

# **ACORN**

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**Editor**  
**Tony Acorn**

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**Membership, Fees, Advice, Personal Matters,  
Newsletter Contributions, Letters for Forwarding**

To:- ACORN

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## Editorial

**Welcome** to the first 1990 issue of *Acorn*, the newsletter of the *Forum* group for people interested in circumcision, foreskins and everything phallic: the penis, piercing, and 'getting the phallus into the best possible shape'. *Acorn*: why the name? The Latin for acorn is glans, which both cavaliers and roundheads have in common. Those who know this meaning know what we are about. But *Acorn* makes a convenient name because it is sufficiently anonymous: it could also apply to people interested in anything from computers to naval history. We are a Group recognised by the *Forum Society* (which also recognises a range of encounter and other Groups), and they are kind enough to forward mail for us. There is also an *Acorn Group* in the USA (from whom we have borrowed the name), but the only connection otherwise is in our shared interests.

**Contributions:** When the Newsletter started in early 1988, I wondered how long it would last. Now we are embarking on its third year, thanks to the enthusiastic response of readers. Its success depends very much on contributions from you the readers, so please keep sending your ideas, stories, anecdotes, comments, information, and observations. Provided only that it relates to our broad theme, we include fantasy as well as factual contributions. Readers can use their own judgement to decide between fact and fantasy. We also include contact requests (which may be edited). If contributions come in as they have done, we hope again to manage over 100 pages in 8 issues for 1990.

**Information:** It must be clearly understood that any information published, while supplied in good faith, in no way constitutes any recommendation by *Acorn* members or by the Editor of *Acorn* Newsletter or by the *Forum Society* or its members or officers. Anyone acting on any such information does so at their own risk, and must rely on their own judgement in doing so. Some members will learn much from this newsletter. Others may want specific advice and help, such as the name of a practitioner able to help them achieve the changes they want, or to give advice specific to their condition. The membership of *Acorn* includes doctors, some of whom are willing to help other members. A copy of the list of Jewish circumcisers (mohelim) approved (and annually reviewed) by the Initiation Society is available. Most only operate in a religious context and only on infants, but some are additionally qualified and may be willing to help adolescents or adults in non-religious circumstances.

**Confidentiality:** Contributions will be identified by initials and town or county, unless either you ask for even greater anonymity or, conversely, you state explicitly that you would like a name and/or address published. Letters may be forwarded anonymously if you wish. Obviously we gain in frankness from being able to write with these guarantees in mind. **Other Members** may be contacted by sending your letter to *Acorn* (address shown on front page) and asking for it to be sent on to the person named. It is your decision whether to

give your address, and it is their decision whether to reply or not.

**Subscriptions:** Whether you join in January or later in the year, your £10 annual subscription pays for all the issues, including back copies, published in 1990. This makes it fairly easy to ensure that everyone gets what they have paid for. 1988 back copies (86 pages) are available for £8 and 1989 back copies (122 pages) for £10. You can pay by cheque or postal order, preferably blank: receipt will be acknowledged, generally by sending what you have asked for; address as for Replies.

**Who Else Would You Ask If You Wanted An Answer To These Questions?** is the headline in advertisements for 'Self-Helpline'... just ring 0898 777 followed by the number that you want. 709 is given as the additional number for 'Male circumcision: your questions answered'. When I rang this number I heard seven and a half minutes (at 25p per minute cheap rate, 38p per minute at all other times) of how easy, helpful and unembarrassing it could be to see a Sex Therapist for such problems as premature ejaculation or impotence. There was no mention whatever of circumcision, and the caller was told to start by seeing their own doctor first. A caller could also find the Marriage Guidance Council by looking in the local phone book (incidentally, it is now called 'Relate', though callers were not told this). Or you could write to the Association of Sex Therapists for the address of one near you: the address given was PO Box 62, Sheffield S10 3TL. So, if you really want an answer, my advice would be **not** to phone 'Self Helpline': like so many other phone-ins, this one is also a rip-off. In my view, the answer to the question in the headline is: 'almost anyone but them'. Why not write to *Acorn* instead?

T.A.

## **Foreskins And Masturbation Methods**

I consider myself lucky still to have a foreskin. When I was five my mother took me to the family doctor because my foreskin would not retract. He did not believe in circumcision unless absolutely necessary. He applied an anaesthetic solution to my little penis, and I can just recall his using a thimble-like instrument and succeeding in passing my foreskin beyond the glans. He instructed my mother to get me to retract my foreskin every night in the bath. Sometimes it would not come back very easily.

I was a wanker from an early age, although of course no ejaculate appeared until 14. When I was approaching puberty and obviously more aware of what a penis was all about, I decided to wear my foreskin permanently tucked behind the ridge. Often I got an erection from the friction of my tight trousers, and I can remember being embarrassed when it was time to get off the bus. I would use my school briefcase to cover my bulge until it wore off. I seemed to be in a permanently erect state for four or five years. I suppose it was all part of

growing up and nature helping to develop my penis, strengthen my muscles and improve my blood supply.

When masturbating, I use various methods. Sometimes I use the foreskin with some lubrication to bring myself to orgasm, and sometimes I use one hand gliding up and down my shaft. There are times when I use the palms of both hands and with a rolling action bring myself off. DIY is so much more controlled, unless one has a very gentle partner who is able to feel and read you. The pinch and squeeze technique is unfortunately not widely known. I have never had a multiple orgasm, but even at 50 I have a quick recovery time and can have three orgasms within an evening's play-time. I am vasectomised, but I don't think that makes any difference other than taste. My wife tells me that my juices are slightly sweeter than they were before vasectomy, because my ejaculate is pure seminal fluid and no sperm.

I am now 50 so I have been wearing my foreskin in a retracted state for well over 35 years. Of course I can cover my glans, especially when I have soaked in the bath, my skin is soft and I am relaxed.

My wife definitely prefers to see a man with an exposed prick. She adores the shape and also the taut string on the underside that joins the foreskin to the shaft (the frenulum). Mine is particularly sensitive and if played like a violin string can easily bring me to orgasm. I also think that during masturbation (DIY or partnered) the glans has been able to be less sensitive and accordingly ejaculation can be prolonged. Mind you, this is only supposition on my part, since you can't prove otherwise unless you've worn your foreskin covering the glans all the time – but I suppose you could experiment and ask others. That is why I think a club to exchange notes and read about the subject is very healthy.

Most of my female friends over the years have indicated a preference for the uncovered penis, but perhaps they would not want to say otherwise for my sake. After all, if I ask: 'Do you like my penis exposed?' it is a leading question. But I could always cover it up if a partner preferred, unlike the finality of circumcision, which you have to live with.

Talking to my masseuse the other day about length, she complemented me on being slightly above average, but she said the ultimate test is whether or not the tip of the erect penis can just reach the navel! She said some peoples actually hang weights to boys just before puberty and, like traction on short legs, this enables their penises to be much longer: I wonder if you have any information? Presumably the same could apply to females: their labia could be stretched by early pulling or being pierced and having weights attached. Of course such things have to be part of the culture and performed at an early age as part of a ceremony or initiation to sex. We don't go in for real sex education in this country. I often wonder what young girls think in places like Bangkok when they are employed in a massage parlour at the age of six to entertain and relieve men.

Although most of us masturbate from an early age, we don't really know what sex is about until as we approach puberty we naturally start to examine ourselves more attentively. I remember catching my sister when she was aged 12 looking at her genitals in a mirror. We ought to be encouraging much more awareness of our sex organs and the differences between them. There is even more secrecy about female genitals, clitoral hoods, clitoral shaft size, and variations between the labia, than there is about the male genitals: at least these can be observed in changing rooms, urinals etc. But alas some would regard this as stealing innocence or being perverted. At least the penis survey is a start towards comparisons of the male genitals, but we still have a long way to go.

*Peter – Tonbridge, Kent*

### **Circumcision: How Tight?**

Dear Tony: Thanks for the year's set of Newsletters. I think the correspondence is most informative and surprisingly serious. Many of the letters totally echo my own thoughts: concern over cleanliness in the uncut state, great relief once it was over, etc. Unlike many writers, though, I found that the greatest improvement was not for masturbation (though the technique was obviously changed) but for various types of sexual activity with my wife. Having the penis permanently bare was a great improvement in lovemaking, and her own attitude was very favourable too (though her interest in the subject is, perhaps understandably, less than my own).

Like other members of *Acorn*, I found that the shaft skin became rather looser over the years, and about 18 months ago I had a revision carried out at the Marie Stopes Clinic which improved things considerably. However, when relaxed, the skin still slightly overlaps the sides of the penis head. When erect it is fairly taut, though the skin can still be moved back and forth to a certain extent. How tightly can the penis be circumcised, before it affects an erection? Has anyone experienced that state, and are there any other problems? Like others, I feel a complete, radical circumcision to be the ideal.

I have read that Islamic circumcisers are more thorough than Jewish (or British) surgeons: is that so?

*J.H. – Banstead*

[Dear J.H.: Both Islamic and Jewish traditional circumcision methods begin by pulling the foreskin forward and removing it with a single cut, taking precautions to ensure that the glans is not damaged and the cut is made beyond its tip. This removes outer foreskin but leaves the inner face of the foreskin covering the glans to a length about equal to the glans length. The essential difference of technique between them is that the Islamic operator simply turns back this inner layer, so that it forms a strip of skin bordering

the glans rim. The cut edge then lies close to the cut edge of outer skin, and the two cut edges heal together, so that the scar line lies some way up the penis shaft: how far depends very much on how much skin was pulled forward initially. The Jewish mohel tears the inner layer of foreskin longitudinally where it lies on the glans and then turns back the flaps. The result is that the scar line lies close to the glans rim on top (the dorsal side), but underneath the skin is much slacker, sometimes forming almost a small 'apron' hanging level with the glans tip, and sometimes forming a bulge under the glans.

The tightness or slackness depends very much on the operator's judgement and on how firmly he pulls the foreskin forward for the initial cut. For example, Turkish and Egyptian operators have the reputation of removing a minimum, enough to bare the glans tip but leave the rim covered. Slackness is also affected by the age at which the operation is performed: Muslims in Britain seem to have their boys circumcised before they are two, but the usual age in Turkey, Malaysia etc is about 12, often when he is old enough to have read through the whole Koran (cf the Jewish Bar Mitzvah). Jews, of course, circumcise (Brit Milah) on the eighth day: the operator ensures that the penis is erect, which also means that any error is on the side of caution. So the consequence of infant circumcision is often a fairly slack result, and Jewish regulations provide for a second operation if the glans proves later not to have been bared sufficiently. British surgeons vary greatly in the results which they achieve, depending very largely on how experienced they are. These days circumcision is fairly rare, and is often considered trivial enough to be left to an inexperienced junior duty-surgeon, with results ranging from good to very uneven and unsatisfactory. Anyone contemplating circumcision, either for himself or for a son, is therefore strongly advised to go to a surgeon with plenty of experience of this particular operation.

You ask how tight a really radical circumcision can be before it affects an erection. There seems to be a widespread anxiety among circumcisers about taking off too much, and among those considering circumcision that if they are circumcised radically, they may have an erection during convalescence and burst the stitches. Each of these complications is a very rare occurrence in practice, and a slacker result than the patient would really have liked seems much more common. In fact, of course, the penis skin is very elastic indeed, and some slack from the scrotum can also be taken up underneath before an erection is affected. Sometimes a penis bends to one side when erect, but, rather than being the consequence of an over-tight circumcision, this is much more likely to be the result of some difference between one side and another in the mechanisms regulating the blood-flow into and out of the left and right corpora cavernosa, the two structures of spongy tissue which form the penis shaft. (There is a third underneath, the corpus spongiosum, which surrounds the urethra and continues to form the glans).

