with parental responsibility for the child any benefits or risks of the procedure, taking into account the age of the child.
- explain to those with parental responsibility that they may invite their religious adviser to be present at the circumcision to give advice on how the procedure should be performed to meet the requirements of their faith.
- listen to those with parental responsibility and give careful consideration to their views. Doctors are not obliged to act on a request to circumcise a child, but explain if they are opposed to circumcision other than for therapeutic reasons. They should also tell those with parental responsibility that they have a right to see another doctor.
- obtain the permission of both parents whenever possible, but in all cases obtain valid consent, in writing, from a person with parental responsibility before performing the procedure.
- provide appropriate aftercare.

Acorn Policy Statement

Members are reminded that the *Acorn* membership list is regarded as strictly confidential and is used only on a 'need to know' basis even amongst the Officers. It will never be supplied to third parties.

The Editor will normally forward stamped letters to members on request. If you do not wish to receive any mail from other members please write via the PO Box number and nothing will be forwarded to you.

An area I am particularly interested in with regard to circumcision is the extent to which it is practised across cultures. So the article 'Colonial Cut' by Anon – London in 5/97 grabbed my attention. I too would love to know how widely circumcision is practised in South Africa amongst the white population, and hope that our new South African friend finds some time to write soon.

Most of the statistics that researchers produce suggest that circumcision is almost non-existent (outside the Jewish and Islamic communities) in continental Europe. My personal experience seems to challenge this notion however. I was in a relationship for quite some time with a beautiful Swedish girl. She was quite sexually experienced and she assured me that the majority of her partners in Europe had been circumcised. These included most of her Scandinavian boyfriends, two French, an Italian and a Scotsman. I know that one circumcised Italian and a Scotsman are hardly representative of their entire populations, but you have to admit, the odds of her meeting a circumcised partner, according to the statistics, would have been quite low. She very much preferred the clean-cut look, as does my current partner, a German girl.

I also find it very interesting to see that many ex-patriot Europeans here in Australia have chosen to have their children circumcised. I had many friends with English parents at school and all were clean-cut, as were the children of Italian, Irish, Dutch and Swiss parents. I wonder if it was because Australian doctors at the time were recommending the operation, or whether cultural aesthetics had an influence?

In his letter, 'Anon' mentioned that some Euro-Royals traditionally practised circumcision. Who would these be? I'd like to know. I'd be interested to find out whether Princess Grace, an American, had any influence in this matter with Monaco's Grimaldi family, and Prince Albert especially. I recently saw a photo of English rocker Rod Stewart and his model wife Rachel Hunter on holiday with their infant son, and it was clear that they'd had their little boy circumcised. Does any one know of any other celebrity circumcision practices?

On a different note, there is an Internet site that would be of great interest to *Acorn* members. It's a sexual questions forum devoted entirely to people talking about their attitudes to circumcision. I accessed it through the popular "Bianca's Smut Shack" site (the sexual Q. & A. section) but I'm unsure of its official title. I think it's called "Uncut Guy's Circumcision Forum". Unfortunately I don't have a computer of my own so I can't be more specific. Hopefully, one of the other members will have some luck tracking it down and relay the correct address in a future edition.

J.T. – Australia

Contentment

It never ceases to amaze me just how self-conscious many men are about their genitalia, ie. they worry about the size, shape, colour?, a too long foreskin or, conversely, a too drastic circumcision! Some fret about too little or too much pubic hair and the colour of their pubes seems to worry others.

Perhaps they should all either go to their local turkish baths or join a naturist group where they will see at close range a tremendous variety of contented male parts with their proud owners.

K.G. – London

Disaster

Some of our members won't want to read this, but, anyway, let me tell you about my friend Peter. Peter was circumcised in infancy and grew up in the knowledge that his penis had been damaged, the severity of which did not become apparent until he reached puberty. The problem was that so much skin had been removed that in places his scar was only an inch or so away from his scrotum ('drumskin-tight', as your more eager contributors would have it), making it impossible for him to masturbate. Any attempt to do so resulted in severe pain and swelling which took up to three hours to subside. As he grew older he found too that he was unable to have a sexual relationship with a girlfriend for the same reason.

When he was 23 he went in desperation to his GP, told him that the medical profession had fucked up his penis and wanted the medical profession to put the matter right and create a new foreskin for him by plastic surgery. The doctor took the old fashioned (some might say arrogant) attitude that it was insolent of him to complain, that circumcision was a wholly beneficial procedure, whatever the circumstances, and anyone who was daft enough to question it needed psychiatric treatment.

So Peter reluctantly agreed to see the shrink as a condition for referral to a plastic surgeon, and was enraged to be treated like a hopeless nut-case for not wanting to be circumcised. He refused to answer a lot of totally irrelevant questions about his sexual orientation and habits, and marched out in high dudgeon. His GP took the hint and, realising that Peter really could not continue in his state of distress, finally and contemptuously referred him to the surgeon.

If you accept that Peter's biggest mistake was to be born into a family which allowed the doctor to circumcise him, his second was to try to get the problem put right by the profession which caused it in the first place. The plastic surgeon severed the skin around the base of the penis at the scrotum line,

pulled it forward to cover as much of the glans as it would, and re-covered the denuded area with a skin graft taken from his thigh.

Total disaster: the skin graft failed to take properly, and a large area of skin sloughed away from the top. When it did finally heal, Peter found that the much thicker skin graft was attached to the shaft and was totally immobile, making masturbation even more impossible than it was before. Instead of re-creating a natural looking penis, the wretched surgeon had destroyed what was left of his badly damaged organ so that it finished up, not only dysfunctional, but looking like something that ought to be hanging on a hook in a butcher's shop.

Peter is now in his late forties. He has never been able to have a sexual relationship and lives in a state of continuous and unrelenting depression. His only reason for living is to try and stop the same thing happening to other people. He has consequently joined NORM UK and campaigns vigorously with the rest of us to short circuit the dinosaurs in the medical profession who try to perpetuate the discredited practice of circumcision, and to get it banned from all British hospitals and clinics.

It would be bad enough if Peter was a one off. But he's not. Every week at NORM HQ we hear from a similar sad case where men, young and old, have been condemned by their parents to ridicule at school followed by severe sexual problems at puberty. Feelings of bitterness against parents and doctors are constantly expressed, but the problem is to get them to listen. The medical profession has traditionally treated their customers as inferior beings with no mind of their own, whose views count for nothing. The progress NORM is thankfully making is due purely to the fact that doctors themselves are not immune to the ravages of unconsidered circumcision, and several have enlisted enthusiastically in the ranks of NORM, firstly to reconstruct their foreskins by the only successful method, skin stretching, and secondly to make their less enlightened colleagues aware of the damage they do to innocent children by advocating this insult to the human body.

