

ACORN

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 Editor
 David Acorn

Editorial

Hello for the first edition of the year, and it promises to be a busy and exciting one. 1997 saw a sharp upturn in inquiries about the Society with a good uptake of members. Each year sees the membership grow, mostly from kind ads in associated catalogues and magazines like *Body Jewellery*, *Boyz*, *Foreskin Quarterly*, *NORM UK*, *Starkers*, *S&CN*, not forgetting Tuppy Owens and the Internet notice of Vernon's. Our thanks to them all and everyone else who broadcasts our being.

In the last few months we have also at last been able to get in contact with Chuck Thompson. Well, to be honest, he got in touch with us, which was great. As some members know, Chuck lives in Hollywood and has for many years issued newsletters on cock matters, very much like ourselves. He has kindly agreed to a swap of our materials, a process that is already under way. His speciality has been to compile a list of famous people's status, circumcised or intact. This list is now about 2,300 names long, most of whom we all know, although there are of course some names we don't know such as internal American sports stars

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and TV personalities. Chuck has helped by signifying in which field they are celebrities. I know from all the letters I get that this subject is of great interest to the majority of our members so, to keep the appetite going and cut down on postage, we are sending a page at a time with each newsletter, and you should have the entire list by the end of the year. I have a lot of other material from Chuck, but I've yet to think of the best means of distribution.

Our AGM meeting has been put in hand by Brian and there should be a flier with this newsletter giving details. It's at High Wycombe again, which has proved a central and popular venue. Brian has already contacted many of the regulars, but for those who have never come before, you won't be disappointed. The numbers grow every time.

Finally, the only thing that keeps us going are the letters of opinions and experiences from you, the members. As you will have seen, we have some members who are continually contributing (for which I can't thank them enough) but almost everyone should have something to say, as this is a society of obsession mainly, and most joined because of it. If you have a hobby or fetish such as genital tattooing, piercing, manipulation, mild mutilation etc., no matter how bizarre, why not tell us the details, and you'll find there's always some members into whatever it is, too.

I'm also glad to see that this issue's Contact Corner is more than usual. Don't forget that we also have a Question Corner, so that if anything is puzzling you, just ask, and someone might know. If it's embarrassing use the anonymity. Anyway, I hope you all enjoy another year's reading.

David Acorn

Finding Out

I am extremely pleased to be able to join *The Acorn Society* as, for as long as I can remember, I have been fascinated by the penis, both my own and that of other people.

The first thing I can remember took place in the garden shed as a very small boy, perhaps 7 or 8, playing with a little girl who lived nearby. How it happened I don't know, but I took off my trousers and she removed her knickers. We felt each other's genitals – and I remember that my cock became hard, though I didn't know why!

At boarding school we swam in the nude, both boys and teachers. So the sight of cocks was normal. Amongst boys growing up, erections were common, and it didn't take long to find out about the pleasures of masturbation and ejaculation. But that's another story. I have been interested in genitals ever since.

D. B-S. – Bognor Regis

Circumcision and Shame

A Response to D.P.R. in Issue 8/97

A comment by D.P.R. was that “the circumcision fetish is an outgrowth of an association of secrecy, shame, fear and sexual excitement”. Maybe he is right in some cases, but it is never wise to make a wide generalisation and then assume that it is a universal truth.

I was circumcised in infancy before any question of being afraid of an impending operation could have arisen, so I am not impressed by the idea that fear has much to do with the procedure or its acceptance. At 64, I estimate that my twice-daily orgasms, through masturbation or partnered sex, since my 9th birthday, have resulted in some 40,000+ sexual climaxes in my lifetime. Whether or not the enjoyment factor of these instances of sexual excitement would have been any better (or worse) had I been uncircumcised can only be a matter of conjecture. I can only say that, though I haven't a particularly large or pretty cock, I've had a wonderful sex life and I wouldn't have changed a moment of it. I don't feel the slightest shame. My penis is “in the public domain” if anyone expresses sufficient interest to have a look at it. It's no more secret than the end of my nose, apart from the clothing conventions of the society in which we live, and I don't give a toss about what other men think of it. I enjoy the fact that I am circumcised, but agree with D.P.R. that it is a matter of personal choice once adulthood is reached. I suppose that if men didn't have fetishes about their penises then there would hardly be a need for a society like *Acorn*, but frankly, cut or uncut, I see the average penis as being an object of incomparable beauty. I'm more than happy with what I've got and, until D.P.R.'s article, I had never thought of being circumcised as being in any way associated with secrecy, shame or fear. Sexual excitement? Well, yes, he may have a point there. Whether it be tattoos, piercings, circumcision, pubic shaving, wearing cockstraps, or whatever, there are lots of us who get a kick out of “doing something” with our dick. If it's a “turn-on”, where's the harm in that? It's certainly nothing to be ashamed, frightened or secretive about.

Ray Hamble

Doreen Chase Answers

I was quite flattered by all the comments in issue 7/97 on my letter disapproving of female pubic shaving and men pulling their foreskins back on nudist beaches. They do seem unnecessarily defensive though, and their logic a bit strange in places. For instance, D.T. accuses me of being prudish and hypocritical – do prudes join nudist clubs and enjoy parading around naked, and seeing others naked? I am certainly not hypocritical either, but I will admit to being a naturist in the full sense of the word and, although I

can be outspoken at times, my opinion is shared by others, and deserves to be heard. Furthermore, I would not dream of trying to force my opinions on others, unlike your supporters of infant circumcision.

Then the guy who gave us the eye-watering story of self circumcision: although he assures us that he doesn't need the help of a psychiatrist, does he really think that self-amputation of a perfectly healthy part of the body, for no more than a whim, is a normal thing to do?

J.F. tells us that he had himself circumcised in adulthood "to maximise enjoyment of social nudity at clubs and beaches". I've spoken to some of my nudist friends about this and we are all puzzled that anyone should feel proud of having part of their penis amputated, while on the nudist beaches of Europe like Agde, it is considered at the least rather odd and even slightly shameful. Likewise the guy who was dragged unknowingly to a nudist beach in Greece. He says that he never saw anyone walking about with their foreskin worn back. Of course not! The only places you will see such things is on British beaches like Studland Bay, where a number of the older men are circumcised, and some of the younger generation, who are not, try to ape them God knows why! The thought of sunburn on a sensitive glans makes most normal people's eyes water.

J.T. from Australia assures us that his Swedish girlfriend claims that most of her partners from Europe had been circumcised, including most of her Scandinavian boyfriends! All the Scandinavian nudists I know (I lived in Denmark for two years) are horrified by circumcision and look upon it as child abuse. I can only think she was telling him a little white porky so as not to hurt his feelings. Of course, if they were second generation Australians it might be feasible. But even the Aussies these days are giving it up, and according to a recent documentary (see below), Australian women who enjoy their sex seem to appreciate a bit of foreskin. An interesting point J.F. raises is about whether Princess Grace brought any American pro-circ influence to bear on the Grimaldi family. The answer is no – I saw a picture in *Paris Match* last year showing one of Grace's daughters with her child waiting to board a gin-palace in the harbour. The photographer caught a poignant moment in the scene, since the boy is shown with his willy out having a piddle in the dock – and he is most definitely not circumcised. I should be amazed if he were!

My husband tells me that there is a US website which you can find by setting your browser on "Maggimagoo", in which foreskin and circumcision problems are discussed at length. In answer to a new mother's understandable ignorance (since most Americans are circumcised), the problem of the ballooning foreskin on urination in boys is discussed by several doctors and mothers of intact boys. They all assure her that circumcision is not necessary: ballooning does no harm and will go away in time. If not, they recommend a cream that will loosen up the orifice. They emphasise that no attempt should be made to pull the foreskin back. Another mother says that her boy has the same problem and has developed the obviously enjoyable habit of pulling his foreskin

downward to relieve it. She and another young mum were tickled pink to see that their kids could stretch their foreskins down as far as their knees. The doctor confirmed that this did no harm and their foreskins were loosening nicely. Another young man, fearful of the fanatical urge some U.S. doctors have for circumcising, recommends by name hospitals or doctors known to be sympathetic to foreskins, where mothers can have their babies without worrying about them being taken away and done “by mistake”.

Finally a tale to make your unhappier members eat their hearts out – and wow the others. BBC 2 broadcast a documentary about a hetero male prostitute in Melbourne the other night – and guess what? Those raunchy red-blooded Australian women who know what they like and aren't afraid to ask, prefer it long, thick and uncircumcised! His wife Catherine, who acts as Secretary (or “Madam”), answered a query from a potential customer: “Joel is blond, blue-eyed, 5'10" tall, nine and a quarter inches long, uncut and thick.” The lady gasped and licked her lips: “...uncut too – great, just right for me!” Then a number of ecstatic clients were interviewed, all glowing with satisfied lust, paying tribute to his impressive equipment, fantastic technique, (including cunnilingus), enormous staying power and permanent erection. As the wife of a struggling furniture maker, Catherine originally recognised his special talent in the pork department and his ability to keep a woman on the crest of orgasm, and comparing his equipment favourably with other men, jokingly suggested he hire it out. He now has a clientele of 1200 adoring women, and earns 85K a year.

The moral, if that's the right word, is: if you're an *Acorn* reader who is big, uncut and thick, don't listen to the advice of the circumcisers. Don't cut your foreskin off. Go to Australia and earn a fortune with it. Better read the Kama Sutra first though.

Doreen Chase

Around the World

The *Acorn* newsletter continues to be a useful forum for various opinions and a clearing house for members' experiences, opinions, questions and bits of information. And this is as it should be, rather than becoming a pulpit for anti-cut or pro-cut views, or any particular agenda.

The remarkable letter from Doreen Chase has been amply (if not fully or completely) replied to by writers in 7/97, so I won't add more fuel to *that* fire.

Re charges for circumcision: a Muslim penpal in Dhaka, Bangladesh reported that his American born nephew was circumcised by a native practitioner during a visit to Bangladesh, at a cost of about \$70 US. My friend further reported that the operation (on a young boy) would have cost about \$1500 in the States. This is out of most people's price range if not covered by

health insurance. However, if circumcision is done 'neonatally' (shortly after birth), the charges are much less, and neonatal circumcision is still covered by most health insurance plans and HMO's in the U.S. One large hospital here, wherein circumcisions are typically done in the Pediatrics Clinic (rather than by the obstetricians and midwives who deliver the babies), quoted me an average cost of about \$140 for an uncomplicated newborn circ. I passed this information on to my friend in Dhaka. Another friend of mine, in the States, recently paid more than \$3000 for an adult circumcision. This included charges for anesthesiologist, pathologist, etc; and this friend further had the (for him) indignity of being attended by female nurses!!

Re circumcision among European royalty: wouldn't this be more likely among the British royal family (the Windsors) than among the Grimaldis of Monaco (though it cannot be ruled out in the latter case)? Also, are any of your readers able to confirm or refute anecdotal material about circumcision in the Spanish and Scandinavian royalty? It's frequently alleged that King Louis XVI of France was circumcised as an adult. However, it is also reported (and this certainly seems more probable) that the king was given merely a dorsal slit, not a 'full' circumcision, to relieve a very troublesome phimosis. The king's 'condition' was not only affecting marital relations with his queen, Marie Antoinette, but also (these things cannot be kept secret) making the royal couple the laughing stock of Paris at the time.

Clipping Parties in Schools? Another Muslim friend, in Malaysia, reported on *khenduris* (circumcision feasts) held there. He says, sometimes, schools, with the help of the PTA, will organise mass circumcision ceremonies for groups of boys. The favourite times for circumcision, he reports, are during school holidays. Clinics do a brisk clipping business at such times.

Of three correspondents I wrote to recently, via *Acorn*, only one has replied.

M.S. – U.S.A.

French Pop Group

The very last comment in 8/97 about pop groups being into foreskins and circumcision rang a bell. Here in France, some years ago, the *Gay Pied* published a game featuring a five-man pop group (unfortunately I have forgotten their name and they are probably quite forgotten by now), who had dropped their pants to be photographed, but the middle section had been cut out and shifted around, and the object of the game was to match the penis with the singer. Of the five, two had ample foreskins, one a typical half-master, but two heads were bared and certainly appeared to be circumcised. Funny how non-pornographic photos are often the most sexy!.

J.H. – France

Passions

As a relative newcomer to *Acorn*, who enjoys other members' letters and articles in the newsletter, I would like to share my thoughts, and indeed passions, with you.

As I had been circumcised at birth, very neatly and expertly performed I must add, I grew up knowing no other status. I never felt 'different' or ridiculed as circumcision seemed to be the norm in my immediate family and friends. I have now put that down to being Yorkshire by birth, post war, when all things American were in vogue, and the start of the NHS when, if it was free a Yorkshire man was all for it! It was only on reaching that magic age when realising that a willy came in useful for other things than peeing that I discovered what a foreskin was, and that there were other varieties of willies. And I haven't looked back since.

Even though I don't belong to any camp, for or against circumcision, and would never enter the arguments surrounding circumcision, the discovery of the joys that a foreskin can bring to its owner makes me wish that things had been different. That said, I enjoy my circumcised status and live in harmony with it, but I know that if I had a son, then he would have been left uncircumcised and educated to make his own penile decision.

Which brings me to my passion – foreskins, foreskins and more foreskins. I love the sight of willies encased in foreskins. I love the movement of the penile skin and foreskin when it is being wanked, or the willy used for fucking; the mystique of not knowing what is hidden behind that foreskin; the textures, taste and aroma both outside and inside the foreskin. Guys with foreskins can 'dock' with other glans, foreskins can be clamped closed when pissing to create balloons. Even sewn closed or pierced for extra fun if the owner is into that kind of fun, plus countless other ways the foreskin can be used for sexual pleasure. I love to watch men with foreskins having a shower at the gym just to see them pulling it back to wash the glans, so I can't fully appreciate why anyone would want to part company with such an enjoyable part of the willy. However, even with a foreskin fetish, I do have favourites, and go weak at the knees over tight and very tight fitting foreskins, especially with no 'tassel' over the end of the glans. Another favourite foreskin type is where the foreskin opening is totally covering the glans, but clearly open and angled away from the frenulum side (as in the style of certain newer Mercedes car headlights).

So, in finishing this short piece, you guys with a foreskin, remember you have the best of both worlds and your foreskins give pleasure to me, you lucky sods!

D.T. – Manchester

Self Circ

I have been meaning to comment about something printed around the middle of last year. Annoyingly, I can't find the relevant article, but no doubt you can locate it. [Yes. 6/97, page 4, entitled 'Sensitivity'. – D.A.]. He was bemoaning the fact of being cut and left without stitches, and how sore and miserable he was as a result.

Well, he was talking a lot of nonsense as, in my own DIY circ. I left the severed edges to heal naturally without stitches. This you will recollect was written up fully in 1/93. Not only did the cut heal perfectly, but the result looks like a neo-natal circ, as it is difficult to detect a scar line even. Also around the frenulum a large amount of skin was snipped away leaving a quite raw area. This initially healed by scar tissue, but some months later this dissolved away to leave soft pliable tissue which looks and feels exactly like inner foreskin (mucosa). This can be verified by those who inspected me at the Heathrow meeting last year.

R.W. – Surrey

Redundancy

I have a very old book about circumcision, published in 1891, in which reference is made to a French family whose male offspring are always born without a foreskin. Maybe one day the circumcision debate will be a thing of the past as genetics takes the matter out of our hands, perhaps sooner than we think with scientific intervention.

C.H.A. – North Kent

Thoughts

I recently joined a gym and now feel that the phrase 'appearances can be deceptive' holds true, especially in the areas of locker rooms and showers. Those dark and hirsute gentlemen of swarthy middle Eastern appearance seem to have conspicuously long foreskins, whilst the blue eyed, freckled 'Celts' have surgically pared genitalia with prominent glans proudly on show.

Amongst my late mother's personal effects I found a solid silver acorn. I now wear this on a chain round my neck.

K.G. – London

A Geography of Circumcision

Anyone who has travelled the world and visited saunas, swimming pools or gym showers has certainly noticed differences in the rates of circumcision, going from nearly 100% cut in the USA to 100% uncut in Eastern Europe, through roughly half and half places like Montreal. The countries of Western Europe though are very much more difficult to categorise. While a big majority of men are uncut, there is a significant proportion of circumcised men, which would seem to vary greatly, not only from one country to another, but also between different areas in various countries, and possibly between different classes and age groups.

To take France for example, there seems to be a much higher rate of circumcision in Paris than the rest of the country. I have been a member of several swimming and waterpolo clubs in Paris and one in Nancy. In Paris, there have always been cut men in the club, something like one in five. In Nancy however, of the thirty or so members I saw nude, not one was cut. Whenever I've been in Lyon, on the other hand, I've always seen a good number of cut men, as many as in Paris, but of course my sample is very biased – two or three cut men out of a dozen sightings each time. I am told there are more cut men in the south of France on the Cote d'azur. During European swimming championships, there is a chance to see members of other European teams under the showers, and there too are always cut men, especially among Belgian, German and Swiss swimmers, but in insufficient numbers to make any generalisation, except that the French proportions are probably common to neighbouring countries. There has been mention made in Chuck Thompson's newsletter of a relatively high proportion in Spain, but there are too few Spanish contestants at these competitions to gain any idea of this.

Age can be a determining factor too, as it is very clearly in Britain, though it is difficult to see just how. One of Chuck Thompson's correspondents in Germany reported that German national service intakes have 8% circumcised men joining the forces for national service, but casual observation in Gyms show a higher percentage, suggesting that a significant number of men are circumcised as adults. This could be the case in France too.

What people estimate to be the percentage varies too, especially as no-one really has access to a representative section of the male population. Whenever I get the opportunity I ask men what they think the percentage is, and the answer is often biased in favour of the status of the respondent, so uncut men think the percentage is very small, and cut men much larger. The most extreme case was a cut man from Brittany, who said he thought it was about fifty-fifty, though anyone walking along any Breton naturist beach would be hard pressed to find more than 10%. I've also asked the question to members of the swimming club, and the uncut members often fail to notice who is cut, perhaps because cut men cover up more than uncut. Perhaps as they are in a minority, cut men tend to be more observant, and note who else is cut in

a given group. It's quite common to hear from men who had a hangup about being cut until they did their military service and found that they weren't the only one in the dormitory. I've heard from several sources that career military men are more often cut than not.

Can anyone contribute to a more accurate geography of circumcision rates in Europe?

J.H. – Paris

Size

A part from being somewhat obsessed during my boarding school days of being a cavalier and in a distinct minority in a world of roundheads, I have always been conscious of my small cock size – pushing 5" in length erect and with a base circumference of about 4.5" (perhaps it's time to have a size survey again and I can claim the smallest dimensions award). [From what I get from other members you wouldn't win by a long way. – D.A.]

My flaccid size doesn't generally worry me too much, as I see other guys in the locker rooms or showers with reasonably comparable cocks and, in any case, as soon as it gets warm it expands slightly (as I notice with others, too), and when I skin back to wash also helps.

However, the question of girth was brought home to me the other day when I bought a rubber sex aid, meant to fit around the base of the cock. It's much too large for me! When, many years ago, I used condoms (we've now resorted to other birth control methods) they were often fairly loose fitting, and I wonder whether such items shouldn't be made in different sizes. I know that cock size is a sensitive issue, but to me the criterion is how stiff it is and not the length or girth, and I've not had any complaints about my bedroom size!

The other thing I've been aware of is hairiness. Again, I would associate a macho image of a guy with a large roundheaded cock and hairy chest. I have always had some hair around the nipples, but have noticed in recent years, of late 40's and early 50's, that this has spread to an area between the nipples, albeit with a light covering, but still looking better than a completely smooth chest. More recently, I've noticed that my pubic hairs are starting to whiten, but only those on my ballbag directly under my cock.

I'm pleased up till now that I've decided to remain a cavalier and extra lubrication during sex (KY jelly or Boots baby oil) has improved a sore foreskin and sex in general immeasurably. I often think I would feel quite naked without a foreskin to play with, or have fondled, and it does add an extra dimension to sex, as well as being quite acceptable these days, unlike my schooldays of 35 or so years ago.

My knob now shows a faint difference in colour on the top third where I have managed to keep it exposed. Whereas I would prefer to be able to keep the skin back all the way if I wished, this is not possible because of a long and loose foreskin and small knob – but it's next best and is comfortable, and it means I don't have to pull the skin back to pee (question: do cavaliers generally retract their foreskins to pee? I never look, so I don't know!)

These ramblings may be of interest to others and possibly generate some comment or discussion.

Anon

Eat Your Cornflakes

In conversation, I was presented with a reworking of a quip about a person who had been accidentally locked in a synagogue overnight. Rescued the next afternoon, he was asked how he fared. "I found a silver dish on the table but didn't like the cornflakes!" The comic idea of a foreskin bowl being mistaken for cornflakes has a curious connection with that breakfast cereal.

John Harvey Kellogg made much money in the America of the 1880's writing books condemning masturbation, and describing 'diseases' attributed to it. He produced cornflakes and advocated circumcision as a cure!! At that time in America only 10% of males were circumcised, so the circumcision of infants was suggested to prevent masturbation rather than cure it. Just as one can conjure images in smoke coiling from an open fire, I can almost sense the 3,500 American infants circumcised each day in my bowl of cereal, with one flake symbolical of my own long lost foreskin.

The cornflake imagery is only relevant in Britain with very small helpings! I had calculated that the total UK circumcision rate amounted to 80 operations each day (or 8.6%). Recent NHS figures have made that earlier figure short of the mark. The total number of hospital boyhood circumcisions were 30,750 for 1985, and 36,000 this year. (In 1985 the NHS paid £390 for each circumcision, the cost rising to £694 in 1997).

Adding the ritual component of 10,000 circumcisions each year, 1,700 Jewish, and 8,300 Moslem, with a 350,000 male birthrate, the current overall circumcision rate is 13.1%. That's nearly one in seven which certainly confounds the 1% (or low) figure quoted in contemporary literature.

It looks as if the embarrassing curiosity of a solitary circumcised boy in an otherwise intact class of 30 or so has come to an end. The realistic component of 2 or 3 roundheads in a class seems possible now – thanks not to crank moral ideals or parental preference, but mainly to illogical thinking and wrong diagnosis by the medical profession, mainly of fictitious phimosis.

Anthony

Smooth, Nude and Cut — The Perfect Combination

Foolish indeed was the first person who said about the male genitals, “If you’ve seen one, you’ve seen them all”. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our male sex organs are as different from each other’s as women’s breasts or any of our faces. They are all part of our personalities and make-up – and to be hairless in nude surroundings lets all those present see without hindrance the full value of our different types and styles with glorious openness. Those special additions to our personalities are enriched and made even more interesting when the owner also has a fully circumcised cock for all to see.

As the Organiser and original conceiver of the group for “Smooth and Cut Naturists” (S&CN), I feel I must respond to various points made by your contributor Doreen Chase in her article ‘Woman and Hair’ (5/97). I am, like she says she is, a regular contributor (of Feature articles) to the naturist magazine *H & E*, and have many contacts in the world of naturism, most of whom have views which concur with my own.

Ms Chase, in her article, makes some factual errors and unsupportable suppositions about the unquestionable preference of many women and men who increasingly like to remove their body hair – especially pubic hair and underarm hair – and who like to be (or like their male partners to be) fully circumcised also.

Almost every recently pubescent teenager questions why they start to grow body hair between their legs and under their arms. Then they find out the simple truth: it is nature’s way, rather crudely by modern standards, of providing lubrication at friction spots on the body. Of course, reproduction being nature’s most important bodily function, one must assume the mating act between the male and female to be a fairly frequent occurrence and, with the essential, sometimes vigorous, rubbing together of the genitals and pubic regions, to be a place where lubrication is essential. With modern lubricants, oils and natural secretions, this crude ‘hair lubricant’ may now be considered obsolete. What pubic hair is definitely not, as Ms Chase incorrectly states, is for ‘modesty’ reasons to cover the vaginal opening. On the contrary, nature does not recognise modesty and, given a free hand, would obviously encourage the opening to be displayed fully in order to attract the male and increase the chance of penetration, fertilisation and procreation. Forget your ‘covering the Venus flytrap’ nonsense, Ms Chase, body hair is for lubrication and warmth.

Body hair removal, from both the female and the male, is the modern way for anyone – especially naturists/nudists – to present their bodies in the cleanest best looking way. Without doubt, there can be unquestionable enjoyment in seeing skin (the largest organ of our body) which has an overall tan possessed by someone who takes pride in depilating regularly. The openness this brings

– highlighted if the male is also circumcised – engenders friendliness and confidence from the owner, especially in a socially nude environment. Shaving the body can be just as much part of the daily routine as the accepted practice of women putting on make-up to beautify themselves. Our whole bodies are wonderful things – we should display them in the best way for others to see and enjoy by means of hair removal. Who can deny the beauty of the male or female body, unimpaired by ugly body hair, with the fully displayed sex organs available for all to see and admire? Come on – admit it – we all (men and women alike) take interest in the wide variety of sex organs which we all possess and which are normally, as society unfortunately dictates, not able to be seen. The genitals are as individual as our faces – and *they* are not covered up.

As Ms Chase concedes, many letters to *H & E* support circumcision (not all are from members of S&CN either), but she is wrong in concluding that the number of pictures of circumcised men in the magazine is directed at the American market. All pictures are chosen on overall merit – I should know as I regularly contribute photographs to the magazine also.

Why should it be a “deplorable fact that some men choose to walk about on a naturist beach with their foreskins retracted”? Good heavens, we are all individuals with freedom of choice, so why shouldn’t we do as we wish? Most of these guys would probably wish to be circumcised in order, amongst other advantages, to show their attractive glans rather than hide it under an elephant’s trunk of ugly foreskin they probably possess. Good luck to them, and how much nicer for the rest of us to see – but why not make it permanent and be circumcised? And what is this load of garbage about UV rays, thorn bushes and rough towels? We cut men take care of ourselves and, thanks to clever body design, suffer none of these alleged drawbacks and can fully empathise with the self-circumciser whom Ms Chase mentions. He should be applauded for the courage and conviction he shows, and not castigated or recommended for psychiatric help as Doreen Chase states. Ms Chase (assuming you are a ‘real’ person), you are entitled to your views like the rest of us, but your accusations such as these are unwelcome, unhelpful and unjustified.

I originally conceived the idea for a mixed group of naturists who were both smooth (pubically at least – hopefully more) with the male members also being circumcised, towards the end of 1996 and have since been amazed and encouraged by the keenness of qualifying naturists to take up membership. Of all the initial inquiries for information made to our box number, well over 50% have resulted in membership. The interest shown has largely been as a result of the article and advert featured in previous issues of this magazine as well as other journals relating to naturism. Such has been the enthusiasm for membership (which is free) that S&CN not only is progressing in terms of numbers, but is vibrant with ideas from those members who meet in a socially nude environment from time to time. S&CN is a club for members to get to know each other and to talk openly and ‘compare notes’ with other

members who share a mutual interest in being smooth and circumcised. It is not a correspondence club.

We should very much like to hear from men and women over 18 who are pubically smooth (at least) and happy about being nude in a socially nude environment. The men **MUST** also be circumcised. Interested? Send a first class stamp or large SAE for a free information pack to SCN, PO Box 164, Northwood, Middx, HA6 2QR.

Smoothy John

Circumcision — An Englishman's Experience

I was circumcised – very tightly – as an infant in the early 1960's. To this day I do not know precisely why, but my mother used to talk about cleanliness. Was it assumed that I was born with a dirty streak?

I very quickly understood what it meant to be circumcised and that, as a pure Englishman, I was among a very small minority. I have never been afraid to be different in most respects, but for some reason being 'cut' bothered me from about the age of eight. At junior school, I would often go to the toilet at break time with a friend who lived just a few doors away. As we stood in front of the urinal, I could not help noticing his very elongated foreskin and feeling extremely envious of him. With hindsight, I reckoned that my mother must have experienced some guilt over the operation, because she once asked me whether a classmate of mine with whom I had attended swimming lessons during an Easter holiday had been circumcised. In the most matter-of-fact manner I could muster, I replied that he had not, although I cannot deny the emotional discomfort which I felt at having to discuss such a sensitive subject.

At secondary school, insult was added to injury at what seemed like every opportunity. The fascination of the average 11-year old male with the shape of his classmates' penises seems innate and deep-seated, and to my mind does not imply homosexual tendencies. Communal use of toilets and showers on a daily basis soon enabled the class to memorise who was intact and who was not. "You've been circumcised", one such boy was quick to point out whilst standing next to me at the urinal. "You couldn't pee properly when you were young" said another. Something told me that it wasn't worth complaining to a teacher about this type of bluntness: even if I could overcome my embarrassment, what would be done about it? Indeed, just a few months later, the subject of circumcision was discussed very openly in a religious education class. The female teacher had the gall to ask who in the class had been circumcised – in a school where uniformity and conformity were everything, and respecting individual differences was seen as a weakness! I could see eyes looking in my direction, feel fingers pointing towards me. I just sat tight. Not for a million pounds would I put my hand up. Before anyone could mention my name

– and many would have not hesitated to do this – a classmate saved the day by owning up to being ‘cut’. How I longed to move to a mixed-sex multi-faith school.

It was nearly a quarter of a century after these incidents before I could do anything about my unwanted state, but that’s not to say that my grief for my lost foreskin went away in the interim. If anything it intensified. “What you never had, you don’t miss” is a principle that definitely does not apply to the foreskin. I had to wait until long after I had left my parents’ home before addressing the issue constructively. The turning point was a chance reading of the article on circumcision in *Maxim* of April 1996. By this time I was rapidly approaching middle age. I just had to jump on the restoration bandwagon before it was too late.

I bought some 2.5cm wide zinc oxide plaster tape from Boots, cut a strip 17cm long, folded the ends over to make it double sided, stuck one side firmly down on my glans, pulled as much shaft skin as possible over it, and pressed it firmly over the other side of the tape. I know that one should try to avoid tape making direct contact with the glans, but mine had become so insensitive with advancing years that I suffer no ill effects. I have been doing this every morning for nearly a year, and the end result is a very natural-looking foreskin. The tape is sufficiently invisible to pass unnoticed in public urinals and showers, and sloughs off during the night as a result of erections during sleep, thus allowing for washing in the morning shower. This process does generate a certain amount of post-urination dribbling, but that is a small price to pay for having a glans that is three-quarters covered. I have also tried taping skin over a Boots medium-flow bottle teat, as recommended in the Winter 1996/7 issue of *Norm News*, but find it impossible to urinate in a straight line no matter how much I trim the hole in the end of the teat.

My process will undoubtedly take a long time, but it is well worthwhile. I look forward to the day when my new ‘foreskin’ stays in place without the assistance of tape. May it come before I start acquiring grey hairs. And may I thank NORMUK, P.O. Box 71, Stone, Staffs, ST15 OSF, for their support during my labours.

Norm

Circumcision — Facts For Teenagers

This leaflet, which was advertised in the publications list sent out with issue 8/97, has been re-titled and is now called *Questions Teenagers Ask About Circumcision*. The contents have not, however, changed and orders may be met by either title depending on what is in stock at the time.

Vernon

Contact Corner

Can any member offer a source of medical items of a penis related nature? A plastibell, catheters or any other instrument or apparatus used on the penis in any way would be of interest.

C.H.A. – North Kent

[One source is:- Mediquip, Folly Gate, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 3AQ. (Tel. 01837 53710). Just ask for their catalogue. They're quite used to ordinary people asking for their urological items. – D.A.]

David, mid-sixties, would like to hear from others with same interests. I'm circumcised, 5.5" long, a very keen nudist who shaves his body hair. I love to sunbathe nude and get myself completely tanned – especially cock and balls! I like oil on my body.

Other interests are:- erotica of all sorts – photos, art, etc. rubber underwear, G-strings, thongs, stockings and suspender belts, photography.

David – Bognor Regis

Circumcised status enthusiast, admirer of it, cut as an infant, aged 50+, but not passed sell-by date, would like to meet or correspond with like-minded guys. I'm friendly, easy-going and down to earth.

N.G. – Thames Valley

Member in Indiana U.S.A. would like contact by phone or by mail with other American members (straight) who would like to discuss circumcision in strict confidence.