From your description, it sounds as though your circumcision could be safely tightened a little further at the sides. But test out this conclusion for

yourself by marking a strip of skin on either side of your current scar-line, as wide as you think could be removed, using a 'permanent' felt-tip pen, and then check when your penis is fully erect to see if you still think the amount marked is 'spare'. If you decide to go ahead, this will give you a good idea of what to ask the circumciser to do. — T.A.]

### **Like Father, Like Son**

Dear Tony: I was originally circumcised whilst in the RAF serving in Holland. I had always wished to be circumcised but had been unable to find a surgeon sympathetic to my wishes. Even the surgeon at the nearby American base said he would be quite happy to do it, if my RAF MO was agreeable: needless to say, he was not. Just before my tour finished, a new medic came to my unit, and I saw him as soon as possible to see what his attitude was. He suggested that I request circumcision on religious grounds, which I did. The surgeon at the hospital agreed to circumcise me under these circumstances, and I was soon admitted. There were five of us in the ward for circumcision: I managed to find out that one had penile warts, two had split their foreskins during sex due to the foreskin not retracting fully, with the result that they tore. The fourth had a very long foreskin which he had caught in his trouser zip – it kept getting infected and would not heal. After the circumcisions were done we stayed in hospital five days and then were allowed home. I healed in about two weeks and was having sex straight away. I was pleased to be circumcised, but not overly pleased with the result. Our surgeons do not have enough practice. I had a lop-sided scar with a small bunch of redundant skin on the right side of the shaft behind the glans.

When my son was born we lived in northern Scotland. I tried to get him circumcised, but I was greeted with hostility and refusal. I could not get him done at the same time as myself because I wanted to see my own result first. So when I returned to the UK from Holland I kept a watch in *Forum*, eventually finding the information I needed. An article appeared about the advantages of circumcision, and I wrote asking the name of the surgeon mentioned in the article. He was based in northern England, but sad to say is no longer with us. I contacted him and arranged to have my son circumcised. When we arrived he weighed my son and then asked me to undress him and lay him on the operating table. He then gave an anaesthetic which would last about three hours, to allow my son to recover slowly, and started the circumcision.

As he could not retract his foreskin, he first used a probe to see if there were any adhesions. There did not seem to be, so he put two clamps, one on either side of the frenulum, and two more on top. He then used a scalpel to carefully cut a slit in the foreskin on top of the glans, so he could then peel back the tight skin. This allowed him to clean around the glans and sulcus with a swab. Next he took a Plastibell and placed it in position on the glans and pulled the foreskin forward over it until a mark that he had made on the foreskin with an indelible pen reached the groove on the Plastibell. He got

me to hold the clamps for him whilst he tied a ligature around the foreskin, depressing it into the groove. This would cut off the blood supply to the excess skin and allow it to die and drop off with the Plastibell. He used a scalpel to cut off as much of the excess skin as he could: the lack of blood oozing proved the ligature was tight enough. The Plastibell rested on the glans and when healing was complete it dropped off, allowing the skin to retract permanently to the rear of the glans and leaving a smooth straight circumcision scar. If the frenulum is too tight or too short it can be cut prior to the Plastibell being fitted.

Whilst my son was recovering, the surgeon asked if I wanted to be done. I told him about my circumcision. He asked to see it and his comment was: 'Good God, who was the butcher?'. Then he offered to do a revision operation for me if I would like. I jumped at the chance. He had me undress and lie on the table. When he had scrubbed up and cleaned my genitals, he injected anaesthetic into the shaft and under the skin near the frenulum: it stung a little, but that was all. Whilst it was taking effect he stretched my remaining foreskin over the glans to see how much there was, and then marked it with a dye pen where he would cut it. He asked if my frenulum gave me any trouble, and I said no. In retrospect I wish I had got him to cut it; however, I didn't. When he had tested to make sure that the anaesthetic had worked, he got to work with his scalpel, cutting and stitching. After about 15 minutes he said: 'That will look much better when it is healed.'

He gave me lunch, refused to accept any money for my son, and charged just £35 for my circumcision, saying that all men should be circumcised. He had been circumcised as an adult while a surgeon in the army in Africa. Both my own and my son's circumcisions healed up perfectly, although my son did have a little difficulty in peeing, as the Plastibell tends to press against the glans because of the foreskin trying to retract all the while. This problem was overcome by putting him in a lukewarm bath, which somehow allowed this tension to relax. My own result was fabulous: no bunch of spare skin and a nice neat scar  $\frac{1}{4}$ " behind the glans.

About three years ago I started having trouble with my frenulum. After any energetic intercourse it hurt and tended to feel tight. Whether it has shrunk, I don't know, but it did restrict my pleasure so I was on the lookout for a surgeon to attend to it, as my pen-friend in the USA suggested. He had removed his own but I didn't fancy that, so I contacted Mr Hasan for an appointment to see if he would cut or remove it. He saw me and agreed to do so, and whilst checking it out he said he would tighten up my foreskin if I wished. I agreed and the following week I attended his Harley Street clinic. I was told to remove all my clothes below the waist and get on to the operating table. The nurse put on operating drapes. He injected into the shaft and skin and then into the glans, which stung, and into the frenulum. Whilst it was working he marked what he was going to do. I was unable to see, and with a numb cock I could not feel what was happening, so all I can say is that



when he was finished he stitched it up and bandaged the site. He gave me a prescription for some tablets. After 30 minutes he checked me and when he was satisfied that all was well I could go home. It took a little longer to heal than the previous circumcision, but I am well pleased with it and there is no more discomfort during any form of sex. The scar is neat and fading away. The skin is taut on the shaft during erection and stays behind the glans at all times when not erect. In the 20 years I have been circumcised I have not lost any sensitivity.

To those of you who are contemplating circumcision or are circumcised but are not satisfied with the result I say: 'get yourself circumcised, you will not regret it.' If you are thinking of having a revision, I'd say: 'Do it.' It is for your own benefit and pleasure, so go ahead. In my experience you will not regret it. If any of you are still uncertain or want advice I would be quite happy to write and answer any of your questions. I can be reached care of *Acorn*.

*B.H. - Leeds*

[Many thanks for your letter, Brian, and some very interesting enclosures which usefully keep me up to date with the US debate on circumcision. It's nice to hear of another satisfied customer of the late and much lamented Ossie Gibson, who ran his circumcision practice under the name of John Smith and offered an extremely useful service in an area of the country which is otherwise poorly served in this respect. A few questions: How old was your son when you took him to be circumcised? What was his mother's attitude to your intention? What has been his own attitude - has he commented at all? — T.A.]

## **David Meets The Initiation Master**

When the letter came, David felt a mixture of excitement and dread. "This must be what it was like when you had spent your childhood playing soldiers and then your war-time call-up papers came telling you to report to the army", he thought.

As a boy of five, sharing the toilet for a pee with his friend Sam, he had discovered that the end of Sam's penis was always bare and neat and ready for action. By contrast, his own ended in a long wrinkled foreskin and did not aim nearly as well. As soon as he saw Sam's cock, he had wanted his own to be like it. Later he found out that other boys were roundheads like Sam.

At school the boys formed rival gangs. There were fewer in the roundhead gang, but they always seemed to be in control in the playground. If a new boy came, he was soon checked out in the toilets. The lucky ones could join the roundheads. The unlucky ones had to choose one of the 'cavalier' gangs, and

from then on their chances were slim of getting through a term without being roughed up. David had heard from Sam about the check-out in the toilet and tried to make his foreskin stay back to keep his glans bare, but the roundheads were wise to that trick: they soon saw the bunch of wrinkled skin on the shaft and pulled it forward with a jerk. From then on the nickname 'E.T.' followed him through school: he tried to make out it was because his friends thought of him as the loveable Extra-Terrestrial creature of the film, but he knew and they knew that it stood for "Elephant's Trunk". The name even followed him from primary to secondary school. In bed at night he 'played soldiers' with his cock. When it stood to attention, he could make the skin stay back for as long as half an hour. He often tried to keep it back by sleeping on his stomach, but when he awoke in the morning, it had slipped forward and the glans was damp and smelly again.

Increasingly he came to despise his own penis, with its long wrinkled foreskin, its "elephant's trunk" look, its unpredictable aim when he peed, the stale smell of it when he pulled the skin back, and the realisation that even if he washed it every day, it never seemed really clean. Once he had seen a graffiti reference to 'dirtskin' and knew at once what it meant.

In the showers at school and now at the sports club he never liked the others to see his cock with its wrinkled end: somehow it seemed to make his cock look smaller. But he had also perfected the art of carefully observing other men's equipment. Some of the other cavaliers had thin, short foreskins which allowed the glans tip to peep out, which seemed neater than his. The roundheads he saw seemed to have a self-confident swagger and always seemed pleased to show off their handsome endowments.

At work recently he had been told to choose his next car. Most of the others had Vauxhall Cavaliers, but because of the unpleasant associations of that name he had asked for a Ford Sierra instead. The Astra which he had before was too closely associated in his mind with the stars and E.T.: he was glad it was going.

So he read the letter with a mixture of excitement and fear. At once he followed its instructions, phoning to book a hotel room in a northern town which he had never visited before, and then checking train times. In the following ten days of waiting his imagination allowed him to picture everything he thought would happen: the pain of the operation, the dread of flinching or crying out while it was being done, the elation of becoming a roundhead at last. He wondered whether he would faint at the sight of his bleeding penis. Would the operator cut off too much? Suppose the stitches pulled out if he had an erection: what would happen then? How long would it take to heal afterwards? But the longed-for elation of finally being rid of his despised encumbrance of foreskin would make even all that worth while.

He went over all of these thoughts again as he sat in the train; but he always returned to the hope of deliverance, and the stroke of luck which had

put him into contact with the man who would free him. So he checked into the hotel soon after lunch, left a note of his room number at the desk addressed to the mysterious 'Mr Acorn', and went up to his room. It was expensive but comfortable. From the window he could look far out over the roofs of the town: that also meant that no-one could see in. The bathroom was clean and brightly lit. He unpacked his small case, including the odd assortment of items he had been told to bring, and laid them out neatly on the table. Then he settled down to watch television and wait for Mr Acorn.

### Enter the Initiation Master

After a while he began to fear that he might be the object of an expensive hoax. But then he heard a knock. He turned off the t.v. and opened the door. The man standing there was of medium height and would not stand out in a crowd, but behind his glasses David noticed a determined glint. He said he was Mr Acorn, and they exchanged a few pre-arranged words which quickly established each other's identity. This was the Initiation Master, into whose hands David would have to entrust not just his foreskin but power, too, over his entire manhood.

David beckoned him in, together with the two other men whom he introduced as his assistants, Chris and Roger. David had not expected them, but it was a bit late to object now. Mr Acorn told the three of them to fold back the bed covers, and he laid a white plastic sheet on it to protect the bottom sheet: now David knew why he had brought those plastic bin-liners. Then Mr Acorn locked the door, told Chris and Roger to strip, and watched while they helped David remove every item of his clothing. Chris ran a hot bath into which Mr Acorn poured a generous dash of antiseptic fluid, then told David to sit in it. Chris and Roger washed David thoroughly, working down towards his cock, which received such thorough attention that it was soon as firmly erect as he had ever known it. Meanwhile in the bedroom Mr Acorn rechecked the door and laid out the tools of his office. Then he, too, stripped and returned to the bathroom.