The message of hope for those who are damaged in body and mind by the rite of circumcision is that help and/or comfort is available from: NORM UK, PO Box 71, Stone, Staffs, ST15 0SF.

R.B.W.

My Circumcision

As a new member, and having read some of the back numbers of the newsletter, I wondered whether my own personal experience would be of any help or interest to other members.

I was circumcised in 1973 whilst in my twenties. I had had a strong desire to be circumcised since my boarding school days. There were plenty of opportunities to see other boys' penises, and I became intensely interested

in noting that some were like me, with the penis head covered by foreskins, whereas there were quite a few whose glans were permanently exposed. There were opportunities (as is fairly common) for mutual examination of each other's penises. There was one boy in particular whose exposed glans looked particularly fine, and I much admired it. I began to feel that I wanted to be like him. I used to roll back my foreskin as often as I could, exposing my glans to try to look like him. This was not a tremendous success as, very readily, my foreskin covered the glans again. I nevertheless was very keen to be able to look like him.

From school I went into the army and again it became possible to observe other men's penises, and again I noticed that some had been circumcised, as I now knew it to be, whereas others had not. Even amongst those who had foreskins there was a wide variety of different looks. (The usual observations which we have all made.) I was determined that I would be circumcised. I even contemplated self-circumcision, but decided against it. So it all had to be put on hold.

I married, and my wife and I developed a mutual interest in learning as much as we could about sexual matters.

At about that time, there was a magazine called *Forum*. This had quite a significant correspondence section. We got copies on a fairly regular basis and noticed that there was quite a lot on the subject of circumcision, and I told her of my desire to have it done. She was very supportive of this and we decided to write to the editorial department of the magazine. It turned out that they had had many inquiries about getting a circumcision, and in fact, one of their staff had recently been done. They had, as a result, the address of a doctor who was quite happy to offer circumcision to men.

I contacted this doctor and had a very positive and helpful reply. I cannot now remember exactly where he lived, but it was in a small town somewhere in Hertfordshire I seem to remember. As I lived in Dorset at that time, it was no great distance to travel. I therefore decided to make an appointment to see him.

Prior to the date of my appointment, he sent me a prescription for some tablets which were mainly for post operational benefits, tending to reduce the tendency to have erections until the circumcision scar had had a chance to heal. I took these tablets for a couple of days before, as instructed, and then drove to see him one Saturday morning.

He turned out to be a most pleasant man with a very relaxing attitude. We discussed what he was going to do, and he observed, on looking at my penis, there was a tendency for it to have a slight tilt to one side. This he said he would correct whilst doing the circumcision. It would then be quite straight.

The circumcision was done using a local anaesthetic, and I felt nothing as a result, apart from the initial prick of the needle. He explained to me that

as I was paying him money for him to circumcise me (in those days, £20) he would be giving me my money's worth. He said there was nothing more disappointing for someone who wanted a circumcision to find, after it was all over, that there was still some foreskin left, and that the lower part of the glans was still covered when the penis was relaxed. He, therefore, would be giving me a tight circumcision so that I was permanently fully circumcised and would have no need to feel that I needed to be redone.

He pulled my foreskin forward and made several marks with a pen. Then he rolled it back and made a few more marks again. Finally he was satisfied and began to actually cut away the foreskin. In effect, he was turning my foreskin inside out and removing the outer skin to leave the inner skin of my foreskin down my shaft. This, he explained, would allow me to have the sensitivity of that part of my foreskin.

The operation took a good half hour to perform. At the end he put insoluble stitches in as he claimed that soluble stitches tended to leave scars. The stitches would have to come out in 7-10 days time. He carefully bandaged me up, I got dressed and drove home.

Duly, in about a week, my wife and I started to remove the stitches as instructed. Quite frankly, this was more painful than the operation. However, all was eventually revealed and I could begin to look at my 'new' penis. It looked lovely even then, although there was still some signs of bruising and swelling. There was evidence also of dried blood. After several days of careful bathing my penis began to take shape.

There was no doubt that I had been given a fairly radical circumcision. The shaft had developed a smooth texture, with only marginal movement of the skin over the shaft. When erect the skin was stretched, but not painfully so. The glans appeared to have a markedly flared appearance (as I think others have observed).

As far as my wife was concerned, she was delighted with the result, claiming that she could feel my penis inside her as I entered her during lovemaking. Previously she maintained that she was not aware of the whole shaft slipping in and out of her, as my penis was merely moving in and out of the loose skin of my penis.

My scar is about 2.5 to 3 cms from the base of the glans on the top, and about 4cms on the underside. Nowadays this scar is barely visible, only being noticed by the difference in skin texture. I have no lumps or unevenness around the scar and overall I am extremely pleased with my permanent state of nakedness. I would have it no other way and have no regrets at having it done.

It seems to me that it could be a very useful service to members if there was a suitable address base held by the *Society* that could be available to those who were looking to have a circumcision at a reasonable price. I must confess

to being somewhat horrified at the figures quoted for the cost of circumcision by some people in the newsletter. I cannot quite relate the £20 cost of my circumcision to present day prices. I would add perhaps that in 1973 I did think that £20 was enough to pay.

If anyone would like to have more information I would be happy to correspond on the subject as far as I am able. Unfortunately, I can no longer remember the name of the doctor I used. In any case I feel that he is either retired by now or may not even be alive, as he was not a young man when I saw him.

J.S.

[Acorn does now have a list of potential circumcisers. See issue 6/97 page 15 for details. — Vernon]

Light Hearted Dictionary of Dick

From *HONCHO* Magazine

Codpiece – Though the original idea was modesty, the codpiece of 15th and 16th century Europe soon became sexually explicit. Codpieces featured stiffened and embroidered material, bows and sometimes jewels. The modern double stitched trouser fly and elaborate buttoned fly are obvious vestiges of the codpiece. In New York, a team of young Puerto Rican softball players are famous for the decorative and macho way they wear their jockstraps – outside their pants.

Condom – The first one was invented by a English doctor named Colonel Condom, for the use of King Charles II. Early condoms were made from animal guts until the 1840s, when Mr Goodyear invented rubbers!