Gay, 53, tightly cut at birth, fascinated by all aspects of circumcision, especially style, method and tightness of cut and resultant position of scarline, seeks others with similar interests for correspondence and/or meetings. West Midlands, Hereford & Worcester, Welsh Borders, anywhere.

R. – West Midlands

Bi guy, aged 37, would like to photograph young guys with circumcised dicks – especially scar lines and any that have been done recently

A.C. – London

ACORN

Issue
No 2 1998
Editor
David Acorn

Editorial

Another milestone has been reached. We are now on the Internet and can be reached by E-mail at acornsoc@aol.com, so I hope it makes it easier for some to write in material or even just to be chatty.

Since mentioning the magazine *Foreskin Quarterly* in last edition's editorial, I've been inundated with requests as to where it might be obtained. It is:

S.P.B. Distribution
F2, 28 Carlton Road
Bournemouth
BH1 3TG
EMail: 100675.1545@compuserve.com

Last time I was in touch each edition was £8.99 and they had plenty of back copies. Just ask for their order form and everything will be revealed.

I've been asked to make a plea. If you get an answer to a contact corner ad, please answer it even if it's in the negative. Otherwise the writer doesn't know if it reached you and wonders who might have got hold of it.

David Acorn

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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.

I Love It Now

I was stunned to hear of the existence of *The Acorn Society* (how come I'd never heard of it before?) and almost beside myself with excitement when all eight copies of 1997 landed on my doormat. I read them cover to cover in sequence with both an actual and figurative raging hard-on. Everything that I've thought, felt and fantasised about, for as long as I can remember, was touched upon at some point, and I could have wept for joy.

I was circumcised at the age of three and it traumatised me for years and years. I have the most vivid memories of sitting in the bath, post op, fiddling with the plaster around my tiny dick, waiting for it to soak off. Curiously though, I have no memories, from only days prior to that, of what I looked like with a foreskin, and my little brother's dick was now my only point of reference as to what had fundamentally changed about me. I was certainly puzzled by this development, but like all small children I just accepted what had happened to me and adapted to my new situation. As I grew older, however, I got more opportunities to look at other boys' dicks. Firstly in games of "I'll show you mine if you'll show me yours", and then in school changing room situations, and it soon became apparent that I was the only person in the world who looked the way I did. In retrospect, it amazes me that I, alone out of all my friends and school colleagues, should have been the only 'roundhead', but I was, and consequently other boys used to point and laugh. Things weren't much better at home. My dad joked about it a couple of times, and I once heard my mum tell my sister that I'd had half of my willy cut off. My parents' comments soon led me to conclude that my dad, like my brother, was not circumcised, meaning that I was the only one in the family that had been done, and ergo, it must have been done as a punishment.

I also remember, in my early teens, experimentally wrapping various types of paper and material around the end of my dick to (a) see what a foreskin would look like on me, and (b) ascertain whether any of these materials could actually pass for 'real' in a changing room situation. But needless to say I never tried any of them out publicly. It's really no wonder that, for years, I felt like a freak, skipped games at school as often as possible to avoid being naked in front of people, and felt only deep depression about the state of my dick, and it was at this time that my obsession with cut dicks developed.

A few years later I came to the realisation that I was gay and started buying gay porn where, thank God, there were many images of circumcised men, probably because much of the porn was American. So I now knew that I wasn't alone, and rather than dip my toe in the water of my newly realised sexuality I dived straight in to swim out and meet all these guys who were just like me. Shock number one was that, again, most of the men I met, and had sex with, had foreskins, including those I developed longer term relationships with, and shock number two continues to annoy me still. A lot of foreskinned guys are really dismissive of a circumcised dick because they have never taken the

trouble to figure out how it 'works'. In my experience, very few will think to apply direct stimulation to my knob, the only way I can be brought to orgasm, and fewer still will think to apply any lubricant. I've had conversations with gay friends who have admitted that their heart sinks if they get a man home and he is circumcised, because they don't know what to do with 'it'. I find this situation very depressing, and in an effort to increase my chances of meeting cut men I now visit gay saunas where I can see what I am getting and, yes, the quality of my sex life has improved, and not only because cut guys know how to work a cut dick. The visual aspect of sex has always been very important to me, and I just get very turned on by the sight of a circumcised dick. I realise that there is a lot more to my life than being gay, and a lot more to being gay than the type of sex I have, but, as some of your readers will appreciate, I am tired of wanting one thing and having to settle for something else.

In the last year or so I have really come to terms with being circumcised, which I think has a lot to do with the public nudity of the sauna environment. I love showing off my cut dick in the showers. Completely flaccid it isn't exactly a showstopper, and even half cocked it's only of average length and girth, but my bell end swells to quite a size, almost out of all proportion to the rest of it, which always draws glances and comments (of course I now realise why I was given the op in the first place). The skin on my shaft moves easily back and forth, but there is no way I can pull any of it over my knob, and my scar is a noticeable uneven brown line 2cm in some places, and only a $1/2$ cm in others, from the ridge. There are also a few lumps and bumps of skin, mainly on the underside, and I realise from reading *Acorn* that this is generally not judged as attractive, but I think it gives quite a rugged appearance.

It's taken me many, many years, but I can finally and honestly say that I am very glad I was circumcised at a very young age (and perhaps only a circumcised friend or two during my school years would have helped to banish my sense of freakishness during my adolescence). I am happy with its look, feel and performance and, incidentally, it has got increasingly sensitive as my embarrassment about it has diminished. My obsession/fetish for cut dicks continues unabated (see my ad in Contact Corner), and it has deepened immeasurably since discovering this publication. I'm determined to attend the imminent Spring Meeting, mainly to meet everyone, but also because I am desperate for someone to point out my meatus, frenulum and sulcus (the idea of getting an inspection appeals to me). I think I've figured out what my corona is, and that I've got a fully exposed glans with a tight cut, but some of the language you use puzzles me still.

I'd like to thank you all for this opportunity to finally 'speak' to someone about all this, and many thanks for *Acorn*. Keep up the good work!

M.P. – Brighton

Photography

Some members may be interested in a recently published book called *Naked New York* by Greg Friedler, published by Bloomsbury at £12.99, ISBN 0 7475 3326 1. This comprises 72 photographs, 37 male and 35 female. A page is devoted to each person with two 3.75" x 4.75" photos of each, one in normal clothes and one naked. Males range from 19 to 75 years and females from 19 to 46, with the majority of the females under 30. 27 of the males were circumcised, 8 uncircumcised, 1 uncertain and one hidden. I make that 77% circumcised, which is perhaps a little less than might have been expected, but obviously a lot more than a similar exercise in London would be likely to show. A few of the males were depilated but none of the females, although some trimming is in evidence. The book is in black and white only, but none the worse for that.

W.T.

Dilemma

I am a 45-year-old bi-sexual with a substantial and loose (after years of manipulation) foreskin, often worn retracted, because I have several cockhead piercings – and the aesthetic value is reduced when the foreskin is pulled forward.

However, I move in rather conventional circles (most of the time), and reluctantly remove my jewellery on these occasions, replacing it as soon as I get home.

So sometimes, when peeing, I have to pull my foreskin forward to avoid spraying like a showerhead. The temptation is to change my social habits, go for broke, get circumcised, and have to wear my jewellery permanently (a sexy idea), or should I keep my foreskin intact, or even have it modified or pierced.

I would like to correspond with anyone who shares this quandary, and with anyone who appreciates genital piercing and tattooing (contact with experienced and skilled genital tattooists would be helpful).

Finally, (and briefly at this stage), I would like to express my strong opinion that any form of physical modification should only be practiced by, and upon, consenting adults. The only reason to operate on a child should be a medical one. I find religious and superstitious practices (such as circumcision and piercing), especially on young children, abhorrent, and an infringement of basic human rights.

J.D. – Leeds

Two Balls Too Many

A judge in Kuala Lumpur, sentencing the woman to one day's imprisonment, said "Just because a prostitute disapproves of a client's genital ornamentation, that is no excuse for beating him into unconsciousness with a broom."

The *Singapore Straits Times* report goes on to reveal that, like many Malaysian men, the plaintiff had two small ball bearings inserted into his penis to heighten sexual pleasure.

The court heard that the sight of the man's penis with its gleaming, highly polished balls had so disgusted the prostitute that she screamed, seized a broom and began clubbing the man, breaking his left forearm.

"This annoyed me, so I reminded her about her promise of total satisfaction, and asked for my money back," he said. "That must have been when she struck me across the skull. I awoke next morning in a hospital bed. I have still not had a refund. It is disgusting," he wailed.

And you thought it tough when your local naturist club threw you out for having a few rings too many.

Reprinted with thanks to H & E

Statistics And Cornflakes

I was surprised to read Anthony's assessment of the circumcision rate in Britain today. His figure of 1 in 7 is what I and many others have estimated from observations made over the years. His other figure of 13.1% is, of course, somewhat lower than fact because he fails to account for the number of medical circumcisions performed outside of NHS hospitals both in infancy and more especially at, or soon after, puberty. There are no statistics kept for these operations but when they are added in it is likely to put the true circumcision rate in Britain close to 14%.

I would be very pleased to learn exactly which official statistics publication gives current British circumcision rates and their cost to the NHS. Since Anthony has never been one to write to *Acorn* in favour of circumcision I can see no reason to doubt his figures which certainly disprove the wildly inaccurate claims of the American anti-circ fanatics that less than 1% of British and European men are being circumcised.

The claim in his article with which I must take issue is that the Kellogg who invented cornflakes and the one who publicly advocated circumcision were one and the same. I cannot now find the original references, but it is widely known that the two men were brothers who didn't always see eye to eye with one another. One, a doctor, advocated circumcision (as did most of

his contemporaries) as a preventative for masturbation – which society of the time saw as a great evil. His brother, a grain merchant, invented corn flakes in the hope that, being more attractive for breakfast than the usual grits/gruel/porridge of the time, boys would want to get out of bed for them in the mornings and thus avoid the temptation to lie there and masturbate.

Finally, Anthony once again misrepresents the medical profession in his last paragraph. Circumcision as a cure for the very distressing and sexually debilitating conditions of phimosis and paraphimosis is not illogical but very sound medicine proven over thousands of years of practice. Phimosis is certainly not fictitious to those who suffer from it. The embarrassment, pain and, in many cases, eventual need for a circumcision anyway, engendered in a young boy by the so called alternative treatment of manually stretching the foreskin is the true child abuse.

Vernon

Penis Types

The initial comment is reference Issue 8/96 and the drawings of the cut/uncut penis. In a subsequent issue there were some comments on the drawings. As with most things, there are many variations. The uncut penis drawing is one example of how one may appear. Other variations include:- a) foreskin which overhangs the end of the penis and tapers off to a small tube; b) cases where the coronal ridge is not visible under the foreskin – the entire penis may appear as a straight tube with no apparent ridges; c) where the opening at the end of the foreskin is off to one side and not dead centre; d) where the skin is quite excessive and appears as very wrinkled.

The cut penis may also be seen in many variations:- a) depending on how the circ was done, the skin may still cover the coronal groove or even part of the glans; b) the cut may be higher on the shaft to fully expose the groove with no excess skin and a smooth appearance. It would seem that most American circs are done in this style; c) the scar may be darker or lighter than the skin; d) the scar may be symmetrical or rough and uneven; e) there may be evidence of where stitches were used, depending on the type of circ done; f) there may be a few ripples of skin when flaccid, as in the drawing; g) there may or may not be a frenulum left after the circ; h) the glans may have a slight bend or twist to the left or right.

This brings to mind that there appear to be identified three types to the glans or head. They are either of the bottle type, blunt type or prow type. When being identified to a particular group, doctors would take into consideration the angle that the glans curves up from underneath to the top of the penis, the presence or absence of a very defined coronal ridge – some have quite an extended or high ridge, while others quietly roll over to join the penis shaft. Also, the length of the glans is taken into consideration. Some are small caps,

while others can extend to a fuller distance. Variations also exist between their flaccid and erect appearance.

And an update from Canada.

As a bit of information, it seems that clothing catalogues which model underwear and also undergear/swingear catalogues here are now quite free in what is being shown. In the last four that I have seen it is apparent that all models are cut, as the glans and coronal ridges are plainly visible through the cloth. What is the situation there? Are printers just as free? Do you have mail order clothing/underwear catalogues? If you do have such firms, can you please forward their addresses to me?

National magazines have recently published articles regarding a new topical cream which is to be applied to the infant penis prior to the circ, so that pain is lessened. Several studies have positively confirmed its effectiveness. It seems that circ is certainly very alive and well in America. As well, the Mogen clamp can now take care of the procedure in a matter of just minutes or less.

A recent article in a European published magazine indicated that Muslims and Jews were the only ones that routinely circumcised their males. Yet they also published a photo of Antonio Banderas – clearly fully cut. I think they need to read about the styles and customs in America.

While I continue my urological research on the subject, it is very interesting to note that there is so much interest there, and definite attitudes towards the cut/uncut situation. Even if the subject is cut, there is definite discussion on how the circ was done, its pros and cons. Aesthetics are also very important to most people. Hospitals here still circ very often. The doctor will make the rounds on given days and take care of things in very short order – usually with the Plastibell, Gomco Clamp or Mogen Clamp (preferred by mohels).

As a final note for now, I found it very interesting to see that magazines published in England freely advertise cosmetic surgery clinics – and circumcision is always listed as one of the procedures available there. Has anyone looked into this – is it a common procedure there... what procedure is utilised for adults... what is the cost... being cosmetic surgery in some cases, can the patient specify how much skin they wish to have removed?

R.Y. – Canada

[Over to you, Vernon. — D.A.]

A Complaint

Enclosed is my renewal for my membership of the *Acorn Society*. I wasn't going to renew it after writing a number of letters to the magazine which were never published, having read a request for more letters to be sent in by members. And one more thing, some of the letters regarding circumcision more or less have had negative undertones regarding Islam by so-called educated people.

I do really enjoy being a member of the *Acorn Society*, which I joined in 1990 when I lived in Dundee. The *Acorn Society* still do a good job in supporting circumcision in a society that is getting more and more anti-circumcision, thanks to the medical profession who is not Muslim or Jewish.

What can I say that hasn't been said before in the defence of circumcision? Perhaps if more of the Uncut brigade practiced more personal hygiene there will be less germs and cases having to go to the doctors. Personally speaking, from an artistic point of view, I find the foreskin very attractive to look at and admire, and even erotic.

I do not expect this letter to be published, so keep up the good work and more power to your arm, and, as mentioned, I do still enjoy being a member of the *Acorn Society*, but why all this anti-Islamic feeling?

Yahya Ahmed N.I.M. Lamont – Manchester

[There, Ahmed, your letter in its entirety. I presume the negative undertones you refer to are the stories of forcible circumcisions by Moslems on their prisoners over the centuries. This, I'm afraid, is fact and not anyone's opinion.

Your last letter but one was published in 3/96. I didn't publish your last letter because it was all about religion and conversion to Islam. In the joining questionnaire, I ask for religion just for statistics. By far the majority say 'none', the next highest is 'atheist', and one went so far as to say "Religion. Not likely, they kill". So I took it that it wouldn't be very popular.

That said, the next item came from the Internet and may be of interest to you. — D.A.]

A Moslem Circumcision

My wife's family is from an Islamic country where all men are circumcised. Therefore, before my marriage, I had agreed to let myself be circumcised. After the marriage I still agreed but hadn't the nerve to go to a doctor to ask for it. Finally, I told my wife that I would have it done but that I hadn't the nerve to go to the doctor, and asked her to arrange it.

A few weeks later, we had an invitation from my wife's parents to visit, and just before leaving my wife told me to take a shower as I should be clean for my circumcision party. This was a situation with no way out. The family was waiting. All were informed – me, the last. I asked her for the name of the circumciser, the so-called Sunnetci. When I heard his name I was a little bit less nervous, because I had met him earlier when I was attending the circumcisions of the sons of my brother-in-law. I knew him as a professional, and saw that for the boys it was not a big deal. I was aware that he never uses anaesthetics because his opinion is that these can destroy some nerves, and lost sensitivity can result. I have no idea whether this has a scientific base.

When we arrived we were welcomed by the Sunnetci and directly guided to a separate room. First he gave me a sedative (a high dose of valium) to calm me down. I was instructed to take off all my trousers but keep my shirts on, and place myself on a prepared mixture of deck-chair and couch covered by white linens. Cushions were hidden under the linens to bring me in the right position and to expose the parts of interest to optimum access. I was surprised how perfect everything was arranged.

He started to examine my prepuce, moving it forwards and backwards resulting in an erection. He told me that with an erection the skin to be removed could be much better estimated than when in a flaccid state. He explained that he would do it in the traditional way and would remove the frenulum after cutting off the foreskin. The normal cut, he told me, would cause only little pain, but the excision of the frenulum might hurt a little bit more. The traditional method is to pull the skin tightly forwards over the glans, fix it with a clamp, and then cut it along the clamp. The result is that most of the mucosa is kept and the scar at the outer skin will be later exactly at the corona in flaccid state with the movable mucosa left. Then he swept a disinfectant fluid over the complete area including scrotum and belly. He called for assistance and my brothers-in-law came quickly and fixed my arms and legs, pressing them down. Simultaneously, the big door to the neighbouring room was opened. This was a surprise for me because I thought it would be done in this separated room.

Outside, the whole family was waiting, my parents and grandparents-in-law, another brother-in-law and the sisters of my wife. The Sunnetci saw my surprise but told me that it had to be done as with all other family members. However, in my case, the small uncircumcised boys and all the girls were excluded.

I felt as he grasped my foreskin, drew it forward and clamped it. He spoke a prayer. I couldn't see what was going on. I heard applause from the family members and then I felt the pain like a cut in the finger. When the knife was swept along the clamp and the foreskin was off and shown to the family, they all applauded. I had some delay in noticing the pain, but immediately the Sunnetci blew a cooling spray on the cut. The clamp was taken off. With some more cooling spray, he excised the frenulum, and this hurt. He sutured the

cut with eight stitches. Normally he leaves the cut without sewing. He told me that he stitched only because of the cut frenulum. The doors in the meantime were closed again. He covered the wound with some layers of gauze. At that time already all the pain had vanished.

After about half an hour I dressed again and went to my circumcision fest. I was really proud to have had it done, and my family looks on me as a hero because they had always told my wife that I would never do it. I did it – with the help of my wife. I love her. This was 12 years ago and I do not regret being circumcised.

Last year I met the Sunnetci (he lives near the western border of Germany) again, and he told me that now he performs at big annual circumcision fests, where on one day up to 200 adults and boys are circumcised. It is during the autumn or Xmas vacation time. The boys are mostly between 4 and 9, but also adults are circumcised on the stage in this big fest with some hundred guests in a hall. The boys are circumcised in public on the stage, waiting in a queue, but the adults can choose to be operated on in a separate room with or without family members.

Unknown – Internet

This is an account by a German of his Muslim/Turkish circumcision. As a matter of curiosity, it seems unusual that he also had his frenulum excised, since I understood that this is not normally done during Muslim circumcision. Can any reader enlighten us on this topic?

P.T. – Hastings

Hindus Sue Hospital Over Circumcision

A Hindu man and his wife from India have sued East Alabama Medical Centre for malpractice, claiming their infant son was circumcised against their wishes and counter to their religious practices and beliefs. The circumcision will cause them embarrassment and humiliation when they return to their native country and might affect their son's ability to marry within his faith. The hospital action "violates the acceptable standard of care" at the hospital and caused emotional and mental anguish to the child and his parents, the lawsuit states.

The couple are seeking unspecified damages, although a claim filed against the hospital last year requested compensation of just under a million dollars.

According to the court file, the day after Mrs Punna's son was born, she signed a release allowing hospital personnel to perform a circumcision and a Hepatitis B test. She knew little English and her husband interpreted for her in conversations with hospital personnel. The hospital violated its own

policy by apparently not using AT&T Language Line service that provides interpreters.

The hospital denies the allegations, stating in court documents that “it exercised reasonable care, skill and diligence in all aspects of the care and treatment” of the infant. The hospital claims that there was contributory negligence that prevents the Punnas from recovering any damages.

Bharat was born Sept. 6th 1995. The circumcision was performed the next day. The lawsuit was filed in May. According to a Dec 20th letter from their lawyer to the hospital administrator, Mrs Punna signed the release forms “not being aware of what she had signed. Hospital personnel failed to ensure what she was signing when she signed the release. Therefore this release was not an informed, willing or voluntary consent.” Mr. Punna, an Auburn university student, had spoken to several nurses and other hospital personnel expressing his wish not to have circumcision performed on his son.

The Punnas are citizens of the Indian area of Hyderabad, which is inhabited mostly by Hindus. Hindus deeply oppose circumcision, which is a distinction between Hindus and Moslems in their native culture. When the family returns to India they “will suffer further public humiliation, ridicule and emotional distress.”

Montgomery Advertiser, Alabama

Wasted Space

Too much space is wasted in the newsletter by replies from members who are under the impression that the letters from women are genuine. Let's get three things straight. First, the Society has only one female member, and the letters don't come from her. Second, it is unlikely in the extreme that so many wives and girlfriends would know about the newsletter and, even if they did, want to write to it. Third, and most important, it doesn't take Dr Anthony Clare to tell you that the phoney letters use exclusively masculine terminology. I've nothing against members indulging their fancies in this way but, for the benefit of new recruits, these letters should be appended with words to the effect of 'This is probably a fantasy' and, better still, a comment from someone qualified to analyse the fantasy.

Gary – London

Contact Corner

New to the Society, gay, 38, good looks, trim. Circumcised at age 3, jagged scar, large bell end. Looking to meet good-looking, circumcised guys, singles or couples, 30-40 for fun times. Let's compare 'notes'. Into videos, saunas, polaroids. Brighton/London.

M.P. – Brighton

Girls Find Out

My husband thinks I ought to share a memory with your readers, particularly the female ones. Can you remember when you first came across a hard adult-sized cock, and how it impressed you? It is still a vivid memory to me.

Like many girls, I was always interested in babies and used often to get to look after them and play with them. So I was aware of the difference between little boys and girls at an early age. It was fun to hold the little boys' cocks when they wee'd. I don't recall any of them getting hard. I remember being surprised to see my first circumcised one. Up to then I hadn't realised there was a knob inside the end. I didn't like to ask about it at the time (I was about 8), but later remembered it and put two and two together.

When I went to secondary school I got a new friend, Sally, and we spent all our time together. We were both intrigued about sex though we weren't particularly precocious. I was an only child and had never seen my dad naked, so apart from babies, I didn't know anything about cocks. She had a brother two years younger, but she hadn't seen him erect, so we weren't at all clear how things were meant to work. Our knowledge of the mechanics of sex was rather patchy anyway, to say the least.

In due course there were necking parties and long kissing sessions, but it was all really very innocent. Sometimes the boys would quickly hold your breast, but underneath their bravado they were as shy as we were (this was the early seventies). You were meant to push their hands away if they 'went too far'. I got an occasional impression of adult male equipment from a statue or classical painting (which tend to be rather moderately endowed, don't you think?), but I still hadn't managed to see any actual live examples of what men had between their legs; what made those funny little shapes in their trousers.

Somehow we picked up the idea that sex involved insertion, but this still didn't square with Sally's talk of her brother's dangly thing, and what you could see from men's bathing costumes. I don't remember at that time ever feeling a hard cock being pressed at me through a boy's clothes while we were necking. So we just didn't know that there was such a thing as an erect penis.

Enlightenment finally came when we were fifteen, one summer weekend when we went to stay with her gran. There was a new boy we hadn't met before, about a year younger than us, living a few houses away. He was attractive, medium height, friendly but seemed very innocent, and soon we were teasing him. That night Sally and I were talking about sex and boys as usual, and the subject came round to him and we planned to get him to show us his cock. The next day we found him and wandered down to some long grass and lay down. Sally got round to the subject fairly quickly, and next thing slid her hand up his shorts. There was a lot of squirming and giggling and he got her

hand out. Then I wanted to, and he wouldn't let me, but the two of us were too strong for him and we pulled his shorts off.

We got him to calm down and let us inspect him. For some reason I hadn't expected him to have pubic hair even though I had some myself. His cock was bigger than I had expected even though it was soft. He was very tense and ticklish to start with, but we insisted on touching it and he didn't really resist. Pretty soon he began to relax, and then it started to move and swell. That really got us interested, how it was changing in front of our eyes and responded to being touched. Soon he was lying back and his cock was fully extended like a twitching pink stick. How weird! I hadn't known what to expect, but this! He must be a freak. Surely men didn't normally have a growth like this. Perhaps my memory is exaggerating, but I picture him about 7 ins long and reasonably thick. Anyway, he must have been pretty well fully developed.

After a bit, he pushed back his foreskin to show us his shiny red knob and make it appear and disappear. Another trick – whatever next? (We soon found out.) Of course we had to have a go with it. Then we wanted to see his balls, so he opened his legs and we had a feel of them too.

We were playing at pulling his cock down and letting it spring back. Suddenly, he said, "please squeeze it". It seemed a strange request but I did, gingerly. Was that what he wanted? He said, "hold it tight", and started thrusting into my hand. Sally wanted to do it but I wouldn't let go, so we were both holding his cock while he was thrusting up and down, with his knob sliding in and out of his foreskin. This went on for about a minute, with him alternatively slowing down and speeding up. I was mystified. By this time he was panting and we were giggling, when he suddenly said, "I can't stop it", and sperm jetted out over our hands. We dropped his cock in horror and he quickly grabbed it to finish himself off. He held it for a while and told us that was just spunk which always came. Then when he took his hand away his cock was slowly shrinking back, all wrinkly. What a business! He lay there rather self-conscious. We all wiped ourselves on the grass, then I took hold of his cock again, which felt quite different now that it was soft and damp. But he was sensitive after coming, so we let him put his shorts on and he went home.

What excitement. At night, Sally and I couldn't stop talking about it, and how it was finally obvious how insertion worked. I remember we were somewhat worried at the thought of something that size going into us. We were all a bit shy the next day when we saw him, but curiosity got the better of us and we spent most of the afternoon at the bottom of the garden, taking it in turns to wank him off, about 5 times I think. All fascinating stuff for two sex-mad girls.

We had to leave that evening and didn't come back for about a month, but we had another session then. We didn't want to try having him inside us, so it was all hand work. I don't remember how many times he came. Funnily

enough, he never saw or touched our fannies or breasts. We never offered and he was too shy. Anyway, he was happy enough to let us play with him. The next time we visited he was gone and we never saw him again.

Up to then we hadn't discovered masturbating ourselves, but we did straight after. We never did it to each other, but we used to do it individually at the same time when we were in bed in the same room, exciting each other with sexual talk and fantasies. I had a large old doll with plastic limbs, and holding its leg kind of filled up my hand and was reminiscent of how he felt. It was always in my bed!

In spite of being nervous about how big and hard a cock was, it wasn't long before we got into proper sex. We used to compare notes about boys and how they were equipped and performed. We still keep in touch and you could say we have both had active sex lives, particularly in the early years. but I will never forget my amazement and excitement at my first sight and handful of an erect man-sized cock.

Mary

Measure Your Treasure

from *Maxim*

How long is your schlong?

Next time you get a boner, push it down until it's horizontal, and measure along the top from the base of the penis (that's from the pubic bone, not the flab covering it or the pubic hairline) to the tip. That's how the docs do it.

How does it compare?

Badly, if your yardstick's a rhino's two-foot wanger. The average human erect penis is a more modest 6 inches, and 90% of male members fall 1" either side of this. The average circumference is about 5". The longest stiffy on record is a whopping 13".

Does it matter?

Sexologists tell us the only thing that counts is what you do with what you've got. And it's certainly true that the vagina can feel stimulation only in the opening two inches. But do women find a larger knob more of a turn-on? In a survey for a women's sex mag, 90% felt penis size didn't affect their orgasm, but about the same number considered penis proportions to be 'sometimes' or 'always' important while on the job.

Can it be lengthened?

Probably. Surgery can increase both length (by at least an inch) and girth – but it's expensive, can be painful and isn't always successful. If your todger's genuinely small (under about 2" when erect) see a doctor. Don't forget,

abdominal fat can conceal up to 2" of penis, so if you're on the porky side, slimming could reveal its true scale.

Clever dick facts.

A humpback whale's penis measures 10ft, an armadillo's extends one-third the length of his body, and a pig is blessed with an 18" knob shaped like a corkscrew.

Smaller dicks expand more than larger jobs. A study comparing men with limp penis lengths averaging three to four inches found the smaller organs increased by about three inches, whereas larger horns expanded by just two inches.

For every 35lbs of excess weight, an extra inch of your penis will disappear into your spare tyre.

MUSE

MUSE stands for 'medicated urethral system for erection'.

It consists of a small pellet which comes in a small applicator. It is a device by which drugs can be inserted and subsequently absorbed from the urethra (the opening at the end of the penis through which urine and semen are passed) to give an erection.

It will only be available on prescription after February 1998. A factsheet on MUSE is available from:-

The Inpotence Association,
PO Box 10296,
London, SW17 7ZN

A helpline is also available on (0181) 767 7791

C.S.

Dreamscape

When I was a child, usually if I was ill, I had this recurring dream. I used to hate it and would try to wake up if it came. It was always the same dream and went on for years. I have never told anyone about it until now – it was in black and white.

I am standing on a chair in a white room. I know it's me on the chair but I see it from the side. Behind me is a lady in a white diamond shaped nurse's hat and in front of me is a black man in a white coat. The dream was so vivid that even now, 40 years on, I still feel queasy remembering it. It's like opening up my soul. The man has a pair of small scissors and he is snipping bits off

of my penis until it's all gone and I fall crumpled onto the chair. Then I'm standing on the chair again and it starts all over again. It happened time after time, and went on for years.

In conversation as a teenager, my mother gaily told a girlfriend of mine that she had sent me off for a little snip to stop me wetting the bed, on the advice of a coloured midwife who was dealing with her second child. I was two and had a dorsal slit with no anaesthetic. I was gobsmacked. It all suddenly came home to me.

The revelation answered so many questions that I had never even thought to ask, like why was I so different to look at than other boys. Why did I pee in such a messy way (split stream). Also an unreasonable fear of a doctor examining me on entry to the RAF, and school medical inspections.

I so much miss a penis as nature had intended it. I would love to have a long tight foreskin like D.T. of Manchester's 'passions'. He seems to have far more opportunity to indulge. I can't even find a good video of a foreskin in action. V.Q.'s circumcision video is the nearest. What a terrible waste! I hope the 'patient' is happy with the result. It looked so much better beforehand.

In the Editorial you mentioned a magazine called *Foreskin Quarterly*. Where can I get it? [See this editorial. – D.A.] Finally, Doreen Chase, what a sensible woman you are. Such a shame that my mother didn't share your ideal. I suppose that's the cost of ignorance – it's just that I had to pay.

Anon – West Country

The Patient Replies

At the recent AGM David gave me a chance to see the previous article prior to publication. I don't know why Anon puts inverted commas around 'patient' as if he believed that I was unwillingly circumcised or done outside of a purely medical situation. I can assure him that I was not pressured into being circumcised but chose it freely and willingly. Furthermore the operation was performed in a strictly medical environment without any sexual overtones.

I have now been circumcised for 3 years and my only regret is that I was not circumcised even sooner. Prior to circumcision my foreskin was somewhat tight as well as it being very painful when my glans was distorted by my short frenulum during full erection. My foreskin might have looked better to you, but I can assure you that it most definitely wasn't better *on me*.

I work in a hot kitchen all day and can assure readers that my penis used to be sticky, smelly and uncomfortable in these conditions – a situation that I am glad to say has been completely eliminated by circumcision; I am now comfortable all day as well as having erections which are no longer painful.

K.H. – London

ACORN

Issue
 No 3 1998
 Editor
 David Acorn

Editorial

I feel we must apologise again for the time taken to get the newsletters out. The team is very sorry but our working lives have been more than overloaded. In my case I also took my first proper holiday in 3 years in April. I needn't have bothered really either, as the England team got humiliated in the 1-day tests in the West Indies. Still, it was a wonderful experience around the Islands. Brian also has been super busy as well as helping to run a national speedway team. He has promised to get the celebrity lists out with this issue, of which so many of you have asked about.

The recent meeting was another success (see the following letter). It was great meeting so many new members. Two of them told me that it was a major event in their lives. They are major events in my life too.