David looked-up, and could not take his eyes off what he saw. Mr Acorn stood naked at the door. His penis was slightly erect, and it had been tightly circumcised. But what held David's attention was his badge of office: a solid, heavy silver Prince Albert ring hanging from the tip of his glans. David thought to himself that anyone who had the self-control and determination to have a ring like that inserted must indeed have the mastery which Mr Acorn claimed.

### That's where the line will be

At a command from Mr Acorn, David stood up and dried himself thoroughly. Chris and Roger took him through to the bedroom sat him across the bed with his buttocks at the edge and his legs apart. They arranged a pile of bedding to support his back. Then one sat each side of him. They entwined a leg with each of his, and held David's arms across their shoulders, joining

their own arms behind his neck, holding David firmly and making him look down. He was immobilised, and all three men had a good view of what was to follow. Mr Acorn put a small plastic bowl under David's scrotum, then knelt between David's legs, took hold of his penis and examined it minutely. His left hand gripped and pressed at the base of David's penis: this kept it erect and firm. His right fingers gripped the tip of the foreskin and pulled it so hard that David winced. Then he pushed the foreskin back along the shaft steadily and very firmly until the glans was completely bare. Further moves and observations followed until David wondered how long he could keep control of the mounting urge for relief. He could see that Mr Acorn and both the Assistants, too, were displaying a similar level of arousal. Roger had a bright red recent circumcision scar. Chris had a long wrinkled foreskin which, like David's own, more than covered his glans, even though his penis was firmly erect. Still pulling David's foreskin firmly back, Mr Acorn took a pen and drew a neat line right round, 5mm from the rim of David's glans: "That is where your circumcision line will be", he said. David could only nod his agreement. Next, his foreskin was pulled firmly forward so that the rim of the glans could clearly be seen as a ridge underneath. A corresponding mark was made just behind this line. "Take a last look at your foreskin", said Mr Acorn, and David did. Suddenly he felt quite attached to it, especially as Mr Acorn and his Assistants had treated it none too gently during their preparations.

Once again David felt Mr Acorn's firm grip on his foreskin. He was pulling at it even harder than before, so that the line that he had just marked was now pulled beyond the end of his glans. Mr Acorn applied an instrument which lightly gripped the foreskin at the marked line. Then he spent several minutes first checking that the line on the skin exactly matched the edge of the instrument, and then pulling at the inner layer of skin and pushing at the glans. Just as David was about to say that he hoped it would all soon be over Mr Acorn said: "That's right now. Keep still, keep quiet and brace yourself." There was a click as he squeezed together the handles of the instrument. David felt a sudden pain, a sharp ache and a crushing tension. He just managed to bite back the cry which came to his throat. Mr Acorn reached out for his gleaming scalpel. David looked at him pleadingly: "Please hurry. I didn't expect this. I don't think I can bear it much longer." Mr Acorn simply replied: "Steady now", and bent over his task, exerting still heavier tension on the instrument while David watched in tense fascination.

Very steadily and deliberately Mr Acorn moved the scalpel blade down beside the edge of the clamp. David could feel it cutting and at the same time relieving the crushing pain of the clamp. In a few seconds the dark red line of cut skin extended while the outer surface of skin, relieved of tension, pulled back along the shaft of his penis to reveal the blood-red inner skin still covering his glans. As the scalpel reached the end of its stroke the skin pulled away and finally parted. The shaft skin sprang back until its cut edge took up exactly the position which Mr Acorn had marked.

### David lay back in relief

The ring of stinging pain at the cut edge of foreskin was, if anything, a relief after the clamp, and was much more bearable than he had expected. He also felt almost detached from his body with its raw-ended penis, at which he continued to look with mesmerised fascination. He noticed that a trickle of blood dripped from it into the bowl and that his once-proud erection had vanished.

“Don’t relax yet. There is still the inner skin to trim away.” Mr Acorn pushed one blade of his forceps along the upper surface of the glans under the layer of inner foreskin which still covered it, closed the blades together and used them as a guide for the scissors with which he made a long cut in the remnant of inner foreskin, back as far as the glans rim. Then he turned back this inner skin and told Roger, sitting on David’s right, to use a tissue to grip the glans firmly between his forefinger and thumb. Mr Acorn used the scissors to cut away the inner foreskin, leaving only a narrow fringe of skin bordering the glans rim, about as wide as one blade of the scissors. With each closure of the blades David wondered whether he could stand the pain of the next one, especially as Mr Acorn worked his way round towards the frenulum. But with each cut, first round to his left and then to his right, David was also encouraged as his glans stood clear and unencumbered for the first time in its life. “Nearly there”, said Mr Acorn, as Roger held up David’s penis so that Mr Acorn could snip away to the point which would remove the frenulum. With one final snip, the foreskin fell away into the bowl. Roger let go and David’s penis could hang down. David sighed with relief and relaxed. He could see that Mr Acorn and Roger and Chris were throbbing with excitement. David also noticed their look of triumph as they contemplated one more successfully circumcised penis and counted another addition to the ranks of the roundheads.

### We’ve not finished yet

It was almost an hour since Mr Acorn had arrived, but only fifteen minutes since they had come into the bedroom from the bathroom. “We’ve not finished yet. There is the bleeding to stop and then the stitches to put in.” David had wondered why Mr Acorn’s array of instruments included a miniature soldering iron: now he found out. Mr Acorn pushed the skin back as far as it would go along his penis shaft to bare it, dabbed it with a tissue and then touched the hot point of the soldering iron to one of the places from which blood was oozing, repeating this until the flow of blood was reduced to nothing more than a slight ooze. David did not feel much as he did this, but there was an unpleasant smell of singeing; he was relieved that it seemed to work, however. Chris and Roger were still beside him and David was comforted by his bodily contact with them: although the room was warm, he felt quite cold.

Mr Acorn pulled the shaft skin forward again and began the slow and careful process of stitching together the two cut edges of skin. With one pair of forceps he lifted up the edge; then a second pair of forceps was used to push

the tiny needle through the skin. This process was repeated for the opposing edge, the thread was drawn through and carefully knotted. The first stitch went in underneath at the frenulum, and hurt quite a lot, but it turned out to be much the worst. The second went in on top, diametrically opposite the first where David could see what was happening, and the third and fourth were at each side. These hurt much less, with only a small sharp pain as the needle went in each time. Otherwise, David observed in a detached way, the main thing he could feel was a dull and heavy pain. Mr Acorn worked deliberately and carefully, taking his time to make sure that each stitch was accurately placed and securely tied before inserting the next. Wearily David counted up to 64 neat little stitches before Mr Acorn stood back and at last pronounced his work finished. "Well done. Now you are a roundhead, with a penis free of foreskin and constantly bare to the world. Congratulations."

### I have waited for this moment all my life

Then at last David could allow himself to relax. "Thank you", he gasped, "I have waited for this moment all my life. It hurt quite badly, but it is worth it now." Throughout the operation he had been steeling himself not to call out or wince: he did not want to show Mr Acorn or his Assistants that he might be unworthy of initiation to the ranks of the roundheads, and he certainly did not want them to do only half their work. With his knees he had gripped Chris's and Roger's legs, and he had watched Mr Acorn's every move so that he would not be caught by surprise. Now he lay back, and at once began shivering as the tension relaxed. He looked at his watch, and found that it was less than half an hour since Mr Acorn had started.

Mr Acorn removed the bowl which now contained the severed pieces of foreskin and some congealed blood, and then wiped away the splashes of blood on David's legs. Chris helped David to his feet, led him into the bathroom, and finished washing off the splashes of blood and the clots which had congealed on his scrotum. David looked at his newly circumcised penis in the mirror. It hung loosely between his legs, bruised and swollen. But it was free at last of that wretched, wrinkled and ugly foreskin which had taunted him all his life with its unwanted presence. Instead there was a neat line just behind the rim of his glans where the new scarline would lie, now puckered and dark where the stitches drew together the cut edges of skin. Below the scarline his glans stood red, bare and proud, now permanently visible to all the world.

Mr Acorn let him admire himself for a while. Then he checked that all the blood clots had been wiped away and massaged an ointment onto the incision line, which stung for a few moments. This was followed by a strip of gauze which he fastened in place with a scrap of sticking plaster. "Is that all?" "Yes, you want as small a dressing as possible. But I'll tape this pad to your stomach. It will protect your clothes from any bleeding and from the lymph which will ooze from the scar-line for a while. Get dressed now, and keep warm: you will soon stop shivering."

While David did so, very carefully, Mr Acorn and the two Assistants busied themselves washing and tidying away the equipment. The blood and scraps of inner foreskin were flushed away, but the foreskin itself was carefully washed and dried, then pressed between layers of tissue, and given to David. Chris and Roger remade the bed. Then David sat down very carefully, while Mr Acorn phoned room-service for a tray of tea and biscuits: "The hot drink will counteract the shock symptoms which you are beginning to show."

### The Circumcision Master

While they were drinking the tea David asked him how he had gained his qualification as a Circumcision Master. "I have been at several circumcisions. The first time I was only allowed to watch from a distance, because I was still a cavalier. The second time, I was at the centre of attention. I proved my own prowess by making the first cut myself. I had been told exactly what to do by the Master, when I told him I could make my own cut. It was easy enough to start with, but I nearly gave up when the knife reached the area near the frenulum: I had to pause, but I was determined to complete the job, and eventually I did so. My Circumcision Master thought I was too cocky, so when I had finished the first cut he really took his time trimming away the inner skin, a scrap at a time, and then he pulled at the frenulum to make sure that he removed it all."

"The third circumcision I went to, I was an Assistant. I sat beside Roger, just as Chris and Roger have done for you. Unlike you, he struggled a bit when the clamp was fixed and we had to hold him very firmly. But after that he calmed down. Then when the stitches were going in he started to moan, and we had to gag him to stop the noise."

"I already knew that I wanted to be an operator myself. I have always been fascinated by the accounts I have read of African tribal circumcisions, and I read all that I could find. So there and then, after we had finished with him, and in front of the operator and his assistants, I did the piercing for my Prince Albert. It hurt, but I knew that if I could do my own circumcision, I could go through with this too. If I wanted to be a circumciser I knew I would have to do it. Actually the needle went in quite easily. I was a bit alarmed at how much it bled, but the Circumcision Master told me it would soon stop, and actually it did. At first my ring was only a little one, but then I stretched the hole to take the big one. Now, since AIDS, we never do more than one operation at a time, to cut down the risk."

"You have done very well today. Do you want to come to Chris's circumcision next month, as my Assistant?" To himself David wondered whether he would have healed up enough by then. But it would be a chance to show off his new status as a roundhead to an admiring audience. Pleased at the implication that he was worthy of such an honour, he could only reply: "Yes please."

## Convalescence

Chris and Roger left, but Mr Acorn stayed with David overnight. They watched some television, then went down to the hotel restaurant for dinner. David worried whether he could manage it without walking so oddly that people would wonder what was wrong with him, but nobody seemed to notice. Afterwards they returned to the bedroom. David badly wanted a pee, and found that so long as he just let his cock hang freely there was no problem. The thin, strong jet was much easier to manage than the spray he was used to. He got off to sleep quite easily, feeling exhausted by the nervous tension of the operation. But at 2am he woke with a wooden-hard erection, throbbing and aching powerfully.

He turned on the light in the bathroom and saw that the protective pad was slightly blood stained. He had a pee. Mr Acorn came in and helped him take off the dressing. They were glad to see that all the little stitches were still holding together firmly. A cool new dressing helped, and then he sat quietly reading until the erection went down. Mr Acorn told him it would be better if he did not get too hot under the bedclothes. David managed to get comfortable again and slept soundly until morning. Before he dressed, Mr Acorn put on another new dressing and changed the protective pad for a clean one. He told David that the scar-line would continue to ooze a clear, slightly bloody fluid for a few days, but if he used the ointment and kept the dressing in place, it shouldn't turn to puss and he would have no problems. After about three days he should be able to leave off the dressing and manage with the ointment and the protective pad.