Cream with That? – The average amount of cum produced by one male ejaculation is from a half to one full teaspoon.

Cum Contention – Frequency of orgasm aside, the amount of sperm produced can be traced to the size of the balls in relation to one's overall size.

Danglers – The Bushmen of Kalahari reportedly sport half hard-ons all the time.

Double Phalluses – The rare occurrence of a male born with two penises was first reported by a Dr Wecker in Bologna, Italy in 1609. In modern times, almost nothing is said publicly of such births, but there have been reports of babies with two working penises – which surgeons resolve, with parents' permission.

Fat Free Entree – The skin of the scrotum is the only part of the body, except for the eyelid, with little or no subcutaneous fat.

Four Percent – That’s about the percentage of men who could never, under any circumstances, have sex with another male, according to the Kinsey studies. This tiny minority can be identified by their low sloping foreheads, their knuckles dragging on the pavement, their extra chromosome, and their long criminal record.

Height and Heredity – Many tall and lanky men have large cocks – but some don’t. Many short men have oversized thumpers – but don’t count on it. When it comes to cock size, heredity is the most consistent ‘measure’.

Hello There – When men of the Walibri tribe in Central Australia meet for ceremonial occasions, they shake penises, not hands.

Libber – The Ancient Romans devoted a whole month of celebration every year to the god Libber, who was really a huge phallic symbol, promising luck, wealth and happiness.

Noble Nuts – In 14th century Europe, high ranking noblemen were permitted to display their naked genitals below a short tunic – their tight-fitting thighs hose were not joined at the crotch. A law passed by Edward VI in 1548, forbade “Any knight under the rank of Lord, or any other person...any gowne or jaket or clok unless it be of sufficient length on a man standing upright to cover his privy member and buttockes” However, if the noble nuts and dick of a man permitted this exhibitionist honour were not large enough to be impressive, a baquette was worn. This was a form-hugging padded falsie made of skin coloured leather.

Skin Flute – The fellatio-suggestive term ‘skin flute’ of course refers to the cock, and it is traced back to an old Chinese expression for blow jobs, ‘playing the flute’.

Spurts – Male ejaculation is made up of three distinct spurts, and the last one is by far the most potent. (In certain, overly ambitious porn stories and videos, add a dozen or so extra spurts for effect.)

Teen Throbber – Generally speaking, a boy’s cock grows to its full adult length and thickness at about the age of seventeen.

Sent by H.C.

Hindu Festival

I have been sent a picture from *Maxim* magazine of a Hindu Holy man. The text says that the great Hindu festival of Kumbh Mela is held every three years, with millions assembling to wash away their sins. The naga sadhus, or holy men, ingest first milk and then kerosene into their bladders through the penis and then urinate the contents. When lit the regurgitated kerosene explodes into a ball of fire. The picture

shows a holy man squatting down peeing the white liquid into a pint glass. He doesn't retract his foreskin when peeing.

Courtesy of G.L.

Contact Corner

Twenty-six year-old, tightly circumcised. Has long term boyfriend. Into large helmets, photo's, writing, meeting other young guys into circumcision. Other interests:- tattooing, piercing, shaving and tight lycra. All letters answered.

D.H. – London

Gay, cut at birth with recent meatotomy. Heavily tattooed, nearly full body suit. 60+ piercings, mainly in the genital area.

Many interests:- Leather and restraint. Rubber and watersports. Piercing and tattooing. Active, imaginative top men.

But definitely guys into genital modification:- Subincision, meatotomy, urethral relocation, bifibrication.

Would like to meet or correspond with anyone with similar interests.

D.R. – Middx.

Gay, 39, cut at birth, genital piercings, shaved pubic area, heavily tattooed on arms.

Interests:- Leather and real men. Piercing and tattooing. Circumcised and foreskinned men. Genital modifications (but only seen in magazines).

Would like to meet or correspond with like-minded members under 50, with some or all of the above interests. No car but can accommodate.

Clayton – Rhondda

[I guess you two will be in touch. — D.A.]

ACORN

Issue
Nº 8 1997
Editor
David Acorn

Editorial

Well, another year has nearly come and gone, and it seems to me that we've packed quite a lot into it. Our two meetings were both outstanding successes according to those who have kindly written to me afterwards. This last one at High Wycombe attracted around 30 members, with a good number of first-timers, and it didn't take long for most everybody to be at ease with the rest. You'd think that the intimacy of our subject would make people tongue-tied, but once started it's difficult to stop 'em. Mind you, I heard a lot of other subjects discussed as well, and I got a lovely foot massage!

We've at last got our treasury difficulties resolved, and I know that Douglas is going to be the ideal treasurer, with a meticulous attitude to the job. Our thanks go to him.

Next I must thank all those contributors throughout the year, without which we would not be able to exist. Also all those who sent me cuttings and photographs from magazines, newspapers, Internet etc. knowing that they would

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interest me but couldn't be published. I do appreciate them. Not very many issues go by without a contribution from 'ladies', who seem to stir up more controversy than normal. They are not 'members' in the full sense and always give fictitious addresses, so all replies to them must be open and published, which is what we are all about anyway. To them I say thank you and keep them coming. On this same subject, I must remind all members that they may write to contributors, as well as contact corner adverts, privately, for personal reasons, but we would prefer open replies otherwise.

Since Vernon put us on the Internet we have had so many people from abroad showing interest in the Society. In fact it won't be long before we have as many members from overseas as we have from the UK. A good place here for me to say thank you, on your behalf, to the rest of the publishing team, Brian and Vernon. Some of the tasks are boring and onerous, so although they're unpaid, they shouldn't be unsung heroes.

That remains for us, the team, to wish all members and theirs, a very merry Xmas and a happy penile New Year. I've no doubt that Brian will be putting in the 1998 subscription forms with this edition, so we hope to hear from you all in the new year.

David Acorn

Shame?

Yesterday I received my 6 back copies of Acorn just two weeks after I'd sent off my check. I am impressed! It was just what I've been seeking for nearly four years. The fact that circumcision is an obsession, fetish and, yes, in the case of self circumcision, a compulsion for many others, is reassuring. Circumcision was an operation which interested me, but didn't obsess me, before I underwent the procedure in January 1994 at the age of 49. Since then, I've worked hard to metabolize the altered appearance of my penis, new sensations and the emotional impact of circumcision, especially its 'shame'.