On a sadder note, any one who was in touch with Graham Cox of Stafford should know that he passed away recently. He was an enthusiastic member and came to most meetings.

I think this is a more informative issue than normal. I hope you enjoy it.

David Acorn

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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.

Acorn Weekend — High Wycombe

The weekend for fellow enthusiasts so ably organised by Brian and the Committee was to my mind a great success. This was my second meeting since becoming a member of *Acorn* and I well remember the October 1997 event, again at High Wycombe, when I was a little apprehensive and so unsure of my reception.

I was so delighted by the friendly way in which I was met by Brian and yourself, and quickly thereafter introductions were made to the rest of the group, some of whom were also attending their first meeting.

Second time around, so many familiar faces, and a warm and interested atmosphere, allowed early and earnest discussion of the topic for which *Acorn* was born – circumcision/foreskins and the penis.

Each individual has his own thoughts, desires or fantasies associated with his manhood, whether it be cut or uncut, and could reveal or keep private his own particular feelings. Yet this still allowed full participation in the ideas and comments made by others, whether in the main meeting or in smaller individual groups.

As all participants knew why they were attending, there was no ice-breaking period required, and when in your inimitable way, David, you boldly stated **“You are here because you are interested in cocks”**, this left no-one in any doubt.

I believe about 35 attended, some for the Friday evening and the meeting on Saturday afternoon, with others attending the formal meeting only, and yet some staying the whole weekend. Such attendance must have been gratifying for you, the Committee, and Brian in particular, without whose efforts we would not have the *Acorn Society* and meetings such as this AGM.

The formal meeting on Saturday afternoon was well attended, and the Committee, having given their reports, were justly rewarded with suitable ‘gifts’, on this, the tenth anniversary of *Acorn*’s inception, by a generous, if waggish, member on behalf of all members, who applauded his sentiments.

I shall look forward to the next event with renewed interest, and in the meantime have much to think about from the discussions in which all participated this weekend.

E.T.

The Video

I have just watched *Adult Circumcision* video and found it very interesting. But I think it would have been more interesting to see and hear the discussion between the surgeon and patient when it was decided that that particular

method be used and also the amount of foreskin to be excised. From my observation of the inner foreskin, when it was reversed, it appeared that a little of the outer foreskin had also been left on the tip. I would have thought that if the foreskin had been tight before circumcision that this would have formed a constricting ring at the scar line.

Since this was only one method of circumcision, I hope we may soon see 'Adult Circumcision 2', '3' etc., showing other methods of performing this fascinating operation. I would like to congratulate the patient for his courage, both to have the circumcision and to let us see not only the procedure but the 'before and after' shots. I liked the finished article, but then, I thought it was a magnificent specimen with the foreskin. (I like the extremes – long tapered foreskins and radical circumcisions with nice obvious scar lines.

N.J.B. – S. Yorks.

[It would have been nice to have had a good commentary, but filming had to be discrete and there was no chance to 'mike' the cast. As a result the sound track was indistinct and unusable, as well as being mainly inconsequential banter with little relevant to the circumcision itself. The 'before' and 'after' shots were accompanied by much direction of which way to turn, etc.

Whilst ensuring that all the inner skin was retained, a small piece of outer skin was left attached to the inner skin at the tip. This causes no problem since the tightness related to the wider coronal rim rather than the shaft diameter.

Additional videos showing other methods would be nice to have, but require the active co-operation of doctor and patient. Any volunteers? — *V.Q.*]

Arthur C. Clarke

In my eternal quest for informed and interesting comment on the subject of circumcision, or preferably, foreskin retention, I was recently advised to leaf through Arthur C. Clarke's latest book, *3001*. Arthur Clarke is a well-known science fiction writer who has an uncanny knack of accurately predicting the future, and is considered by those who know to be a latter-day Nostradamus – the 16th century astrologer who accurately predicted a number of phenomena happening this century. So impressed were NASA by his accurate space odyssey, *The Fountain of Paradise*, that the crew of the spaceship Atlantis took it with them and sent Clarke an autographed copy on their return to earth. In 1945 he predicted satellite communications, and did it so well that when the first commercial satellites were launched twenty years later they could not be patented. So it's worth listening to what he has to say.

Frank Poole, an American spaceman from the year 2001, who died in deep space, was discovered perfectly preserved a thousand years later and revived. To cut a long and exciting story short, he sets out to help his rescuers in their quest to survive an alien threat, and eventually gets used to life in the 4th millennium.

Inevitably he comes across a bit of 4th millennium crumpet called Aurora McCauley and gets to know her very well. Eventually she decides to treat him to a bit of rumpy pumpy and they get into a clinch. Total disaster! As he described it to a friend, a medical professor, the next day, “Everything was going splendidly, when she suddenly became hysterical and pushed me away. I was afraid I’d hurt her somehow –” Apparently she then turned on the light, jumped out of bed stark naked and in a terrible tizzy. Finally she relaxed and said to Poole something he never forgot: “I’m really sorry, Frank. We could have had a good time, but I didn’t know that you’d been – mutilated”. (Snap – more than one of *Acorn*’s contributors have experienced similar humiliations, including me.)

Frank’s friend was hugely sympathetic, but told him that in thirty years of practice he’d only seen half a dozen cases of circumcision – all for valid medical reasons, which, as he surmised, would not have applied to Frank. He explained that there may have been a case for it in backward countries in those days, but otherwise there was absolutely no excuse for performing circumcision – and several arguments against it, as Frank had just discovered! He had checked the records and discovered that by the mid 21st century there had been so many malpractice suits that the American Medical Association had been forced to ban it! The arguments among the doctors at the time were very entertaining! (I’ll bet!)

He went on to say that in some countries it went on for another century, then some unknown genius coined a slogan – “God designed us: circumcision is blasphemy”. He then offered Frank a transplant, telling him that he wouldn’t be making medical history, by any means. Frank declined. (The fool. I’d love to have the chance!)

For consolation, Frank turns to another woman friend, Indra, only to find that she’s not all that sympathetic. She is an expert historian of the period Frank originally lived through, and lamented how, right up to the early 2000’s, atrocious behaviour of that sort was still going on, and people like Frank allowed it to happen. She was also shocked that in some countries young girls also suffered genital mutilation, again, purely for the delectation of selfish men. Shortly afterwards occurred the transition from barbarism to civilisation. Circumcision finally disappeared. Religion was condemned as a form of homicidal lunacy and banned. Toe-rags, scrotes and law-breakers in general, instead of being sent to prison, were restrained by the new technology and forced to perform tasks which character analysis decided suited their temperament, and once they had been cleared of their anti-social tendencies, were allowed back in society again. (If only!)

Arthur C. Clarke is described as the greatest prophet of the space age. Not only are his books entertaining, they are entirely feasible, and his predictions should be taken seriously. My big regret is that I shan't be around in the mid 21st century to gloat over the final and irrevocable demise of circumcision.

R.B.W.

Hypospadias

I have just become a member of the Society and have been looking through back issues. I was pleased to read the short article about hypospadias in issue 2/97.

I have this condition and am quite self-conscious about it. When I was younger, in the showers at secondary school, I didn't think I was too different as hypospadias means that I still have the upper part of a foreskin. To the untrained eye it would appear that I have a short foreskin which doesn't completely cover the glans. Therefore, if any boy should have looked across at me, he might not realise.

My first sexual experiences, at 15 years old, were with friends masturbating each other after school. This made me aware just how different my penis was to others, although they didn't ridicule.

I have gone through stages of wishing that I was circumcised and having my meatus (opening) 're-positioned' at the tip of my glans, to wondering if I could have the underside part of my foreskin restored (with a skin graft) after having my meatus re-positioned to the tip of my penis. Either scenario would have psychologically meant to me that I was either one thing or the other. At the moment, half a foreskin means that I am 'in-between'.

After talking frankly to my last partner, he said it really didn't look different and that he was able to push my short foreskin back far more easily without the possible problems of it 'sticking', and not being able to be returned.

I believe I will always long to have a complete foreskin as all the experiences I have had have been with uncircumcised men, even a gorgeous 26-year-old Australian blonde in Melbourne last year! His presence of foreskin really surprised me as I was convinced that most Australian men were circumcised!

If any other members also have the same condition, hypospadias, please write your views whether you are content with how you are, or wished that you were circumcised or completely uncircumcised. Also, does anyone have any interesting statistics on the percentage of Australian circumcisions recently, and over the last 20 years or so.

David – Essex

Circumcision — Another Englishman's Experience

I was born in 1935 and circumcised (I believe) at between 6 and 12 months for hygiene reasons. I had a very isolated upbringing in the country, and had no experience of other boys. Starting school was a frightening experience, and the first visit to the urinal horrifying. I saw three boys standing holding their penises and they were completely different from mine! This completely shattered my confidence – there was no way that I could stand alongside and expose myself. I could never use a urinal again after this – for the whole of my life.

My next experience was starting grammar school at 11+. I had to shower with 10-12 other boys, and I was the only one different! In the next couple of years I came to realise that the difference was only the absence of foreskin – confirmed by a further startling incident.

When playing rugby I was made hooker in the scrum, and while locked in the scrum the boy behind me slid his hand up the leg of my shorts, found my naked glans, and felt very carefully around the rim. Immediately afterwards he said in a very astonished and concerned voice, "You've got no foreskin!" After this I felt extremely conscious of the naked exposure and sensitivity of my glans. I have never been able to use a urinal throughout my life as a result of these experiences. I finally sought counselling about three years ago. I have now come to terms with my circumcised state, and, in spite of some disadvantages, believe this to be preferable to a troublesome foreskin. The problem was lack of knowledge. I can now cope with stripping off in company without too much discomfort, but cannot conquer the fear of the urinal. I do not think I would consider restoration.

G.H.

Paean To The Penis

With all the current arguments for or against the retention of foreskins viz a viz the circumcised model, I think it is high time men (and women) came to appreciate the penis for the work of art it is.

Many cultures actively worshipped the phallus and great commemorative statues were erected in praise of the member virile.

All penises are a thing of beauty, whether cowled with copious hoods of prepuce or whether of the surgically pared variety with prominently helmetted glans proudly on display... Size should not matter, although of course, exceptionally large cocks with pendulous scrotal sacs are particularly eye-catching! Perhaps even willies of the button mushroom type should be appreciated? Think of the pleasure they give their owners and those lucky individuals who get to share their mechanics...

After all, most men don't worry about the size of their feet or if their eyes are blue instead of the more unusual shades of green. Therefore they should be happy with what nature has endowed upon them. A lush, dark, thick pubic bush is not more handsome than a delicate dusting of pubic curls! After all, there might indeed be characteristic standards of beauty for the male genitalia that encompass standards of size, shape, colour etc.?!!

Whether in their relaxed and happy flaccid states or rearing upwards in their tumescent pride, I happily endorse penis power.

K.G. – London

Celebrities' States

Do any members have inside information on sportsmen's states? Football uncut: three for a start. Vinny Jones, Gary Lineker and David Beckham.

D.B. – Lancs.

[And another one, from his own diary (1970), Kenneth Williams. Circumcised as a small child. — *D.A.*]

Comments

Congratulations on joining the net, David! I thought it might happen sooner or later.

A few comments on Issue 2/98: firstly let me spring to the defence of Anthony (although I'm quite sure he's capable of doing his own springing). Vernon tells us that Anthony has got it all wrong from almost every point of view. Firstly he quibbles about a minimal discrepancy in the percentage of boys circumcised at birth in this country when the real point of issue is that, if true, it is a scandal that so many children are pointlessly and cruelly disfigured by their parents, aided and abetted by the dinosaurs of the medical profession.

On the point of phimosis, a number of eminent specialists and consulting paediatricians have now generally acknowledged, in the literature, that tight foreskins and by association, paraphimosis, can easily be resolved conservatively by the use of steroid creams and simple manipulative exercises, with the option of minor non-destructive surgery as a last resort (chapter and verse can be provided). Others claim that the only true phimosis needing circumcision is BXO. Incidentally Vernon writes with such feeling about the miseries of those afflicted by terminal phimosis that one could almost believe that he'd suffered them himself – but did he not tell us somewhere that he was circumcised at birth?

With regard to which of the Kelloggs was the circumcision freak, who cares? Some people might say a plague on both their houses.

Once again a whinge from someone who disapproves of the views of women being aired in *Acorn*, although in this case he is no doubt correct in claiming, as I myself have previously, that some at least are phony. But an awful lot of them clearly are genuine, from their very content. I've a feeling though that what he really disapproves of is the commendable anti-circumcision views most of them advance. I was glad to see that our editor printed a letter from a 'lady' almost immediately after his, no doubt in implementation of our terms of reference which specifically ask women to give their views. The possibility that the writer might not be who she says she is cannot be proved and anyway, if a letter is worth printing, let it be printed!

Next a plea for consideration for those whose lives have been blighted by a hated and resented legacy of unsolicited circumcision and who turn to our pages for comfort. If you accept that they have to wade through a lot of corrosive stuff which identifies the writers as the sort of people who enjoy the idea of needlessly circumcising babies, at least material or information which might help them in their distress should be published where possible. I am referring in this case to the details I sent of the *Symposium on Sexual Mutilations* which is to take place from 5th to 8th August. After all, the notices column should not be reserved purely for gays drumming up trade.

Oh, and finally, I am beginning to lose count of the number of letters we have had over the years about the bloodcurdling and tedious experiences of all those guys who have had the supreme joy of having their wicks trimmed by a Muslim circumciser, all expressed in suspiciously familiar phraseology. But having gone to town on the genuineness of our so-called 'lady' contributors, I can hardly complain – but you see what I'm getting at. And in the Muslim context, I strongly identify with your comments on religious bigotry in rebuttal of Yahya Lamont's complaint.

As is so often the case, I seem to be the only contributor who fights the anti-circumcision corner with the same sort of gusto employed by the circumcision drum-bangers (is that better?) in support of their case. So in the interests of fairness, please let my views have an airing – preferably uncut!

R.B.W.

For The Bookshelf

The *Life and Times of J.S.Barrington*, by Rupert Smith. Male physique photographer of the 50s, 60s and 70s. An interesting reading. £14.99

Male Nudity Video Guide, by Steve Stewart. A must for all those who like naked men on film or video. £12.95

Penis Size and Enlargement, by Gary Griffin. The title speaks for itself. £15.99

The Joy of Uncircumcising, by Jim Bigelow PhD. Again, the title tells all. £19.99

Foreskin, a Closer Look, by Bud Berkeley. A must for those who enjoy the foreskin. £9.99

Information regarding the above books may be obtained from:

Gays the Word (Bookshop),
66, Marchmount Street,
London W.C.1. Tel: 0171 278 7654

Men and Sex, by Bernard Zilbergeld. £7.99

The MANual – The complete man's guide to life, by Mick Cooper and Peter Baker. £7.99

The Complete Book of Men's Health, by Dr Sarah Brewer. £9.99

The multi-orgasmic Man, by Mantak Chin and Douglas Abrams Arva. £9.99

The above four books are published by Thorson Harper Collins.

Men's Health Matters. The complete A-Z of male health. £9.99 Vermillion

Information on all five books can be obtained from Dillons Bookshops.

D.B. – Lancs.

Enthusiasm

For many years I had regarded myself as a 'cock freak', thinking this to be perverse at the very least. May I say that I enjoyed my 'perversion', having no preference either for the uncut or the cut equipment. Nor did I have any specific opinions for or against circumcision. I just enjoyed the sight and feel of a cock, whether mine or another.

On a trip to America some 20 years ago, I was introduced to the *Uncut Society of America* by way of a handsomely documented and illustrated book entitled *Foreskins*. Commonly called the *U.S.A.*, the group was formed to promote the retention and enjoyment of the foreskin, and I was introduced to men who obtained such enormous pleasure from their foreskins, and it was difficult not to become part of their enthusiasm.

I returned to England with a determination to track down fellow foreskin enthusiasts, and suddenly my world opened up as I discovered all those special pleasures – and perversions – of the male overhang. Whilst I encouraged others to enjoy their foreskins, I got even greater satisfaction by decorating my cock and knob with tattoos and piercings. I continue to love and admire cocks, but I'm especially proud to be a cavalier myself – and maybe a little lucky!

M.F. – Brighton

My Circumcision — Mike's Story

A story told to one of our members by one of his hotel patrons.

Because of a continuing infection under my foreskin, my doctor advised me that I should consider circumcision. In any case, a second opinion should be sought. He made an appointment for me at the local hospital, but advised that it might be months before I could be seen. Meanwhile to continue using the cream. I had to agree it was a problem which just wasn't getting any better, although I was none too happy about losing my foreskin.

The day arrived when I was to visit the hospital seeking specialist advice. After an hour's wait I was taken into a small room, told to undress and lie on the table to wait for the doctor. He was a small grey-haired man in a white coat. With rubber-gloved hands he pushed up my shirt, exposing my now shrivelled penis and said, "Your doctor writes you have a problem."

"That's right," I answered. He was now moving my foreskin back and forth.

"If you continue using the cream your doctor has prescribed for you I don't consider an operation is necessary. You can get dressed."

"So you are not prepared to operate? I asked him.

"I have told you I don't consider it necessary."

"You may not, But I do. I have used the cream for months and still the infection returns. I want you to do it."

Removing his rubber gloves, he sighed. "Very well, but it may be some time before you hear from us," he said, and left the room. A nurse appeared and told me I could leave.

During the waiting months the problem persisted. It was with great relief when a letter arrived informing me that due to a cancellation I was to ring the local hospital the following Monday morning at 8am to see if a bed would be available. I arranged time off from work explaining that I had to go into hospital for tests. The girl in the admittance office was quite pleasant, took my details and told me to go up to ward 8. A nurse asked me if I had had a shower, told me to undress and put on a white gown and wait for the doctor. It was the same one I'd seen before. Stoneface, I called him. He told me the porters would be collecting me soon, but it was another hour or so before they arrived.

"On the trolley with you. Have we got the right notes? You're for a circ? Are you? Well, it's only a little prick, you'll be OK." Little prick, indeed. I did feel the two injections into my penis. Very painful.

The operation was over in about an hour and I was back on the ward. The nurse told me I could have a light lunch, adding that I must pass water as

soon as possible, and then let her know if I had any problems. Day passed into night. Half asleep, I realised I needed the toilet. However, there was a problem. The once white bandage was now soaked in blood. Back on the ward I rang the bell for the nurse, who fetched the duty doctor. He explained that I had split two stitches which would have to be replaced. Afterwards he gave me some tablets to stop it happening again, and I went back to sleep.

I was able to go home the next day after being told to have a salt bath every day for a week. The tablets worked, I got no more night time erections and the stitches fell out after a few more days. My penis was still tender to the touch and very sore. It no longer hung down the way it did before the operation. It was tight and more pushed forward. It no longer relaxed. Then, I had my first nocturnal erection since the operation. Pulling up my knees to relieve the pain in my aching penis, I stumbled to the bathroom to see if a pee would help. It was only then that I realised just how much skin had been removed by necessity or revenge by Stoneface, who had performed a completely radical circumcision. In the weeks, then months, ahead I used huge amounts of soothing creams trying to regain a little surplus skin. It has taken many months to achieve this. None-the-less it is still a very tight cut cock.

The question is, should I have taken old Stoneface's advice and not have had it done? Or was my own decision correct? You decide!

Mike

Pieces From The Press

Actor Liam Neeson's wedding tackle is the biggest in Hollywood, it was claimed yesterday. He boasts a 12 inch-plus whopper according to a club for well-endowed members in Los Angeles.

Liam, star of *Schindler's List*, inches other stars out of the reckoning, Jim Boyd of *The Hung Jury Club* said on ITV. Dolph Lungren, Frank Sinatra and Willem Dafoe are all members of the 12 inch club. But Irish-born Liam tops the lot.

Boyd, who is seeking new members in Britain, said on the *This Morning* show that Gene Simmons of Kiss boasts a ten-incher. He told host Judy Finnigan: "For millions of women the ideal is a well-hung man." But Dr Raj Persaud, the show's resident doctor, claimed size was not that important. He said: "The majority of women are dissatisfied with their sex lives because there is not enough kissing and cuddling in a relationship."

In an adventure story straight out of *Indiana Jones*, a team of American scientists have recovered lost treasures hidden behind the foreskin of American actor Anthony Quinn. Tales of lost treasures buried deep beneath the actor's helmet have been rife in Hollywood for over half a century. And

last year a team of scientists from the University of California set out on a pioneering expedition to explore the uncharted area known as “Quinn’s Polo Neck”, and salvaged items rumoured to have been lost there over the years.

Several items were successfully recovered by the expedition, but the finds were not as spectacular as had been hoped. The items recovered, which have been put on display at the Institute of Foreskin Research in Glendale, California, included a large piece of cheese, thought to be 42 years old, and some fluff. Evidence suggested that the Greek actor, born ironically in Iceland to Mexican parents, may have been ransacked by bell-end robbers in the early nineteen fifties.

[What a load of old trosh! He must be in his dotage to allow an item like this.
— D.A.]

Both sent by D.B. – Lancs.

Ten Years Of The *Acorn* Newsletter

I have been a member of the *Acorn Society* since 1995 but only received a complete set of back issues of the newsletter at the High Wycombe meeting in March. It has been fascinating to look back at the way members’ interests have been reflected in print during the past 10 years. The second issue, which appeared in March 1988, was the first to have contributions. ‘Andy’ felt that gay males would not be welcome in the group, a contention that was to prove pretty wide of the mark. By 1992 only 6 contributors to an *Acorn* survey claimed to be heterosexual against 20 who were bisexual or gay. The longest letter, an anonymous member’s life story, stretched over 10 issues from 1992-1993, after which we were told that the general response was “thank goodness it’s over”. The character who appeared most regularly was Rahbi, a very obliging Malay chauffeur who was the subject of several reminiscences by ‘H.C.’. Probably the most useful letters came from Dr Ray Hamble, who began writing in 1992 although, regrettably, not lately. Along the way, other regular features have included The Dictionary, with the terms for ‘circumcision’ and ‘foreskin’ in foreign languages (even Manx!), sightings (mostly from Dr Hamble) of celebrities’ cut/uncut status, and jokes and poems from ‘Anthony’. The letters that have provoked the most replies have always been detailed personal experiences from men and opinions from ‘women’. More about the ‘women’ later.

It has been particularly interesting to chart the progress of the Society’s meetings. The first, in Oxford in September 1988, attracted 7 members (from a membership of about 25). The second, in Weston-super-Mare in June 1989, was by all accounts a disaster, and David, who organised it, deduced that “meetings are probably not the right thing.” It goes without saying that they

did continue, but amid controversy. David reported that, after one meeting, uncut members resigned, complaining of victimisation from the cut majority, and that at another meeting, he was one of many who had to turn away from a video showing ritual circumcision in relentless close-up. It was only very gradually that the Society learned how to make meetings suit the needs of most of the membership, the result being the well-organised and friendly three-day events we know today.

The look of the newsletter changed in 1994 with the arrival of a professional designer, Vernon, but the style had changed three years before in 1991 with the change of editor. Basically, Tony appears to have been forced to use everything he was sent, no matter how unsuitable, but was able to give long, knowledgeable replies to the serious letters. David adopted a much more light-hearted and tongue-in-cheek approach to the subject. He was often (and still is) short of material, but admitted at the last meeting that he doesn't use some of the more bizarre items he is sent. A few of the contributions in the early years now make astonishing reading. In 1989, two low-lives got off on describing (hopefully fictitious) sexual encounters with children in South America. Complaints from other members soon put a stop to this. More harmless fantasies were lifted, possibly word for word, from the letter pages of girlie magazines. Month after month writers described how they were sexually initiated as teenagers by older women (the au pair, my old nurse, my best friend's mother) or were given hand-jobs by doctors during medical examinations. My favourite tall storyteller was 'J.H. of Helsinki,' who sent in a completely wild fantasy about being shaved, circumcised and masturbated by a Turkish barber. All this despite the fact that, only months earlier, he'd claimed that he'd circumcised himself! It's a great shame that J.H. hasn't been in touch for a while.

For almost the whole of the Society's existence, however, the most enduring fantasy has been circumcision from a female point of view. Writing as a woman is common practice in men's magazines, where most of the fiction, and a good percentage of the letters, is done in first person 'confessional' style by men using female pseudonyms. Even Fiona Richmond's famous series for *Men Only*, in which she supposedly travelled the world, road testing men, was ghost-written by male journalists. You probably don't need Dr Hamble to remind you that it is far more of a turn-on to imagine that women are conspiring in men's fantasies about women. This attitude seems to have spilled over into the *Acorn* newsletter from the very first year, when there was a letter from 'Y.Z.' who claimed to be a Jewish woman who preferred men with foreskins. Clearly, editor Tony was not taken in ("Your interpretation of the Talmud [is] more original than orthodox.") but nor did he blow the whistle. Accordingly he opened the floodgates for letters from correspondents with wonderful *Penthouse*-style names like Sue, Samantha and Cathy, all of whom revealed remarkable knowledge of male circumcision. To date there has been something like 35 (probably many more) letters from 'women', not one of whom has been a member of the Society, nor provided a real address.

As far back as 1991, David hinted that these letters were not genuine (Sorry, you Hertfordshire girls!!) but this has done nothing to affect their popularity. Of course it is quite possible that some of the letters imploring more 'women' to write to the newsletter, and then responding to the 'women' that do, are also phoney [I'm certain that they're not. – D.A.], but it is certainly true, at least from the response recently to 'Doreen Chase', that there are members who really do want to believe that there are women out there who are passionately devoted to the subject of foreskins, so much so in fact that they even use male jargon when discussing them ("My present partner is blessed with a cock like a policeman's truncheon, with a foreskin like an oiled sock," revealed 'Ms A.C.' in 1992.) Unfortunately, as David pointed out more than once, it is more likely that at least 50% of women couldn't even identify a circumcised penis if it reared up and bit them.

It is a pity in a way that the obsessions and fantasies of *Acorn* members, which have provided such exciting and informative reading over the past decade, are enjoyed by a relatively small readership. There is much in the 80 newsletters, which kept me up until 3am last night, and busy this morning writing this, that would fill a column in a national newspaper and an hour on daytime TV, not to mention a psychiatrist's case study. I fully expect that, before the next ten years are up, the Society will have been discovered by someone influential and become a cult to rank with the *Society for Psychical Research* and the *Test Card Fan Club*. In the meantime, keep those letters coming in.

Gary – London

Feast Of The Circumcision

Letter sent to the *Church Times* by Lord Morris of Castlemorris, ex Labour Deputy Chief Whip in the House of Lords.

Looking back to January 1st, we seem, at least in our parish, to have overlooked that other slightly uncomfortable liturgical celebration, the Feast of the Circumcision, which is now held to be more a matter for the doctor than for the priest.

It was not always so. The story goes that in the 19th century, a bishop preached on January 1st about the new year and all its promise. After the service he greeted at the church door an ancient, holy and godly matron, who gently reminded him of the feast he had apparently overlooked: "Thank you, my lord, for a most uplifting sermon, and may I take the opportunity also to wish you a blessed and happy Circumcision?"

As she left, she turned back, and added, enthusiastically, "And many of them."

G.J. – Devon

Cold Comfort For Life Model Equipment

OK, so I have a confession to make, and require some help from *Acorn* members to overcome it!

You see, amongst my many other naturist activities and my liking of being smooth all over and circumcised too, I have been a life model for artists for some three years or so.

Last year on January 1st, I made a New Year's Resolution to be totally nude in the company of others (apart from the family at home, of course) every day of my life and my, by now, many bookings as a life model help to maximise my days of nudity to meet my aim.

I am more than happy with the length and girth of my cock when erect – as is my girlfriend, who often calls it my 'secret weapon'. 'Secret' because when it is flaccid it is of perfectly average dimensions or – on a cold day – even smaller!

Now for the connection with life modelling. My sessions typically start in a cold art studio at about 10am and continue, with a break for lunch, until 4.30pm. By the afternoon the studio is sufficiently warm for my flaccid organ to be of reasonable size, and my balls are hanging nice and low as I would wish. The morning session is the problem.

Have members any tips as to a method of keeping the genitals from 'bunching up' and reducing in size in the colder morning temperature of the art studio? First impressions are important. I have tried applying baby oil which has some limited effect of keeping things a bit warmer but, even with a fan heater blowing straight at the crotch, it takes a time for things to hang large and low enough to make an interesting drawing. "If only those artists could be offered my erect cock to draw, they would see the real size of what I have to offer!", I keep thinking.

I have noticed at our naturist club, and elsewhere, that older men seem to have cocks and ballsacs which retain their larger size despite low temperatures. Could it be that their skin lacks elasticity – perhaps one of the few advantages of old age? Also, do *Acorn* members who have used them, reckon penis expanders (such as the Chartham Method) actually work? If you have used one of these devices, what frequency and method of use do you adopt to maximise its effect? Would it help with enlarging the flaccid penis, ie my 'cold cock' problem?

The editor and I would like to hear your views on all the related above-mentioned topics. If any other members are also life models, how do you cope with the problem of the cool art studio, and how would you advise me how to feel more confident by being able to present my artists with larger and more interesting genitals to draw earlier in the session

Smoothy John

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, *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

Contact Corner

Gay 40-year-old roundhead, keen on photography, wishes to create the ultimate *Acorn*-style photo collection. If you are either roundhead or cavalier and would like to be included in this collection (not for publication, just personal enjoyment) write to me via the *Acorn* address. Hope to hear from you soon.

Les W. – Southend-on-Sea

Happily adult circumcised, now intending to have Albert piercing. I would like to have my piss-slit extended and would like name of sympathetic (enthusiastic?) doctor in Kent or South London.

I.S. – West Kent

Confidentiality

Members are reminded that the membership lists are strictly confidential and only those of the committee who need to know have access to them.

Letters for other members should be sealed, stamped first-class, and marked with the member's identifier. They should then be enclosed in another envelope and sent via the PO Box address.

Members receiving correspondence from other members are requested to always acknowledge it, even if only to ask for no further mail.

ACORN

Issue
 No 4 1998
 Editor
 David Acorn

Editorial

In this issue I have purposely included a number of contentious items in the hope that it will provoke a large number of hot replies, as I've run out of personal items. Somehow articles from newspapers, magazines and the Internet never seem as warm as personal ones from the members. If you have e-mail it's very simple to drop an item in. Don't forget, it's acornsoc@aol.com.

David Acorn

Islamic Cuts

I may be able to help following I.P.T.'s request in the last issue for information regarding Muslim circumcisions, including removal of the frenulum, as I was circumcised over 10 years ago in Saudi Arabia by a (Saudi) Muslim surgeon and learned quite a lot.

Whether or not the frenulum is removed often depends upon the religious tradition of the particular Muslim country. There are four Muslim law 'schools' - Hanafite, Shafite, Malikite and Hanbalite. The latter is the most puritanical (or fundamental) and is widely spread in Saudi Arabia.

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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.

The surgeon who circumcised me was, unlike the Turkish circumciser your correspondent described, highly qualified with medical degrees from London and New York. Again, unlike the Turkish case, he used a local anaesthetic in a scupulously clean clinic and worked with the assistance of an (English) theatre sister. Both were masked and gloved, and I would estimate that 30-40 stitches were inserted. The whole procedure probably took around 45 minutes.

Adult Muslim converts were frequently referred to him by the local religious authorities and he had developed a standard technique. This involved a radical excision of the foreskin including the frenulum for reasons I shall explain below.

Although I wasn't converting to Islam I underwent the same form of circumcision, and what was my frenulum now only appears as a faint outline, rather like a sandcastle which has been washed over two or three times by a wave. The whole of the glans is permanently exposed and there is literally just enough loose skin left on the shaft to allow for a straining banana-shaped erection. This is in contrast to the type of circumcisions practised in other Muslim countries such as Morocco, where a different one of the four law schools prevails. In this area, part of the glans (up to a half) is often left covered and the frenulum is quite untouched. The ritual is purely symbolical but none-the-less regarded as essential.

The reasoning behind the Saudi or Hanbalite form of circumcision is quite different. Once a Muslim, always a Muslim. Apostasy (abandoning Islam) is punishable by death. In the early days of forcible conversion to Islam a male captive in war could be 'badged' by a mild form of symbolic circumcision. He could often stretch back the remainder of his foreskin and, if he was freed or escaped back to his own (non-Muslim) people, could deny he had ever been converted and undergone the humiliation of circumcision at the hands of his enemies. By practising a radical form of circumcision and removing the frenulum as well, devout Muslims believe they are not only carrying out their religious obligations to the letter, but also ensuring that the circumcisee remains conspicuously marked forever.