David travelled home in the train accompanied by a warm sense of pride and triumph: he was a fully-qualified roundhead at last. Next time he was in the showers at the sports club, he'd be proud to show off his new status and tell his friends: "Yes, I've had myself circumcised. It's a great improvement. I strongly recommend it. In fact, I can tell you where to get it done." And in a month's time he would have a hand in Chris's transition from cavalier to roundhead: another fortunate fellow.

*Alan – Lancs.*

## **Book Review**

**The Swimming Pool Library by Alan Hollinghurst (Penguin 1988) £4.99**

'Surely the best book about the gay life yet written by an English author' says the review by Edmund White quoted on the cover. On this occasion the blurb is fully justified. Whether gay or straight yourself, it is well worth reading this novel as much for its literary wit and style as for its ability to portray the excitement, lust, remorse, promiscuity, disappointment, cunning



and enjoyment in the life of a rich young man-about-town during the last year (1983, before AIDS) when such wanton and careless enjoyment was possible. Cock spotting connoisseurs will relish the narrator Will's description of his young friend Arthur's member (p.19): 'Entirely delightful – short, stocky, ruthlessly circumcised, and incredibly resilient and characterful.'

Later (pp 164-5) he comments: 'O the difference of man and man. Sometimes in the showers, which only epitomised and confirmed a general feeling held elsewhere, I was amazed and enlightened by the variety of the male organ. In the rank and file of men showering the cocks and balls took on the air almost of an independent species, exhibited in instructive contrasts. Here was the long, listless penis, there the curt athletic knob or innocent rosebud of someone scarcely out of school. Carlos's Amerindian giant swung alongside the compact form of a Chinese youth whose tiny brown willy was almost concealed in his wet pubic hair, like an exotic mushroom in a dish of seaweed. On the other side of me a young businessman displayed one of those long dispiriting foreskins which gather very tight about the glans and then bunch and dribble on childishly for an inch or so more. Beyond him the cock of one of the weightlifters, radically circumcised, was in its usual ambiguous form, not quite at ease, not quite at attention.' In its 288 pages there is much else to delight, amuse and inform readers, whatever their own inclinations.

T.A.

## **Penis Massage**

Hello Tony: Thank you for the back copies of *Acorn*. I read them with interest and am now looking forward to the next issue. I am a roundhead, circumcised as an infant. I've never known why, but as they say, "What you've never had you never miss." For the *Acorn* survey, my prick is 3.75" long flaccid and 5.9" erect, with the diameter at the base 3.3" flaccid and 4.8" erect. The scar-line is 0.6" from the glans rim. When erect the glans tip is 4.5" from my stomach. I'm 5'7.5" high. From these measurements my prick is a little below average. I've tried most ways to improve its size but with no long-term success, but then, has anyone? If they have, I'd like to hear from them. I try to keep my prick in tip-top condition by daily massage with a Vitamin E oil. I do this after my morning shower for at least 15 minutes. This leaves my prick with a good skin tone and a feeling of well-being all day long.

One of my favourite ways of wanking is first to massage it as described. Then while my prick is swollen but not fully erect I use a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter rubber tube passed under my ball-bag and over the base of my prick close to my body. This I tie quite tight, which makes my prick and balls stand out away from my body. Using plenty of oil I start my wank, first with two fingers underneath and thumb on top of my shaft until I have a full erection. Then with my hand fist fashion I work from the base up over the glans. Towards the point of no

return I put a small rubber dildo up my arse and time it so that as my hand comes down the shaft of my prick the dildo goes up. This results in a fantastic climax with about four or five good long spurts of cum. Thanks to the rubber tube my prick stays hard for some time afterwards, long enough to penetrate a partner and bring them off too.

I agree with 'Dick of Merseyside' (Issue 7/89) who would like a video showing the various methods of DIY which members use to bring themselves off. We all (male and female) get great pleasure in seeing each other doing what comes naturally. I'm sure that whoever could organise a wanking party video would have no trouble in getting volunteers to star in it. I'd like to advertise for any VHS videos, professional or home-made, with bi- or homosexual themes.

In answer to "What's yours called?", the term I usually use is prick. But with ladies I don't know too well, I'll say Cock, Tool, Willy, John Thomas, My small friend. For cunt it's Honey pot, Cave of love, Tunnel of passion, Fuzz box and Fanny. Most women I've been with enjoy using Anglo-Saxon words when we're fucking. I really think it's wonderful when you hear them asking you to fuck harder.

*Yours in Forum friendship, Matt S. – Birmingham*

## **Body Art**

This is the name of a magazine which may interest some of our readers. It is a glossy production of 48 pages in A4 format, well illustrated with colour and monochrome photographs plus descriptive text. Tattooing receives fullest coverage, but it also covers related topics. For example, Issue 2 had articles on nipple piercing and pubic hairdressing. Issue 3: 'The piercings'. Issue 4: genital jewellery part 1 – male piercings. Issue 5: genital jewellery part 2 – female piercings. Issue 6: body painting, piercing clubs. Issue 7 featured female nipple development and has a long article, more mystical than explicit, on 'the magic of the wound'. Issue no 8 will cover tattoo symbolism and piercing enlargement. If your newsagent does not have it, you can send £6 (per issue! Cheques payable to Publications Limited) to Body Art magazine, Blake House Studios, Blake End, Rayne, Braintree, Essex CM7 8SH. Add £1 postage to Europe, £1.50 surface mail, £4.50 airmail to the rest of the world. A catalogue of body jewellery is also available from the same address for £4.50, refundable with the first order for £25 or more.

## **Roundhead And Cavalier Husbands Compared**

Dear Sir: You may wonder what a middle-aged woman is doing writing to *Acorn*, but as one who has always taken an interest in circumcision, you may find my information interesting.

As a girl I was brought up to think of circumcision as a good thing – my brothers were circumcised and so was my husband. My preference was not uncritical, though, because I never cared for the appearance of the circumcised organ, especially as in so many cases the surgeon had done a botched job. Still, I thought, that was the price one had to pay for assured cleanliness and the avoidance of filthy practices.

So I had mixed feelings 20 years ago when my own son was born. But overcoming my hesitation, I took him to the paediatric clinic and asked for him to be 'done'. I didn't even get to see the doctor! The paediatric nurse had a quick look at my son's genitals and told me there was no reason to circumcise him. When I explained that it was a family tradition she said that medical opinion no longer supported unnecessary surgery. It would merely disfigure the boy without achieving any benefit. So to my husband's disgust and my misgivings, my son was allowed to grow up intact.

Two years ago the bottom fell out of my life when my husband died suddenly. However, I was luck enough to meet a super man and I'm happy to say life has begun anew. The thing is, my new man is uncircumcised, and his foreskin is the first I've ever experienced sexually. My first impression on seeing it confirmed my original view on the better appearance of a long foreskin. As my late husband grew older the skin of his circumcised knob had shrivelled and turned a peculiar whitish-grey, looking decidedly unappetising compared with the long sleek taper of my new man's vital dimension. But the real difference is in performance. As I reached the menopause my natural juices dried up, making sex painful for me and impossible for my husband without using a synthetic lubricant. Since his libido had never matched mine he was able to give up sex with a silent sigh of relief, while I had to resort to manual stimulation to ward off the frustration.

But my new man's foreskin has given my sex life a new impetus, contrary to my original instincts, since his penis moves smoothly and frictionlessly through it, and what I lack in lubrication he makes up for with his permanently moist glans which still remains sensitive to the touch, in contrast to my late husband's.

So although a lot of well-brought-up girls might wish their partner to be circumcised, they might do better to leave his foreskin alone with later years in mind – or consider trading him in eventually for an intact model if he's already circumcised! Yet I'm still subconsciously pro-circumcision. Why do you think this should be?

*Yours sincerely, D.C. – Borehamwood*

## **Tickle Twatty**

Dear Mr Acorn: The circumcision controversy seems never-ending, with no-one prepared to see the other's point of view. From what I can see, none of you men really know what you so want, and the best thing you could do in my view is to let women decide for you!

The reason I say this is because from my early years I saw the problem at first hand. I spent my pre- and early-teens living with a distant 'aunt' with two sons roughly my own age, one circumcised and the other not. The boys both understood what circumcision was, but had no idea why they had been treated differently. We later found out that Aunty, against her better instincts, was talked into having the older boy done by a friend but, because of the complications he suffered, changed her mind when the second boy came along and left his foreskin intact. Anyway, the roundhead envied his brother his foreskin, while the cavalier felt that he had been neglected in some way. See what I mean?

Like most kids, whenever we had the opportunity we indulged in the harmless sex games that are an essential part of growing up, and in a large rambling farmhouse those opportunities were almost unlimited. When we were packed off to bed at the other end of the house, we would get into our pyjamas and then congregate in a bedroom for an hour's horseplay, which usually finished up with us all naked playing ball fights or tickle twatty. In these rude games of course they both got erections and I was incited to judge which was the most impressive. I was also asked to say which I preferred, the foreskin or the acorn. They certainly looked very different, because the cavalier's foreskin did not retreat much when his cock stiffened, leaving his with a comical little bobble of skin on the tip. The roundhead looked much more impressive with his knob all bare and swollen. I knew better than to make my preference known, though, and chickened out, saying that I liked both equally.

Later we grew more adventurous, and the games became more exciting when we discovered that touching and feeling added to the fun of looking and displaying. We would all sit naked on the bed with me in the middle whilst the two boys took it in turns to explore my hairless genitals and unformed breasts. At the same time I would hold their two penises, one cut and one intact, in each hand and, following some primeval feminine instinct, I soon discovered the pleasure to be given by squeezing and pulling.

By this time, of course, I had discovered that the cavalier's foreskin could be pulled down clear of his knob, so that his erection looked almost identical to his brother's except that his knob was wet and much more highly coloured.

This was a point in his favour, since I took a real shine to this exercise. It also of course altered my perception so that I truly had no preference since both knobs were now equally bare and equally impressive, but I do remember that

it was easier to rub a foreskin up and down than a cock with a bare acorn.

Consequently I would say that to argue over which is preferable is a waste of time, since both have all the ingredients to keep a girl happy. In fact I finally married my intact 'cousin' and find his uncircumcised organ delightful in every way. I'm certain though if I'd married his brother, I'd feel equally enthusiastic about his circumcised penis.

However it must be said that whilst some circumcised cocks are a joy to behold, others look awful and are a living indictment of the incompetent surgeon who trimmed them. It all seems to be a bit of a lottery how it will turn out, and for that reason alone I would hesitate to have my sons done. Hence they remain intact like their father, although he quite liked the idea of having them circumcised.

Finally a word about the future. I recently spent a glorious day with my family at a popular beach resort. In line with our membership of the EC, we appear to have shed some of our inhibitions, since quite big children were allowed to run around nude. Over the day I must have seen hundreds of small boys naked, and I'm afraid I have to report that I didn't spot a single roundhead. A generation hence the pro- and anti-circumcision controversy will become purely abstract, since there will be no basis for comparison. Your membership will then be a small elite in a universally uncircumcised population. Do try to keep the argument going, though: it's much more interesting than the agony aunt columns!

*Yours sincerely, C.W. – St Albans*

## **Piercing World**

I have recently seen a copy of Issue 3 of this magazine, the first time I have seen a publication on this theme produced and available in England. It runs to 20 sides (recently increased from 16) in A4 format, and includes black-and-white photographs.