Why shame? The fact that I allowed another man to cut my pride and joy made me feel especially powerless and small. After all, for the most part, powerless baby boys are circumcised, not adult men. Later, when I explored the various websites which focus on circumcision, I discovered that the majority of them are squarely against the procedure. Based on the lack of hard medical research in favour of the procedure, most medical books and doctors' organizations nowadays say that circumcision is unnecessary. (I suspect that the unresolved anger and pain experienced by men who were circumcised as babies figure very little in this new viewpoint. Feelings usually mean very little in the medical decision-making process.) In response to this change in opinion, even in the USA – homeland of the clipcock – the circumcision rate has fallen to 50-60% of newborn males, depending on the region. Personally, I agree that circumcision is both unnecessary and abusive for both boys and

girls. However, some doctors and anti-circumcisionists also contend that adult circumcision is likewise unnecessary and abusive. Here I part company with them. I firmly believe that the procedure is entirely appropriate in at least three cases: to treat recurring urinary tract infections and balanitis (especially in the case of diabetic men), for religious conversions, and aesthetic reasons. In each of these cases, circumcision is a choice, not a power issue. Adults have choices, infants and children do not.

For anti-circumcisionists to devalue this adult choice is unfair and dangerous, especially in the case of medical decisions. In fact, they use shame as a means of controlling the decision making process. They refer to the operation as mutilation – an emotionally charged word. Is an appendectomy mutilation? Why is a medically prescribed operation any different. I recently wrote to a certain Dr. Dennison of Seattle, Washington, head of the D.O.C.'s (DOCTORS OPPOSED TO CIRCUMCISION) about my decision to be circumcised. His reply seemed quite angry. My reasons for the decision – to avoid infection and return to my sex-life – were tossed aside. He questioned my ability to understand the issues, as if I had somehow confused infant circumcision with the adult procedure. If your foreskin itches, hurts and occasionally swells to three times its size, in spite of prescribed anti-fungal creams, and if you have urinary tract infections every month, you understand the issues. Circumcision is necessary, and no-one has the right to question your motives or the motives of the physician who is recommending the operation. As for the remaining two motives, religion and self-perception, again, they are the choices which can possibly change the lives of the men who make them. Why should these choices be shameful?

In any case, I am convinced that the association of shame and sexual excitement is involved in the conversion of circumcision into a fetish. Sexual excitement enters the picture as attention is paid to the penis, a private part. It is handled and examined. It becomes the focus of a quasi-ritual, since there is pain and blood, as well as secrecy. In the midst of this ritual a piece of flesh is sacrificed, and the patient experiences fear and loss of control of a part which has symbolized his manhood from his earliest recollections. A man doesn't usually brag about his circumcision. He can't show off his circumcision scar to the admiration of his buddies. In fact, his friends might very well wince or blush if the subject, let alone the organ, is raised. This is fertile ground for shame. In the case of religious circumcision, the ritual is public, and a sense of manhood is gained. Shame isn't associated with the cutting, unless someone makes a point of it.

Many of the contributors in the five issues you sent me, clearly demonstrate the sexual excitement and shame that have become associated with their fetish. I don't say this with an air of superiority since I experience the same emotions each time I hear or see the word 'circumcision'. It is a potent combination. Although I've worked a long time to desensitise myself to it, I don't really believe the day when circumcision will be simply a word or an operation is

close at hand. In the meantime, I feel I've made a positive step by sharing my thoughts with like-minded fetishists.

I hope that others will comment on my theory, that the circumcision fetish is an outgrowth of an association of secrecy, shame, fear and sexual excitement. Do your personal experiences support my belief?

D.P.R. – New Jersey, USA

Early Experiences

I can remember as a boy of about the age of 7 the enjoyable feeling of pulling back my foreskin (my sister first started to stretch and pull it back at the age of 4). As the foreskin rolled back over the head it was still quite tight and gave a stimulating feeling. I experienced quite a few bouts of balanitis as a child but my mother refused to have me circumcised. My father was circumcised. On one occasion I was at the doctor for balanitis, he told me to pull down my pants to my knees and lie down. He then pulled down my underpants to expose my penis. My mother was watching next to me. When he pulled back my foreskin, he exposed a red and inflamed glans. I immediately got a hard erection with my glans now exposed. He showed my mother how the infection had affected the head and discussed having the foreskin cut off, no way... My father was also called from his chair to look also – very humiliating, I was very hard.

I was prescribed a powder to put on the head daily, which gave a pleasant warm tingling feeling until it healed. When I went to school in my seventh year I saw a penis for the first time that did not have a skin covering it. I loved the look of an exposed glans.

When I was 9, after a bath one day, while drying my cock (I had been instructed always to pull the foreskin back, wash then dry, and don't forget to pull it back over the head again), I tried pulling the foreskin back and forward over the glans repeatedly. This felt wonderful, and next moment I experienced my first orgasm. Masturbation started – and never stopped again. At that time also, I tried to keep my foreskin pulled back to simulate circumcision, using sticky tape, elastobands, glue, etc.

At about this time of life, exploring your sex organs with friends started to take place, and circumcision was central to the exploration. The circumcised guys were always more superior in attitude. I was actually encouraged by my circumcised friends to keep my foreskin retracted. One friend, whose father was a doctor, was later to make circumcision his major topic, and actively encouraged me to have it cut off. I was circumcised seven years ago at the age of 30.

I am very interested in women's views and thoughts on circumcision. Can you help? Also, female clitoral hood circumcision by adult women on request – nothing to do with female genital mutilation.

L. – South Africa

Circumcision

Article in *Daily Telegraph* magazine – 2.11.97, sent in by D.E.

According to a 1965 Jewish encyclopaedia, baby boys are circumcised for one or more or all of the following reasons:

1. as a blood offering to the gods.
2. as a substitute for sacrifice – purely symbolic.
3. atonement.
4. fertility.
5. hygiene.

The encyclopaedia then goes on to say that circumcision “is today routinely performed on non-Jewish boys as a matter of course for reasons of hygiene and appearance”.

The encyclopaedia is showing its age. It may have been fashionable in the sixties – burn your bra, go on the pill and interfere with your son's physiognomy – but in the nineties only between 5% and 10% of boys in Britain have lost their foreskin by the age of 16. My 6-month-old son is still intact. My husband is a non-practising Jew and I am a Gentile (a *shiksa* in Yiddish). Two things preyed constantly on my mind throughout the pregnancy. One was, “How am I to get this thing out of me without embarrassing myself in front of the midwife?”, and the other was, “What if it's a boy?”