As far as intercourse is concerned, the absence of a frenulum is good news, in that there is nothing to become sore or even slightly torn. The bad news is that masturbation is difficult without a liberal application of KY jelly to compensate for not having a foreskin rubbing over the glans.

Whilst some of your members clearly see the absence of a foreskin as a humiliation, I am proud to have submitted to the ritual (especially at the hands of a Muslim practitioner) and to be effectively marked for life. If any of the members are nudists, they can see the results of his work at Eureka's 'library', which includes poses of my pretty shaven wife (another highly commendable Muslim custom!) who, like me, is a member of the SCN group.

J.F. – London

Impotence and Adult Circumcision

A paper written in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* by Joseph M. Stinson M.D., of the Department of Physiology and Medicine, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee.

Extensive debate on the advisability of circumcision in the neonatal period was initiated by Preston in 1970 (Whither the Foreskin? A consideration of Routine Neonatal Circumcision. *J.A.M.A.* 212:1853-1858, 1970), who suggested that boys could always elect circumcision later if desired. On the other hand, evaluation of patients undergoing circumcision between the ages of 4 and 7 revealed extensive detrimental psychological effects (G. Cansever. Psychological Effects of Circumcision. *British Journal of Medical Psychology.*, 38:321-331, 1965). It is the purpose of this report to suggest that greater attention be given to the potential for psychological problems related to elective circumcision in the adult.

The patients presented as case reports were all on active duty with the USAF and had some problems peculiar to this status. All had complete physical and laboratory examinations, including examination of external and internal genitalia, neurological examination, complete blood counts, oral glucose tolerance tests, protein bound iodine and T-4 uptake, serum electrolytes, VDRL, sperm counts, and 24-hour urinary keto-steroids and hydroxysteroids. All were within normal limits with the exception of reactive hypoglycemia in one patient, who had a blood sugar of 40mg% at three-hours postprandial.

Case Reports

Case 1. W.J., a 23-year-old black father of two, was circumcised at age 22 while on a tour unaccompanied by his wife. His first post-operative attempt at intercourse, which coincided with his first attempt at extramarital intercourse, was a failure. Impotence continued after he returned to his wife. He refused psychiatric consultation and was treated with Halotestin, 10 milligrams daily, with temporary improvement.

Case 2. J.G., a 31-year-old white father of two (ages 9 and 10) underwent elective circumcision at age 28, and vasectomy at age 30. The latter was done while the patient was separated from his wife, and he noted the onset of impotency as that tour of duty was nearing completion.

Case 3. M.J., a 29-year-old black father of two, had an elective circumcision at age 23. He also gave a history of intermittent low back pain since the age of 20. Impotence was transient but recurring. When first seen by the author he complained of impotence accompanied by low-back pain with radiation into the posterior aspect of both thighs.

Evaluation by cardiovascular surgeons, neurologists and orthopaedic surgeons failed to disclose any physical basis for the pain, and all symptoms were considered psychological. He was treated at various times with Halotestin

10 to 20 mg daily, Cytomel 5 to 25 mg. daily, or Valium 20 mg daily without any change in the recurrent nature of his impotence or low-back pain.

Case 4. B.A., a 34-year-old father of three, was circumcised at age 22. He was seen initially because of chronic epigastric pain. Upper GI series, oral cholecystogram and barium enema were normal, as were liver function studies. He was treated with Valium for a functional gastro-intestinal syndrome, and later reported that Valium reduced his libido. Further questioning revealed that impotence had been present periodically for several years.

Case 5. B.S., a 31-year-old father of two, had elective circumcision and vasectomy while serving a tour of duty requiring separation from his family. On returning home he learned that his wife had filed for divorce. He had a full-blown psychotic reaction requiring extensive hospitalisation and psychotherapy. On return to an acceptable level of function he found himself impotent.

Comment

Since the widespread adoption of vasectomy as a means of voluntary sterilisation, follow-up studies have led to the recommendation that pre-operative evaluation include psychological assessment. No such recommendation is made for elective circumcision in the adult. While this report cannot claim to show a causal relationship between circumcision and impotence, adult circumcision is the one common thread in the five patients presented. In addition, two of the men had vasectomies, two first noted impotence during extra-marital intercourse, one had impotence accompanied by low-back pain, and one noted impotence after a severe psychotic episode. The latter had been treated with various psychotropic drugs. There was probably a great deal of interplay between circumcision and these other factors. Nevertheless, it is felt that these case reports are adequate to recommend psychological evaluation prior to elective circumcision, and post-operative psychological counselling when the procedure is done on an emergency basis.

Muslim Directory

In answer to 'A Muslim Circumcision', on the Internet, inserted by P.T. of Hastings in Newsletter 2/98, according to the Sunnah, in regarding circumcision, only the foreskin is removed and not the frenulum, because, anatomically speaking, the latter mentioned is not a part of the foreskin. I am a Muslim and have many Turkish friends, and when we discuss circumcision only the foreskin is mentioned. One of these friends is an authorised medically qualified circumciser, and he removes only the foreskin, and from time to time when his services are required, a Turkish mosque that I always go to when in London contacts him when he is needed to carry out circumcisions.

I know that *The Acorn Society* is making up a list of circumcisers in this country, so may I suggest to them that they can get a list of doctors listed in the Muslim Directory, which also lists all the mosques in the London area where circumcisions are carried out. Below is the address of the Muslim Directory, fax number, telephone number and e-mail.

Muslim Directory, 65A, Grosvenor Road, London, W7 1HR.

Fax: (0181) 840 8819

Tel: (0181) 840 0020

E-mail: musdir@enterprise.net.

Yahya Ahmed. O.A.N.I.M. Lamont – Manchester

[Many thanks for the Muslim Directory details. Appropriate details had already been copied from the Greater London edition in our local library. — V.Q.]

Different

I recently joined my sister on holiday on the south coast. The weather was brilliant and the beaches were packed. These days, younger children usually go naked and, whereas my sister's son, Peter, aged 7, had happily swum in the nude the year before, this time he refused to join all the other kids, but stayed moping in his swimsuit and refusing to talk to anybody. I asked my sister what was wrong and she looked worried. She explained that she had taken Peter to the doctor because he had a tight foreskin and the doctor had referred him to a surgeon for circumcision. Since the operation poor Peter had gone into his shell and refused to talk to his friends, hated school and sat in his room all the time watching telly instead of playing football like he had previously. His whole outlook on life had changed, and from being a happy sunny little boy he had developed into a recluse who moped all the time. She had gone to see the doctor about it who said that in his opinion there was nothing wrong with Peter. He would soon forget about his operation which was a perfectly normal procedure, and become his old self again. He suggested that a word with a counsellor might be useful.

Having been a social worker for a couple of years and then done a long course on counselling, I suggested to my sister that I should have a word with Peter and see what the trouble was. She was very relieved since she was so worried about him and had no idea on how to cope with his moods.

When I spoke to Peter I was saddened to see how troubled he had become. He totally refused to discuss his problems until eventually I raised the subject of his circumcision. He burst into tears, said that he hated the doctor, hated his mummy and hated the appearance of his altered penis. I did my best to jolly him out of it, telling him that lots of other boys had the same thing and some of them even preferred it. This was no consolation at all, I'm afraid. Peter told me his penis still felt sore to the touch, and since he was the only

circumcised boy in his circle of friends he was cruelly aware of his different status, especially since the other boys sometimes pulled his leg about it.

So I had a word with a friend who was a doctor and asked her about circumcision. She sighed and said it was a throwback to the 1930s, and since so few kids were done these days, those that were were very conscious of their disfigurement and often suffered agonies of self-consciousness among all their normal friends. She went on to say that the reason for its perpetuation was simple ignorance on the part of the medical profession. In medical school, trainee doctors were given absolutely zero instruction on the anatomy of the foreskin and care of the penis. The majority of the medical textbooks in English were American, and would you believe it, the foreskin was never mentioned in them, nor did they ever feature in illustrations of the penis. In her opinion the Americans loathe the foreskin so much that they cut it off as soon as a boy is born and try to pretend that it never existed!

She said that she herself had studied in Germany, where the Anglo-Saxon phobia for the foreskin was a standing joke. She was taught there that circumcision never needed to be performed for medical purposes since penis troubles could easily be treated without recourse to the knife.

She went on to say that so many mothers who had absolute faith in their doctor were thereby condemning their little boys to a painful unnecessary procedure which would affect them for the rest of their lives. It may not have been so bad when a high proportion of other boys were circumcised, but it was a very cruel thing to condemn a little boy to being so different from the rest of his friends, and for so little reason. The point is that if there are any mums out there with worries of this sort, do not accept the advice of well-meaning friends, enthusiasts or doctors until you find one who realises that treatment of minor penis problems should not involve a scalpel.

Ms A. G.

Roast Meat

In view of the apparent strengthening of the sun's rays over Britain, whether due to the thinning of the 'ozone layer' or global warming et al, I felt it timely to draw your readers' attention to the deleterious effect of nude sunbathing on a circumcised penis. The glans surface can become so tanned and desensitised as to resemble fine leather, with consequent lack of sensitivity and pleasure. This is bad enough for the man, but also very frustrating for the partner, requiring exhaustive fantasising and game playing, not to mention manipulation, to achieve a short explosive orgasm. As far as I can see, it is non-reversible, so be warned. Wear a high factor sun cream. Happy sunbathing.

Mrs E.R. – Scotland

[I can vouch for this lady. — D.A.]

Observations

He emerged from the shower and proceeded to vigorously dry himself. His back was to me but it was evident that he had a gym-trained body with the broad shoulders and trim waist of an athlete. Unusually, he was not overly developed with the prominent breasts and bulging biceps of the professional bodybuilder, but rather his physique was graceful and had the classical perfection of a statue.

He was a handsome man, strong of jaw and clear of eye. Unlike most physical fitness enthusiasts he had left his body hair to its own devices, there being a proud puff of dark fur on his chest with a thick trail of black curls tapering down to his flat stomach. From the back I could see his muscles rippling as he roughly dried himself off.

As he bent I could see the curve of his small buttocks which looked in size more like a teen-aged boy than the mature specimen he was... Save for the thick dusting of coarse tendrils, that is, that peppered each pert cheek!

He seemed God-like and remote, and almost like the chiselled perfection of a classical Greek statue. He was entirely unself-conscious in his bending and stretching activities, and was more intent on removing the last droplets of water from the densely forested areas of his chest and groin. He seemed oblivious to any onlookers and, in a child-like way, relaxed in the security of his own naked form.

When he turned it was obvious he was well blessed in his lower regions with a darkly pendulous scrotum swinging between his strong thighs, his heavy testicles suspended smoothly in their weighty sac. His penis was also hefty with prominent glans penis stretching his prepuce taut in the early morning rays of the pale summer sun. His foreskin, however, marred this vision of loveliness as it 'dripped' from his proud penis for several redundant inches, and simply resembled the wattled protruberances of the turkey bird in its coarse redundancy. Oh, to see the proud curve of his enviable corona or the prominence of his sulcus... That fleshy shroud had obviously cowed and obscured his mushroom head since boyhood and must have made showering awkward and masturbation cumbersome.

Such a pity that a sympathetic medic had not spotted our fine young man's hidden potential at those school medicals of days gone by, and arranged for his proud appendage to be surgically unsheathed in all of its glory?

The perfect 10? Sadly, no, though an impressive 9. No amount of bench pressing and weight training could have tamed that lax penile preponderance! One can but dream...

K.G. – London

Rethinking a Custom

An Article in *U.S. News and World Report*, 15th June 1998

Even before their son, Emmet, was born in 1989, Philip and Penelope McGuire knew how they felt about circumcision. Without much agonizing, the Michigan couple decided that they would leave their son's foreskin intact. Recalls Penelope, "Circumcision seemed ridiculously unnecessary and painful."

A generation ago, Emmet would have been in the noticeable minority of uncircumcised American males. Attitudes are changing and neonatal circumcision rates have dropped steadily during the past three decades from 90% to 64%. However, the United States stands out as the only nation where circumcision for non-religious reasons is widespread. In Western Europe, only 5% to 8% of newborn boys are circumcised.

Circumcision remains the most commonly performed surgery on males in this country – some 3,300 operations a day. The popularity of the procedure in America is historically related to what some scholars say was a national obsession with hygiene, heightened by prudery. It is said that it was introduced during the late 19th century as a means of preventing sexually transmitted diseases; the Victorians also thought that it curbed masturbation. In the years after World War II, circumcision had become so ubiquitous that many hospitals offered it as a routine part of birth-related services.

The trend away from circumcision has its roots in the natural childbirth movement of the 1970s, which sought to make birth as gentle as possible for the infant. Women who undergo a drug-free labour for their baby's benefit hesitate to subject him to surgery a few days later. But a more strident anti-circumcision movement, centred mainly in the San Francisco Bay area, is trying to influence parents. These circumcision opponents, who include some doctors, promote their views through pamphlets, books, videos and the Internet, arguing that the procedure violates medical ethics and human rights by subjecting infants to what they see as disfiguring surgery. They liken it to female genital mutilation, which was outlawed in the U.S. in 1996. Despite little medical research, the activists hold circumcision responsible for male sexual dysfunction and psychological problems. Some have even staged protests accompanied by recordings of babies screaming during circumcision.

Parents in the mainstream who decide not to circumcise mainly want to spare their sons the pain and risks of surgery. Oakland, California resident, Donald Bivin, the father of an uncircumcised son, says, "Humans have been around for millions of years without being circumcised, and it hasn't been a problem." While the risk of complications from circumcision (most often infection, not lopping off the penis) is small – between 2 and 6 incidents per 1,000 procedures – credible research is showing that infants do feel pain. Most doctors defend the surgery as low risk and point out that a local anaesthetic

can eliminate the pain involved. (The American Academy of Pediatrics, which is neutral on circumcision, is expected to update its guidelines later this year, recommending the use of a painkiller.)

There is reliable medical evidence that removing the foreskin reduces the incidence of first-year urinary tract infections in boys and ensures that they won't develop penile cancer, which does affect uncircumcised men. But penile cancer is rare (occurring in about 9 out of a million men), and first-year urinary tract infections occur in only 1% of uncircumcised boys. There's no clear evidence that circumcision reduces rates of sexually transmitted diseases. All the same, some physicians acknowledge that the demand for circumcision in the U.S. is based on religious or cultural, rather than medical, needs. "There is no proven, documented medical reason that says circumcision is better, as long as you teach your child to pull back the foreskin and wash," says Dr Karin Blakemore, director of the maternal-fetal medicine division at John Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Despite circumcision's slipping popularity, couples who decide against the procedure are often left with the impression that doctors and nurses expect the surgery nonetheless. Susan Flanigan decided not to have her son circumcised at birth. Then during her three-day hospital stay, nurses came by repeatedly and asked about circumcising her baby – "as if to say, 'are you really, really sure?'" she recalls.

M.S. – Utah

Indonesian Ceremony

Reading the back copies of *Acorn* for 1997, I came across references to circumcision practices of Indonesians and Malaysians. Having this time lived out in Indonesia for 14 months, I have had the opportunity to watch the operation being carried out on three separate occasions. It is the latest occasion which I would like to describe.

On November 27th last year, I was invited, through my wife, who is Indonesian, to attend the circumcision of our 11-year-old nephew. What I didn't know was that this was going to be a mass circumcision and, unusually, it was outside the June/July school holidays when most circumcisions are traditionally carried out on Indonesian Muslim boys by doctors and even by midwives.

Having asked my brother-in-law's permission to bring along a camcorder, I set off at about 5am in the car with my nephew and in-laws to my brother-in-law's office, The Department of Transmigration, in Jakarta. On arrival I quickly realised that this was going to be a much more elaborate affair than the two previous occasions. According to my brother-in-law, about 30 boys, aged between 6 and 11 were due to be cut that morning in a large

hall by a team of 5 doctors plus nurses. On entry to the Department building, my nephew accompanied his father to the toilet where he changed into a sarong and donned a black hat, the same type of hat that President Soeharto wears, and is called a peci (pronounced 'pechee'). Meanwhile, his mother and younger brother went into the hall to join the other parents, many of whom were employed by this government department. At about 7.20am everyone seemed to be in their places. 16 boys sat in two lines at the end of the room with a huge banner above them proclaiming the aims of the Department of Transmigration. The parents sat on chairs at right angles to their sons and facing a long white screen/partition. Behind the partition stood a row of 5 tables, each one draped in a white sheet.

This being Indonesia, there had to be a ceremony and a speech given by a top employee. The youngest initiate, 6, was invited by the speaker to cut a cone-shaped mound of boiled white rice. It was very appropriate that he cut the top off and put the food onto a plate, I remember thinking. With that, Muslim prayers were offered, presumably asking for Allah's comfort in what was about to happen to these boys, and guidance for the medical staff.

And so the event got under way, accompanied by the taped music of 'Allah Akbar' (God is great). Boys came over to the tables where they lay down and hauled up their sarongs to expose their bare crotches. It may interest *Acorn* readers to know that one of those doctors performing circumcision that morning, was a woman adorned in a headscarf (Indonesian Moslem women aren't veiled like their sisters in other Moslem countries), and that I wasn't the only person capturing the highlights on film. A photographer and I witnessed what I would regard as an extraordinary occasion.

I will not bore readers with all the procedures of the circumcisions, since they are already well-known. My ten-minute film shows close-up shots of my nephew being circumcised, from the time that he was given the local anaesthetic to the bandaging of his bare glans. What I found also surprising was seeing so many of the boys, including my nephew, having to have adhesions to their glans removed first. This can't have been very pleasant.

On completion of the circumcision of each boy an announcement was made. It was rather sad and a little comical to watch boys clutching their sarongs out in front of them, whilst they waddled slightly bow-legged out of the hall with their concerned parents. I ended up accompanying my nephew and his bemused brother and mother in a taxi at about 8.45am, and even as I left other circumcisions were going on. Amazingly, throughout my nephew's circumcision, his father was not by his side, and indeed, straight after the circumcision he just said goodbye and went off to his desk job at the Department.

The conclusion to this mass circumcision was a reception two days later (it is normally a week later, to give the boys time to recover). Although I was absent, I have a fair idea of what probably happened, because I attended a

reception, or *selamatan*, of a neighbour's boy last summer. Probably, from about 10am onwards, my nephew sat in his living room and greeted invited guests who gave him money to celebrate his coming of age. He would have sat, I imagine, in some discomfort, dressed in his sarong and black hat, and wished he could have enjoyed the food and non-alcoholic drink laid on in his honour. Poor boy!!

I discovered recently that circumcision is advocated by some members of the Chinese Indonesian community. This is surprising, since non-Muslim Indonesians, especially the Balinese, frown upon the practice. The boy in question is 5 years old, a Catholic, and Chinese. Since both he and his mother are students of mine, I was able to ask her about her son. She said he was cut on grounds of cleanliness, to which my reply was, "What about retracting his foreskin and washing the glans with soap and water?" Surely 5 is the wrong age. What do *Acorn* members think?

H.F. – Jakarta

Fetish

I have received two responses to my proposition (issue 8/97) that circumcision can become a fetish because of the mixture of fear and shame that surround it, at least in my experience. The first response came in the form of a personal letter from a British *Acorn* member. We've been in correspondence now for several months, and although we don't agree on the origins of the fetish, we find that we share many common experiences. It continues to be a very interesting and pleasurable letter exchange. The second response came in issue 1/98. Another British reader, Ray Hamble, explained that he has never felt any shame about his circ or about his penis in general. I congratulate him on his self-satisfaction and self-acceptance.

I've begun to wonder if my reaction and the reactions of British readers are different because of differences in British and American cultures. As I read the various *Acorn* articles, I marvel at the fact that British members assemble to discuss circumcision matters in person, including, if I understand correctly, the display of circumcised cocks. In addition, I have read about nudist beaches for circumcised men and for women with shaved pussies. And what about nudist beaches where men wear their foreskins pushed back to mimic circumcision? We have our share of eccentric people in America, along with the truly dangerous, but I know of no one who participates in any of these activities. There are adult bookstores (sex shops), J.O. clubs, self-help groups, etc., but there are no activities specifically planned around circumcision. Furthermore, they take place in private venues. In other words, the circumcision fetish is a secret issue in the USA. Why is this so?

One explanation might be the pervasiveness of clipped cocks among American men born before the 1980s. A good deal of shame was felt by men

who were uncut, a state that could signify lower class status, poverty or foreign birth. Thus, any shame men might experience about circumcision could stem from the lack thereof. To avoid this shame, some men have not been eager to display their cavalier status. To be circumcised as an adult would necessarily signify that you've possessed the dreaded foreskin for your entire life, a badge of low status.

Another explanation comes to mind. The British seem, to the eyes of an outlander whose English relatives arrived in New England in 1630, to be very tolerant of eccentricities. For all of our boasting of living in the land of the free, we are conformists (even to the state of our cocks). Conformity is a necessity where there is so much diversity. When Americans harbour ideas, fetishes and lifestyles which differ from the norm, they are explicitly and implicitly pressured to conform. For many the solution is psychotherapy. They feel, "If I'm different, I'd better fix it." Thousands of Americans avail themselves of this service. While those in therapy don't brag about it, they would be much more willing to discuss their experiences on the couch than ever mention their circ or circumcision fantasies and fetishes to anyone other than their therapist. How does America enforce conformity? Through shame. In America children are admonished: "You should be ashamed of yourself!" And usually we are. "He has no shame," is one of the more damning observations made of people of whom we disapprove.

What about the fear, the second component in the circumcision fetish, in my view? I doubt that British and American men are any different on this account. Men, in general, are conditioned to repress their fears. Masculine does not equal frightened. I cannot imagine a man or boy who would not be afraid of having his dick trimmed. The fact that anyone – parents, doctors, mohels – could have this power over a guy's penis is mind-blowing. In several of the *Acorn* articles, men have stated that their fascination with penises and circumcision dates from a threat or veiled threat: "Johnny's going to have his willy trimmed because he can't keep it clean." Conclusion: THIS CAN HAPPEN TO YOU! WATCH OUT! Or, the first sight of a playmate's naked glans at the urinal or locker room is engraved into a boy's consciousness: "He's different. He's lost something. Somebody's done something to that boy's pecker. Could that happen to me?" A corollary to this thought might be: "I want to control it (maybe do it myself)." On the other hand, the realisation that a boy has had alterations done to his pride and joy without his consent must trigger feelings of vulnerability and powerlessness – precursors of fear. I propose that many men eroticise their fear, rather than experience it. In other words, it is easier to get a hard-on about circumcision and feel, in some way, in control than to fear it. All in all, I'll bet that the British acceptance of their fetish, whatever its causes, is far more enjoyable than the American alternative. It does, however, give us common ground for discussing an uncommon subject.

D.P.R. – New Jersey, USA

Culture Clash

News Item from *The Guardian*

An Aboriginal circumcision ritual witnessed by Australian government ministers wearing tribal paint, and intended to help reconcile black and white Australians, has instead caused bitter controversy. Some doctors have called the initiation of the son, aged 7, of a senior Aboriginal leader, child abuse and not custom.

The boy's father, Chairman of the Aboriginal Parliament, said the attempt to promote understanding between cultures had highlighted the lack of it. "For people to criticise my culture now is another form of trying to take away my culture", he said.

The federal Aborigine affairs minister, John Herron, and the health minister, Michael Wooldridge, both doctors, flew to Arnhem Land, east of Darwin, for the event last week. A television crew, journalists and photographers were also present when the boy was prepared for his initiation into manhood. Dr Wooldridge said there was nothing barbaric about the custom. But publication of details of the rite, which can involve splitting the penis down its length, has led to argument over whether it should be allowed.

A Brisbane doctor who has worked with Aborigines said, "Doctors Herron and Wooldridge are to be condemned for watching an operation that I would be sent to jail for performing without an anaesthetic on a white child."

Odd Comment!

Some time ago my wife and I went to a local village hall to hear a local group give a concert. At the interval I went outside for a cigarette, but as it was raining hard I stood in the entrance with several other men and women sharing the same intention.

We got chatting about the weather etc. and then one of the ladies expressed the view that it was a pity that we didn't live in a perfect world – all babies being breast-fed and all men being circumcised. Nothing was further from my mind at the time and I was somewhat gob-smacked. None of the men commented on this so I lit another cigarette and waited to see if I could get this lady on her own so that I could ask her to expand on her feelings – but no such luck.

I later established that she and the other females were nurses, but I never saw them again, which was a pity in that she obviously felt so strongly about the male appendage. I could have asked her to write down her reasons which I could have sent for inclusion in one of the issues, comments from the ladies being always interesting.

C. – *Cheshire*

Men Circumcised As Adults

Excerpted from *Circumcision: The Hidden Trauma*
(Boston: Vanguard Publications) 39–40

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Only men circumcised as adults can experience the difference a foreskin makes. In the *Journal of Sex Research*, Money and Davison from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine reported on five such men. Changes included diminished penile sensitivity and less penile gratification. The investigators concluded:

Erotosexually and cosmetically, the operation is, for the most part, contraindicated, and it should be evaluated in terms of possible pathological sequelae.⁽¹⁾

Other men circumcised as adults regret the change.

I play guitar and my fingers get callused from playing. That's similar to what happened to my penis after circumcision.⁽²⁾

After the circumcision there was a major change. It was like night and day. I lost most of the sensation. I would give anything to get the feeling back. I would give my house. [This man's physician persuaded him to be circumcised by warning he could otherwise get penile cancer. When the man complained of the result, the physician replied, "That's normal" and would not help him.]⁽³⁾

Slowly the area lost its sensitivity, and as it did, I realized I had lost something rather vital. Stimuli that had previously aroused ecstasy had relatively little effect... Circumcision destroys a very joyful aspect of the human experience for males and females.⁽⁴⁾

The greatest disadvantage of circumcision is the awful loss of sensitivity when the foreskin is removed... On a scale of 10, the intact penis experiences pleasure that is at least 11 or 12; the circumcised penis is lucky to get to 3.⁽⁵⁾

The sexual differences between a circumcised and uncircumcised penis is... like wearing a condom or wearing a glove... Sight without color would be a good analogy... Only being able to see in black and white, for example, rather than seeing in full color would be like experiencing an orgasm with a foreskin and without. There are feelings you'll just never have without a foreskin.⁽⁶⁾

After thirty years in the natural state I allowed myself to be persuaded by a physician to have the foreskin removed — not because of any problems at the time, but because, in the physician's view, there might be problems in the future. That was five years ago and I am sorry I had it done... The sensitivity in the glans has been reduced by at least 50 percent. There it is, unprotected, constantly rubbing against the fabric of whatever I am wearing. In a sense, it

has become callused... I seem to have a relatively unresponsive stick where I once had a sexual organ.⁽⁷⁾

Notes

1. Money, J. & Davison, J., "Adult Penile Circumcision: Erotosexual and Cosmetic Sequelae," *Journal of Sex Research* 19 (1983): 291.
2. Letter to author, 1993.
3. Telephone conversation with author, 1993.
4. Milos, M. & Macris, D., "Circumcision: A Medical or a Human Rights Issue?" *Journal of Nurse-Midwifery* 37 (Supplement 1992): 93S.
5. *NOCIRC Newsletter*, Fall 1990, 3.
6. Edell, D., Circumcision report for television news, *KGO*, San Francisco, 1984.
7. "The Unkindest Cut of All," letter to the editor, *Playgirl*, July 1979, 108.

Circumcision Resource Centre
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Natural Circumcision

My first real sighting of a circumcised cock came when I was about 13. I'd gone swimming with my best friend, and afterwards, while we were in the showers, he took his costume off. The head of his cock was completely visible, and at short range it was very clear that he had no foreskin, just a slight change in skin colour behind the head. I was surprised that my best friend had been circumcised, and it turned me on just thinking about his skin having been cut away. I began to wonder what it felt like, so I started to keep my skin pulled back. It felt good, and I wished that I had been done as a kid.

By the time I was 18 I was an undergraduate at Bristol, and during the breaks a few of us would head off to France. It was during these trips that I began to make some new discoveries. We were lying on the beach in Brittany, and my friend was wearing a small pair of 'speedos'. They were wet after he'd been in the water, and as he lay there on his back I was fascinated by the clear shape of his cock head, especially the rim, through the thin material. Mine didn't look that good even when the skin was back. I thought that he had been cut. Then he took them off to sunbathe naked and it looked as though I was right, but there was no sign of a scar. We were really open with each other, so I asked him whether he'd been circumcised. He said he hadn't, and that I wasn't the first to think he'd been done. It was just that he'd been born without a foreskin. "Do you want to look at it closer?" he asked. I did.

Since then I've been really envious of guys with naturally circumcised dicks. They look so good.

A couple of my other friends had really short foreskins, just about covering the rim of their glans. That was great as well, just a bit of skin that couldn't be pulled forward to cover the head, leaving no choice but to have most of their head exposed (for all to see). When they got even slightly hard, their cocks would circumcise of their own accord. Again, after we'd been in the water, these guys had such a distinct shape through wet trunks.

More was to come. Another one of our Brittany crowd had been cut in his early teens. His circumcision was very radical: frenulum removed and a scar line most of the way down his shaft. He used to tease other guys passing by on the beach by leaving part of his cock hanging out of the side of his trunks so that they saw the head and cut cock. Most came back for two or three looks. By now I knew that I wanted my cock head exposed like theirs. I couldn't wave a magic wand and have the same as my friends with token foreskins, so I opted for the radical cut that looked so amazing...and it's just great.

There is a sequel to this. Two years ago I was in Prague, at an outdoor pool. A Czech teenager approached me and in excellent English told me that he'd seen that I was circumcised (he'd seen me change). He'd noticed other West Europeans like this and wanted his to be done that way as well. We talked, and the only reason that he hadn't had it done was because he couldn't afford it. I had a simple solution which he seemed quite pleased about, and by the following day we'd found a doctor who would do it for a very small amount (by UK standards). By that same evening he had received much the same cut as me. He's really pleased with it, no frenulum, and a thin scar just over halfway down the shaft. And now I hear that a number of his friends are interested as well.

It would be great to hear from anyone who would like to contact me, but only those who are pro-circumcision.

A.C. – London

ACORN

Issue
No 5 1998
Editor
David Acorn

Editorial

Time for apologies again. The magazines have been out late because poor Brian has a really stressful managerial job at which he works all hours, and has to fit the sending out of the issues as he can. But this time it is me that is tardy, and that's simply that I've had very little material I can use of a personal nature. The Internet is chock full of items on foreskins and circumcision, but in the main it's all what we've had before. We've had loads of new members in the past year but very few contributions from them. How about it chaps? Short pieces on why you joined, what you expected, what are your disappointments if any, how you begat your more than normal interest in penises – in short, anything. We've been going over 10 years now and it would be a shame for it to pack up due to non-participation.

Also, I know I've asked before, but if answers to articles could be in the form of an open letter, everyone would benefit. It irked me to have to pass on four letters to one contributor alone, with nothing for the book.

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Opinions expressed in the magazine are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of The Acorn Society or its other members.

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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.

Reading the article about the Sexual Mutilation Meeting in Oxford, I couldn't help but think that, although it all sounds way out, their sentiments are the same as the overwhelming number of our members i.e. circumcision should be done for two reasons. Need and Desire. The majority of our members fall into the latter category, and I know it's made most of them happier men.

David Acorn

The Frenulum

In 2/98 I saw two references to the 'frenulum'. The first in M.P. of Brighton's article, 'I Love It Now', where he is "desperate for someone to point out (his) meatus, frenulum and sulcus...", the second in the Internet quote, 'A Moslem Circumcision', where the Sunnetci (circumciser) informs the Muslim convert that he would lose his frenulum as a part of the ritual operation. P.T. – Hastings rightfully wonders if this is standard operating procedure in Muslim circumcisions. The loss of this part of the penis/foreskin is unnecessary and is certainly not a requisite of a circumcision, especially in adult procedures.