Mr Sebastian's article on the Prince Albert I particularly liked. I understand that there will be further articles about male piercings in future issues. There is also an article by Eric describing piercing customs in Borneo. This was particularly valuable as, despite many years of searching, I have never found much detail on Dyak piercing customs. Hitherto I have always understood that they kept to a single transverse ampallang piercing near the glans tip, passing through the urethra and out the other side. I also understood that they generally use a barbell rod with one ball removable for insertion. Eric says that piercing is a group activity, and tells us that he had his frenulum pierced. There is also a very brief description of the items worn in piercings, including spikes and waisted spindles, and the comment that as many as ten penis piercings are sometimes made, often finger sized, with the weight

of items worn in them enough to stretch the penis considerably in length. He also mentions that both men and women spend many happy and erotic hours depilating each other's bodies, which are kept hairless except on the head. An annual subscription is £10 and single quarterly issues are £2.50 each from PAUK, 153 Tomkinson Road, NUNEATON, Warks CV10 8DP.

*Tony – Lancs.*







# **ACORN**

**1990 Issue No 2**  
(Formerly Issue S)

**Editor**  
**Tony Acorn**

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**Membership, Fees, Advice, Personal Matters,  
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## **Editorial**

The Editor has a new machine. Initially this has meant spending time to learn how to use it, and production of this issue has been delayed in consequence. Ultimately and hopefully it should result in an improvement in the presentation of the newsletter. Word-processed contributions will be welcome on a 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" disk (which will be returned) if the operating system is MS-DOS and the w/p is compatible with MS Works.

T.A.

## **Arctic Willie**

Seven Royal Marine Commandos running and skiing in sub-zero temperatures while training in Norway have become the latest recorded victims of 'genital cold injury'. The hazard was previously reported as affecting drivers in unheated lorries and mountaineers in tight trousers, and appeared in Germany and Russia after the first and second world wars. Frostbite and frostnip (a less serious condition) may well have affected more soldiers, but their natural reticence may have led to under-reporting of other cases. Concern about functional impairment was expressed by all the patients, so the 'uniformly favourable outcome was reassuring'.

The two medical officers with 45 Commando Group report that frostbite usually affects fingers, toes, and exposed extremities. Other parts of the body are involved in only 2 per cent of cases. The commandos were wearing underpants, polypropylene longjohns and track-suit bottoms, with the exception of one who wore a ski suit.

Symptoms included dysuria (difficult and/or painful urination), numb prepuce, intense pain in the glans, and swelling of the foreskin and glans. Dysuria was a prominent early symptom, possibly owing to rapid re-warming of the urethra during urination. Persistent dysuria may have been caused by damage to the urethral lining from urine freezing in the distal urethra (i.e. at the glans end). The worst case was uncircumcised; after exposure to -33°C wind-chill, he suffered dysuria for 48 hours, preputial numbness, redness and superficial inflammation (erythema) and swelling (oedema) of the glans, and a 'cobble appearance' five weeks after the injury. These symptoms recurred on subsequent exposure, and balanitis (inflamed foreskin) was initially misdiagnosed. Another uncircumcised man had dysuria, erythema and oedema of the foreskin, then radial fissures and phimosis for three weeks.

The authors calculated the wind-chill factor at figures from -33°C to -54°C. Only one of the men was circumcised: he sustained frostnip (the less serious symptoms) with the worst wind-chill, at -54°C. The six uncircumcised men, including the four with the more serious frostbite, sustained their cold injuries at wind-chill temperatures in the -30s or -40s C. Thus uncircumcised men were more vulnerable. Cold injury might be expected to be more common

among the circumcised men, but the foreskin proved to be more susceptible, despite offering protection to the glans.

The normal initial treatment for frostbite – rewarming the parts in water at 42°C – was clearly impractical in these cases. A shower or sauna is an alternative, but the excessive heating of a sauna is potentially detrimental. Subsequent treatment at best deals with the symptoms, so prevention by loose-fitting trousers is the key.

[Drs Simon Travis and Digby Roberts, 'Arctic Willy', *British Medical Journal*, 23-30 December 1989; pp 1573-4, and *The Independent* 22 December 1989, p 2.]

## **Age And Consent**

Dear Tony: Following your published apology in reply to three or four complaints about letters relating experiences with youngsters in foreign countries, I would like to say that I think you were right to publish them.

I have re-read the two letters concerned, and find them (as I did previously) instructive, sympathetic and morally responsible. Surely we should all realise – whether we agree with the situations concerned or not – that this world is made up of many peoples, customs, and ideas. They should be accepted, as we would wish a visitor from those countries to accept our codes of behaviour. The man who complained using the phrase 'slipping it up little girls' turned the whole affair into something cheap and sordid, something the original letters were not. You have nothing to reproach yourself for, and as the behaviour of the penis takes many paths, it was certainly in context.

How can I justify this viewpoint whilst abhorring the kind of child sex abuse that has been much in the media recently? I simply do not classify every *similar* act as the *same*. The two girls mentioned were sex-wise and wanting to indulge. More than likely, they were enjoying it. How many of us sexually active and aware men have had eager come-and-get-it looks and invitations from kids, girls and boys, well below the age of consent? How often have we been tempted, but resisted, knowing it could lead to trouble. Yet these are kids who, for whatever reason, want sex.

I can remember all too clearly when I would have given anything for a man to pick me up, take me home, let me see him naked, and do whatever he wanted with me. I was between 10 and 14 then. I wanted sex and I was fully aware that I wanted it. It was only later that I found out the places where men would 'hang out' and, if I was lucky, take me home with them.

What is really reprehensible is a situation where children are wantonly abused by parents or parents' friends, kids who do not even know what sex is, and are far from old enough to desire anything connected with it. Child abuse, in my mind, relates to children who do not consent. When you think

about it, that is just like rape. Consent is the key: sex with a consenting and willing youngster cannot be termed 'abuse' – it may well be illegal in some countries at a certain age, and acceptable at the same age in others, but that only indicates what a very complicated world we all live in!

*D.S. – Merseyside*

[As readers will know, the age of consent in the UK is 16 (for heterosexual intercourse), but it is evident (from the growing number of girls pregnant on their 16th birthday) that laying down the law doesn't determine behaviour. There is a view that the age should be reduced to fall more in line with reality. This would also legalise advising and supplying contraceptives to people under 16, which would be the practical approach to reducing the number of girls faced with the unwanted burdens of premature parenthood.

Boys are presumed incapable of rape below the age of 14. This again is not in line with reality, as recent incidents have shown: 12 might be more realistic these days, when puberty is attained by both sexes perhaps three years sooner than was the case a century ago. But it also recognises that boys may well be interested in and capable of sex before the age of 16. Homosexual relations are illegal, even between consenting males in private, before the age of 21. The current Church of England debate about homosexuality has brought some recognition that a homosexual orientation is probably formed at an early age, and usually notwithstanding the strongly heterosexual example given by parents. It is strongly argued by many that this age should be reduced to be in line with the age of consent to heterosexual intercourse. But the current homophobic climate does not encourage reform.

What exactly constitutes 'consent' is both fascinating and highly debatable: 'the art of seduction' has, of course, been a popular theme of literature, stage and screen for many centuries. Probably it was lawyers' inability to resolve this debate which led to the arbitrary imposition of an 'age of consent'. The courts appear to be harsher where the age difference is large than where the couple are close in age. — T.A.]

## **Circumcised At 26**

Dear Tony: Again congratulations on the continued interesting issues of *Acorn*. Like other correspondents I find it satisfying to know that we are not alone in being fascinated by the topic of foreskins and circumcision. It is interesting that many people's first encounter with the other style of willy than the one they had themselves (i.e. with or without foreskin) was generally attributed to the way they were born.

My first experience was being taken to the doctor at about 3 or 4 years old and told to lie on the couch, having my pants removed and then experiencing

sharp pains in the penis area! I recall the experience with great clarity. What had happened was explained at bath-time when my father pulled back my foreskin and removed some material (gauze?) from under it. This happened on several occasions, but these ministrings seemed to work as I never subsequently had any problems in retracting my foreskin, although no-one actually made a point of making sure I washed under it.

At boarding school in the 1940s it wasn't long before I noticed these different-looking willies, and initially I put it down to nature. But as we became aware of the facts of life, these differences were discussed and compared. Around 80% of my contemporaries had been circumcised and I became very envious of their neat bare knobs and smooth shafts. Mark you, several of them were equally fascinated by my foreskin and we took considerable pleasure in examining each other. The end of each term was marked on the last night by Doctor's Inspection. We all had to lie naked on our beds and wait for the elderly school doctor to come round and stare at us. Quite what he found I never really knew, but we thought that he just liked looking at naked small boys. Occasionally he would prod and poke the odd one and much amusement was caused by the occasional boy who developed a stiff vertical erection. Not once, though, did he pull anyone's foreskin back.

When I reached puberty, my foreskin developed into a very long and very loose trunk, of which I was not fond. At public school I had the opportunity to inspect many other willies and was always desperately envious of all the neatly circumcised ones and although it was obvious that numerous techniques of performing circumcisions existed, it is only now through the good offices of *Acorn* that I fully understand them. Still my 'trunk' amused many of my cut friends. It was so long that I recall stretching it over the end of one friend's circumcised knob, an experience which he quite liked. It also fascinated an uncircumcised friend whose foreskin had so small an opening that it was impossible to see any part of the glans, although he could get an erection and masturbate without any pain.

Eventually when I started having sex with girls the problems of a long loose foreskin became all too apparent. The story appears often in *Forum* of how the foreskin remains static and the glans slides inside it. I tried all methods of keeping it back: plaster, rubber bands, but nothing really worked or was comfortable. I even tried cotton stitches, but this was very uncomfortable. Left to its own devices, my foreskin would just roll forward again as soon as I let go of it.

The time came (in 1964) when my wife and I could stand it no longer and we went to see the doctor, who was not very sympathetic but suggested a dorsal slit. I know now that this would probably have aggravated the condition. He was persuaded to refer me to a surgeon at the local cottage hospital. This gentleman was absolutely charming, helpful and sympathetic, and obviously was not in agreement with the trend away from circumcision. So a few weeks later I went in to lose my trunk at the age of 26. I stayed in overnight and the

operation was straightforward with very little pain. When the discolouration had subsided after a few weeks we were very pleased with the result. There was no loose skin overlapping the glans, even when flaccid. Quite which technique was used I am not sure, but some inner lining remains which varied from 1.5 to 2cm from the corona. The scar is very neat: a running suture was used and there are no stitch marks, a feature which I particularly like. About 1cm of frenulum remains and is not attached to the shaft skin, so consequently has no tendency to pull the underside of the glans when erect.

It seems to me that the trend away from circumcision is not a good one. I know of so many cases of friends and acquaintances whose children have had to be circumcised at all ages from 5 to 15 with various traumas. Keep up the good work with *Acorn*. What about some photographs or even videos of circumcision techniques?

*Regards, J.R. – Diss*

### **Two-Timer Not Amused**

Dear Tony: My girlfriend's husband is a circumcision nut – he had his foreskin lopped off 18 months ago. I'm not particularly interested in having the chop myself but I find the whole subject fascinating, so the last time the girlfriend was on 'late duty' she took his latest copy of *Acorn* for me to have a butchers at, and to see if I'd like to join. Some of the letters I found very interesting, and I was pleased to see letters from ladies who had something worthwhile to say.

But really, to devote half the issue to that awful balls aching crap about circumcision masters was over the top. The poor guy needs his mind steam-cleaning. Anyway I shall continue to get the girl-friend to half-inch the odd issue on her nights off, in the hope that they are not all loaded with that sort of stuff, because I would like to join.