My Jewish mother-in-law has told me 32,500 times how, when she gave birth, she was desperately, desperately ill, and how, while she lay wan and barely alive in her bed, her in-laws kidnapped the baby, performed the evil deed and then returned him, minus foreskin, to his oh-so-brave mummy, who continued to be desperately, desperately ill for many weeks. This tale has two points – one is that, like all Jewish mother-in-laws, she would like me to know that she suffered in order that her son/my husband should walk this earth. The second is that, despite being Jewish herself, she really does not want me to think she had anything to do with the mutilation of a newborn infant, the son she nurtured for nine months in the womb, and is still nurturing as I write.

My husband's family's observation of Jewish laws and rituals diminishes with each generation: the grandparents are strict – but Friday nights are Friday nights, and my husband likes chopped liver.

I have not discussed the circumcision issue with his family, which says as much about their kindness to me in not bringing the subject up as about my lack of courage in not confronting it. They may well be appalled, but they are too nice to say so. Our choice not to have Tom circumcised has, as it turns out, not become a major issue. It could have caused what in Yiddish is termed a *broyges* – otherwise known as the mother of all family rows. Anecdote has it that one grandfather “sat *shivah*” (to observe a period of formal mourning during seven days after a funeral) for an uncircumcised grandson. Armed with this knowledge, we still decided against circumcision.

Tradition dictates that a baby boy should be circumcised within eight days of birth. I knew this because two years ago I watched a television documentary on the subject. The programme was biased, setting out to show that circumcision was bad and barbaric – and even I, with all my squeamish “How could they do that to a little baby?” sentiments, could see that this was propaganda. What I remember of it now is an exaggerated version. My mind's eye has taken a controversial documentary and turned it into something resembling *The Exorcist*, so please take the following recollections with a pinch of salt.

In the programme, a baby was circumcised without anaesthetic by a *moyle* (foreskin remover), in this case a scary Uriah Heep-ish looking man with a long, rancid, yellowing thumbnail. The thumbnail played some part in the circumcising – I have obviously blanked out the bad bits, so whether it was actually used to cut the skin or not I can't remember. It may well have been. This particular circumcision went very wrong. The penis became infected, the baby ran a massive temperature and the parents were distraught.

When I became pregnant I consulted my GP about circumcision, knowing that, like me, she is a non-Jew married to a Jew, and that she had just had a baby boy. She was very convincing and, given the fact that she is an excellent GP, her reassurance that circumcision is not a dangerous operation, when performed by a qualified doctor in proper conditions, was to be wholly believed.

But when it came to it, when I gave birth six months ago to a perfect baby boy, I could not bring myself to do it. In my heart I wanted Tom to be circumcised. I wanted him to be like his father and, I have to admit, I had had the odd girlie discussion with friends, in which we coyly admitted that foreskins were pretty ugly. But I could not allow anyone to lay a finger on this perfect child. He was mine, he was the most precious thing in the world and I would die for him (I am actually so pathetic that I ask the nanny to take him for his jabs – and heaven forbid he ever catches cold or scrapes a knee). And so, since my husband appeared not to be bothered either way, the circumcision debate could hardly be said to have raged. Tom escaped the knife.

I am not triumphant about it. There is a bit of guilt sediment clogging my conscience. Do I regret it? Yes, I do. Would I have it done now? No, I would not. Two people have recently asked me if I am worried that Tom will wonder why he is not like his father. My somewhat glib and guilty answer is that I do not imagine that he will spend much of his childhood staring at his father's genitals. But, in truth, I do worry a bit. I also believe that, yes, women do find circumcised men more attractive. There is, as well, a tiny nagging worry that Tom may grow up and really want to be Jewish and he'll hate me for not being brave enough to have him circumcised. But I can counter that argument too. If he had been done, he might have grown up and joined the Foreskin Reclamation Society in America – I believe they hang weights from strategic bits.

A Jewish friend of mine, whose son is 15, says she still remembers the misery of the circumcision decision. "I thought it was something that Jewish peasants – my distant and dim ancestors – would have done. I thought it was barbaric, butchery. But there was a part of me that desperately wanted Josh to be done. I was clinging to my roots for dear life and protecting my baby at the same time. In the end we compromised and he was circumcised by a paediatrician – there was absolutely no religious element to it at all." Josh has thanked his mother for having him circumcised. He believes that he and his best friend (also Jewish), the only ones in his class at school who have been 'done', look better than the rest of the boys.

Who knows what Tom will think? Whatever, I will have to live with it – and, at least until he is old enough to reverse our decision, so will he. I still wouldn't let anyone touch him and, whatever they may say, it must really hurt – so I believe I made the right decision. Or did I?

Olivia Hastings

Reply to C.P.

I am replying to C.P.'s letter (6/97) showing interest in my attitudes to circumcision, and in particular his interest which, as he says, is shared by lots of men, in seeing women peeing standing up. Although I'm not about to give him a personal demonstration, because that's not my style, I can point him and others who share his curiosity in the right direction. My male contact who pointed out the relevance of some of my feminist views to *Acorn*, suggests you get onto the Internet and dial up patches/ws/atwood.txt, which will show an unusual picture of a smartly dressed young lady standing with her skirts up and knickers aside, peeing daintily into the Thames from the footbridge. It is accompanied by text explaining in greater detail the philosophy behind the feminist aspiration for women to pee erect which you so kindly allowed me to air in your issue of 5/97.

I realise of course that peeing and women's attitudes to peeing are very much a sideline to your main interest, and no doubt you do not want to be thought of as catering to piss-freaks to any great extent, but I do in fact have further points to make which are much more relevant to your subject.

I spent many years in a partnership with a nice man who in most respects was ideal husband fodder. The fact that he was 15 years older than me didn't seem to matter at first, but what was missing was the dynamic sexual response from him which I had enjoyed with his predecessor, and which I put mainly down to our age difference. Another factor was that he was circumcised, and I am quite convinced that this made a considerable difference to his ability to get the most out of sex. Let me explain.