The frenulum, actually a diminutive of *frænum* – latin for 'bridle', is a gathering of the foreskin on the underside of the cock. The foreskin, like folds of a curtain, is gathered up to a point where the sulcus forms a 'V' in the glans, just below the 'meatus', or peehole. The sulcus is a narrowing of the penis shaft, just before the flair of the corona, making the glans look like a knob on a post. The frenulum is hidden, covered by the foreskin, when the dick is flaccid. However, with an erection, which usually reveals the glans, the folds of the frenulum sit snugly in the indentation of the sulcus. However, a foreskin can be skinned back even further, revealing its inner layer, the mucosa. When the foreskin is drawn back to its limits, the frenulum stretches into a vertical band and will begin to pull the tip of the glans downwards. Sometimes the frenulum is short and only a slight tug will put a strain on the end of the cock, causing pain, when pleasure should be the order of the day. Many docs might recommend a circumcision for this condition, although the frenulum itself can be divided or removed without a complete circ.

What is the purpose of these folds of flesh? Its Latin name might be a clue. Like a bridle, it reins in or puts the brakes on the foreskin, making sure that it is not pulled back too far, thus tearing the delicate mucosa. Interestingly, the French word for 'brakes' is *les freins*, a word whose origin is found in *frænum*. The frenulum of the cock is not the only example of this formation on your person. Your tongue is also anchored to the bottom of your mouth with a frenulum. It can be too short as well, and cause a 'tongue-tied' condition which requires a judicious slice to allow articulate speech. Having reached maturity with my penile frenulum intact, I can also attest to it being a source of pleasure. The stretching of the frenulum is viewed by many cavaliers as an essential part of achieving orgasm. They would be quite upset at its removal.

When M.P. – Brighton wonders where his frenulum resides, he may wonder in vain. His childhood circumcision may have eliminated it altogether. In the U.S. where, until the 80s, most men were cut, the use of the Gomco Clamp or Plastibell ripped away the frenulum entirely, leaving the 'V' of the sulcus smooth, or with the hint of a vertical line where the frenulum once lay. Sometimes, this area is bright red with a 'sore' appearance when the cock is hard. A circumcised friend claims that this area remains quite sensitive and pleasurable, although the frenulum has been removed. To each his own! Perhaps our medically-trained *Acorn* members can clarify if the use of either of these two circumcision devices inevitably rips away the frenulum, or if it is cut away on purpose. The most modern circumcision device, the TaraKlamp, has been developed in Muslim Indonesia to facilitate both boyhood and adult circs as an initiation rite. The TaraKlamp web pages clearly show that the adult frenulum survives the procedure intact.

When I was planning my own circumcision four years ago, I tried to maintain as much control over the operation as possible. I asked my urologist if the removal of my frenulum was necessary. He said that he would leave it in place. In fact, he said that a professor in medical school had said that it should be left intact, since it plays a role in controlling the shape of the meatus. Why is this important? The shape of the meatus is crucial in maintaining a single, spiralling piss stream. If you have a divided stream, you know how messy this can be. Is your frenulum missing?

The frenulum can be easily retained in a circumcision. The circumciser must make the circular cut horizontally below the frenulum. When the frenulum is freed from the foreskin, it retracts into the 'V' of the sulcus. Often, the doc trims the remnant edge of the foreskin into a 'V' shape which rises to meet the frenulum remnant, and they are sewn together. The most accurate means of achieving this procedure is the 'sleeve resection' circumcision, where a tube of foreskin and mucosa is isolated and eased off the dick shaft. This operation is performed with the foreskin retracted. In the cases of the two most common freehand procedures, the foreskin is either stretched forward, past the glans, and severed, as in the 'Moslem Circumcision', or the foreskin lies in its normal position as it is trimmed away. Doctors tend to do the operation as they were taught. The sleeve resection is the neatest freehand procedure. I didn't know about it before my circ, so, even though I retained my frenulum, my circ scar is quite uneven. I advise anyone contemplating a circ. to discuss the procedure with his doctor before he cuts. Ask him if he can perform the sleeve resection. If you want the 'tight look', he'll probably cut away the frenulum to try to achieve it. But do you really want to lose this site of pleasure for a 'look'? Give it some thought. Be in control. Once it's gone there's no turning back.

I'm curious to know how other men who were circumcised as adults have come away from the cutting. Did you have input? What kind of procedure did you have – do you know? Were you able to watch the procedure? And finally, did you retain your frenulum? If you don't care to discuss any of this in *Acorn*,

write me. I will respond to any serious correspondent in the USA or UK. [I do hope however, that most letters are open letters to be printed in the newsletter. — *Editor*] I am, however, especially anxious to hear from Americans, since we seem to form such a small minority of the *Acorn* membership.

D.P.R. – New Jersey

The Philippines

I have a young friend who comes from Asia, the Philippines to be precise, and I guess how surprised I was to learn that male circumcision is universal there! He was cut when he was ten. I asked him about any traditional or religious background of that operation in his country, but he just told me that cavaliers would be ridiculed at school when they had passed a certain age. Do you or anyone else in the Society know when and why circumcision became such a common practice in the Philippines?. He has the typical 'High and tight' cut that is so popular in the U.S. So maybe it is just another Americanism.

I have had some contact with a Jewish gay group in Germany, and with it had the chance to evaluate a Mohel's 'job'. I was actually quite disappointed to see that apparently this was just one of those "only a little bit off the top, please!" jobs. Actually it looked rather like a short foreskin to me. So I wondered whether I had been seeing a rather conservative sort of a 'Bris Milah', or whether a Jewish circumcision in general leaves plenty of skin over the glans? As I have learnt from my stories set in Nazi Germany, Jews were often identified because of their circumcisions, so I had always thought that their circumcision status must have been rather obvious. Do you know of any requirements (rabbinical or biblical) of how much preputial skin has to be removed in a Jewish 'Bris'. I have a genuine interest in this question.

Patrick – Germany

Rings and Things

In issue 2/98 J.D. is wondering whether to wear jewellery permanently in his cockhead piercings. I say, "Go for it!", what's stopping you? He says that he removes his rings because "he moves in rather conventional circles", but how conventional can these circles be if others even know whether he is pierced? Even when I go swimming at the leisure centre, it's my large and obvious nipple rings that cause comment rather than my hidden genital piercings – though, as a keen naturist, I hardly keep them to myself all the time!

I've had my Prince Albert for almost 20 years. I've never regretted it and never removed it other than when replacing it with a thicker one (I'm on 5mm now). I was only sixteen and much influenced in my original decision by my

room-mate and lover at school, who was already pierced and proud to show everyone in the school showers. I remember that my piercing caused a brief stir when I first displayed it in those showers, as I was not so outwardly gay as Jon, but it quickly conveyed the message that we were an item. The clink of our rings as they touched is a more private memory of those days of youth.

Jon and I drifted apart when we had to go to different universities, but I have never parted from my PA ring. Indeed, it is very difficult to remove my current ring and I am intrigued by the idea of having the next larger size virtually permanently fitted. My foreskin can't naturally cover my PA now, and it retracts easily, particularly because a piercing in the frenulum was stretched until it gave way! I recently had two hafadas fitted in the scrotum, and I'm considering having another piercing in the front of the cockhead – which would probably require removal of the foreskin. I know someone who wears a diamond stud in that position and it's not a fake; with a durable mount it is feasible to adorn one's most precious organ with such treasures.

At the recent A.G.M., I was asked "Why?" by someone as he visibly winced at the thought of my Prince Albert. I can only say as they said when climbing Everest, "Because it's there." I'm not circumcised yet, and I've never had the guts for a tattoo, but my piercings are my declaration that my body is mine to modify and to enjoy. In naturism I enjoy the liberation of the naked body, but my rings allow me to go even more naked – to display my inner self. Circumcision uncovers the cockhead but piercing is for me the ultimate uncovering of all that I am, and literally the final touch.

Andrew – West London

Celebrities

I have just received the first instalment of the U.S.-produced lists of cut/uncut celebrities. Thank you. It makes very – and sometimes surprising – reading. I wonder how Rupert Everett and Daniel Day Lewis, both English born of the younger generation, came to be cut?

I first came across Bud Berkeley's lists when I lived in the USA: they came as enclosures with a newsletter containing some very revealing accounts of the celebrity 'sightings', ie. how and where they had spotted the celebrities and how they had found out their circumcision status.

Can we not do something similar here for more British actors, sportsmen and celebrities? Here are a few names as a starter:

1. Sir Derek Jacobi: British actor. Jacobi has written a chapter in a book celebrating the life and times of Noel Coward. According to Jacobi, Coward 'had a thing' about circumcision, and on one occasion came round to his dressing room after a performance to ask whether he was circumcised.

Jacobi explained that, as a matter of fact he wasn't, but why the question. According to Coward, you could never make a great actor unless you were circumcised! An interesting story, especially since the Berkeley list has Jacobi down as circumcised.

2. Sir Michael Tippett: composer. Tippett begins the very first pages of his autobiography, *Twentieth Century Blues* with an account of his re-circumcision, without anaesthetic, in early infancy. Apparently, the healing after the original circumcison as a baby had been botched and they had tried to undo the damage while he slept. An example, according to Tippett, of the power of the collective over the individual.
3. Barry Humphries/Dame Edna Everidge: Australian born actor and comedian. Ditto – page one of his autobiography reveals that he was circumcised immediately after birth in an Australian hospital.
4. Auberon Waugh: writer and critic. I cannot remember the original reference, but Waugh has written that one of his earliest memories was his childhood circumcision to correct a medical condition (phimosis?) He wrote movingly of the painful experience and how this memory had accompanied him through adult life.

Waugh's article appeared about the time of the birth of Prince William, when I remember distinctly a newspaper report that a prominent Jewish Mohel had attended Kensington Palace for the traditional circumcision of a royal male. In fact, Waugh's confession was a reaction against this practice. Perhaps Diana put her foot down and objected, for there is a consensus that this British royal tradition was broken by the princes William and Harry on her insistence. Whatever the case, I certainly recall it being mentioned as if it had been scheduled to take place (The Times?) at the time.

5. Prince Albert of Monaco: I once had a very pro-circumcision American friend (every good American should be 'cleaned up') who had roomed with Prince Albert at a college in the USA. I badgered him to know the details of the Prince's private parts. According to my friend, he was uncut ("sort of") and unremarkable. The problem was, my friend hardly knew what a foreskin was supposed to look like, let alone what it was for, or what it could do for you in adult life. Shame.
6. 'Lofty' in *East Enders*: I'm afraid the only first hand experience I have of a celebrity was in the showers of a swimming baths in London. The fellow soaping himself next to me turned out to be the actor who played Lofty Watts in the BBC soap. The sighting? Uncut, moderate overhang, thin, not big.

Now, does anyone out there have any sightings that they would wish to share? How about Tim Henman, or Michael Owen, or Gary Barlow, or.....

E.J.P. – Aberdeen

Directory of Perversion

(What the doctors call the funny things
that people do to each other)

Acuculophilia – An attraction to men who are circumcised.

Algolagnia – Love of pain, as taken from the Greek. A psychological term to describe S.M., preferred by sexologist Havelock Ellis, who saw it as “pain given in love”.

Altocalciphilia – A fetish for high heels.

Asphyxiophilia – or auto-erotic asphyxiation (if solo play), is control or restriction of breathing via compressing the carotid arteries, or putting things over the mouth and nose to reduce the level of oxygen that can be breathed in. Hanging, where the body is suspended from the neck, though a relatively common fantasy, is very difficult to stage in a non-harmful way for S.M. scenes. Most dangerous is auto-hanging. Also called **Hypoxiphilia**.

Bestiality – Having sex with animals. In America it is now trendily known as **Zoophilia**.

Coprophagy – Eating shit. And enjoying it.

Coprophilia – Gaining sexual pleasure from playing with shit. [The O.E.D. puts it much more nicely. – D.A.]

Dacryphilia – Sexual arousal from seeing tears in the eyes of one’s partner.

Klismaphilia – Obtaining sexual enjoyment from enemas. (That’s having lots of water gently flowed up your arse).

Macrophilia – Sexual arousal derived from the idea of a person being trampled, swallowed or controlled by a larger human being.

Microphilia – A fetish for tiny people, imagining people who have shrunk or are little fairies.

Necrophilia – Having sex with corpses.

Polyamory – Multiple sexual and/or romantic relationships. Otherwise known as swinging.

Retifism – Fetish for boots and shoes.

Techno-Sexuals – Those attracted to robots. This may take the form of a partner who acts like a robot or human doll, mechanical dolls, wind-up toys or machines created for sexual intercourse.

This directory came from a magazine called *Bizarre*. It causes me two concerns.

1. The term *acuculophilia* is one which I have never before met, purporting to refer to 'love of circumcision', which strikes me as an appalling amalgam of Greek and Latin elements to create an unlikely neologism, based on the latin *cucullus*, 'hood', presumably referring to the foreskin.
2. I find it worrying that love of men who are circumcised should be deemed a perversion.

P.W. – Surrey

Oxford

Being a member of *NORM UK* as well as of *Acorn*, I attended the recent meeting in Oxford of the *Symposium on Genital Mutilation*. It was over three days and took the form of about 6 areas of debate (mornings and afternoons). Anatomy, Religion and Culture, Legal and Ethical Considerations, Universal Campaign to end Mutilation, Psychological Aspects, Foreskin Restoration and Medical Publications.

Both male and female circumcision featured on the agenda (currently, millions of females in the world still have the whole of their genitals cut away – without anaesthetic – from the age of about 8 and upwards). Speakers came from all over the world and, regardless that they were all in unison, it could be seen that they all felt deeply about what they thought was right, without any semblance of personal self-importance. There was no bending to religious or cultural customs. In fact one speaker was a Jew from Israel who was taking the Israeli parliament to court for perpetuating the custom on 8-day-old boys, and was praised for his courage, although somehow I don't think he'll win.

What sticks in my mind is the history of circumcision in the U.S. It started between the end of the Civil War and the end of the century, with doctors coming forward to state that foreskins caused dozens of ailments and congenital conditions – bed-wetting, hernia, epilepsy, hip joint diseases, diarrhoea, clubfoot, heart disease, nutrition deficiency, convulsions, paralysis, muscular incoordination, water on the brain, tuberculosis, gangrene, arthritis, eczema and warts, to name a few, and the only cure was circumcision.

There must have been pressure put on the doctors by bible punching type religious bodies, because the underlying enemy was – yes – MASTURBATION. A paper was circulated at the symposium giving quotes by doctors in medical publications of the 1800's (one of them was called *The Journal of Orificial Surgery*, I wonder which orifice?) Here are some of those quotes.

1. In cases of masturbation we must break the habit by inducing such a condition of the parts as will cause too much local suffering to allow of the practice being continued. For this purpose we may circumcise the male patient with present and with probably future advantage. The

operation, too, should not be performed under chloroform, so that the pain experienced may be associated with the habit we wish to eradicate.

2. I refer to masturbation as one of the effects of a long prepuce. Not that this vice is entirely absent in those who have undergone circumcision, though I never saw an instance in a Jewish child of very tender years, except as the result of association with children whose covered glans have naturally impelled them to the habit.
3. Viewing the world over, the shameful and criminal act of masturbation is the most frequent, as well as the most fatal of all vices. Nothing but a sense of inexorable duty, in the hope of effecting a radical reform by awakening the alarm of parents and teachers to the enormous frequency and horrible consequences of this revolting crime, could induce the author to enter upon the sickening revelation.
4. Hip trouble is from falling down, an accident that children with tight foreskins are especially liable to, owing to the weakening of the muscles produced by the condition of the genitals.
5. There can be no doubt of masturbation's injurious effect, and of the proneness to practice it on the part of children with defective brains. Circumcision should always be practised. It may be necessary to make the genitals so sore by blistering fluids that pain results from attempts to rub the parts.
6. A remedy for masturbation, which is almost always successful in small boys, is circumcision. The operation should be performed by a surgeon without administering an anaesthetic, as the pain attending the operation will have a salutary effect upon the mind, especially if it be connected with the idea of punishment.
7. Measures more radical than circumcision would, if public opinion permitted their adoption, be a true kindness to many patients of both sexes.
8. The child had indigestion, screaming fits at night, and failed to thrive. My advice that circumcision be performed was concurred. I did the operation without any anaesthesia. The wound healed without any trouble, and the child's indigestion and screaming were gone almost from the hour of the operation. Used when required, there is no doubt of the value of this little procedure.
9. Masturbation can be, and often is, the sole cause of insanity.
10. Circumcision not only reduces the irritability of the child's penis, but also the so-called passion of which so many men are so extremely proud, to the detriment of their wives and married life. Many youthful rapes could be prevented, many separations, and divorces also, and many an unhappy marriage improved if this unnatural passion was cut down by a timely circumcision.

Two things occur to me after that. Firstly, you can bet that all those doctors who made those statements masturbated themselves. Secondly, in America now, to combat AIDS, gay men are entreated to masturbate as a form of safe sex. What a turn round in a 100 years!!

Although the pressure groups in America have succeeded over the last few years in diminishing the national rate of circumcision from 90-something % down to 60%, it would appear to me that it will eventually cease because of that favourite modern American pastime – litigation. Someone, somewhere, in one state or other, will win a court case for being circumcised without his consent, and the damages will be so prohibitive that the medical profession will run scared.

At the Symposium, not one speaker spoke out against elective adult circumcision, in fact some of them showed approval, as being an informed choice.

Anon

TaraKlamp

Surfing the 'Net can yield some very fertile circumcision sites. There are those that hold forth on the evils of circumcision and others that graphically demonstrate the steps necessary for undoing the evil – each step illustrated with photos of the Website owner's own cock. There have been very few Websites, however, which extol the operation itself. Until now! For an interesting excursion into the most up-to-date world of circumcision, type *TaraKlamp* into your search engine. It takes some time to scroll through the various offerings, but there are at least two which show this interesting device in action.

The TaraKlamp is a medical device invented in Malaysia with the sole purpose of simplifying circumcision. Remember, many Malaysians are Muslim. Islam requires the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of foreskins each year. Young boys are the usual participants, but adult converts, too, must fall under the knife. As illustrated in one of the sites, the TaraKlamp is a plastic mechanism, maybe 4 inches high, attached at a 45 degree angle to a plastic ring. A second part is a flared, hard plastic tube, shaped rather like an infant's bottle nipple. The sequence of events illustrated with colour photos on the Website is as follows:-

1. A man stands with his flaccid willy displaying his droopy foreskin.
2. The man is shown lying on an operating table. He is draped, but his dick is in view through a circular cut-out. A line has been drawn around his foreskin to outline his corona.

3. His foreskin is retracted and the vaselined 'nipple' is placed over his glans. The flare of this tube accommodates the glans: the narrow end of the tube extends well beyond it.
4. Once in place, the wide edge of the nipple, now covered by the foreskin, is adjusted to match the previously drawn outline.
5. Now the plastic mechanism is put into place. The ring is slipped over the foreskin and positioned on the outline. It is still loose. The mechanism attached to the ring forms a truncated triangle. It has two arms, resembling certain wine bottle uncorking devices.
6. When the two arms are pulled upwards, away from the penis, they cause the ring to compress and engage the edge of the flared nipple, crushing the foreskin between the nipple's edge and ring. The space between the two surfaces is so tight that the blood supply to the foreskin is interrupted. Hopefully, the patient has received some form of anaesthesia, since the resulting pain must be excruciating at this point. At this point, without cutting, the foreskin would die and eventually slough off. But doing so might also have health risks.
7. The circumciser now takes a scalpel and cuts away the foreskin. A few drops of blood appear at the incision.
8. The foreskin itself is shown as a detached ring of flesh encircling the end of the nipple.
9. Part of the mechanism is broken off and the skin is removed, leaving the extended open end of the nipple/tube as a peehole. The arms and the constricting ring remain in place for 8 days, dangling between the legs of the new roundhead. There is no bleeding; the circle ensures a tourniquet-like fit. The ridge of skin still clasped between the tube and ring dies, but the remaining inner and outer foreskin behind the ring fuse and heal together.
10. After the 8 days, the mechanism is released and the nipple falls free. A dark ring encircles the circumcised dick, marking a visual separation between the inner foreskin and the shaft skin. This line is, in reality, a ring of dead flesh which was captured between the nipple and compression ring. It sloughs away and a normal circumcision line remains. Voilà, a trimmed dick!
11. The last photo shows a completely healed, semi-erect cock. The dark ring has disappeared. The circumcision scar is about halfway up the member. The frenulum appears to be intact.

I've been circumcised for about four years, but if I hadn't already had the operation, I think I'd be tempted to do my own. Or, perhaps this is the kindest cut one *Acorn* member can do for another. It looks simple and sanitary. Everything arrives in a sealed packet. Does anyone know if the TaraKlamp is

available in the UK? Have any of you had a TaraKlamp trim? Are there other members who are interested in circumcision procedures?

D.P.R. – New Jersey

[Bil Brierley, who has the sole sale rights in the U.S., told me that it isn't licenced yet in the U.S., or the U.K., although it is actually manufactured in England. – D.A.]

An Irish Story

I am currently living an alternative lifestyle – in a threesome relationship with two men friends, half my age, one circumcised and the other intact, and I have developed some views on the subject which, I am told, might be of interest to your group. I hope your members won't be offended at the explicit wording of my letter, but it loses impact without the detail.

I was brought up in a rigid Catholic home in the west of Ireland, and was taught from an early age that all sex was sin, except for the purposes of creating children within marriage. Even then it was better for a girl to remain single and celibate, the better to serve the Lord, and I was under pressure from the beginning to join a religious order, having attended a strict convent school. I did so but, realising I had no vocation, avoided taking my vows, although I remained with the order as a long-term postulant to help out in teaching art etc. at the school for boys which they ran.

Having no brothers or sisters, I was wholly ignorant of male sexuality, and it came as a shock to me when I was asked to supervise swimming for the 8-year-olds, to find they all swam in the nude. The sight of so many willies, some of them quite big, had me brick-red with embarrassment, and naturally enough, the kids noticed and started to play up. Since there is no tradition of circumcision in Ireland, the boys all had foreskins, and one of them came up to me holding his penis out, telling me it was sore. I asked him what he meant, and to howls of glee, the little bastard pulled his foreskin back and exhibited the blood-red knob beneath it to me. To someone as ignorant as me on such subjects, it really did look quite sore – until a circle of giggling boys formed, also complaining of sore cocks, and also producing similar bright red knobs! I realised I'd been had, and that it was normal for a permanently covered cock-head to be that colour in a young boy.

My knowledge increased shortly after as I was helping matron, the only married member of staff. A thirteen year-old came in who really did have a problem with his penis – he could not draw his foreskin back at all and feared he might have to be circumcised. "Fiddlesticks!" said the matron as she stripped his pants off and studied it. "I'll not have any of my good Catholic boys with a Jewish cock". She looked at me, knowing my commitment to celibacy, and winked. "You can stay and watch this if you like. It might improve your

education." I watched as she pulled the boy's foreskin forward as far as it would go, so it looked like a 3" length of bicycle valve rubber stretching from the end of his penis. Grasping the tip at each side by the thumb and forefinger of each hand, she pulled the small hole apart until she created an opening you could push your finger into. The boy responded by getting an erection the size and shape of a large beef sausage – another shocking revelation to me! "Good," said matron, and pushed some vaseline into the opening with her fingertip. "Try pulling your skin back," she ordered the boy, who pulled it back enough to reveal a small circular area of red. "That's no good," said matron, "here, let me show you," and I was shocked to see her start running the skin back and forward quite hard a couple of times until the whole knob emerged. "Do that a few more times and you'll have no more trouble," she told the boy. If they'd known, the nuns would have had blue fits.

Having reached the age of 36 without any sexual experience with the opposite sex, my powerful urges, sinfully satisfied manually in bed every night, made me realise that I had to get away from so much female repression imposed on the staff, in such contrast to the blatant and rampant sexuality of the pubescent boys. A couple of years ago I came to England where suddenly the restraints of Ireland were discarded and I realised I was free to do what I wanted!

I immediately started to make up for lost time, quickly discovering what I'd been missing all those years. I cast my inhibitions aside as so many convent girls do and entered body and soul into the free-wheeling sexual scene, having 10 sexual partners in as many weeks. I reached my present arrangements a few months ago when I met my two boyfriends at a wing-ding, anything goes drinks party. Fancying them both and thinking it would be a bit of a lark, I led them to a sofa upstairs and sat the two men on either side of me. Then I aroused their lechery by hinting to them the fact that I had no knickers on. Immediately two hands burrowed under my skirt to check. I responded by undoing their zips and pulling out two fine stiff-standing penises, curious to note that one of them was tightly circumcised, the first time I had come across such a thing. We spent half an hour fondling each other, me with a cock in each hand while two sets of fingers explored my "vertical smile" – absolute bliss! Finally the two men came within seconds of each other and produced copious jets of seminal fluid which shot over the carpet.

Both men were close friends and we decided to link up as a threesome. Since the two men had such different willies, they were as curious about each other as I was about both of them, and we had long discussions – and practical demonstrations – on the subject of foreskins and circumcision. I tended not to take sides for obvious reasons, but listened with interest to their views. The circumcised man (his parents had lived in the States) was very conscious of his minority state in this country, and although his sexual performance could not be faulted, would in general have preferred to have a foreskin. The intact guy quoted all the stuff about cleanliness, health hazards and female preference for the cut member, which the circ'd guy immediately contradicted,

saying that the medical experts had now discounted all such arguments in favour of leaving the foreskin intact. As far as women's views were concerned, I made the tactful – and accurate – point that women generally preferred what they were used to, ie. American women generally preferred a cut cock while European women favour the foreskin.

My own private view is that circumcision is unnecessary, provides no advantages, and is cruel. It also affects sexual function to some extent. I prize the mobility of all that extra skin which is so rewarding to wank up and down, and so beneficial in insertion, especially when a long-skinned man's bunched skin provides extra bulk at the base of the penis at the end of the in stroke, which I find highly satisfying. I've had enough experience now to recognise that the hygiene claims are a myth, and have a sneaking suspicion that whatever the reasons for the operation, it is not done for the benefit of the child. It wouldn't do to over-egg the cake though, and although my preference is for foreskins, I still find the other sort highly acceptable. But for maximum enjoyment, you can't beat an educated tongue.

C.O.

How Smegma Serves the Penis

(From *Sexology Journal*, New York, 1970)

Is smegma useful? Yes, certainly. It lubricates the cavity between the foreskin of the penis and the glans, thus allowing smooth movement between them during intercourse. During an erection, the glans increases in size. The foreskin, on the other hand, does not change its dimensions. It is yielding enough, and thin enough, to accept the enlarged glans. Furthermore, the foreskin is pressed backwards during intercourse, and on subsidence of erection returns to its normal position. These movements are not entirely passive, but are aided by the relaxation of the muscle fibres within the foreskin.

But could these movements be comfortably performed if the surfaces between glans and foreskin were dry and harsh? Of course not. There would be difficulty, delay, need for manipulation. Nature has therefore provided a 'natural ointment', smegma, to ensure easy lubrication and protect this delicate region of the male genital organ. To secure its even distribution, smegma is formed from the whole inner surface of the foreskin cavity.

Recently, Soviet researchers at the Botkin's Hospital in Moscow have discovered important details of this process. Smegma production, they find, is concentrated in the cells of innumerable small prominences, minute microscopic protrusions of various shapes and sizes found on the inner surface of the foreskin cavity. The process is a continuous one: living cells are

constantly growing towards the surface, only to undergo fatty degeneration in their turn, and separate off as freshly formed smegma.

These smegma-forming prominences vary with the age of the individual. The prominences may be present in fair numbers, even in infants and young children, but they reach their largest size and greatest number in men between ages 20 and 40. Thereafter, they regress until, in elderly men, they can be detected only in atrophied form. These findings tally with the amount of smegma produced at various ages. Comparatively little is formed in childhood. A noticeable increase occurs during adolescence, with its great acceleration of penis growth. This is understandable because the penis is developing into its mature and adult form. Smegma is needed for the smooth operation of erection, particularly during adolescence, when sexual thoughts and dreams, nocturnal erections and masturbation are common.

The adult stage follows with its period of maximum sexual activity. Sexual intercourse becomes a regular feature of life, and the function of smegma for lubrication assumes its full value. Middle age follows with a decline in amount until there is a virtual absence of the substance in old age. These findings are, of course, subject to individual differences; in some men, the penis remains well preserved and functional even into extreme old age.

Does smegma also contain sebum, the natural oil produced by the sebaceous glands on ordinary skin? This question has been debated for many years, but Soviet researchers have at last supplied the answer. They find that in childhood sebaceous glands are, in fact, present in the inner surface of the foreskin. As age advances, these glands decrease in number, and in adult life occur only at the base of the foreskin, inconstantly and sparsely. Other researchers have found them in rather large numbers in some individuals. But, in general, it is now clear that, while sebum forms an essential part of smegma in childhood, it makes no significant contribution to it in later life.

Attention has also been directed to certain papules present in some men on the corona of the glans. Recently naming them 'pearly penile papules' – or P-3, for short, an American physician considers they are probably more common than is generally realised. They rarely cause trouble and, since they consist only of a network of blood vessels surrounded by connective tissue, they take no part in smegma production.

Smegma is a substance of considerable chemical complexity, but little is known of its exact composition beyond the fact that it contains neutral fats, fatty acids, sterols, other lipids and cell debris. Scientific investigation is difficult because, on exposure, smegma readily undergoes changes in chemical composition and physical consistency. It can differ in colour from yellow to white and may vary between individuals at different stages of life. It also varies in amount in relation to the so-called 'smegma producing capacity' of the foreskin cavity. In other words, a long or wide foreskin produces more smegma than a short or narrow one. This is to be expected, since the function

of smegma is to produce a uniform general lubrication between foreskin and glans.

How do these matters affect American men? Circumcision in infancy is a near routine procedure in the US. One must suppose then that most men would lack smegma through an absence of foreskin. This will be true for those whose circumcision is complete. However, the operation is by no means an 'all-or-none' procedure. Surveys have shown that as many as one-third of circumcised men are left with a portion of foreskin that partially covers their glans. Adding to their number those individuals who have not been circumcised, we find a sizeable portion of men are still in possession of foreskins. Hence, from the practical point of view, it is important that they should realise the need for cleanliness of the foreskin cavity. This means, in effect, keeping it free from an undesirable collection of smegma.

In its fresh state, smegma is a wholesome and functional lubricant. But, if allowed to accumulate in the foreskin cavity, it becomes changed into an unpleasant, unhealthy and bad-smelling substance. Such changes are due to chemical splitting of smegma fats and the action of skin germs, which are otherwise harmless. In addition, foreign material may gain access to the smegma deposit in the form of dirt, dust or sand, urine and semen. Normally, a healthy foreskin may be retracted for cleansing, and smegma can be removed by washing. The fact that it is a superficial substance renders its removal easy, provided cleansing is performed regularly. Particular attention should be paid to the depths of the foreskin where smegma is liable to lodge in the pocket between foreskin and glans.

A very tight foreskin requires attention also. Without correct treatment, ill health of the foreskin is liable to occur. Deposits of smegma collect and harden within the foreskin cavity, which can lead to chronic disease and even prepare the way for cancerous changes. Cancer of the penis is not common in the US, but is frequent in certain tropical countries. It is almost always associated with uncleanliness and long-standing ill health of the penis. Since the tumour commonly develops within such a closed foreskin cavity, it has been considered that retained smegma could be the cancer-inducing agency. [*Sexology* editor's note: Cancer of the penis is now known to be associated with the presence of the human papilloma virus (HPV). Cancer of the penis may occur in both circumcised and uncircumcised men if HPV is present. Additional risk factors are hygiene, genital warts and number of sexual partners. Smegma is not now believed to be carcinogenic.]

Personal hygiene and cleanliness rank high as a protection for the penis. Remember that it is stale and accumulated smegma that is a source of ill health. Freshly formed smegma, washed away regularly and constantly replenishing itself, is a wholesome lubricant – making for ease of erection and smoothness in sexual intercourse.

Joyce Wright, MD

ACORN

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David Acorn

Editorial

I recently went on holiday to Cap d'Agde, in the south of France, the largest naturist complex in Europe, and I thought that I should report back. On the first full day there, all the British who had arrived the day before were invited to a wine party by the travel agents. Looking around, it appeared that about half were circumcised, all of an older generation. Launched into the company of the other few thousand there, the percentage went right down, and those few that were, probably were British as well, and, of course, some Jews. The French were predominant, closely followed by the Germans and Swiss, with a few Spanish, Dutch and Italians.