*Jeff.*

Dear Tony: The *Acorn* initiation story came across well.

*P.D.*

### **A Great Improvement**

Dear Tony: My foreskin was the long loose hollow type. It had a good one-inch overhang and was also very thick. When I wanted to pee it was difficult to withdraw this amount of skin to allow my penis head to appear so my pee would not be obstructed. During love-making with my wife it would get hung up on the walls of her vagina, allowing no long hard strokes into the vagina and no friction for her. Oral attention was difficult with my semi-erect cock, as it needed two pulls back to fully expose the head so my wife could

give the crown the attention it needed. Eight years ago, when I was 42, I was circumcised by a private doctor. Since the operation our lovemaking has been good. Although my penis looks shorter now, I still sport a thick penis, 5.5" flaccid, which looks more impressive.

R.N. – Portslade

## **Religious Circumcision, Muslim And Christian**

*The Turkish Daily News* of 7-8 October 1989, p.3, carries two pictures of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal at the circumcision party for the 5-year-old son Tolga of former Health Minister Bulent Akarcali. The boy is dressed up in gaudy clothing, including a waistcoat and a hat with a plume. Ozal gave Tolga a golden watch as the traditional circumcision present. A drum and a flute-like instrument called a zurna are being played. The word for circumcision in Turkish and Arabic is sunnet.

H.F. – Cambridge.

H.F. also comments on the hymns for the 1 January *Feast of the Circumcision* in an Anglican hymn-book. Has anyone joined in such a service? Both items point to the general acceptance and routine character of circumcision, both in Muslim society and at other times in Christianity. The Coptic and Ethiopian Christian churches still practice circumcision. But in the bulk of Christianity, Paul (a legally-trained Jew) persuaded the early Christians (also ethnically Jewish) that it was possible to be a Christian without first becoming a Jew (via circumcision). How different things would have been otherwise, if the recruiting and persuasive skills of Christian missionaries had been harnessed to the spread of circumcision!

This theme is continued in the Wimbourne Minster parish magazine *Print*, sent in by a member, which includes the following article headed *Roots: Circumcision*. "It all started with Abraham, ancestor of Jews (and Muslims) and forerunner of all who have faith in God. God said to him: 'You must keep my covenant... You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin. Every male among you in every generation shall be circumcised on the eighth day.' This was to include not only boys born to Jews but also slaves and other members of the household. (Genesis 17:10-12).

Abraham was 99 and his son Ishmael 13 when they were circumcised. [For this reason many Muslim take 13 as a suitable age to have their own sons circumcised.] To this day Jews joyfully celebrate the circumcision of every male child on the eighth day after its birth. The mohel who is authorized to perform the operation is a trusted man of faith, sometimes a doctor, who regards it as a sacred privilege to be delegated by the father to bring the tender child into the covenant. The child is examined carefully several times in the days before the eighth, and should he be in the least unfit or underweight the ceremony is postponed.

The father blesses God 'who hast sanctified us with thy commandments and commanded us to bring our sons into the covenant of Abraham', and all present respond 'As he has entered into the Covenant, so may he enter into the Torah, the marriage bond, and good deeds'. The baby is named, [circumcised] and a joyful feast ensues.

The modern move to equality for girls has led to ceremonies at which a baby girl is blessed in the Synagogue. Every Jew knows well that the real 'circumcision' is that of the heart: 'So now you must circumcise the foreskin of your hearts' (Deuteronomy 10:16). The symbol in the flesh is the permanent reminder that physical desire is to be subordinated to God's eternal law. The Christian church has traditionally celebrated the Naming of Jesus and his Circumcision on January 1 [eight days after December 25, counting one from the 25th, as was customary]."

There are other Biblical references to circumcision: in Exodus 4:25 Moses' wife Ziporah used a flint knife to circumcise her son on their way back from Egypt [an indication of how ancient the practice was]. Before Israel entered the Promised Land Joshua was commanded: 'Make sharp knives and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time. And Joshua made sharp knives and circumcised the children at the hill of the foreskins.' The story goes on to explain that during the forty years of wandering in the wilderness they had not obeyed the Lord and had allowed circumcision to lapse. 'When they had done circumcising all the people ... they abode in their places in the camp until they were whole. And the Lord said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you.' (Joshua 5:2-9)

## **Crossing Delancey**

Members may like to see the recently released Warner video, *Crossing Delancey*. A New York Jewish girl has a romance with a famous (goy, non-Jewish) author, but her grandmother lines up a good Jewish potential husband, an East-side pickle seller. She is invited to the circumcision party for the son of one of her cousins, and viewers have a chance to join in the joyful feast. The mohel has some folksy comments, and tells the ladies to watch the men: they'll start with their hands at their sides, but when it gets to the circumcision, they'll hold them in front of them (i.e. over their own genitals). He tells us that the baby will cry, but we should not assume that it is a cry of pain, since a baby's foreskin is relatively insensitive. There is a baby of the right age on the table, clearly uncircumcised; indeed, he has a good strong pee just before he is circumcised. We see the mohel pick up the knife, then cut to the audience while there is a cry from the baby, and we next see him being wrapped in a shawl by his great-aunt and carried away.



## **A Holy Matter**

Around 1,700 religious circumcisions were performed by the Initiation Society – which registers mohelim – in 1988, the society's annual meeting was told last week. "I am gratified that the number of cases dealt with by the society has not diminished from the previous year," said the Society's president, Mr Aaron Winegarten. "The wider community needs to be aware that *brit milah* is a holy matter," Mr Winegarten said. "It is insufficient for an ordinary doctor to perform this operation unless he is a man of piety, a religiously observant Jew who knows all the *dinim* (laws) which relate to this mitzvah." *Jewish Chronicle*, 29/9/89, with thanks to B.H. of Leeds who sent in the cutting.

What all these items have in common is the use of circumcision as the sign of a covenant (agreement) or sacrifice or a mark of initiation, or attainment of religious or membership status. In this context, of course, any medical or hygienic benefits are secondary, and if the process should be painful, that is simply a further indication of the significance of the sacrifice or a test of the worthiness of the candidate member. The same theme is illustrated in the following item.

### **Circumcision And Initiation Among The Kikuyu**

Dr L.S.B. Leakey gained world renown as an archaeologist, and his son Richard (who made the television series, 'The Ascent of Man') is now Director of Conservation in Kenya. Both were brought up there, and the father's book, *The Southern Kikuyu Before 1903* (Academic Press, 1977) is the definitive anthropological account of this prominent Kenyan tribe. Jomo Kenyatta's *Facing Mount Kenya* is romanticised and lacks detail by comparison, although written by a member of the tribe.

In the early hours of the morning the boys were taken to a nearby river. Leakey describes the traditional circumcision of Kikuyu boys as follows: "At the river each candidate had to sit in the cold running water so that his genitalia were completely numbed by the cold. [They were then taken back to the village.] As soon as the boys were all seated in the correct position, with their faces turned up to the sky, their legs apart and their bodies pressed hard against their supporters so as to be rigid, the operator advanced with his special knife in his right hand. He seized the senior boy's prepuce with his left hand and inserted his forefinger into the opening of his foreskin, after pulling it forward and stretching it to its limit. He then cut a slit across the hinder portion of the prepuce on the upper surface and at right angles to the penis. Having made this slit he brought the glans penis up through the slit so that it was exposed. The foreskin was not cut off but was left below the glans penis, where it remained for the rest of his life. [This distinctive 'button-hole' circumcision technique is also shared by the neighbouring Masai.]

Having thus circumcised the senior boy he passed to the next one and so on down the line... When the operator had been down the line once, circumcising each boy quickly, he came back to the senior boy and proceeded to go down to the end of the line a second time, examining the wounds, and if he found that there was a little bit of loose skin projecting over the upper part of the rim of the glans penis, he cut it off.

It sometimes happened that a boy playing with his genitals pulled his foreskin back and exposed the whole of the glans penis, or else during an erection in a dream the foreskin got drawn back and exposed it. In either case the boy was said to have been circumcised 'by the spirits', and on the next day an operator was sent for and the boy had the foreskin cut in the correct way and was circumcised properly. A boy so circumcised out of season and before he was old enough for initiation did not then become a warrior ... until such time as the other boys of his age were regarded as ready for initiation. Then ... he was symbolically operated on with a piece of wood, thus becoming one of the group and went through all the ceremonies with his companions.

After the coming of the white man [at the beginning of the twentieth century] it became common practice for the Kikuyu boys to go through the initiation ceremonies at about the age of 14 or 15. Every Kikuyu elder consulted was most emphatic that this was never the case before the coming of the white man, and in the normal course of events no boy was allowed to undergo initiation into warriorhood until he was at least 17 or 18, and the members of a new major age group were not initiated until they were men of about 22. (pp.587, 619, 621)

### **Like Father, Like Son (continued from previous issue)**

My son was 6 or 7 years old when I had him circumcised. His mother was in favour of it as I had already been done and she could see no reason why not. Besides, she knew that when he had been born I had tried to get him done then, unsuccessfully. As far as his own attitude to it, he was apprehensive at the time of the circumcision, but the surgeon did explain what was to be done and why. Since then, when we have discussed sexual matters he has been quite happy with his circumcision, which is quite radical for a Plastibell one. At school he had no ragging or anti-ness; in fact, quite the contrary, an enthusiastic interest. In his class at secondary school there was a real mixture of races, Muslims, Jews, West Indians and Sikhs, as well as a minority of English. A West Indian parent, whom I know well, asked me where I got him circumcised as he wanted his two boys done because they had very long tight foreskins. That particular surgeon had died, but I put him in contact with the mohel who did the Reform Synagogue circumcisions, and he got them done. That mohel has since emigrated to Australia. One of the Moslem boys who had not been circumcised at that time was asking my son a lot of questions about it as he was soon to be done when he was 12 years old. My son now

lives with his girlfriend. We have mentioned circumcision in passing and she has never commented unfavourably.

B.H. – Leeds

[B.H. of Leeds also sent in a copy of the instruction leaflet for Mates condoms, with the comment that they clearly expect everyone to be circumcised: the illustration is of a circumcised cock, and there is no mention of a foreskin or need to retract it before putting on the condom.]

### Penis Survey

Dimensions in inches

1. Length of penis along top from base to tip of glans, flaccid.
2. Length of penis along top from base to tip of glans, erect.
3. Circumference of penis at base, flaccid.
4. Circumference of penis at base, erect.
5. If circumcised, distance of scar-line from glans rim.  
If uncircumcised: U
6. If uncircumcised, how much ( $\frac{1}{10}$ ths) of glans is covered, flaccid?
7. If uncircumcised, how much ( $\frac{1}{10}$ ths) of glans is covered, erect?
8. If uncircumcised, is foreskin tight (T) or loose (L)?
9. When standing against the wall with erect penis, how far from glans tip to nearest part of stomach?
10. Height
11. Age
12. Identification (initials and place).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5.0	7.0	4.7	6.0	U	6	0	L	7	5'9"	62	D.H. – Weston
3	5.8	4.2	6	1	-	-	-	5	5'10"	47	A.B. – Suffolk

**Comment:** My foreskin shrank over the years to about 0.2 flaccid, but by use of a bulldog clip I managed to get it back to 0.6. – D.H.

### Contributions Received And Invited

The Editor gratefully acknowledges contributions from:- Ms G.S. – London E14; H.C. – London SW6; SHE magazine article; K.E. – Nottingham (2); E.C. – Herts; J.H. – Finland; A.F. – Devon; D.S. – Merseyside; Samantha D. – London; S.S. – Harrow; A.F. – Henley; R.W. – Sussex. Many thanks – it's your contributions that make the Newsletter interesting and well worth looking forward to. It is intended to include these in future issues, and to reply to correspondence as soon as time allows.