I am unable, possibly due to a deeply buried clitoris, to get an orgasm from normal missionary style sex, although I get wildly and frustratingly excited. Oral sex on the other hand sends me absolutely frantic (as it does most women if they are honest), especially when the guy ferrets with his tongue under my skin hood, and I always get a marvellous climax. My enjoyment is doubled if I know he is getting as much excitement as I am. With my previous lover, who was uncircumcised, I used to mimic his tongue exercises by burrowing under his foreskin and lapping his tip, with the result that he went just as wild as I did, ie. his equipment was equally as sensitive as mine. My last lover was the opposite: he got no enjoyment at all from oral sex, his bell-end being totally insensitive to gentle touches, and preferred me not to try – result: second-rate sex! I am now a confirmed and happily matched lesbian, although I might be interested in the unlikely event of finding another male lover with the skill of the first guy.

Ms S.W.

[Ms S.W. also sent a photocopy of pages of the *British Journal Of Urology* of November 1997 (current), which she paraphrased also in her letter. But the contents will be such a shock to most members that I thought I would copy excerpts in greater detail. So here goes.]

Variability in Penile Appearance and Penile Findings: a Prospective Study

**By R.S. Van Howe, Department of Pediatrics, Marshfield Clinic, Minocqua,
Wisconsin, USA.**

[Note. In this context, the word 'findings' means problems.]

Introduction.

One of the most frequently cited reasons for neonatal circumcision in the USA is for a boy to 'look like his father'. According to past studies, between

1% and 9.5% will have the procedure revised or redone, and 2.8% of parents will complain of the cosmetic appearance. Although the natural progression of the appearance of the normal penis has been well documented to date, no study has documented penile appearance beyond the first year of life in a mostly circumcised population. This study examines prospectively the prevalence and kinds of penile variation and clinical findings in a general paediatric practice.

Patients and Methods.

The study population consisted of a consecutive sample of 468 males up to 18 years old who had their genitalia examined by the author in the clinic between June 1995 and April 1997. These examinations included sports, physical and well-child examinations as well as sick visits where a genital assessment was part of a physical examination for a specific problem. 822 such genital examinations were performed. Sexual maturity ratings were documented for all patients and the penis categorised as 'glans fully exposed', 'corona covered', 'glans partially covered', and 'glans completely covered'.

Among the 238 boys under three years old, those circumcised were significantly more likely to have more non-cosmetic problems, including coronal adhesions, trapped debris (lint, dirt, talc, stool and smegma), a reddened meatus, phimosis and balanitis than were boys with a foreskin. In the foreskinned penis, muscle fibres are arranged in a whorl to form a sphincter that keeps unwanted contaminants out. Urine swirling under the foreskin in the normal infant male before expulsion flushes any contaminants from the subpreputial space, and may explain the paucity of findings in this population.

Found in the circumcised group under 3 years were:- glans fully exposed - 35.6%, glans partially covered - 30.6%, glans completely covered - 20.1%, entrapped debris - 24.7%, reddened meatus - 19.1%, balanitis - 15.5%, phimosis - 0.9%. Coronal adhesions develop in circumcised boys at 2-6 months of age and usually resolve by 24 months.

The high degree of variability in appearance could not be related to the technique used or the physician using it. When operating on the infantile penis, the surgeon cannot adequately judge the appropriate amount of tissue to remove because the penis will change considerably as the child ages, such that a small difference at the time of surgery may translate into a large difference in the adult circumcised penis. To date, there are no published studies showing the ability of a circumciser to predict the later appearance of the penis.

Of the one-fifth of the above group with glans fully covered, it is unclear how many had a buried penis, as this was not specifically investigated. Buried penis is a congenital deformity that is often not recognised in the neonatal period: circumcision of these boys can result in serious complications. If the penis is small, any surgery should be deferred until it can be clearly shown that it is not a buried penis. Additionally, several boys presenting for 'recircumcision'

may have a buried penis. Attempts to recircumcise these boys often makes the condition worse and reconstruction more problematic. When parents request revisional surgery, the surgeon confronts four dilemmas; first, it is impossible to predict how the penis will look after puberty in a prepubescent child; second, once skin is taken off, it is hard to replace. If too much skin is taken off, there may not be enough skin for the penis to become erect in adulthood without pain, skin tears, or pubic hair being pulled onto the base of the penis; third, an infant's circumcised penis that is covered in skin may represent a hidden penis, in which case, standard circumcision revision techniques could make the situation worse; and, finally, it is not clear whether a surgeon can obtain informed consent, parental assent, or informed parental permission for cosmetic surgery in a pre-verbal child.

If, after circumcision, the raw areas of the penile skin or remaining preputial tissue are in contact with the denuded glans, adhesions occur. The 29.7% of boys up to three with adhesions or skin bridges emphasises the importance of continuing penile care in the circumcised infant. While the infant with a normal foreskin requires no special care, the circumcised boy needs to have any skin overlying the glans pulled back and cleaned regularly until 15-18 months of age, to prevent adhesions to the glans from reforming and debris from accumulating.

In a prospective study in Japan, 1.6% of 565 Japanese foreskinned boys up to ten years old had balanitis. In this present study, 5.6% of 357 circumcised boys up to ten had balanitis. Although the value of comparing prospective data from different studies is limited, it appears that circumcised boys up to ten years of age are more likely to develop balanitis than are normal boys. While inflammation of the penis may occur more frequently in circumcised boys, balanoposthitis (inflammation of both glans and foreskin) in the normal penis may be more painful because of the nerve endings sensitive to fine touch in the foreskin. Most of these cases, regardless of circumcision status, can be successfully treated with topical therapy.

The present findings highlight the importance of reassuring parents about their child's penile appearance. Parents who have their child circumcised for cosmetic reasons may be disappointed by the wide variability documented here. As physicians, we may have a moral obligation to steer parents away from unnecessary and costly circumcision revisions until the child is old enough to consent to the procedure.

One of the weaknesses of previous studies was their reliance on parental comment as the sole inclusion criterion. It is difficult to measure the prevalence of parental dissatisfaction. The scarcity of comments may reflect the lack of a clear notion of how the circumcised penis should appear. In the USA, there is general ignorance among parents and physicians about the appearance and function of the normal penis, let alone that surgically altered. The lack of comment may also reflect a society that is accustomed to seeing a wide variety of surgically altered penises. The great weakness of the present study

was the relatively few boys with foreskins, which limited the power of the statistical analysis.

In conclusion, there is a wide penile variation in young circumcised boys: penile findings among these boys are much more common than previously reported in retrospective studies. Practitioners need to be familiar with the prevalences of these findings to give accurate information to parents. When discussing the advantages and disadvantages of neonatal circumcision, parents need to know that the circumcised infant requires more attention and penile hygiene than the uncircumcised infant: circumcised boys are more likely to develop balanitis, meatitis, coronal adhesions and meatal stenosis.