What surprised me most was the conformity of foreskins. I would have thought that, as circumcision was so uncommon in these countries, I would find quite a few that, to our way of thinking, needed circumcising. But not so. 90% were open at the end to show the tip of the glans, or were short and showed up to half of the glans. The rest were almost closed at the tip. I saw no long overhangs, and only

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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.

about five that might or might not be phimosed. There seems more variation in foreskins at home here. I asked myself if this was why circumcision took off in this country and not the rest of Europe, or maybe the Europeans with abnormal foreskins wouldn't go to a place where they could be seen. I asked a German why he had been circumcised, and he told me that he hadn't, but had a very short, almost non-existent foreskin.

Another thing that I noticed was that young men now appear to have bigger flaccid penises than were evident when I was young. You can't compare them with older men now, as half an inch is lost off the penis length for every stone overweight, and let's face it, most of us are overweight, so it has to be done from memory. There aren't all that many young people in naturism. They go with their family until they reach puberty and disappear until they are young marrieds in their early twenties, presumably because they are so self-conscious about their bodies during that period.

David Acorn

Prince William Again

I read on the Web (www.circlist.org) that there had been sightings of tabloid reports that Prince William had recently been circumcised at his own request. Have there been any other sightings of these reports? Which tabloids? When? Is the information considered reliable enough to warrant a change in the celebrity list status?

C.B. – Cambs.

[The original assertion appeared in a newsgroup well known for its trolls. The story has never been given chapter and verse by its author, nor corroborated by anyone else. It is unreliable and almost certainly untrue – especially given the tacit agreement amongst the press to allow William and Harry privacy in their personal lives. — V.Q.]

Ragged Skin At Penis Opening

I am 20 years old and quite concerned about a particular characteristic of my penis. Perhaps your consultant could give me some information on the subject. At the tip of the glans I have a little protrusion of flesh where the urethra opens. I guess the best way to describe it is that it looks like ragged skin. Also, the frenulum is stretched quite tightly even when I don't have an erection.

A friend says that he has heard of people having things called strictures which block the urethra and can sometimes resemble what I have described. He suggested that I try applying hydrocortisone cream to this little ragged

spot to shrink it. Will this help? What could have caused this? Perhaps it might be important to mention that I masturbate by rubbing my penis just under the head at the frenulum between my thumb and forefinger instead of the seemingly more popular up/down stroking method. Please give me some help with this problem.

Answer:

First, there's no point in using a hydrocortisone cream. It won't do anything to shrink this piece of skin. You don't have to worry that this might be a urethral stricture, which is an internal problem that affects the flow of urine. Nor is this ragged skin related to your masturbatory technique.

This flap of extra skin may simply be part of your anatomy. Some people have a bit of additional skin in some places on their bodies. If you're circumcised, it's possible that this ragged bit of skin resulted from the circumcision. When the penis is circumcised it is very small, and may grow in ways that result in such variations. This flap of skin should not affect your enjoyment of sex, or of your partner's. If you remain concerned about it, I suggest that you consult a urologist for advice.

From the Internet

Islamic Cut

I wonder if I can add a little to the Islamic circumcision correspondence. I have no religious leanings whatsoever and was referred to a Harley Street doctor specialising in both male and female genital surgery. It was only during his examination of my foreskin that he mentioned that he was a Muslim, and that his normal practice was to undertake a radical circumcision, although adding that he would do partial circumcisions if asked to do so, i.e. leaving some skin at the base of the glans.

I confirmed that I would like to be cut right back and to lose my frenulum, which is what he did. As he finished, I remember him saying, "There, you are now fully circumcised in the Islamic way." This was of no significance to me, although the fact that it was radical meant a lot to me then, and continues to give me great pleasure.

To any member contemplating circumcision, I would recommend the radical version, but whatever you decide, do have your frenulum cut. It not only looks good but stops the glans from being held down.

I.S. – North Kent

Lone Voice?

Am I alone, or have other members noticed the worrying trend for *Acorn* to become a platform for the anti-circumcision lobby.

I cannot be the only member who is happy with his circumcision, and it would be nice to read more about the benefits and pleasures. Current trends discouraging mothers from allowing their newborn boys to be circumcised will mean that we will be a dwindling minority (maybe even a freak show to be pitied).

To those who want to keep their foreskins – it is your choice – but you don't know what you're missing. If you are cut and happy, now is the time to put pen to paper, either to *Acorn* or to me via *Acorn*.

S.S. – *Twickenham*

Further Observations

I have of late taken more than a passing interest in the genitalia of my fellow gym users, and it has come to my attention that great many health conscious young men in the prime of their lives, and presumably at the height of their sexual vigour, seem to suffer (if that indeed is the correct term) from what can only be termed as 'the anteater look'.

Their foreskins are very tight, all enveloping, and protrude from the head of their penises by several centimetres. Their cocks therefore look like eye-droppers!

How I would like to carefully retract these heavy drapes of flesh to expose the glistening, sensitive bulbs of their glans penis for all to see. The purple and glistening jewel in their crowns with its single sad eye!

Whilst variations in penis size and shape add variety to the spice of erotic life, it would require the boldest of connoisseurs to find those cowed hoods appealing. No. The circumcised penis is bold and to the point: what you see is what you get, and no hidden surprises there...

K.G. – *London*

Comments On 'Paeon To The Penis'

I have 'Paeon to the Penis' (3/98) in front of me as I write, and compliment K.G. of London on expressing sentiments with which I 95% concur. "I couldn't have expressed it better myself" is the cliché which springs immediately to mind. So why do I only give the piece a 95% rating? It's the phrase "all penises are a thing of beauty" which worries me. Some, admittedly only a few, strike

me as being decidedly ugly. I'm not thinking about distressing deformities or pre-pubertal penises, which in the first instance are sad, and in the second instance are usually insignificant and (to me) just plain boring. I believe that, just as there are pretty or ugly faces, pretty or ugly hands, and even pretty or ugly general physiques, so some penises are emphatically prettier than others.

It's a topic I've often discussed before. It is very hard to define, but there is a certain balance between shaft length and thickness, and between shaft and scrotum, which I find more attractive in some guys than in others. Sometimes the whole ensemble seems to be set further forward on the lower abdomen than on other occasions when it seems to hang further back between the legs. Those which stand forward (or proud) always strike me as being more attractive. The level at which the scrotum hangs (slung low or held tight and high) also has a bearing on aesthetic appearance.

These are subtle qualities which subconsciously affect the degree of pleasure that I experience when viewing a 'genital set' for the first time. But they do not detract significantly from my general accord with K.G.'s view that penises are a joy to behold. It matters not whether they are large or small, thick or thin, cut or uncut, black or white, hard or soft – they are all beautiful. And that's why I can never understand why men, traditionally, tend to hide this wonderful asset from public gaze. This is in direct contrast to women who do everything in their power to make the most of their breast cleavage and voluptuousness, and dare the fashion designers to produce even skimpier bikinis and mini-skirts.

But there is more to 'Paeon to the Penis' than just K.G.'s praise of its appearance. At least another three of the recognised Five Senses contribute to its joys. Take feeling and touch for example. First of all there are the magnificent sensations within the organ itself and, indeed, in the whole body corporate of sexual arousal and orgasm. These ecstatic joys, surely, are more fundamental even than its visual appeal. But there is also a great sense of pleasure in fondling the texture of the skin and feeling the increasing fullness as tumescence advances. Yes, the touch of a good penis is as glorious as its sight. As a sexual 'oralist' I know the pleasures which are generated by taste and smell are not only mine, but are experienced by all those who share my predilection.

Only hearing is of questionable value when assessing penile attributes – although the rhythmic slapping of carefree masturbation can be music to the ears.

R.H. – South Wales

Doubts

I have always been an ardent enthusiast for circumcision, but recently I've begun to wonder about it. For example, at work yesterday I walked into the toilets which have unshielded urinals side-on to the entrance to see a young guy there gazing down in satisfaction as he took a leak. He had the sort of over-developed foreskin which I used to hate so much in myself, and which he obviously had no intention of retracting since his urine jet emerged from its tip. Meanwhile, I went and did what was necessary, washed my hands, and, as I left, noticed that he was still standing there staring contentedly down at his cock as he stretched and released the surplus skin adorning the end. This had the effect of increasing the unease I have felt for the last few months about having got myself done (and incidentally gave rise to this letter) since my observations in the toilets, and the sight of dozens of blokes previously performing at the stall, bring home to me the fact that none of the other guys at work, of my age, are circumcised, and furthermore, none of them choose to pull back their foreskins when they pee. In the past, I'd always thought this was a common practice for hygiene. The niggle at the back of my mind is that, as far as circumcision is concerned, I appear to be on my own, and I also seem to be the odd man out over the necessity for foreskin retraction.

I always wanted to be circumcised ever since my first girlfriend was reluctant to have sex with me because I hadn't been done. She told me her brothers had been circumcised and that girls were liable to get cancer from uncircumcised men. This made me feel terrible about my foreskin and I resolved there and then to get it removed. It took me a couple of years to muster the courage to do so. After leaving college I took a job in the Midlands and found lodgings with a landlady who turned out to be an absolute tart. She was about 15 years older than me and had a really filthy mind, every conversation being full of double meanings, and the phrase 'nudge, nudge, wink, wink' fitted her perfectly. I found all this quite worrying since I was desperately naive sexually, and was still not quite sure of my sexual orientation. Within three days of my arriving I found myself called into her parlour, where I was dumbfounded to see her ironing her knickers, fully dressed above the waist and totally nude beneath! She grinned at my evident dismay. "Don't worry about me, love. I don't believe in standing on ceremony", she said. I was prepared to believe her too as I feasted my eyes on the untidy black powder puff between her thighs, noticing with interest that lower down the lips had been depilated. I have since discovered that a lot of 'professional ladies' do this.

I began to understand what it was all about when a procession of commercial travellers stayed, and to my knowledge quite a lot of them were offered extra 'entertainment' for a consideration. I doubt if it got declared on her tax return. Eventually of course, I found myself escorted to her bedroom after several suggestive comments that it might be worth my while. I was as nervous as a kitten as she undressed me, eyed my limp penis speculatively before stripping

off herself. I'd never seen a woman of her mature years nude before, and was desperately excited at the vista of massive female flesh as she revealed her over-ripe melons to me with another view of her powder puff and nether lips. I sat there on the bed, red as a beetroot, while she chuckled at my continuing state of dick droop. She told me not to worry but just give her a kiss, whereupon she grabbed me in a tight embrace and laid on top of me as she ran her lips over my neck and chest. I felt plenty of excitement of course, who wouldn't? But at the same time I was overwhelmed by panic and still failed to respond. She told me to relax, not to worry, and then said a little 'gam' would soon do the trick. Whereupon she seized my pathetic little flopper in her fist, dragged the skin down off the head, and popped it into her mouth like a boiled sweet!

I then started feeling sensations I'd never even dreamt about before and within seconds found myself rising to the occasion like a true hero, and the party started on its inexorable path to a crescendo of sexual bliss. I could hardly believe what had happened to me, since it was more like the sexual boasting of my friends which I knew was only fantasy. But here I was actually making the grade with a genuine nymphomaniac (tart, in fact, but I didn't realise it fully at the time). She looked on me as relaxation rather than a meal ticket, which was just as well since I was broke most of the time.

This became a regular treat when she had 'nights off' from her usual clientele of commercial travellers. She seemed to prefer oral sex, and I was also required, despite severe misgivings, to 'give my tongue a treat' before she'd consent to the finale. The most exciting experience for me though, was when she gripped my shaft between her teeth and pulled her head back, grazing the knob through the stretched foreskin before biting and tugging at the foreskin tip. I could only stand a little of this before being overwhelmed with feeling and flooding her mouth with come.

Eventually I revealed to her my enthusiasm for circumcision and intention to get it done. She smiled and said a lot of older men had had it done, but she reckoned it deprived a man of his male scent down there and made it less interesting for oral sex. Anyway, I was finally circumcised at the S.A.S. Clinic, and about three weeks later was just about fit to renew our sexual activity. She was dead curious to see what had happened but was not too keen on the still raw-looking wound, and refused from then on to apply her mouth to it or let me have normal sex. Instead she made me perform orally on her while she gave me a hand job. This was not very satisfactory for me, but what really got me down was the constant demand she made on my tongue. After giving her a couple of comes in the evening and falling asleep, I'd wake up to find myself fighting for breath as she straddled my face with my cock in her hand and demanded yet more oral satisfaction. This was all very fine, but I found myself waking up tired, and have been unable to face kippers for breakfast ever since.

She seemed to really enjoy belittling me and treating me in a high-handed way. She had a tarty friend of the same age and inclination, and used to

invite her round so they could both heap indignities upon me. This systematic humiliation by two strong-minded women made me wonder if I'd done the right thing by getting myself circumcised. Although neither of them made disparaging remarks as such about my altered organ, their disgraceful conduct in pissing all over it could not have made their feelings any clearer. Immediately afterwards I moved out, feeling in the depths of depression when I should have been rejoicing at getting my wish to have myself circumcised granted. Afterwards I got myself a normal girlfriend and settled down to a more normal and contented life. My new girlfriend made no comment at all about circumcision except for her initial surprise since it was an unfamiliar sight to her. When I try and raise the subject though, she seems to find it embarrassing and refuses to talk about it.

Sex is fine now, but the excitement of the appalling things my landlady did lives on and I can no longer reach the heights of sensation I used to feel, especially when she used to apply her teeth to my foreskin. My present girlfriend is not too keen on giving me oral sex, but when as a treat she does, I have to admit I find it quite boring. Anyway, what's done is done and I'm determined to make the best of it. Have any other members had doubts about it after getting themselves circumcised? It would be useful to know.

Anon

The Frenulum

There is often a lot of controversy about the frenulum whenever circumcision is mentioned. In my own case I never had a tight or even obvious frenulum when I had a foreskin. However, a great number of uncut men have this obvious 'string' which causes them a great deal of discomfort when erect, with it being stretched tight so that intercourse can be quite painful. It brings to mind the letter from 'Amanda' (about 1994?) and how she helped her boyfriend by cutting his tight frenulum. This resulted in his being able to properly retract his foreskin, and completely changed their sex lives.

It seems to me that in this day and age when the medical world wants to leave nature alone, and circumcision is sadly not as popular a neonatal procedure as it should be, boys should be examined. Since there are often adhesions which prohibit an infant's foreskin being retracted, most will have been broken down by the age of 5 or so. During routine school medicals at about that age, a careful examination of the frenulum should be made, and if any degree of tightness is seen, it should be snipped under a local anaesthetic so that the boy will never have any problems in the future. To all intents and purposes the boy will be untouched but he will be able to retract his foreskin fully and will never have problems during intercourse.

Returning to the subject of circumcision and the frenulum, it seems quite illogical to leave any trace of frenulum when the penis has been rid of its foreskin. Certainly in my case, when I removed my foreskin, my one regret was that I was not circumcised as an infant like so many of my luckier friends. To this day I enjoy the slight feeling of bareness given to my denuded glans and also the feeling of always being 'aware' of that organ nestling in my pants. Should anyone have any comments, do drop me a line. [Or *Acorn!* — D.A.]

R.W. – Surrey

So-Called Muslims

I am really disgusted that someone who hasn't met me judges me in such a hostile manner in more or less branding me of religious bigotry. I have never been a bigot, but have been a very religious person who happens to be a very broad and open-minded human being. These comments are, of course, directed to R.B.W. I will always stand up for religion, and one more thing, Muslims have never forced circumcision on anyone. It was the so-called Muslims who did such things, and Islam tells Muslims not to force the faith on anyone, and all Muslims get annoyed that so-called Muslims use and abuse Islam in front of the non-Islamic community, whom I deeply respect and enjoy being with.

It is these very so-called Muslims who are ramming Islam down the throats of the non-Muslim people in Southern Sudan where all males are being forcibly circumcised that is going against these people's human rights and, above all, Islam. A Muslim would never forcibly circumcise anyone who isn't within the fold of Islam.

I wish R.B.W. all the very best in life and that his knowledge increases as all ours should as well. I do not expect this letter to be published as I feel there is still an anti-Islamic bias against Muslims and Islam.

Yahya Ahmed. O.A.N.I.M. Lamont

Reply To 'No Hands,' Issue 4/97

It's true that you can have an ejaculation without an orgasm, as Anon wrote in 4/97, You can do it once or twice more until you are dry, but it's very hard to achieve all the time because you have to reach a point exactly, and then – hands away!

It would be very interesting if we could read about some other methods, like the feelings after a period of chastity, or from a female aspect. These masturbatory ideas are not often discussed, although they must take place.

I like to see tight radical circumcisions. I haven't been cut yet, but I do have a tight foreskin and have been thinking about having it done for some time.

I also like to see very small endowments. My friend has one and it's always exciting to see. Perhaps someone like that is interested in corresponding or meeting? Each letter will be answered.

To the letter again. If you hold back at the right moment, you feel fine to start over again. You must have great will-power, as Anon wrote, but it is possible.

I wonder if we could have letters on other topics, like feelings after periods of chastity, use of condoms, orgasms without ejaculation etc. Members, tell us about your likes and dislikes, and let's start some nice discussions.

I hope there's a great response to this, and I'll write some more in future issues.

Greetings from H. O. – Vienna

Rabbis Rebuked

(Sunday Telegraph – 2.8.98)

Israeli parliamentarians have launched a campaign to stop the country's Orthodox rabbis conducting posthumous circumcisions. In the latest issue to divide secular and religious Jews, Israel's burial societies have been accused of circumcising dead bodies without informing the families involved. The societies say they are merely following religious law, which requires that a man be circumcised to qualify for a Jewish burial.

"If I find somebody who has not been circumcised, I will do it," said the director of a burial society, adding that once the body is presented for burial there's no need to consult the family. "If you come to a Jewish burial society, you know what to expect."

Enraged by such reports, MPs are trying to have the practice banned. An opposition MP has filed a complaint with the police, saying the practice is illegal. "In a modern country like Israel, we cannot bear behaviour like that," he said. "It's a question of fanatics, and we have to deal with fanatics inside Israeli society."

Members of the parliamentary committee on immigration and absorption have urged Israel's chief rabbis to guarantee circumcisions are performed only with approval of a dead man's family. The issue triggered heated exchanges during a recent committee debate. "Only I am responsible for my sexual organs," declared the leader of the left-wing party. "The religious establishment is not only taking control of our lives, it is controlling our deaths."

However, Israel's powerful religious parties argue that posthumous circumcisions are no worse than autopsies, which they oppose, "Why do you object to a circumcision, but when we're talking about an operation taking out

the heart, lungs and other organs, you don't have a problem?" they say. Israel's burial societies, under the control of the country's Orthodox rabbis, say they cannot bury uncircumcised bodies, and that there are secular alternatives for families who do not wish to follow Jewish law. But while religious burials are state funded, civil ceremonies are very expensive. In fact, Israel's rabbis are divided on the issue of posthumous circumcisions, and at least one burial society has stopped performing the ritual act.

In recent years, the issue has come to light because of a large number of uncircumcised immigrants from the former Soviet Union. The government spent tens of thousands of pounds on circumcisions following the influx in the late eighties. Concerns ran high in religious circles that when it came to Jewishness, many of the estimated 800,000 new arrivals were distinctly lacking. Surveys suggest that at least a quarter of the immigrants are not Jewish at all. Anatomically, it seems, it is a question of too much, rather than too little. Although the operation for grown men is performed by doctors, not rabbis, many immigrants are understandably squeamish, preferring to take their secret to the grave. Unfortunately, thanks to burial societies, they can't.

D.B. – Lancs.

My Circumcision

I do not remember when I first became aware about circumcision. I had been left intact as a baby and had a long, straggling foreskin – when I was fully grown it extended over half an inch beyond the tip of my penis. I was quite a naïve adolescent – there was no sex education at home or school, and my sketchy knowledge was picked up from friends and books. I can recall discovering for myself how the foreskin worked. One day, when I was about 12, I noticed that the skin could pull back. I started to do so, not knowing how far it would peel back, nor what I would find underneath. And so I discovered my glans!

I remember the word 'circumcision' as a word from the bible, picked on with great delight by some boys in religious studies classes. I looked up the word in old medical books that we had at home and I suppose that I became aware that circumcision was a procedure which was carried out on some boys and not others. At school, there were both cavaliers and roundheads and no-one made any big deal about which you were.

It was in my late teens that I began to be really interested in the subject. I liked the look of the shorn cock and wondered what it was like having the glans exposed. I even tried keeping the skin back, but the glans was so sensitive that I quickly drew the skin forward again. The defining moment came towards the end of my first year at university. I went swimming with a friend and afterwards we showered together. He looked at me and said "I see

you've never been circumcised." (He himself was cut.) I replied that no-one had ever suggested it and he said: "You ought to get it done. It would be much better for you." "And how would I manage that?" "Oh, just go and see your doctor, he'll organise it." The conversation went no further, but I realised then, first that adults could be circumcised, and second that it might be better to be cut than uncut.

After that, I became very interested in the whole subject, and was very observant about people's status as cavaliers or roundheads. I again tried keeping my foreskin retracted, but the sensitivity of my glans always defeated me. Then I realised that if I was circumcised I would have no choice about my glans being permanently exposed. So I decided that I would choose a time and date a few days in the future, and would pretend that I was to be circumcised then. After that, I would keep my foreskin retracted. It took a lot of willpower – for about two weeks, I was aware of every move that I made. I seemed to be in a permanent state of erection, and yet my glans was extremely sore and tender. Several times I nearly gave up, but each time I argued with myself that, if I had really been circumcised, I would have no choice. Eventually, after about two weeks, the whole situation settled and thereafter, I kept my foreskin retracted virtually permanently. I was lucky in having a quite pronounced coronal ridge so that even though the foreskin was quite bulky, it rarely slipped forward.

Over the next few years my desire to be circumcised increased. As I met more men who had been circumcised, and discussed with them the advantages, I became convinced that I wanted to be a roundhead. This, however, was easier said than done. Whenever I had a medical I raised the subject. I also saw three different doctors to request the operation. Always the answer was the same. Although my foreskin was a little bit long it was perfectly healthy and there was no medical reason to remove it. I decided that the next stage in my campaign should be to feign balanitis (inflammation of the foreskin). I claimed that during hot weather I suffered from persistent irritation and soreness and I also induced a rash before medical appointments by applying spices or ointments like algipan. Even this however did not convince the doctors. I was treated sympathetically, told to keep clean and dry and was given creams to apply. I was even referred to a dermatologist. Sometimes circumcision was mentioned as a possibility, but when I pressed this I was told that it was a serious operation and that there were lots of things to try first. I began to despair of achieving my ambition and I even began to wonder whether converting to Judaism or Islam might be a way!

I then had a stroke of luck. I was in a business meeting one day when the person I was with said that he would have to call our meeting to a close since he had to collect his sons from hospital. I expressed my sympathy that both his sons were ill at once and he laughed and said that both had just been circumcised. When I said "Both?" he explained that his 15 year old son had developed a tight foreskin as he matured, and that he, the father, had

decided to have his 12 year old son cut at the same time as a precautionary move. It seemed to me that any surgeon who would do a circumcision just as a precaution must be in favour of the operation and I managed to angle the conversation with the father to find out who the surgeon was. I was given a name in Harley St. I knew that consultants normally only saw patients referred to them by a GP. However I decided to write to this surgeon direct and I told him my well-rehearsed story about suffering from balanitis and asking whether he would see me with a view to performing a circumcision. I really expected not to receive a reply, or at least a negative response but a few days later a letter arrived offering me an appointment.

When I went to see him he listened very sympathetically whilst I explained the frequent irritation and discomfort which I suffered. He then examined me very carefully. When I was dressed again, he said that he was not surprised that a foreskin of that length was causing problems. (I was obviously lucky that in fact it wasn't!) In his experience, once a foreskin began to give trouble, it usually continued. On the other hand circumcision was almost always an effective cure and he was therefore prepared to do the operation for me. I felt an enormous sense of relief as I heard this and I had great difficulty in not smiling in triumph. I had just one last concern and this was about the amount of skin which would be removed. I had seen some circumcised men with whom it was difficult to tell whether they had been cut or whether they just had short foreskins. I wished to be more radically dealt with than that. I said that since the foreskin was causing problems I hoped that he would remove as much as possible. He said that I need have no worries on that score – he always performed a full circumcision whatever the reason for the operation. I would find after the operation that my glans was fully exposed. In fact, he warned me that this might cause some problems initially since I would probably find that the glans was very sensitive. I could help myself by starting to keep the foreskin pulled back before the operation so that the hardening off process would at least have begun. I didn't tell him that I had actually been wearing my foreskin retracted for a number of years. I also tried to persuade him to do the op under a local but he said that he always used a general. I was disappointed and I would have loved to have been awake whilst the operation was being performed. However, I had no intention of rejecting his services just because of that. Three weeks later I was admitted to a private hospital. I went in at lunchtime and the op was due to be done at 7p.m. The afternoon was taken up with visits from the nurse taking specimens and the anaesthetist giving a check-up and taking blood pressure. Then at 5.30 the nurse (fortunately a male nurse so my blushes were spared) came to get me ready. I was washed all round the pubic area (but not shaved I am pleased to say) and I was then tied into a surgical gown. It always seems strange that the gown came down to the knees when presumably in theatre it had to be shoved back up to my waist, but there must be some logic. As I put the gown on I took a last look at my uncircumcised penis with the foreskin straggling beyond the tip – untidy and forlorn looking. I had no regrets about bidding it farewell. I was then given

an injection and drifted into a half daze. I remember looking at the label tied to my wrist saying 'Circumcision' and feeling pleased that it was now so near. Then I was wheeled off to the theatre and put properly to sleep. I was woken a couple of times in the night by the nurse who shone a torch down below but I was too groggy to take much notice. In the morning, however, I woke bright and clear, very hungry since I had starved from mid

day the previous day and in no pain at all. In fact I took no pain-killers at all after the operation.

I stayed in hospital that day and the following night and early the next morning the surgeon came to remove the dressing. So my circumcised penis was revealed – and very bruised and battered it looked! The surgeon explained that this was normal – the skin was very sensitive and had been traumatised. He told me not to wear a dressing but perhaps to keep a piece of lint loosely around it to keep it clean. He said that the glans would probably be very sensitive now that it was exposed to the world and erections would also be painful (and they were) but not to worry as the stitches would not come apart. Sex was banned for three weeks.

Over the next week to ten days the stitches gradually dissolved and the scar started to subside. The whole area however was still very puffy and numb. When I saw the surgeon after a week he told me that this was perfectly normal and that both symptoms would gradually go. He was right, although it took about three months before I could say that I had a fully healed circumcised penis.

I had had a slight concern before the operation that afterwards I might regret losing my foreskin. I must say however that I have never had a moment's regret. I was very pleased with my remodelled penis and proud of the exposed glans. I was much less shy about undressing in public. Whereas before, I had tended to keep myself covered as far as possible in changing rooms, now I didn't mind who had a look! Sex seemed better without the glove of foreskin and masturbation was still pleasurable! In all it was a success and I could only wish that it had been done earlier – say when I was 3 days old!

My only slight regret was that the surgeon hadn't been quite as severe as he had promised. Although the glans was fully exposed, there was still a ring of foreskin which tended to bunch behind the glans rim when the penis was flaccid. This niggled a bit and I would have preferred the type of circumcision that I saw some other men had where there appeared to be no spare skin at all. I assumed however that there was no way I could get an adjustment – it had been difficult enough getting the first operation. Even if the surgeon who did that hadn't by now retired I knew he would throw me out on my ear if I asked to be tidied up.

I then read something in *Forum* which suggested that the Surgical Advisory Service did revisions. I was very reluctant still to expose myself to possible ridicule there. However, as it happened, a small cyst had developed on the

circumcision scar line and since the SAS also advertised minor ops I decided to have this removed and to see whether there was any chance of raising the question of a revision. I duly made an appointment, got to see the consultant and dropped my trousers and pants. He checked the cyst and said that it could easily be removed. He then looked at me and said: "Is that all?" So I plucked up courage and asked whether when he did the operation, it would be possible to tighten up the skin at all. He immediately became very enthusiastic. He examined my penis again and then said that there was surplus skin which he could remove. He suggested that he should do a complete re-circumcision so that he took away skin right around the shaft. He would cut the frenulum at the same time so that he could get a really tight effect. When I asked whether he would recommend the operation, he said that he thought that it would be very beneficial. It would be much better for the glans to be fully and permanently exposed.

So three weeks later I presented myself for the operation. I removed trousers and briefs and lay on an operating table with my shirt pulled up around my chest. This time I had my wish that it should be done under local anaesthetic although I was asked to fold my arms over my chest so that I couldn't actually see what was going on. He injected me and then after what seemed a very short time, he started.

He explained to the nurse that this operation was a bit different because I had already been circumcised but not enough skin had been taken away. I asked whether this was a frequent problem. He said that not many men went as far as a revision but in his opinion many of the circumcisions which he saw in the course of his duties were not as complete as they might be. Whilst he was working, I asked whether he got much response to the circumcision advert and he said that there were an increasing number of men seeking the operation. I asked whether he was in favour of routine circumcision and he said very much so. It was best if it was done as a baby but a man could benefit from it at any age and he would certainly recommend any uncircumcised man to consider the operation.

At only one point did I feel any pain. I yelped a little and he apologised and explained that he had just cut the frenulum which was very sensitive. At that I felt quite satisfied because it meant that I was now really radically circumcised. I was aware of him working on one side and then the other, and then very quickly it was over and he was putting a dressing on. It must have been a maximum of 20 minutes. I was then told to dismount, get dressed and rest for a little while in the waiting room where I could have a cup of coffee.

In the waiting room there was a man in his mid-twenties, looking a bit nervous. I smiled and said: "I'm glad that's over." He asked: "What did you have done?" "Circumcision." "Me too!" he said. "Well, you'll be much better off without it." "I know" he replied "I've wanted it done for the last ten years." And with that he was called into the surgery. Twenty minutes later he returned. "Well, I don't know what it looks like, but I feel great," he said. It was funny

really, two men with highly damaged equipment feeling very pleased with themselves. But we both knew that we should very soon reap the benefits of our soreness. I was then called out, my dressing was checked to make sure there was no bleeding, I was given a prescription for painkillers and antibiotics, I paid and left. As with my first circumcision, the discomfort which I experienced was minimal and the painkillers remained untouched. An unpleasant feature was the dressing. I had been told to keep it on for 48 hours but it came right up the penis virtually to the meatus (presumably because the frenulum had been removed) and so the dressing quickly became soaked with urine. This I found very unpleasant and it was a relief to be able to take the dressing off after the stipulated time. This time the penis did not look so damaged – no puffiness probably because most of the actual foreskin had now gone. I was a little concerned that there still seemed to be slight bleeding where the frenulum had been removed and in fact this continued for about five days forming a haematoma. I was thinking I would have to return to the surgery but it did at last stop. The resulting blood blister however did take some weeks to dry up and eventually go. The stitches gradually dissolved over a week or ten days although they left slightly raised lumps which again took some time to subside. I think a different stitching technique must have been used from the first time. Anyway, in due course, everything healed up properly.

So what does it look like now? The skin is now reasonably tight on the shaft and there is no surplus skin to ruck up behind the ridge. This means that the glans is fully exposed including the underpart of the rim, running right round to the V-part of the underside of the glans where the frenulum had been. I have at last got the really radical circumcision that I wanted.

And my opinion now? Firstly, I believe that my glans has expanded through being exposed on all sides. Secondly, this has been an added bonus to the improvement in appearance which the operation brought about anyway. Thirdly, the exposure of the underside of the rim, which is a very sensitive area, has been very beneficial both in sex, where the whole penis head is subject to stimulation without any skin covering, and in masturbation, where all surfaces are open to exploration.

I have always been an advocate of circumcision. Now I believe that the most radical cut confers the greatest benefits. If only cavaliers knew what they were missing, they would be queuing up for it.

I.G. – London

ACORN

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 Editor
 David Acorn

Editorial

A profusion of circumcision stories in this edition. I won't apologise, as most members know that I feel if someone goes to a lot of trouble to write up their story then it should be told.