We are always glad to have contributions to the penis survey, and to What's yours called?

## What's Yours Called?

In continuation of this regular feature (more contributions always welcome!) our Finnish correspondent supplies the following vocabulary:

<b>English</b>	<b>Finnish</b>	<b>Swedish</b>	<b>German</b>
penis is used universally, plus the following words:			
penis	siitin	manslem	Geschechtsglied
cock	kyrpä	kuk	der Schwanz
prick	kikkeli	snopp	Pfiffli
willy	pippeli		Dingsda (= that thing there)
glans	terska	ollon (= acorn)	die Eichel (= acorn)
foreskin	esinihka	förhud	die Vorhaut
circumcision	ympärileikkaus	omskäreelse	Beschneidung Zirkumzision
circumcise	ympärileikata	omskära	beschneiden zirkumzidieren
circumcised			beschnitten
testicle	kives	testikel	der Hode
scrotum	kivespussi	pung	Hodensack
balls	munat (= eggs)		Eier (= eggs)

## A Trip To Ankara

I once had a holiday in Ankara, and came back a different man! My adventure began when, shortly after my arrival, the batteries in my electric shaver suddenly ran down. I cursed myself for forgetting to bring spares, especially after I had tried to buy some without success in about a dozen shops. I didn't want a new shaver, so after a couple of days, when the stubble was annoying, I decided to visit a barber.

I soon found a barber's shop and went in. He was shaving a man, so I sat on a bench to wait my turn and watched him at work. He was very quick, and I noticed how effectively and skilfully he smoothed the wrinkles on the man's face. Then he said something and his client nodded. I was astonished to see the barber put the tip of his razor right into the man's nostril – a quick stroke and the hairs in the nostril were cut away. I was alarmed to watch him – what a nasty wound if he had slipped! but I had no reason to worry. Obviously he had done this thousands of times, and his client just sneezed lightly. Then the barber again said something: again his client nodded, and took off his shirt. He lifted up his left arm and the barber shaved his armpit, and similarly his right. I was a bit surprised to see this, although I knew that

in some parts of the Muslim world people are depilated. Perhaps it helps in the hot climate.

Then it was my turn. "Shave, sir?" "Yes, please." I sat in the chair and he put some shaving cream on my face and began his work. He was very quick, and after a couple of minutes he had finished.

"Will that be all, Sir?" The weather was extremely hot, so I asked him to shave my armpits as well, as I thought I might be more comfortable. I took my shirt off and soon I was smooth there too.

"Something else, Sir?" I wondered what he meant. My hair was short already, so I looked at him enquiringly. He bent towards me, with a glint in his eye, and whispered, "I could shave you down there too, Sir." At first I didn't understand him, but a second later I remembered having read that some Moslems remove their pubic hair, as they consider it unclean. So that was what he was offering! I was a bit shocked by the suggestion at first, but then I felt curious and slightly excited.

"Right here?" "No, Sir. The private shaving is done in the back room." "Alright." "This way, Sir."

We went into the back room. In the middle there was a couch with a big thick pillow under a bright light. I dropped my trousers and underpants. "Please lie yourself down on the couch. The pillow must be under your back, Sir."

I did as he said. The pillow under my buttocks meant that my private parts were up high, where he could easily reach to work on them. The barber took a long look, then rubbed shaving cream on my crotch. Again he was very quick and skilful in his work, but, needless to say, I erected.

"Excuse me, Sir, but a Sünnet would be good for you, and I could do it cheaply." "A Sünnet? What is that?" "I don't know in English, Sir, but in Sünnet this" – and he touched my long foreskin – "is taken away. As well as a barber, Sir, I am sünnetci also."

I thought a minute. Of course he meant circumcision. I was in a Moslem country, after all. "No!" "As you wish, Sir."

My heart was beating rapidly. I could have myself circumcised right now, on this couch. If only I had the courage! My erection was now even more pulsating and his hands felt gentler and more fondling. Obviously he would be skilful in that too. But I didn't even dare to think of him at work on me. Soon I was as smooth as a seven-year-old little boy. He wiped off the spare shaving soap. I got dressed and paid his fee, which was much smaller than I had expected. Then I returned to my hotel. It was now too hot to walk on the streets, so I lay on my bed and began to think.

Ever since I had seen a circumcised penis for the first time I had admired

it. In the showers at school I had always envied the boys who had their penis heads nicely exposed. To me the most beautiful sight had always been a prick which had been fully circumcised, rare though they were. I did not much fancy the ones where there was still some loose skin, or where the scar-line was uneven. But I really admired a boy whose coral-pink, fleshy glans was always denuded and in view, with a smooth, even scar-ring behind the glans rim. I had thought many times of having myself circumcised, but at home it would have been quite expensive to have it done privately. Worse still, I was afraid that I would be ridiculed at the hospital. So I still had my foreskin. But now there was the opportunity. The barber was certainly a craftsman. Would I have the courage to withstand the pain? I decided to visit him again – not to have him circumcise me, but at least to ask about the cost, and some other details. Perhaps another time ...

The following morning I went to see him again. I told him that I was interested in 'Sünnet', but I wanted to know more about it, and how he actually did it. "How long will Sünnet take? What will it look like afterwards? How long will it take to heal?"

"The cutting itself, a split second only, Sir. You would hardly feel a thing, Sir, and it heals very quickly."

"But what will it look like, afterwards I mean?"

"Omar!" A young boy, about ten, came to us. He had been sweeping the floor. "This is Omar. He works for me. I gave him his Sünnet a few months ago." Then he said something to Omar, and without any hesitation he stood in front of me and dropped his pants. "Look, Sir, that's what it looks like after Sünnet! Go ahead, Sir, look, please."

I bent down and looked closely. His penis had indeed been very radically circumcised. His bright red glans was totally bare. The circumcision ring was very smooth and even, and well beyond the glans rim on the shaft. I fingered his penis lightly. The skin was well cut away, and I could not move any of it forwards. The scar was also smooth. While I was examining him, he erected, of course. Now I could see and feel how tight the skin was on the shaft: as tight as a drum skin. What a smashing job! Could mine be like it? I asked how much he charged for a Sünnet. Almost nothing! "Would it be possible for me to see you doing a Sünnet? Then I could decide whether I would have it."

"Certainly, Sir. I shall give Sünnet to two twin brothers this afternoon. They are celebrating their 12th birthday, and I give them Sünnet as my present. I am expecting them to come here between 4 and 5 o'clock. If you have the time, you are welcome to watch."

Soon it was afternoon, and the boys arrived with their father. The barber said something to him and pointed to me. He looked at me, then came smiling to me and shook my hand, saying something which I could not understand. "He is very happy to have you as a witness when his sons are receiving their

Sünnet. He also said that you, too, will have one soon!”

I looked at the boys. They were decoratively dressed and looked anxious and happy at the same time. Obviously this would be the most important day in each of their lives so far. It might hurt, perhaps; but there had been celebrations, and after all, they would enjoy their Sünnet for the rest of their lives. The barber said something to them, and they began to get undressed. When both were stark naked, one quite happily lay down on the couch. The pillow was placed under his buttocks, lifting his hips and his private parts.

The barber sat on a chair and I stood next to him. “Omar, Abdel, Ibrahim!” Omar and the two men entered the room. One held the boy by his wrists and the other by his ankles, so that he could not move: he began to breathe heavily, but was obviously determined not to cry out. Omar gave the barber his instruments – a razor, some pins, some lengths of string, and some gauze.

The barber got to work. Except for the sound of the boy panting on the couch, we were all silent. The boy had not reached puberty yet, but his testicles had already started to grow. The barber fondled his small, hairless penis, which was soon erect. The foreskin was long and thin, and it covered the glans completely, extending well beyond the tip. The barber continued to massage it until his erection was firm and total. Then he pushed the foreskin right back, exposing a bright red glans. He took a piece of gauze, moistened it in a bowl of disinfectant solution held by Omar, and swabbed the glans, foreskin, penis shaft and scrotum. The boy gasped.

Then the barber took a thin, round probe made of some kind of flexible plastic. He carefully placed the end of the probe at the rim of the boy’s glans, then pulled the foreskin forward again to cover probe and glans. The tip of the probe could be seen raising the thin foreskin on the upper side of the penis. Then he pulled the foreskin and the probe further so that the tip of the probe was now at the tip of the glans. He checked this carefully by feeling with the fingers of his other hand, then marked the level with a felt-tipped pen. Now he took one of the lengths of thin cord. This time it was Omar’s duty to pull the foreskin until the mark on the skin was beyond the tip of the glans, while the barber knotted the cord tightly at the mark. He again felt carefully to ensure that the glans tip was behind the knot. While Omar still gripped the tip of the foreskin, the barber took a second cord and knotted it just beyond the first. Omar was told to hold the ends of the cord and pull firmly.

The barber took his razor and placed the blade precisely on the skin between the two knots, then spoke a religious formula which began, “Bismillah ...”, and made a quick stroke of the blade through the skin. The boy let out a muffled sigh, not even a cry: it was all done so quickly that he hardly had the time to feel a thing. Omar dropped the cord he had been holding, while the barber pulled away the first cord. The skin flicked back so that its cut edge now lay midway along the penis shaft. There was a kind of collar of raw flesh between it and the glans rim. The glans was still hidden under its covering of

whitish inner foreskin. The barber pushed this delicate skin tenderly back, exposing the glans, so that it covered the collar and its edge met the cut edge of outer skin. He next sprinkled some whitish powder on the cut edges of skin. Then, while Omar held the glans between his finger and thumb, the barber bandaged the wound with gauze. His father helped the boy off the couch, where, without a word, his place was taken by his brother. Equally bravely he lay still while the barber deftly did his work in just the same way – a very quick and neat job indeed.

“Well, Sir?” I was confused. The boys were only twelve years old, and yet they had shown such courage. The incision had been so quick that obviously they had felt very little. I was in my 20s, a fully grown adult: as brave, perhaps, but with a well-developed penis whose sensitivity I knew well how to enjoy. Even if I was afraid, I could not allow myself to show it without losing face. I gulped, then nodded to the barber.

“Excellent, Sir,” and he smiled. I stripped naked and lay on the couch. The two assistants held my hands and feet. They were both strong: I was held so firmly that I had no chance of escape. The barber began work on his third Sünnet that day. Already my penis was wooden hard. He had no difficulty sliding my foreskin back to uncover my glans. It smarted somewhat as he applied the disinfectant, but I managed to remain impassive. When he tightly tied the two knots it hurt quite a lot, and even more when Omar pulled hard on the cord. Then the barber took his razor, and again I heard the formula,

“Bismillah ...” There was a quick movement and I felt a sharp pain as the knife went through my foreskin, and a smarting as the air reached the wound. When he pushed the inner skin back and bared my glans I felt almost nothing, and soon I was bandaged too. As I looked round I can still remember vividly how the boys’ eyes twinkled: they had watched my circumcision as eagerly as I had watched theirs.

I climbed carefully off the couch, dressed, paid the barber his small fee, and carefully walked back to my hotel, buying some antiseptic, bandages and dressings on the way. Next morning my penis was quite sore and swollen, and bruised black and blue. I washed it and bandaged it again.

The next stage of my holiday was a long circular tour, and for much of each day I sat in the bus. Every evening I changed the bandages, and my penis improved daily. When we returned to Ankara after ten days, it was healed and dry. I was very pleased with the result: a totally bare glans, a smooth even scar ring located along the shaft quite a bit behind the corona, and absolutely no foreskin left. Clearly it was the work of a master craftsman.