'Nudist' Holiday!

On holiday last month, my wife and I and another couple in their 60s (we're in our 50s) spent two weeks visiting the Greek Islands. Whilst the holiday was a complete disaster, which I shall not bore you with, our friends turned out to be nudists (unknown to us, not having been on holiday with them before), and headed, at every opportunity (with us in tow) for the nudist beaches.

Having read 'Women and Hair' in issue 5 by Doreen Chase, I will let you have a note of my 'findings' if such will be of interest. Apart from 'ogling' the female form, I didn't notice any ladies who'd shaved. I was also able to observe some male appendages in quantities I'd not seen since the changing rooms at school some 40 odd years ago! Whilst admitting to keeping my shorts on, I didn't notice any men, uncircumcised, walking around with their foreskins retracted. I can only wonder where Doreen has been to witness such things! The beaches we visited were at Noussa on the little island of Paros.

It's certainly not my 'cup of tea' and, needless to say, we shall not be repeating such a holiday with this couple.

Doreen does have some strong reasons for the pubic hair on both females and males. I, being innocent, thought it was to prevent chafing of the pubic area during natural intercourse in the 'missionary' position. Do correct me if I'm on the wrong track!

C.B. – Cheshire

[I've been told that the last thing that the 'missionary' position is, is the natural way, and was called so because us few westerners went round the world arrogantly telling everyone else that they were doing it wrongly. — D.A.]

My Circumcision Story

My first time in noticing that some boys were different came when I was about 8 or 9. Not all boys born in 1942 in the U.S. were circumcised, not in the rural part of Indiana where I was born. In fact, of the 44 boys I graduated from high school with, only 7 were circumcised. As I said, when I was 8 or 9 years old, a friend and I were in the school bathroom taking a leak when a boy about three years older than us, and very big for his age, came in and stood between us and pulled out what I thought was the largest penis I had ever seen. It stood straight out and he was very tightly circumcised, although I didn't know then why he looked different. My friend, who lived next door to him, said he had asked him why he was always exposed. He said his mother told him that he was born without skin! So I asked my dad about it and he said some people have it cut off when they are a baby because the mothers are too lazy to keep it clean, but it was cruel and did not need to be done.

Thus started my fascination with circumcision. I made a special effort to check, without being obvious, if and who of the others had been circumcised. I thought they looked neater, and tried to keep mine skinned back, but when this didn't work I tried scotch tape, but this was uncomfortable. By the age of 12 I had trained my skin to remain retracted, but it would swell and I would have to bring it forward again. The glans adapted very quickly and it felt better exposed. I wanted to be circumcised very badly.

At the age of 18, after high school, I started looking for a doctor who would do me in his office. I was called foolish by some, some only wanted to do a partial circ, and the rest said it could only be done in a hospital, which I didn't want. When I was 25 my long time dream came true. I found a urologist who would do me in his office under a local and remove all my foreskin. The stitches were the worst, but only for about 2 weeks, and I was totally healed in 4 weeks. My only regret – I wish it could have been done sooner. I still love being circumcised.

Anon – USA

Cuts at Christmas — A Seasonal Tail!

Early afternoon two weeks before Christmas found the classroom filled with an air of expectancy. All desks were occupied, the pupils eagerly awaiting sex education and an opportunity to embarrass their teacher. Though you could hear a pin drop, the heavy atmosphere was of mischievous anticipation. Outside in the corridor, Mr Hewison was endeavouring to summon up composure, at least a facade on the outside. Despite having completed the syllabus, there were uncertain times of revision when the demons of 2C could raise any subject, and he knew they were ready for him!

"What will they come up with today?" he mused, blanching at past subjects like masturbation, homosexuality and AIDS, "what on earth will they add to that heady cocktail?" Biting his lower lip and nervously pinching his nose with a finger and thumb, he straightened up and turned towards the door. "Here goes, Hewie, sock it to them!"

As he strutted into the room like a military caricature, a murmur went through the class. The spontaneous "Good afternoon, Sir" sounded more of a threat than a greeting, what with the smirking on so many faces. Hewie stood at his desk, left hand grasping the back of his chair to steady himself. "Good afternoon, class."

As he arranged his books on the desk, he continued, "This is another open session. You have a chance to bring up questions covering the completed syllabus so far. Who'll start off?" Little did he realise that the 'heady cocktail' was to become a cocktail itself!

"Sir, Sir", uttered Mary, normally a shy girl who had coloured somewhat when menstruation had been discussed previously, "what's circumcision?"

"It's an operation on the penis which initiates Jewish babies." The words of the textbook origin came out mechanically. The teacher's face twitched, as did an old lumpy circumcision scar in trousered concealment, protesting in the only way it could!

"There's cutting, isn't there, Sir?", added a freckled faced boy at the front called Robert, "it must hurt."

"Yes", responded Mr Hewison, "the loose skin on the end of the baby's penis is cut off with a sharp knife. Pain would be short-lived and not remembered."

"Do they do it to all Jewish boys?", questioned a pigtailed Katy, glancing at Jonathan Cohen, the only Jewish scholar of 2C, "all of them?"

"Yes. As far as I know." Seeing Jonathan colour slightly and lower his eyes to the desk, the master began to generalise: "and to Moslem boys, too, and even to those who are neither Moslem or Jewish. Some need the operation, and a few have it done at their parents' requests."

Sitting next to Jonathan, his friend, Mike, entered into the discussion. "Well, Sir, I think if it had to be done for religion, I'd be proud of it", said Mike firmly, "and as for me, I'm not sure if anything was done to me as a baby. I may have been clipped." (Mike possessed a short foreskin, and had seen his friend's almost fully exposed glans beside him in the playground urinal.)

By now, there were quieter remarks between pairs not meant for the class discussion at all, both risqué and precocious. Colin Bates, 'Master' Bates to his friends, whispered to Len James, another reprobate at the back of the room, "There's only one good thing about circumcision."

"What's that", asked Len softly, "no drawback?"

“Don’t spoil the joke. It’s because you’ll never feel a complete prick.”

“You would with me”, quipped Len, sniggering.

Aware of the muttering, not the words, Mr Hewison snapped at the class, “Boys! This is a serious subject! Cut it out!”

“Or off, Sir!”, joked Colin, whose younger brother had been circumcised two years ago. (Seeing the result on his brother’s penis, he had covered his genital area with both hands, telling his mother that he wouldn’t like that done to him.)