The following should, by rights, be found in the celebrity status columns, but as I'm writing here I might as well put it in here. During the last two weeks in October, late at night on Channel 4, two films by the British director, Peter Greenaway have been shown. One can always count on seeing a load of bare bodies in his films. The first, *The Baby of Macon*, starred Ralph Fiennes, who, like most of the rest of the cast, came to a gory end. He spent some time cavorting naked on the screen and, although it was easy to see that he sported a foreskin, the photography was all in a red hue which made it difficult to pick out the finer elements.

The second film, *The Pillow Book*, was a different kettle of fish entirely. It starred the British actor Ewan McGregor (who also came to a sticky end, having his skin peeled off his body, the meat of him cut up and put in a garbage lorry). It was all about a Japanese girl writing on

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bodies, so he spent most of his scenes, as did most of the men, in the nude with a lot of full frontal. Ewan has what could be called the perfect natural penis, with a smooth foreskin which just allows the tip of his glans to show, and would probably disappear when he is erect to possibly 6.5" plus. Two other young British men stood full frontal as well, and they could have been replicas of McGregor's. One Japanese young man had his foreskin retracted in his first scene, but had it brought forward in the second. His foreskin was short, as was his penis. A second Japanese also had a small penis, this time though, with a long pointed foreskin. A young fat American, cut, was scorned by the girl for having a tiny one, and a sumo wrestler type had nothing but a wad of pubic hair. Unlike most Greenaway films, this one had sharp lighting, the better, I suppose, to see the Japanese writing all over the bodies. As it was a premier showing, one can expect it to be shown again in the future.

David Acorn

Fulfilment

What a revelation! I received the bounty of five editions of *Acorn* last Monday evening and read them all through before turning off the light after midnight. Even then I didn't get to sleep for twenty minutes or so...! Thank you for producing such an interesting publication, and one which addresses in an adult and stimulating way a subject that has fascinated me from my earliest years, that of circumcision.

I don't know why I find it so all-absorbing. I recall bath times as a lad, when I shared the tub with my older brother who was cut. Right from that time I held a resentment that I was not. Was I not good enough to be treated in the same way as him? Was I inferior? Why couldn't I have it too? I remember at the age of ten or so trying to draw back my foreskin and fix it with metal grips, hoping that it would stay like that; that I would then be 'circumcised' too! Laughable? – well perhaps, but it shows the strength of my feelings on the subject even then. I wonder if other men have felt this at such an early age.

Soon after, when my sexual feelings for boys and older men began to stir, I regarded those who were cut as a special super species, particularly honoured in life and desirable to me in a very strong way. That feeling has not changed and even now, in my early fifties, I regard a sexual experience with a circumcised man as quite radically different and more thrilling and fulfilling than with an uncut guy. (Sorry, lads!)

And I am still unable to understand how the subject (and the difference) appears to be entirely unimportant to the majority of gay guys I meet. To me it is of the essence.

I lived my first thirty eight years languishing and dissatisfied with my boring foreskin. How ordinary my cock looked, even when the skin was retracted and I tried to 'pretend'. Fortunately I had a slight problem in that area with

the tightness of the skin, which caused soreness. The sympathetic, even enthusiastic, doctor I consulted actually advised an operation. I was overjoyed! At last I was to become one of the elite. The operation was performed with just the customary temporary discomfort and I spent one night in hospital. Once the bandage was removed I had become a new man and had a penis of which I could be really proud – and still am.

Of course there are differences in things I do. I can't wear boxer shorts because the lack of support they provide allows things to move around too much and I find myself becoming embarrassingly stimulated within a very short time! And of course sex is rather different too. Previously, when masturbating, I had always liked the skin pulled sharply back at the moment of ejaculation; it made the orgasm very exciting. That is not possible now of course, but after the op I was left with a little loose skin, just enough to move gently back and forth over the ridge, and it saved things becoming too sore and reduced the need for much extra lubrication. I have some sympathy for men who are so cut that there is nothing to manipulate in this way, but they seem to manage well and enjoy their sex lives even so! Oral sex is quite wonderful now and aesthetically – such a handsome beast! Should anyone be in doubt as to whether to proceed, my advice is “Don't hesitate”. It just seems a shame that so few such ops are done nowadays.

As a member of a swimming and keep fit centre (admittedly in an affluent part of London) I am impressed by the number of late teen to early thirty aged men that I see there who are cut. Perhaps that is a function of the idea that ‘upper crust’ blokes’ parents had a higher regard for the op than other folks and I believe that that principle still holds true today, albeit to a lesser extent.

Well, there's one man's experience of reaching fulfilment by circumcision and I would be very interested to learn of any others with similar histories; specially younger men, because in a world of diminishing circumcision their cut state is very much in the minority.

Will

From Tight Phimosis To Full Retraction

One Man's Stretching Experience

I grew up as the only intact boy in my area. I owe my good fortune to having unusually savvy parents. When a nurse came to take me to be circumcised, my parents said “no” because no male in my family had ever been circumcised or had any problems with his foreskin. Also, my grandfather was a druggist and had had to correct physicians' prescriptions so that the doctors didn't injure or kill their patients. At a time when most people treated doctors as if they were gods, my parents knew better.

My foreskin was long and tapered well into puberty. As a kid, I enjoyed looking into the tube and wondering where it went. I didn't see my urethral opening until I was about 12 and didn't see the corona of my glans until I was 16. Even into my 20's, the opening during erection was only about one-quarter inch across. I could stretch it but not enough to slip it back over the glans.

I let my foreskin develop naturally partly because I didn't know any other intact guys and therefore didn't know there was anything unusual about my penis. When I was a freshman in high school, I noticed one other intact boy in the locker room and was surprised that his foreskin wasn't long like mine. But I had no reason to think his penis was more typical than mine.

I was in no hurry to stretch my foreskin because I had enough skin to comfortably accommodate an erection and it was elastic enough that masturbation was pleasurable.

The first time I heard a circumcised college roommate masturbating in the upper bunk, I didn't know what he was doing because his masturbation was so violent that it didn't seem like the same peaceful, quiet activity as mine.

In my 20's, I was dating and enjoying sexual intimacy, including heavy petting, and wanted to begin sexual intercourse. I contemplated a moderate circumcision, just having the tight ring cut off, so that the remaining foreskin would slip all the way back. I didn't know at the time that this would have destroyed a great number of erogenous nerve endings. I also didn't know that doctors often ignore requests for a moderate circumcision and cut off the entire foreskin. In any case, before resorting to circumcision I wanted to try stretching. As a child, I had seen pictures of African Ubangis who had stretched their lips to six or more inches across. If they could stretch their lips, surely I could stretch my foreskin.

At first, I tried to retract it when my penis was flaccid but I became almost instantly erect. So I started stretching gently every evening with my penis erect. What I did was very simple. I didn't use lubricant. I encircled my penis between my thumb, which I placed at the corona, and my index and middle fingers, which I pressed against the underside of my penis in the area of the frenulum and urethra, and gently pulled my foreskin back. I pulled until there would have been discomfort if I had pulled any harder, then let it return to its relaxed forward position over the glans. I repeated this for about ten minutes, then masturbated to ejaculation. I let the semen remain in my foreskin until I showered the next morning. Perhaps hyaluronidase in the semen helped loosen my foreskin, because this enzyme is a potent skin relaxer. After about five months, I could retract my foreskin all the way with no discomfort.

That was over 30 years ago, and I have never had a single problem with my penis during all the years since. I've never had a problem with smegma build-up even though I couldn't wash completely under my foreskin for many years.

I have always been glad I stretched my foreskin because I've found that a fully retractable foreskin makes entering a vagina easier and more comfortable and sexual intercourse more enjoyable for both me and my wife. As I start to enter her, my outer foreskin, which has no natural lubrication, comes into contact with her outer unlubricated labia and is held there a moment by friction. As I continue to enter slowly, this friction causes my naturally lubricated glans to slip out of my foreskin and past my wife's naturally lubricated inner labia into her vagina. The smooth, lubricated inner foreskin follows the glans past the inner labia and into the vagina smoothly and pleasurably, without friction.

For many men, the foreskin undoubtedly slips back and forth over the glans during intercourse as they thrust in and out. But because my glans is unusually wide and my corona rather pronounced, once my foreskin retracts, it stays back until I slip it forward again. During intercourse, my foreskin remains behind the glans. Because of the abundance of supple skin on the shaft (both foreskin and shaft skin) and because we are both naturally lubricated, intercourse is very comfortable for us both.

Even if stretching had not worked, I now know that there are other simple ways to safely make a tight foreskin retractable without cutting, including, for example, topical application of the common steroid cream, beta methasone valerate 0.05%.

I hope other males with tight foreskins who want to be able to retract them find these comments helpful.

Letter on Internet

Contact Corner

Gay guy, 45, 6ft., 12.5 stone, medium build, short brown hair, tattoos, smooth chest with pierced nipples, radically cut, excised frenulum, pierced and shaved.

Modern, aware and very open-minded. Would like to correspond/meet others, up to 40, who are into some, if not all, of my interests, which include:- tattoos and piercing, radical circumcisions, frenulum excision, meatotomy, watersports, catheterisation and leather.

K.B. – West London

French member in Paris would like contact by mail with other French or French-speaking members (bi or straight preferably) who would like to discuss opted circumcision in strict confidence (pro-circumcision only).

Ronald – Paris

New Member's Experience

I am just writing to say how pleased I am to have joined the *Acorn Society*. I am only saddened that I hadn't heard of it years ago, as my interest in circumcisions and penises has spanned many years. It has been fascinating to read in the back issues the varied views on all aspects of circumcision and what some consider aesthetically pleasing and some don't.

May I take this opportunity to introduce myself to the rest of the members and tell you something of myself. I am a 38-year-old bi-sexual guy living in Jersey. About 8 years ago I decided to have a circumcision after suffering years of an excessively long foreskin that basically just got in the way. Even when fully erect my foreskin still covered most of the head of my cock. When I did pull it back I was left with a load of extra flesh that I found uncomfortable. Having been brought up with two brothers and a father who were all circumcised, I longed to get rid of this elephant trunk of a foreskin. Simply peeing, required me to stand there and peel back my skin until I could get access to my cockhead. Otherwise I was left with wet shoes, and whatever, as the pee stream went all over the place. I had to put up with this for years, as the family GP that I had was dead against circumcision.

I was always envious of owners of cut cocks, as their penises seemed to be so little trouble and clean-looking. After asking for years, since about 7 or 8, to have a circumcision, I decided to go ahead and at my own expense rid myself of my troublesome appendage. There are plenty of adverts for cosmetic surgery clinics, and all seem to offer male circumcision.

I contacted a cosmetic surgery clinic and went over to London for my operation. I had to go to an address in Central London. After confirming my appointment I went downstairs to the waiting area to meet the surgeon. He was a friendly chap who, after giving me a general checkover and a look at my penis, asked my reasons for having the operation done. I told him it was for practical as well as appearance sake. He told me that his patients were split about 50/50 cosmetic or medical need.

I had to remove all my lower clothing and lie on the operating table. Calming music played in the background, and he was assisted by a nice Australian nurse. Perhaps the most painful part was at the beginning, in order to numb the area. As I was having a local anaesthetic he had to inject the skin just under the cockhead. This was agony, as the skin here is probably the most sensitive of the surfaces of an uncut penis. I really squirmed as he injected the frenulum and made a series of injections underneath the head of my penis. As the anaesthetic began to work, he popped my cock through a little hole in the cloth that covered my thighs. He put on some stinging antiseptic cleaning fluid that was freezing cold. By slightly raising my head I could watch the whole operation.

He pulled my foreskin right back and then right forward as far as it would go, and then marked various places with a pen. He then got a pair of scissors and made the first cut, right up the middle of my foreskin. I was surprised how little bleeding there was. He then cut with a scalpel around the circumference and freed the outer and inner skins. He then stitched as best he could as my penis had swollen up massively by then. He commented that it was unusual for his patients to take an interest in the operation as most of them are too squeamish to watch their own circumcision. I didn't tell him that I found the whole operation intensely fascinating and, even dare I say it, quite a sexual turn-on. I had dreamed of this day for a long while and couldn't wait to try out my 'new' cut cock. He dressed the wound with gauze and a long bandage. My penis had now swollen up to an enormous size from the trauma and was stinging a bit, but otherwise OK. He gave me a prescription for some painkillers, something to stop me getting erections at night, antiseptic cleaning ointment, fresh gauze, and a little pamphlet to take with me about aftercare, cleaning, etc. I then made my way slowly up to the airport for my flight home.

After 48 hours, I soaked off the gauze in a warm bath. My penis was still enormous from the swelling and very sensitive, with a row of stitches round it. At last a cut cock to be proud of! However, my joy didn't last long. As the swelling went down, more and more skin moved forward until I was left with a cockhead that was only half uncovered and the skin hanging to one side. I was furious and contacted the surgeon and told him that I wanted a full circumcision and not what I had ended up with. I then went over to London again and he operated on me for a second time. This time when I got back to Jersey and had a look at the end result, it was even worse. Although he had cut away a lot more of the skin covering the head, he had left a lump of skin sagging down, and his stitching skills were not what I would describe as very good. Some of the stitches were coming undone because they hadn't been done properly. I complained again and demanded that they get it right or I would go to another surgeon and send them the bill. So off I went to London again for a consultation with the surgeon who admitted that it wasn't one of his best jobs, and without charge he would put it right. Back I went to London about a fortnight later and had my third and, hopefully, final operation. This time he took a lot longer and cut away the frenulum and the saggy flesh underneath. He also stitched in a relatively straight line this time. To fully expose my cockhead, he cut away a lot more of the skin and pulled it tighter. I was in a lot of pain this time because the skin pulled on my stitches whilst my penis was so swollen. But on getting back to Jersey and soaking off the gauze I was delighted with the result this time.

It now looks the way I wanted. The head of my penis is much bigger now than my pre-cut days, because of its new freedom. It is noticeably less sensitive, but I think that's a small price to pay for a cleaner looking penis and getting rid of my elephant trunk. I have been left with a very obvious raised scar line about half an inch under my cockhead. I also have a scar line running vertically down underneath my cock, about an inch or more long, where the surgeon cut away

my frenulum and the extra skin. I actually like this scarring, as I feel it is a mark of having undergone my ordeal of pain to achieve what I wanted. I like the look of scarred cut cocks as it is like belonging to an exclusive club. I find it a massive turn-on to talk about circumcision and the actual operations. I love looking at cut cocks and seeing all the different ways they have been cut. I wished that I had heard of the *Acorn Society* years ago.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about my circumcision and I would love to correspond with other guys who like the cut look. I am also interested in ritual/ceremonial circumcisions and photos of cut cocks of all types, colours etc.

L.R. – Jersey

Celebrity List

Circumcised – Jonathan Cohen – musician and TV show presenter (he used to do the children’s shows *Play Away* and *Music Celebrity List Box*) Now very well known in professional circles as an arranger and accompanist. Is performing ‘mainstream’ (not fringe) in the Edinburgh Festival, and has an annual carol concert in the Albert Hall.

Anon

Bamber Gascoyne – from first-hand experience whilst in rooms at Cambridge in my late teens. He is of average size and fairly tightly cut. (Must be a starter for 10!!)

H.

Karl Schranz – Austrian triple gold medal winner at the 1968 Winter Olympics. Currently, unless recently retired, Head of the St. Anton Ski School, Arlberg, Austria. Uncut – (seen in the St. Anton non-gay sauna).

G. – Thames Valley

Cut And Uncut

The tight skin on an erect circumcised shaft gives better friction on penetrating women and men than the loose skin on the shaft of an uncircumcised cock.

It works like this. For every inch that a cut cock is inserted and withdrawn, there is a full inch of ‘rub’ between the tight skin of the cock and the vaginal or anal contact point. There is no surplus skin to ride up, and every inch produces friction between the two partners.

In the uncut cock, the hard core of the shaft is travelling backwards and forwards within its loose sleeve of skin, the surface of which can be stationary against the vagina or anus gripping it. The shaft is therefore working in and out within its own loose skin, and there is less friction from person to person. I have not seen this aspect of circumcision discussed before.

So what makes me so sure? I am 50 and was cut at 40. My young friend is 25. He is uncut and the proud possessor of a very large well-formed penis with a very attractive head covered with a quite dainty and helmet-hugging skin. He has no medical need for circumcision, indeed he looks most attractive as he is. He showers at his sports club in roundhead mode and his peers believe him to be one of the small band of roundheads in a large company of cavaliers. He is straight but openly discusses cock matters. I wank him by pulling his shaft skin back tightly and applying baby oil. It gives him the most intense orgasms he has ever achieved. As does a similar exercise in the jacuzzi. He is contemplating circumcision. He finds the tightness of a hard shaft irresistibly attractive.

Although bisexual, I am currently in a gay phase, as you may guess. At my local sauna, about one in six men are cut – mainly older men. Possibly military service had something to do with it. Among the young, only about one in twenty are cut. They are, however, fascinated by the subject and listen attentively when us roundheads hold forth on the subject.

M. – Worcester

Another Helping Hand

I would like to respond to A.C. (4/98). I found his article most stimulating and must commend him for his helping of the Czech teenager to achieve his radical circumcision and frenulum removal. I wonder how many men in his position would have gone out of their way to help a stranger in this manner? It is obvious that the boy had a strong desire for a circumcised penis and his chances of being cut were very slim until A.C. put his hand in his pocket to pay for the operation. He says that a number of the boy's friends are interested. I wonder if they will find other generous benefactors such as A.C. to help them achieve their desires.

A number of years ago, I was running a small farm with occasional hired labour and I took a youth on as a farm boy and a boarder. Carl was a 16 year-old lad, good-looking and slim built. I was living alone in the farm cottage and Carl moved in with me. He was very shy and kept himself covered up most of the time, but I did notice one time when he got out of the shower that he was uncut and had a short length of overhanging foreskin. It was about two months after he began living with me when my 14 year-old nephew Paul came to stay for a long weekend. Carl befriended the boy and they spent many hours together. After the boy had gone home, Carl and I were sitting in the

kitchen and he suddenly asked me why Paul's penis was so different to his own. He had seen Paul dressing and noticed that the end of the boy's penis had no loose skin on the end of it and there was a scar round his shaft. I knew that Paul had been circumcised when he was 10 and realised that Carl had seen the results of this. He wondered why Paul's penis was scarred and why it looked so different to his. I explained to him about circumcision and how a boy's foreskin is cut off to permanently expose his glans. I told him that many people preferred the neat clean look of a well-trimmed penis and proud knob that couldn't ever be covered up. I asked Carl if he liked the look of the circumcised penis that he'd seen. "Yes!", he nodded, "I wish I could have mine done like that. It would be great."

I am very pro-circumcision, so I offered to pay for Carl to be circumcised if that was what he wanted. He was overjoyed and asked me to tell him in detail just what would be done to his dick during his circumcision. The bulge in his jeans revealed his swelling erection as I told him how a circumcision was usually performed and the probable results on his penis. He begged me to arrange for his circumcision immediately. I made arrangements with our doctor, who I knew favoured circumcision, to recommend him to a surgeon for the operation. I requested a radical cut for him and complete removal of his frenulum. The doctor examined his penis and found that there were no adhesions but he did have a slight phimosis and his foreskin could only be retracted with a little difficulty. A week later, Carl was circumcised at the local hospital and he was left with a neat scar well back on his shaft with a smooth area in the vee of his sulcus where he used to have a frenulum. He was, and still is, very pleased with the result. As far as I am concerned it was money well spent to help a youth become circumcised as he desired.

Carl's operation was carried out in the morning, under local anaesthetic, and we were back home just after midday. As the anaesthetic wore off, Carl was in some discomfort and pain, so he lay on his bed while I fetched some painkillers for him. These eased the pain, and by drawing up his knees he took some tension off the incision. He had some pain during the first two nights when, during sleep, his wounded penis attempted to erect, waking the lad with a sharp ache. It took three weeks for all the stitches to dissolve and the cut to heal completely. Even so, it was red and sore for quite a while after. Carl was proud of his circumcision with its neat scar halfway down its shaft and the smooth area where his frenulum had been cut completely away. His shyness disappeared and he had a confident air. Every chance he got he would walk around the house naked. He became quite a nudist. I didn't mind as I enjoyed seeing the youngster with his proud knob exposed and protruding ahead of him as he walked around. This was ten years ago, and Carl is now 26 and married. He and his wife have a son and, as you might imagine, he has been circumcised since birth.

Derek – New Zealand

Ibiza — Uncovered Or Covered

It has been weeks now since my Summer holiday to Ibiza. I went at the beginning of September and I had a really interesting time. I spent all my time over there on the only two naturist beaches there.

I have travelled extensively, over the past 15 years, to quite a few European countries, But I have never seen such a liberal attitude by such a large number of guys as on Ibiza, this year in particular.

I was quite amazed at the diversity of cocks that were on show to me. And there were so many guys there that I couldn't help but look at them parading and lying around with their cocks swinging and just lying there, pointing in my direction.

Yes, a great majority of them were cavaliers, as most of them were of course German and Dutch, British of course, and a small amount of Spanish and other nationalities as well. But there were quite a lot of guys who were also circumcised, and out of the 30 or 40 who I could see around me, there were, I would say, 10 guys including myself who were cut. And, NO, I didn't see, or observe, any of the said cavaliers with their foreskins rolled back, as was stated in a past edition of the magazine. They were all forward, and again, so many interesting differences in the length of their foreskins. Some had long ones, and others just covering, so that the glans was just showing, which I love.

Also, I must add to this small write-up, there were a few guys who were cut, and supported, like me, a great amount of body jewellery of some sort in their cocks, A vast amount of them had the popular Prince Albert piercing. Of course there were also a great many cavaliers who also supported a ring in their cocks as well.

So it was quite an eye-opener to say the least, and I was intrigued to see how many guys enjoyed just showing off their tackle to all on the beach. There were also a large element of guys on the beach who remained covered up, which was a pity really, but I'm not going to pre-judge them for their reasons why they covered up, as we are all different. But my sole interest was observing all the naked ones.

So I hope that this letter will encourage other members to write in about their Summer Holiday experiences this year, and hopefully write about their experiences on nudist beaches. Come on guys, get writing.

Clayton – Rhondda

Lack Of Sensitivity

My husband and I enjoy reading *Acorn*, and we really feel that you make a valuable contribution to promoting a greater awareness of the effects of circumcision, which can be far-reaching. We do, however, take issue on one or two matters and in particular, advocacy of child circumcision, and feel you should know that it is not the unmitigated blessing some of your contributors suggest.

Although some circumcised children grow up unaffected by it, a lot of others feel differently, and some really hate being circumcised – my husband among them. The background as far as I am concerned is as follows:

Like all young girls I used to enjoy watching my little brother being given his bath, and noted with great interest how my mother used to pull back his foreskin to wash it. Later, when I was allowed to bath him myself, I took great delight in doing the same thing myself, taking his soapy little penis in my fingers and sliding the elastic tube of skin back over the shiny purple cherry. At first I found it quite difficult as the foreskin didn't uncover easily, tending to shoot forward again if I relaxed my grasp at all.

Having started off as a foreskin fancier, I remember at an early age asking a boy to let me get his tummy finger out and pull the loose skin back to see his knob. Later, I took great delight in the foreskins of my many boyfriends, especially if they were long and close-fitting like my brother's. It really turned me on to chat a boy up and to guess what his foreskin was like. I always got a thrill when I first got a boy's cock out of his trousers and stretched the foreskin back over his knob and watch his knees give slightly as I did so.

Until I met my husband I had hardly even heard of circumcision, thinking that it was an exotic and unusual practice restricted to Jews and primitive tribes in Africa. I was overcome with curiosity when I first saw my husband's cock, to see that the only trace of a foreskin was a raw-looking bunch of skin under his knob, while the knob itself was all dry, wrinkled and greyish in colour. I tried to hide my disappointment in not having a foreskin to play with, but it was only after we were married that the real problems manifested themselves. The main one as far as I was concerned was my husband's lack of sensitivity. With all my previous boyfriends I had learned to use the foreskin as an orgasm regulator when I masturbated them. To make them come slowly I would pull the skin right back and gently manipulate the shaft, avoiding touching the glans with dry fingers because it was too sensitive to touch. To make the guy come quickly, I would slide the foreskin to and fro over the knob, but without uncovering it, stretching it further and further forward until his sperm spurted, and caught the lot in his extended foreskin, squeezing it out like hair gel from a tube.

But I am at my wit's end to know how best to masturbate my husband. His glans is so insensitive that it would need sandpaper to produce any reaction.

There is not enough of his penile skin left to slide over his knob, and even with KY jelly it takes up to half an hour to make him come. Similarly, when we have intercourse I invariably orgasm before he does, and the friction of his immobile bunch of skin and dry knob soon make me so sore that sex has now become a chore instead of a pleasure.

My husband is as distressed about it as I am. He gets so moody as well when the subject is raised. He is very aware that he is the only circumcised man in our circle of friends, and the only time it is mentioned is in jokes, since it seems that circumcision jokes are now considered quite sophisticated and much appreciated by both men and women. But it is clear that it is only those not involved, ie, uncircumcised men and their women, who feel comfortable with circumcision jokes. Quite recently, for example, we had some friends round and one of the girls told a hilarious joke about circumcision. My husband sat white-faced and silent for the rest of the evening. At another party we went to, another girl brought out some holiday snaps, one of which showed her and her husband reclining on their towels, naked on a nude beach. His uncircumcised penis appeared so big and fat, from the perspective it looked as though he might have an erection. It was lying on his tummy like a huge German sausage, with the tip of his foreskin almost reaching his navel. He was looking down at it with satisfaction, while she was leaning over as if for a close-up view, and laughing. This gave rise to a string of ribald remarks, indicating envy on the part of the men and admiration on the part of the women. My poor husband went white again, got up and left the room. This time it was noticed and I was asked what the trouble was. I explained, and they were all amazed and sympathetic to hear that he'd been circumcised.

His attitude is really getting me down, and I honestly don't know if I can cope much longer. I really curse his mother for having him done, and blame her for wrecking our sex life. Apparently, the only reason for it was because she had read in an old medical book that it promoted cleanliness, which is ridiculous, and in no way justifies disfiguring the genital organs of a little boy. Those who claim otherwise are guilty of double standards in a big way – if males are so filthy they need a surgical operation, what are we going to do about females? After all, a neglected foreskin can hardly be more unpleasant than a neglected vulva and no one would dream of removing a little girl's labia because it 'promoted cleanliness'. The pubic hair of even the most fastidious of women will always have a smell of stale urine, and the sexual folds almost always harbour traces of 'cheese' – going down on a woman is not for the squeamish – whereas I have never found any of my previous boyfriends' foreskins offensive in this respect. I'd have dropped them like a brick if I had!

No, to my mind, foreskins are for fun, and an important factor in procuring sexual pleasure. It is cruel to circumcise little boys and shows a disregard of the feelings of both males and their female partners. In my case it is definitely harming my relationship, and I am not sure how much longer I can continue in it.

This is a genuine problem, but I have to remain anonymous for obvious reasons. I've written to you since it's not a subject I can discuss openly.

Anon

R's Story

I am now 47 and I was circumcised at 33 – one of the most joyous days of my life. Although the following is all very much about me, me, me, I hope my experiences will be of some use (or at least, interest).

I saw my first circumcised cock when I was about 6, and I remember thinking immediately how much I wanted one like that. The friend who I had seen told me that he'd been born with some skin but that had been removed with some cream. I don't recall if I believed him, but I resolved that I was going to be like that.

I spent a long time trying to keep the skin back. I don't recall whether it was tight to start with, but I think it can't have been, because there was no difficulty keeping it back with zinc oxide plaster (the opposite use to that some involved in foreskin restoration techniques use it for!). Unfortunately, the plaster used to slip down and itself start covering the head and – of course – the skin would cover the head again when I took the plaster off (essential when parents might be about).

Whether this led to me having a short foreskin, or whether I'd have had one anyway, I shall never know, but it became easier over the years to keep the skin back – though not nearly easy enough, and there was the constant problem of it going forward. One or two men I slept with seemed to think that I'd been cut, but I knew differently. I did though, love to be with cut men and to see their cocks shorn of that surplus skin.

I didn't get around to getting cut myself because I was scared. Not scared of the results, but of asking – being rather shy. How did one ask? Indeed, was it a matter for the doctor, or did one go straight to a hospital? By the time I eventually went to my GP (after ensuring my partner was prepared for the impending change, even if not entirely happy, and making sure I had something to see the doctor about at the same time) I was getting fairly desperate. I was, though, acting increasingly as one who was cut – to the extent of always masturbating with the skin right down, though this made for a rather sore frenulum.

All those years of wondering and worrying.... The GP hardly batted an eyelid, told me I'd have to pay (which I realised) and referred me to the local hospital. The consultant was also pretty matter-of-fact, but insisted that I saw a shrink, just to ensure that I was not trying to punish my cock in some

way. As if!! He pronounced me sane and the operation was performed a couple of weeks later.

I was never asked how tight I wanted it to be. I'd have asked to be very tight if I had been (or had thought it through), but it didn't arise. The result is that I was cut about 1cm below the corona. This means that the corona can just about be covered when sitting (especially in pants), but is uncovered (I think) the rest of the time.

The operation was carried out under general anaesthetic in the morning and, though I was supposed to stay in overnight, I was discharged in the evening provided I was looked after, and stayed off work for a few days, and took salt baths twice a day. The whole procedure cost about £100.

I have a couple of mm of what I take to be sulcus on the left, which is intensely sensitive, much more so than any part of my cock was before the operation. I've been reading with interest the debates on the frenulum and believe that I am now without this, because the point at which this is normally anchored has actually been moved around the cock a bit – I take it when the three-way stitch was done. There's certainly some residual frenulum there, but it's not really attached to anything, and doesn't pull in any way whatsoever.

It was only when I saw the consultant that I realised that, in fact, I had a line of something like stitches around my cock about an inch below this. Whether this is the result of an attempt at birth to circumcise me, or whether perhaps I was the victim of a buried penis, I have no idea. Certainly my balls have always been very sensitive, which might give credence to an earlier buried penis??

The stitches were supposed to dissolve in the bath, but they didn't. This became difficult, as it was impossible not to get the occasional erections, and after a few days these could only be dealt with by rather painful masturbation involving pulling the shaft skin up and trying to cover the corona. When the stitches were out I continued masturbating by trying to pull what little skin there was forward. With effort I could just cover the corona enough to masturbate using that little foreskin, but I decided that was hardly what being circumcised was about – and I had actually gone back from where I was before the operation!

The issue really resolved itself, because in time it became very difficult to cover the corona when erect. Indeed, to try this, means pulling on the scrotum, which hurts my balls. Now when I'm hard there is no way I can cover even the corona. So, while I'd be a bit happier with less skin bunching up under the head when flaccid, I can hardly complain about less skin when erect. Even when flaccid, any cover provided disappears as soon as I start to pee. Other men appear to have been cut much farther down the shaft, but maybe it is the amputation of the frenulum in my case that means this was not necessary. If I do pull hard on the shaft skin when erect, I can still make it just about

touch the corona. By the look of many of the men in *Playgirl* (presumably mostly cut) I am not dissimilar.

When fully erect there is a definite scar line, consisting of the remaining sulcus on the left, though just a couple of stitch marks further to the right. None of this hurts when I masturbate, though it can sometimes be a little red. KY helps, but is by no means essential. One disappointment is that I still get some smegma – even I think on the right where there's no apparent foreskin at all. The amount is very small, but it's still there. Do other cut men have this?

I've wondered about having a further operation to remove a little bit more, but I'm afraid I shall end up too tight (even if I could find anyone to perform it), and this time it might hurt (which it didn't last time, apart from the stitches). Again, what experiences do others have?

Perhaps because I used to keep the skin back there has been no change to sensitivity (apart from that couple of mm of intense pleasure), and I cannot offer any opinion on whether men should or should not have the operation if that is likely to be an issue to them. I most certainly recommend the operation, though, if, like me, you feel you should never have had a foreskin, and want rid of it. The feeling of relief (even without any problems with my foreskin) was immense.