Not only the boys found amusement in the subject. Some girls had begun to dabble with foreskin humour too, but not openly. The olive skinned and rather petite Estelle whispered to her companion Clarissa that plumbers were afraid to work in a synagogue because they got their tools ‘nicked’. That hardly impressed the impish Clarissa. With her mother a passionate advocate of male circumcision and her younger brothers thoroughly clipped, she had seen them bathed before and after their inevitable circumcisions. She raised her hand intent on joining the discussion with her expert knowledge.

“Sir, there’s a twiddly bit of skin at the end of a boy’s willy. When it’s cut off there’s a plump red cherry at the end like my brothers. Mother says it’s the mark of a little gentleman, and cleaner, and prettier, and...”

“Thank you, Clarissa”, interrupted Mr Hewison, a bulge in his trousers concealed by his desk, “that is a point of view, but hardly popular these days. To be correct, the cherry you mention is the glans. All girls have a smaller one called the clitoris which, like the male glans, is skin covered too”.

Clarissa felt aggrieved at being cut off in verbal flight, albeit prejudiced from her mother’s influence. She was determined to finish, blurting out, “...and they had stitches all round! Mother says all boys should be done.”

“That’s enough, young lady!” Hewie could be quite stern when he had to be. “Now let me show you what all the fuss is about”, he said, mopping his brow and running that same sweaty palm downwards in a continuous arc to control his trouser bulge. He switched on a television monitor and video recorder. Part of the educational film clearly showed an infant penis with foreskin, followed by one without. Though most eyes were looking at the screen, Jonathan felt they were all peering at him. Patrick, a surly boy who had taunted Jonathan mercilessly for months, finally had the opportunity to maximise his victim’s distress. Pointing at the freshly healed circumcision on the screen, he called out, “Another roundhead? We’re cavaliers! Up the cavaliers! Down with roundheads!”

“Order, order”, boomed the master, “that’s not nice, Patrick. Judging one by an operation in babyhood that he had nothing to do with is most distasteful. You can write one hundred lines on tolerance, boy!”

As the punishment was levied, Clarissa was whispering to Estelle, "Do you know how to circumcise a whale? Send down fore skin divers!"

"How corny, one of yours?"

"No, my mother's."

A week later the class assembled for their final class before the end of term. By then, some of the children had spoken to parents and relatives about what was a taboo subject. They discovered that circumcision generated passion in families, within and between generations, causing division, dissimilarity, and even break-up. Lives could be scarred as well as penes, though some could be enhanced, even restored! Patrick suffered a torn foreskin whilst tree climbing the day after his classroom outburst. His "Up the cavaliers!" cry was stilled with an emergency circumcision at the local hospital. Radically shorn, stitched and bandaged, he returned in time for Mr Hewison's final session. His parents had found out all the circumstances and insisted he attend. Placing his imposition on the master's desk, he walked cautiously in a straddling gait, sitting down carefully at his desk.

There had been rumours about the boy's absence. Being away for a minor operation in boyhood usually meant only one thing, and rarely happened at the school. "Could he be...?" many wondered. "Circumcised?" added Katy, "like Jonathan?" Heads turned in Patrick's direction causing him to blush as reddily as his bandaged scar. He felt utterly exposed, his penis throbbing and twingeing mercilessly.

"Poor Patrick", thought Mary, Robert, Mike, and even Jonathan, "if that's what's happened to him at thirteen, having the skin on the end clipped back."

Mr Hewison walked into the classroom, and a more subdued atmosphere. The air of mischievousness was somewhat absent, replaced by the rare presence of sympathetic curiosity. "Good afternoon, class", he said, amazed at the change. "So you are back with us, Patrick!"

"Yes, Sir", replied the boy self-consciously, "the lines are on your desk." Picking up the imposition, Hewie suggested the class quietly revise, compiling questions for later. Reading the boy's handwriting was a revelation for him, even sweeping aside some of his own anger and resentment of many years' standing. Immediately after finishing the final paragraph, he suggested that the whole class would benefit from Patrick's words.

"Well", he began, a lump in his throat, "for a long time I thought tolerance strange and unusual, even unnatural. Those with tolerance were weak. Being strong meant more to me, and by not thinking about others, I could do more, be more, and live life my way. Being spiteful to those who are different gave me strength and confidence. Strength meant being above, bossing, or ridiculing others. So I thought until last week.

“Quite a lot can happen in six days. I suppose that accident and operation put me back on the right track. I feel sorry that I teased Jonathan about being different. Father told me that was prejudice, a bad thing. It should be what people are inside that is the main consideration, their real nature, and not a physical feature, however imposed on them. Here I score badly, but I hope to learn through what has happened. I am now what I ridiculed before you, circumcised, which I do not like and cannot help. A roundhead without the benefit of religion. Here, Jonathan is certainly one up on me. I am very sorry for the way I behaved, for the selfish way of thinking, the childish, cruel taunts. Perhaps I deserve ridicule for being different from most, but can do nothing about that at all. I only know that in the future I will look beyond the physical in those around me, and try not to judge.”

The sound of enthusiastic clapping resounded around the classroom, seeped out into the corridor and, lessening in volume all the time, advanced to the wakeful ear of the headmaster. Jonathan looked at Patrick and smiled. That day Mr Hewison, the teacher, had been taught as well as teaching. His flaccid penis, though scar-ringed and stumpy, had ceased to shame him in that moment of revelation. As the children filed out of the room for the Christmas break, he relaxed in his chair, smiling contentedly. It was a time of peace, the approach of the Christ, His birthday and, days later, the Feast of His circumcision.

Anthony wishes a very happy Christmas to all *Acorn* members of whatever status, and a personal ‘thank you’ to those who have corresponded with him, bestowing on him the intimacy of the written word. A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

Anthony

Strange Radio Show Name

In his article ‘The Spoken Foreskin’ (Issue 8/95), R.B.W. commented that the pop scene seems to be highly foreskin orientated, with at least two groups alluding to it in their names.

Imagine my surprise when doing a search through the Internet for articles on circumcision to be presented with a page entitled: *High Voltage Circumcision Show – DJ Defily D.*

Apparently this DJ runs a radio show by that name on WJUL in Lowell, Massachusetts. It specialises in industrial/ambient/experimental rave/noise and uncategorizable music – nothing whatsoever to do with *our* subject!

V.Q. – London