My partner (44) still has his skin, though it is getting progressively shorter, and of little use except when entirely flaccid. He jealously guards his skin, but I do wonder, seeing him constantly trying to pull it forward when we have sex, because of the sensitivity of his sulcus and head, and the pull on his frenulum, whether he wouldn't be happier without it. At this rate, in a few years, he'll have nothing left to try to pull forward anyway. I presume that other men in his position eventually give in and leave it back?

I read on Vernon's interesting website of something called auto-circumcision. When does this normally occur, and can the skin be pulled forward to masturbate? Another (unrelated) question: what is 'Half circumcision', which I heard of from a South African? Surely the scar on the remaining foreskin would be very sensitive?

I've gone on a bit, but I hope this contribution will spur others to write too. Sorry, but I can't have any replies personally – any contributions in print please.

R. – East Midlands

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ACORN

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 Editor
 David Acorn

Editorial

In this issue I have managed to put together a series which in most part gives a balanced neutral image, with an accent on conciliation as befits the last edition of the year.

A new, simple Questionnaire is enclosed with this issue and we would be grateful if you would spend a few minutes to complete and return it promptly with your renewal to ensure that the results are as representative as possible.

There now leaves nothing but to wish everyone the compliments of the coming season from the team, and thank all those who have sent in their contributions during the year, without which we couldn't stay in being.

David

New Member

Having just become a member of *Acorn* I felt that a meeting on my home ground in Leicester was an opportunity not to be missed. However, being somewhat cautious and apprehensive, decided to test the water by just going along on the Saturday evening. I now see that

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this was an error of judgement as I missed most of the main events of the day. Still, it was a great chance to meet some of the other members in a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

I belong to the 'circumcised in infancy' brigade and, although I feel that having a choice would have been better, have never had any problems with my roundhead state. It's great to see a wide variety of cocks – so "vive la difference". It would be so boring if we all looked the same.

In recent years my interest has turned to genital piercings (which I once found abhorrent) and I now sport three of them. I was worried at first that they would cause a loss of sensation, but fortunately this has not been the case with me. Of course, it can become a bit of an obsession and you find yourself dreaming about what to have next, so I keep a picture of a very heavily pierced guy in order to deter me from going over the top.

I also received some compliments on a recent visit to a Spanish naturist beach, which was encouraging, as well as meeting some like-minded guys at the *Acorn* meeting. If there are any more out there I'd love to hear from you.

Vaughan

The Frenulum

I was cut as an infant, fairly tight with the scar about 5mm from the head. Most of the frenulum is intact but cut free at the scar line. I did not regard it as particularly sensitive until, some years ago, when using condoms, I came across some 'American tips', which only enclose the glans, and are only recommended for the circumcised. I found more sensation using these, I believe because the frenulum is left exposed.

G.H.

What Does it Matter

As long as I can remember, *Acorn* has given free rein to the pros and cons of circumcision lobbies. There has been more than adequate coverage in the past and, as one generation follows another, so it will continue as long as the magazine is published.

How many times have we heard the 'cut' being referred to as a mutilation? And indeed, there is a very strong case for leaving things as they are until a young man is mature enough to decide for himself. That is, of course, provided there is no religious or medical reason for the removal of the foreskin in infancy. It should certainly never be done, as was the case when I was a boy, to stop a child masturbating. Having said that, boys will be boys and, when I was in junior school, there were four of us who were great pals, two

were cut and the third boy and I weren't. We used to play 'games', but the two 'roundheads' would never take part in mutual or self-gratification. Again, when I was a boy, pleasuring of that kind was called self-abuse, and "made you go blind!" How times change.

My best friend was circumcised at birth and I asked him whether he resented the loss of his 'hood', and does he ever wonder what it would be like if he had been left intact. Right off he replied, "No". He just enjoys good sex and gets on with it.

Then there is the category of the 'cavalier' who has a perfectly healthy and functional foreskin which causes no problems. He is quite happy with his lot and he too gets on with it.

Lastly, there are those of us who were left intact at birth and shouldn't have been. I suffered from phimosis and balanitis for very many years due to an overly tight foreskin. The trouble was that, when I was old enough to make up my own mind, I couldn't pluck up the courage to go under the knife. Old wives' (or rather, old men's) tales put me right off, so I continued to suffer painful and unfulfilling sex until my half-century. Then, by chance, I was counselled by a young 24-year-old who gave me confidence to go ahead with the operation. I might add that, not only did I lose my foreskin, but my frenulum was removed as well.

Wow! After a brief three-week healing period, I found out what sex was all about, and also that it was enjoyable. The first time I was fellated I was blown out of my mind. Penetrative sex is also extremely pleasurable and can now last as long as I want it to. And I would urge anyone in a similar situation to mine, don't waste time pondering. Go for it.

So, I say, make the most of what you've got between your legs. It's what you do with it that counts. Do you know of any sensation that beats an orgasm and, whether it is achieved with or without a foreskin, what does it matter.

J.C. – Ayr

Why Homophobia?

As members of *Acorn*, it goes without saying that we all have a vested interest, so to speak, in the penis; be it big or small, cavalier or roundhead, gay, straight or bi.

There are many men, cut in infancy, who resent part of their bodies being 'mutilated' without their consent, and imagine sex would be better if their foreskins had been left intact. Who knows?

I myself, for medical reasons, became an adult 'convert' at the ripe old age of 52 when my foreskin was removed in 1980. My article "It's Never Too Late", which appeared in *Acorn* a few years ago, detailed in depth the circumstances

surrounding the operation. While I'm absolutely delighted with my altered state and enjoying sex as never before, the purpose of this article is not to promote the 'cut', but to explore a deeper topic that must touch us all, one way or another, and I hope it will encourage other members to exchange their thoughts and opinions through the columns of our magazine.

Why does the fact that we all have this interest in the phallus automatically class us as homosexual? Why are we classed as 'queer' if we don't follow football? Why are we 'poofs' if we wash our hands after being to the toilet? How stupid and ignorant can some people be? Is it not the critics who have the problem?

What is the cause of this homophobia? Are they afraid that they're going to be groped and/or propositioned? Or are they covering up some latent desire with this pseudo-macho image? Who is it that has the problem? Never does a man appear so small than when he is trying to look big. Besides, so long as we are discreet and keep within the law, whose business is it anyway whether we are gay, straight or bi?

I recently received a copy of Bud Berkeley's book, *The Foreskin – A Closer Look* from a fellow member and friend in the USA, and I was deeply impressed with a reader's letter in the last chapter of the book. It was entitled, "My Gun's Between My Legs." Here it is.

"Male liberation, as we have seen it so far, is a phony. It merely buries us deeper into our matriarchal society. Men learning how to cry? Men have always cried. Most of us have no hang-ups about crying. Our hang-ups are with our penises. We should be proud of them, free to talk about them, free to enjoy them without guilt. The issue is broader than 'gay' or 'circumcision.'. We are men because we have cocks. Our male libidos belong in our cocks. Instead, our society has transplanted our libidos from our penis to our fists and the guns in our hands.

"Our penises are looked on with disgust and derision, while our National Sentinel proudly holds a rifle. This 'loaded gun' culture of ours is the fault of our history of militarism. Through countless generations of war and struggle, men have become expendable to society, and women become widows. Women, constantly prepared for widowhood, protect themselves from 'the men' through the controls of myths, old wives' tales, traditions and taboos. The matriarchal pantheon is defended by the sons who are marched off to war. Why not amputate their foreskins, desensitise them, deodorise them to please the matriarchy?

How can a man enjoy the full meaning of manhood in a society which can't look a man straight in the balls? Why shouldn't men have the right to 'cock-talk'? It has nothing to do whatever with gay, straight or bi. It has everything to do with the healthy male libido being squarely where it belongs; in the penis. The violence of the fist and the gun is destroying our world. The gun between our legs would give only love and life to mankind...and a future."

What have others got to say on the subject?

J.C. – Ayr

[No-one can say we all aren't doing our bit towards this attitude. – D.A.]

Being Different

I think your members might be interested to know how it feels to be a circumcised man when all your friends and relatives have foreskins. I was done as a baby because the doctor said I needed it. I never felt bad about it because I thought it had been done for a good reason and, although my friends at junior school treated it as a huge joke, I never let it get to me. Later on when I started growing pubic hair and realised my cock was more than something to pee through, I found myself getting more and more defensive about it and hid my body from the others in the showers. At break times the boys often went into the 'leggaries' for a wank fest and I used to watch enviously as they demonstrated the very obvious advantages of owning a foreskin to rub up and down in this exciting game.

But I didn't really start feeling bad about it until the first time I was humiliated on account of my disfigured penis. I was 13 at the time and feeling the first real stirrings of sexuality. I had a particular friend called Ray who I always envied. He was taller than me, stronger, got better grades in class, had all the nice girls running after him – and naturally enough, was uncircumcised. I remember we went one hot day with his sister Liz to swim in the 'rezzy', a local lake, and after a happy half an hour or so of splashing about we got out and started drying off. Ray picked up his towel and took his swimsuit off while his sister did the same. She gave me a sly grin as she stood in front of us, dropping her towel to give us a view of her nude body before taking her time about climbing into her knickers. Ray laughingly accused her of showing her fanny off and at the same time dropping his towel and facing us stark naked. Instead of denying his accusation, she said he was much ruder than she was, and walking over to him, grabbed hold of his willy and gave it a quick tweak, saying he should cover it up. Ray backed off and, jeering at her, started slapping it against his stomach, making his foreskin flop up and down as he did so. I watched this in amazement – I had carefully changed into my underpants under my towel so as not to reveal my de-skinned cock, and had never seen a boy behave like this in front of a girl, even though she was only his sister. I could never have done such a thing. Liz made another grab at his willy to stop him, and laughingly made a remark about how he'd got 'foreskin flop'. She gave him a wink and then asked me if my foreskin was long enough to flop like that. At this, Ray whispered something in his sister's ear and I heard him say that loathsome word 'circumcised'.

Liz stared at me with her mouth open and said incredulously, "You're not really circumcised, are you? Does that mean you haven't got a foreskin? Come on, let's have a look!" When I tried to pretend that I wasn't circumcised, Ray called me a liar and grabbed my arms, telling Liz to pull my pants off and have a look. She did so, and examined it curiously, saying she thought it looked very peculiar, and asked if it wasn't uncomfortable having the end rubbing against my clothes.

This has to have been the worst moment of my life and I burst into tears. When the two saw this, they were aghast at my reaction and the realisation of how much they had upset me. They had no idea I could feel so bad about something they had looked on as some kind of joke and tried to make up for it by being especially nice to me for the next week or so. Unfortunately, Liz was unable to keep the matter to herself, and a few days later I began to get snide remarks from some of her friends at school. As I walked down the corridor, a group of girls coming the other way burst into giggles when they saw me, and one of them asked innocently if I was Jewish. I turned red, shouted "No!", and walked away with their laughter following me. It's a hateful thing to be ashamed of your own body and, if you've never known what true humiliation feels like, then come and ask me.

On an impressionable teenager, this sort of thing has a severe impact, seriously undermining self-confidence, and leaving one in a state of constant misery. My feelings for the people who still insist that all children benefit from circumcision is summed up in the line, "When will they ever learn?" from that sad Joan Baez song, *Where have all the flowers gone?*

G.J. – Hendon

Lady Doctor

I was born to parents who, although not Jewish, both had very strong views on circumcision. My father had been given a partial circumcision at 15 and had a deep cup to an acorn type of cut, but believed that full removal of the foreskin was beneficial.

Being wartime, I was born at my grandmother's house in Wales with only a midwife in attendance, and despite my mother's appeals for me to be 'done' there were no facilities, and she was told it wasn't necessary. Father remained in the services after the war so we moved around quite a lot, and on registering with a new GP my mother never failed to ask if I could be circumcised. But, despite numerous examinations, without success. At the age of 12 a GP snipped my somewhat tight skin, but of course, far from removing it, I now had more.

Annual school medicals were somewhat simple and, though including a genital examination, no conclusion was reached on my long foreskin. On two occasions my mother wrote to the school doctor, prior to the medical, asking him to recommend me for circumcision, but, despite close examination, declined to refer me to a hospital.

Unusually, far from developing a fear of circumcisiion, I developed a lifelong fascination with the subject and even when quite young wanted to be done, and by my teenage years became quite desperate about undergoing circumcision. Of course, for as long as I can remember, bath times would lead to comment about my foreskin and how nice it was for boys to lose it.

Into adulthood I continued every few years to find a reason to convince a doctor that I should be shorn, and whilst I enjoyed being examined, there was never a satisfactory outcome. Interestingly I have been married twice, and can vouch for John's comments that some younger women, as with my mother, are fascinated with the act of circumcision. My first wife was particularly keen on my being done.

I despaired, and then unexpectedly I mentioned the 'need' to be done to my current GP. I was then 44, and she about mid-30s. She greeted this with, "Let's have a look, then." On examining me, and pushing my foreskin back and forth, said, "Oh, yes. You should have that lot off. If I had my way, all males would be circumcised." Whilst I dressed she told me that on getting married she had insisted on her husband being circumcised, and when her sons were born they too were circumcised. Far from the NHS delays one hears about, she referred me to the consultant who had dealt with her males, and after all those years, within a fortnight I was scalped.

Thankfully, unlike my father's case, this consultant told me he believed in radical circumcisions, so not only was the whole of my long foreskin cut from behind the glans, but my frenulum was removed as well. The curious but pleasant thing is how much more naked I feel when in the nude than I ever did when possessing a foreskin.

I am delighted, not only with the appearance, but sexually as well, whether masturbating or having sex. Set off by shaved pubes I am very happy with the result. Having experienced sex with and without a foreskin I would recommend any male to undergo circumcision as soon as possible – he won't be disappointed.

I.D.

E-Mail To Acorn

Articles for submission to the magazine can be sent by e-mail if you prefer. Our e-mail address is: acornsoc@aol.com

Celebrity List

With regards to the latest list of 'Celebrities', I am sending you three further names along with comments as to the bona fide of the information.

Fox, Edward: English Actor (His mother's autobiography, *Slightly Foxed*, reveals that Edward nearly died twice as a baby, once after being circumcised).

Hailsham, Lord (Quentin Hogg): English Lord Chancellor. (He discloses that he has been circumcised in his autobiography).

Bean, Sean: English Actor (Full frontal nude scenes in the TV adaptation of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* revealed Sean as having a foreskin).

Incidentally, I am the person who supplied Chuck Thompson with the information on Gordon Kaye, Christopher Neame, John Noakes and Leonard Rossiter shortly after he published his first list in the States way back in 1986.

Finally, in closing, a private thought I have is wondering if one day we shall get to know the status of Robson Green's cock. He is by no means averse to showing his bare bum on TV, so maybe one day he will give a sufficiently revealing full frontal for it to be determined as to whether he is a roundhead or a cavalier.

G.H. – Yorks.

Decorations

About six years ago I decided to have a piercing done. I hadn't really thought about it before, and as I don't remember ever having a foreskin, I thought that a 'Prince Albert' would make a pleasant decoration, and like your reader from West London in issue 5, I never remove my ring, unless I go to a thicker ring. At the moment I am wearing a 7mm ring and hope soon to move on to an 8mm one.

It feels wonderful, especially walking naked, just to feel the enjoyment of the weight of the thick ring through the end of your penis – bliss!

To add to my Albert, I gave myself a frenulum piercing, which looks good along with the 15 hafada piercings down the seam of my scrotum. My next venture shall be a dydoe piercing which is usually done in pairs on either side of the glans. These are primarily for circumcised men.

I am 50 years old now, and was circumcised when I was too young to remember, and, like everything else, what you don't have you don't miss. But without a skin there is just so much you can do with one or two simple piercings.

Graeme – Croydon

Robbing Hoods?

Each age of man is understood, full growth a measured range.
Each one a state, a part, or 'hood', defined for every change.

All newborns have a babyhood, boyhood should follow free.
Then manhood would remain for good, were it not for infant – 'C'.

The Jewish penis has a week to stay complete unbared,
The mohel's zeal is at its peak – no babyhood is spared.

There's now much less of infant – 'C', though parents oft implore,
Cuts at a whim no longer be, there's more and more of 'fore'.

A boyhood rising risk begins. The doc's misguided word,
And cutting several thousand skins a year is quite absurd.

The manhood loss is that of need, or choice or vanity.
It's here procedures will succeed, and aid humanity.

Hail circumcision at its best, with knowledge and consent,
The owner feels so greatly blessed – there's nothing to resent.

So parents leave the hood alone unless there's harm or pain,
The intact penis fully grown is such a well-prized gain.

Anthony

Acceptable Circumcision, A Less Controversial Future

I noticed a dichotomy in the lone voice of S.S., stating it was a choice if one wanted to keep his foreskin, yet was not happy at mothers being discouraged from having their baby sons circumcised. If personal preference seems to be all important, then no person should have his genitals irreversibly changed without his choice on informed consent. And certainly not at another person's whim.

Because circumcision is practised on such a sensitively personal part of the body, it should produce a pleasing aesthetic effect in terms of remaining portions of the prepuce, and especially the scar. Neatness, symmetry and a tidy straight scar should be essential features of which the circumcised person could be proud, not the ragged cut edges only approximated in most baby jobs before the advent of the Plastibell, together with twisting, assymetry, skin bridges and lumpy scars or skin tags. To be acceptable, circumcisions should be performed by competent plastic surgeons on the fully developed penis whenever possible.

At secondary school where I was first made aware of foreskins, 45% of my form were circumcised, of which all but one had ragged scar lines. The sole neat job was on a teacher's son, Jewishly circumcised, with a straight clean-cut

scar and a neat generous fringe of foreskin, especially on the underside. Since then I have seen pleasantly, or even beautifully, circumcised penes on adults shorn by the Jewish method as babies.

Now that methods of renewal are being publicised, based on ancient epispadias using a weighted device (a PUD), I would suggest that removal of foreskin in the early years is restricted to the minimum amount. Excessive skin overlap or phimosis would be eliminated whilst leaving most glans cover. I would rename this procedure 'foreshortening', and the child could go later either in for a course of stretching, or have a full circumcision. That way there would be the element of reversibility, rather than the permanently mutilating radical infant circumcision endured for life by many men.

Those choosing a neat radical circumcision should certainly be encouraged to get surgery at reasonable cost (even subsidised by the NHS from the saving of 20,000 unnecessary infant jobs each year, and the additional surgery for treatment of complications). Since circumcisions would be neat and aesthetic, they could become fashionable and sought after, even an adornment, rather than an ugly affliction. No, S.S., I advocate not a dwindling minority, but body types that men can be justifiably proud of, not resentful.

There is a cultural significance in the bare glans, which I consider the ultimate nudity. If accidentally unhooded at a shower or medical examination, a European would cover up for the sake of modesty. A Japanese would do the reverse, and retract his foreskin publicly so as not to be KAWAKAMURI (skin covered), a mark of bad taste. When in Rome...

Anthony

Circumcised Smegma

Thanks for *Acorns* 5 & 6/98. There are several very interesting items in these newsletters. In 5/98: 'The Frenulum' by D.P.R.; 'Tara Klamp' report; 'An Irish Story'; and 'How Smegma Serves the Penis' (this is generally anti-cut, but gives a pretty balanced point of view, and points out the importance of cleanliness and hygiene of the penis: a topic that many anti-cut enthusiasts ignore or skate over).

In 6/98, I particularly liked 'My Circumcision' by I.G.; 'Lone Voice?' by S.S.; and 'The Frenulum' by R.A.W. Speaking of frenulums (?Frenula), I want to weigh in on the side of 'low' or 'loose' circumcisions, which not only leave a decent remnant of the frenulum but also a cuff of foreskin that slightly overlaps the coronal rim. I think such a 'low' or partial circumcision would afford many of the advantages of both cut and uncut states. [Coincidental that we have two letters stating the same thing when the subject has never come up before. – D.A.]

Cut people can have noticeable amounts of smegma sometimes. This, at least, was my experience as a young boy, before puberty. Back then, the remnant of my foreskin would overlap the glans, and a 'scablike' material would sometimes form in the groove (sulcus). Living on a farm at the time, I did not bathe every day. Also, I had not then learned the joys of masturbation.

As regards S.S.'s 'open letter' in 6/98, please count me as a pro-cut man who is pleased and proud to be **circumcised**. As a tidbit bearing on the antiquity of routine infant circumcision, *Taber's Medical Dictionary for Nurses*, 1904 edition, includes an entry on a **circumcision instrument setup**. This would indicate that the operation was, at least, somewhat 'routine' at the beginning of this century.

M.S. – Utah

[M.S. also sent photocopies of a couple of book pages although not saying which book. One small item is a letter from Oliver Cromwell to his brother, and another one is this:-]

Circumcision: Rome 16 January 1645

I went to the ghetto where the Jewes dwell, as in a suburbs by themselves; being invited by a Jew of my acquaintance to see a Circumcision: here I passed by the Piazza Judea (where their Serraglio begins) for being environ'd with walls, they are lock'd up every night: in this place remains yet part of a stately fabric; which my Jew told me had been a Palace of theirs, for the Ambassador of their Nation in former times, when their Country was Subject to the Romans. There was a large Inscription on it, that I could not stay to reade.

Being lead through the Synagogue into a privat house, I found a world of people in a Chamber: by and by came an old man who prepar'd and layd in order divers Instruments brought by a little child of about 7 yeares old in a box. These the man layd in a silver bason: The knife was much like a short Razor to shut into the haft: Then they burnt some Insense in a Censor, which perfum'd the rome all the while the ceremony was doing: In the bason was also a little cap made of white paper like a Capuchins-hood, not bigger than my finger, also a paper of red astringent powder, I suppose of bole: a small Instrument of Silver cleft in the midst, at one end to take up the prepuce withall, clowtes of fine linen wrap'd up &c: These all in order the Women from out of another Chamber brought the Infant swaddl'd, and deliver'd it to the Rabbie, who caried, and presented it before an Altar or Cupbord dress'd up, on which lay the 5 bookes of Moses, and the Commandments a little unrowled: Before this with profound reverence, and mumbling a few Words he waved the Child to and froo a while; then he delivered it to another Rabbie, who sate all this time upon a Table, he taking it in his hands put it betweene his thighs,

whilst the other Jew unbound the blankets that were about it to come at the flesh: at this action all the company fell a singing an hebrew hymn, and in as barbarous tone, waving themselves to and fro, a ceremony they observe in all their devotions: The Infant now strip'd from the belly downewards, the Jew took the yard of the child and Chaf'd it within his fingers till it became a little stiff, then with the silver Instrument before describ'd (which was held to him in the bason) he tooke up as much of the præputium as he could possibly gather, and so with the Razor, did rather Saw, than cutt it off; at which the miserable babe cry'd extreemely, whiles the rest continu'd their odd tone, rather like howling than singing: then the Rabbie lifting the belly of the child to his face, and taking the yard all bloody into his mouth he suck'd it a pretty while, having before taken a little vinegar, all of which together with the blood he spit out into a glasse of red wine of the Colour of french wine: This don he strip'd down the remainder of the fore-skin as farr and neere to the belly as he could, so as it appeared to be all raw, then he strew'd the read powder on it to stanch the bleeding and cover'd it with the paper hood, and upon all a Clowte, and so swath'd up the Child as before: all this while they continue their Psalme: Then two of the Women, and two men, viz., he who held the Child, and the Rabbie who Circumcis'd it (the rest I suppose were the Witnesses) dranke some of the Wine mingled with the Vinegar, blood and spittle: so ended the slovenly ceremony, and the Rabbin cryes out to me in the Italian tongue perceiving me to be a stranger: "Ecco Signior mio, Un Miracolo di dio"; because the child had immediately left crying: The Jewes do all in Rome weare yellow hatts, and live onely upon brokage and Usury, very poore and despicable beyond what they are in other territories of Princes where they are permitted...

[The word 'yard' (for penis) was still used more than a century later by Clive of India. – D.A.]

Class Dressing

Dressing has always been fashionable, whether concerned with clothing or the arrangement of hair, and even skin.

The tailor's question, "Which side do you dress, Sir?" is often met with ribaldry – "Never mind, make it baggy at the knees!"

For those educated between the forties and the sixties, I suppose the left or right hanging tendency of the penis was determined by a combination of natural right or left handedness and the wearing of short trousers for over a decade. It was universal practice for boys to ignore the fly front, pull up the appropriate short trouser leg, withdraw the penis at the top sharp right or left for urination. That persistent directional 'training' must have been an overwhelming influence in settling the lifetime's dangling direction.

Now that short trousers have vanished from all but infant and recreational use, has the forced use of the fly front led to generations with vaguer penile positioning? Perhaps the change from Y-fronted underwear to non-opening brief type would mean pulling the penis out one side or the other to establish some form of right or left handedness.

I recall at the beginning of secondary education only one boy turned up in long trousers. By the age of 13, 50% of the class were still short-trousered. I remember previously insisting my first long trousers be shortened to remain in the majority (for conformity – even fashion), not having encountered foreskin or realising I was in the circumcised minority. At age 14, of the 6 short trousered, only I was circumcised, but 6 months later the three remaining bare-legged were exclusively foreskinned. When in a small minority, the older boys in short trousers discarded the practice of urinating via a raised trouser leg to achieve fly fronted conformity with the majority.

These recollections were sparked off by a documentary on Prince Charles' schooldays. At Cheam, the short-trousered Prince was beaten on the buttocks by his headmaster, bent over a leather-bound chair.

"If trousers were thick, they were taken down," confided a fellow pupil of the time. I wondered if the common practice of leg lifting at the urinal extended to the upper crust of the time, who were predominately – even exclusively – circumcised.

Anthony

Comments

There's an awful lot of food for comment in issue 6/98, which is of course a credit to the editor for not boring us to tears. The first thing was the interesting observations you made on your visit to the huge naturist complex at Agde – something I could never have done in the past having been so self-conscious and so ashamed of my circumcised state. Now it would not be so bad since restoration has given me the appearance, but sadly not the performance, of a normal intact man. The fact that on the beach virtually all those who'd been circumcised were British and the majority of those from the older generation, confirms previous comment in *Acorn*, hotly disputed by those people who would prefer to think that the rest of Europe shares in their taste for subjecting defenceless children to the knife. Then C.B. of Cambs drew attention to the tabloid (*Mirror*?) reports that Prince William had been circumcised at his own request. I agree with V.Q.'s reservations about believing information from such a questionable source, especially since there was a report from a similar source in the summer that Prince William was amongst a group of boys at Eton who had taken part in a competition to see who could stuff the most 50p pieces under their foreskins.

S.S. of Twickenham is apparently one of those who only wants to read about good news, circumcision style, and dislikes seeing his obsessions questioned by those who disagree. He should remember that a large proportion of members who favour foreskin retention have to wade through distressing stuff, like that throw back to the saga days – ‘My circumcision’ (I would have preferred to read ‘My visit to the Zoo’, or something). Once again the same old material as the guy makes his way down the dreary path (five and a half pages of it) to his version of the promised land – a defrocked, desensitised, denaturalised and stunted winkle – and presumably lives happy ever after. What graunches me up is the tedious, lovingly described detail of every depressing step on the way. In his final sentence implying that cavaliers ought to be queuing up for circumcision, he shows a lofty disregard for those unhappy people who have suffered the ‘joys’ of circumcision without the option and whose only solace is to air their distress in *Acorn*.

‘Doubts’ by Anon was an interesting letter which throws the previous guy’s current certainty on the benefits of circumcision open to question – and he may well come to regret it. The tarty landlady’s apparent contempt for his circumcised penis (a pity he was so coy about describing how she and her friend came to pee all over it) is a humiliation not unknown to many circumcised men. Most girls of today this side of the Atlantic who know the foreskin horror stories to be a load of pernicious myths would prefer their partners to have one. (The same goes for an increasing number on the other side of the Atlantic.) He is right to question the advisability of having it done. Still his determination to make the best of it does him credit – I hope he succeeds.

Finally I have to comment on Yahya Lamont’s astounding outburst against me for suggesting he might be a religious bigot. My only reason for doing so was the memory of his famous attack on his co-religionist in *Acorn* a few years ago, when the guy admitted to keeping his foreskin intact and enjoying it. Yahya goes on to criticise, very rightly, other so-called Muslims who have done so much to drag the good name of Islam in the mud. I hope and wish he and like-minded Muslims would do something about it. The story about the forcible circumcision of non-Muslim Sudanese came as another unpleasant revelation which I had not previously heard about – chapter and verse anybody? Anyway it is not my intention to upset a brother member of *Acorn* so I say to him, Al Salam aleikum, Yahya mate, and the Compassion of Allah and His Blessings.

Best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year (and Eid Mubarak to Yahya).

All the best, R.B.W.

A Different Reason

My experience of circumcision is unlike most members of *Acorn*. I was not circumcised at birth or during infancy, and as an adult had no desire or necessity to be circumcised until, during a medical examination, the doctor informed me that I had developed balanitis through diabetes and the only certain cure for the condition was circumcision. The doctor was apologetic and said that I would probably not like being circumcised but could offer no alternative. Reluctantly I agreed to be circumcised as the only option available. An appointment was made for the following week at the local General Hospital. I was apprehensive, but told no one what was to happen.

The first circumcised penis which I had seen was at secondary school, one boy of about 50 in my year had been circumcised, but we were naive and knew nothing about circumcision, or why his penis was different to everyone else's. I cannot remember any comments being made, but I certainly wouldn't have enjoyed being a minority of one.

In later years I had tended to avoid men who were circumcised, being guilty, like M.P. of Brighton stated in his article in 2/98, of not knowing what to do with 'it', and never taking the trouble to find out how 'it works'.

I attended the hospital at the appointed time and the circumcision was performed under local anaesthetic in the day clinic. No discussion took place as to the style of circumcision which would be performed, or how much foreskin would remain. As far as I was concerned, a circumcision was a circumcision, and it was not until I joined *Acorn* that I discovered that there were so many styles and variations. It appears that I was circumcised using the incision, trim and closure technique.

I was prescribed antibiotics, pain killers and valium, and an appointment was made for two days later to have the dressing removed. Instructions were issued not to bathe and to keep the dressing dry.

I had no intention of telling anyone of what had happened, but when leaving the hospital, I met a friend of my mother's, who I knew would tell her that she had seen me. So I plucked up the courage to visit my mother and tell her what had happened. My mother's reaction – shock, sympathy and laughter. My brother arrived during the laughter and was told what had happened. His reaction – more laughter. I think most of the laughter was from embarrassment.

I returned to the hospital for the dressing to be removed and was shocked at the sight of my 'new' penis. The glans looked like a blackberry and the shaft was bruised and bloody. Both were swollen. Dissolving stitches had been used, but I was told to remove any that remained after ten days to prevent fistulae forming.

Arriving at the pub that Friday evening, my brother had arrived earlier and had informed my friends, both male and female, of my roundhead status. Their reaction – more laughter than sympathy. As I still played football at that time, it probably saved me the embarrassment of explaining things away, as it's impossible to hide a circumcised penis in a changing room or shower.

How do I now feel about being circumcised?

After about three weeks of slight discomfort, but no pain, the bruising and swelling subsided. But it took about 6 months for the suppleness to return to the scar area. The glans is completely exposed, although a remnant of foreskin covers the sulcus. One side has been cut very slightly shorter, but not enough to cause any concern. My glans has enlarged and about 25mm of inner foreskin remains. Also my frenulum is untouched. Enough foreskin remains to allow for a comfortable erection without excessive slack skin on the shaft, and masturbation does not require the use of lubrication. My frenulum appears to be larger than others which I have seen on both circumcised and intact men, and tends to pull my scrotum forward during an erection. I'm disinclined to have further surgery to cut or remove the frenulum as I find it very sensitive, and would not like to lose these very sensual feelings for something unknown.

I am satisfied and content with my circumcision and would not now wish to have a foreskin again, although if I had not required a circumcision for medical reasons I would still be a cavalier. If I had known about the different styles possible, prior to my circumcision, I may have chosen a different one to that which I now possess, but I am unconvinced by the arguments for having a tight circumcision causing a straining, uncomfortable and possibly painful erection, or removing the sensitive frenulum.

I find a circumcised penis far more comfortable, and looks far superior than one which is uncut. Handled correctly, it is far more pleasurable than one which is uncircumcised. The one problem is that, like me prior to being circumcised, uncircumcised men do not know how 'it works'.

A.B. – Merseyside