Just one thing annoyed me. The barber had shaved my pubic hair, and now I had an itchy and unpleasant stubble there. I decided to return and ask him to shave it again. He would also see the excellent result of my Sünnet. He was glad to see me again, and smiled even more broadly when I asked him to shave me, then my armpits, and then “down there”. While he



was shaving my pubic area, he could not help touching my denuded glans, and some of the shaving soap got onto it. Of course, that had also happened when he shaved me there the first time, but then my foreskin had prevented such direct stimulation. He noticed my erection becoming firmer and firmer, and when he finished shaving there was a question in his eyes. I nodded. He put plenty of shaving cream on my glans and began to massage it. I closed my eyes, and the memory of the last time I lay on his couch came back to me vividly. In a moment I exploded like a volcano in his skilful hands. I suppose that his other clients may also have received this extra service, following a shave down there – or at least the circumcised ones!

*J.H. – Finland*

### **Acorn Group Meeting**

Dear Tony: Sorry I haven't written to you before about the June meeting I organised in Weston-super-Mare but it was such a great disappointment to me personally.

There were 11 booked to come, so I organised a guest house for those I couldn't accommodate myself. Two days before, one phoned to say his wife had a stroke and couldn't make it. Then another phoned to say he had sprained his ankle. Three came down on the Friday, one of whom disappeared to visit friends and was not seen again – he rang up later in the week to say he'd had a stomach bug. Two didn't turn up at all, one writing later to say he'd been ill. I'd asked everyone to be here by 3pm, at which time there were just four of us, one an invalid. We waited until around 5pm, when the last three turned up – one of them had a migraine and went to lie on the floor in a darkened room. Two who turned up later went at 7pm, just as we were getting started. That left the original four, who had been waiting all that time, plus food and drink for 11, a guest house that wanted paying, and no depth of a meeting to show at all.

On the bright side: J.W. and H.M. were a great pair. On the Sunday we had some long talks and afterwards both said that for the first time in their lives they had been able to be completely natural and speak about their hidden feelings and actions, which had given them a sort of emotional uplift. From a man of 74, this was really something.

As well as those members who came to the meeting, I had correspondence and completed questionnaires from some members who couldn't come. Thinking about it afterwards I concluded that, at the moment, large meetings are probably not the right thing. More could probably be achieved for members by meeting in twos or threes. This would be far easier to organise, and possibly less embarrassing to some. If the penis survey could be completed by everyone, they would know where their nearest neighbours lived. Contact could then

be arranged via *Acorn*. To this end I am asking Tony to forward my phone number to my nearest three neighbours in Bath, Salisbury and Gwent: they are welcome to contact me.

There was one bone of contention at the meeting. An adult circumcised member loudly and vehemently argued that everyone should be circumcised at birth, giving the cancer and dirtiness reasons. He'd had two revisions, with the shaft skin now stitched to the body of the glans at about 5mm intervals, leaving no glans rim – a purely personal preference, going beyond what was necessary for the reasons he'd stated. This upset two others who, having been circumcised at birth, felt cheated out of a choice. I think it could be a bit dangerous for a group like ours, representing a variety of different views, to have too hard opinions being expressed.

Finally may I say Hello and good luck to all the friends I've already made in the group.

*David – Weston*





# **ACORN**

**1990 Issue No 3**  
(Formerly Issue T)

**Editor**  
**Tony Acorn**

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**Membership, Fees, Advice, Personal Matters,  
Newsletter Contributions, Letters for Forwarding**

To:- ACORN

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## Natural Lubrication

Dear Tony: I have read with great interest all the copies of *Acorn* to date. I admire the hard work you have put in to keep the issues coming out frequently and with interesting content. I have learnt much about the pros and cons of circumcision, the techniques used to achieve it, and in particular about the variety of men's attitudes to their penis.

I would like to raise a topic which is of great interest to me and which has not yet been touched on. It may stimulate some correspondence of interest to others.

I was circumcised at birth and am now 57. Throughout those years I have never ever produced any natural lubrication from my penis. I have had physical contact with a number of men during a period in the past when my dormant bisexuality emerged for a time. I cannot recall any one man whose penis was other than dry when erect. Equally, in viewing many hard core pornographic films (in the days when they were more readily available than they are now!) I cannot remember seeing a penis wet other than following penetration of any one of the three usual orifices.

As the years pass I become more surprised at this, because I read in *Forum* and other journals descriptions of men producing lubrication when sexually stimulated or aroused and I know this certainly happens to some men. For example many years ago I enjoyed a brief dalliance with my secretary and she was willing to suck my penis with pleasure, yet she told me she could never do this to her husband as he was uncircumcised and always too wet and slippery, which put her off.

*Acorn* seems to be the ideal medium for finding out the reality of the situation and it prompts the question whether self-lubrication is less prevalent among those who are circumcised than amongst those who still have their foreskins intact? There is also the question whether such lubrication is a contributory cause of smegma in the uncircumcised, which would seem probable to me though I am hardly qualified to know.

Textbooks have little to say on the subject beyond commenting that Cowper's glands produce a clear lubricating fluid under sexual arousal. Possibly the best description is by Van de Velde, *Ideal Marriage*, but he hardly assesses the incidence of lubrication. In his chapter 'Anatomy of the male sexual organs' he writes as follows:

"In the anterior urethra there are a good many very small glands which together with Cowper's glands (Bilateral structures as large as small peas) secrete a small amount of transparent, thin, alkaline, and very slippery fluid. This substance has the same significance as the glands of Skene and Bartholin in the woman. They too function under influence of sexual excitement, and are instrumental in making the glans slippery and facilitating its insertion into the vagina. The secretions of Cowper's glands help to make the urethra more

sued to receive and transmit the semen, for they counteract the effects of the distinctly acid urine, by their own alkalinity. I consider this latter function less important than lubrication, however, for there can only be very slight traces of urine in the urethra during the passage of a much greater amount of semen, and this passage is extraordinarily rapid. The mucus secretion of Cowper's and the urethral accessory glands, may appear after the local excitation and erection of the male organ, and thus form, as it were, a second stage in the process of preparation for union. Or it may appear while the member is still slack, or at least not in full tension. The latter is especially the case if sexual excitement is produced through solely psychic impressions such as thoughts, books, pictures, without direct female agency, or if the psychic influence and contact with a woman who is desired, much precede physical contact: as they should do in what we have termed the prelude to sexual communion. (See Chapter VIII.)

"Inexperienced youths, who are anxious about their mental and physical health and their virile potency, still often mistake this normal lubrication for loss of semen. It is nothing of the kind. It is a distinct process, which prepares the bodily organs for coitus and at the same time expresses the soul's desires.

"The old Catholic moral theologians (e.g. Sanchez and St Alphonso de Ligorio) knew it well, correctly appreciating its mental reactions and importance, and gave it the term 'distillation' (or *destillatio*) as distinct from pollutions or loss of semen, apart from coitus.

"We may finally note that this distillation sometimes does not occur at all; more especially, when the erection is due to external (mechanical) stimuli, and the psychic emotions are only slight or even reluctant. If, in such situations, the woman has been inadequately prepared on the psychic side, and her vestibular glands have not functioned, the sexual act may be very difficult and painful, for both partners." (Emphasis in original.)

I very much regret, on a personal level, my lack of natural lubrication, as masturbation from the age of 14 was always rather a dry affair and without any doubt blunted my penile sensitivity to the point when for many years I have suffered from retarded ejaculation and sexual intercourse with my present wife is difficult. Masturbation requires a good lubricant to be successful.

Incidentally, as the subject has been raised before, I have explored the range of lubricants generally available, and I find the most satisfactory, economical, and readily available one is the 'unperfumed' moisturising lotion available from Boots the Chemist at 85p. It lasts longer than KY jelly before drying out and does not have the disadvantage of being petroleum-based, which can – if used too often – cause soreness and sometimes unwelcome pigmentation. Some of the mail-order firms selling sexual devices, and the sex-shops, sell lubricants which can be very good, but they are fearfully

expensive and not entirely without problems, such as the need to add water to maintain slipperiness.

Perhaps readers could write and say whether they do or do not lubricate naturally. If they do, are they circumcised or not, and what sort of stimulus triggers it off: purely mental ('psychic') excitement, or does there have to be manual or other physical stimulation? How copious is this lubrication? I read recently in *Forum* of a young man literally dripping with it. Does it occur only when the penis is fully erect, or can it occur before erection happens? Any observations on this topic would be interesting, to me and I feel sure to other readers also.

*Yours sincerely, R.W. – Sussex*

[The secretion which keeps the area under the foreskin, including the glans, damp and shiny appears to be exuded from the mucous membrane of the inner skin. When mixed with an accretion of dead skin flakes this forms smegma. Has anyone checked whether men who are prone to dandruff are more productive of smegma than men who are not, I wonder? While very off-putting to a partner considering offering oral sex, this is quite different from the natural lubrication which R.W. is enquiring about.

Van de Velde's observations are largely consistent with my own. I produce the clear fluid quite copiously, but rarely in response to physical stimulation, and rarely 'to order' (convenient though that might be). But quite long periods (perhaps 20 minutes) of foreplay or mental sexual stimulation (from a good *Acorn*-type story, for example) will result in an oozing of the clear fluid from the meatus, usually in sufficient quantity to wet the whole of the glans, and it remains very slippery for perhaps ten minutes. The changes resulting from circumcision at 20 made no difference (so far as I recall) in the pattern of production of lubricant fluid.

I had always assumed that this pattern was 'normal', but can now appreciate the possible problems faced by someone such as R.W. who doesn't self-lubricate. It is commonly said to be one of the symptoms of the female menopause ('change of life') that the female lubricant secretions are produced much less or not at all: obviously if both partners are dry, even after considerable foreplay, they have a problem, to which artificial lubrication may be the solution. Has anyone noticed whether the production of natural lubricant by men changes with age? More evidence welcome, please. – T.A.]

## **Circumcision: Ambition Fulfilled**

Dear Tony: Until I started school I had never seen another penis than my own. Then it soon became obvious that I was different to most of my little pals. They all seemed to have a pink knob at the end of their penises and were able to pee accurately with a firm jet. In my case I didn't seem to have a firm



end and my pee went in all directions, usually all over the floor! At that early age I knew nothing of circumcision and just assumed that the difference was natural, like brown or blue eyes, dark or fair hair, etc. My interest in penises grew and more opportunities occurred for observation at a later school where showering after games was the rule.

Most of the other boys had been circumcised and by then I knew that they had an operation to remove the loose skin and expose the knob. I still did not know that I should have been able to pull back the loose skin to expose the knob as no one had ever told me that this was possible. Some time later a rumour went around that we were to have a medical inspection by the school doctor. Those with foreskins were taunted by the other boys saying: "You'll have to have that loose skin cut off when he sees you." When my inspection came the doctor forced my foreskin back with difficulty and said it was very tight, but I should keep pulling it back in the bath and it would free off. Some of the other uncircumcised boys were sent to the children's hospital for circumcision shortly afterwards. I had mixed feelings about having missed the opportunity to be rid of my hated foreskin, but later when I was invited to inspect the penis of one of the recently circumcised boys I was not so sure. What a mess! It looked horrible compared with those boys done at birth.

I did as the doctor told me and gradually was able to pull my foreskin right back behind the glans. I eventually decided to try and keep it back and eventually after much soreness and will power managed to train it to stay back at all times. My knob increased in size because of being uncovered, and this helped keep the skin behind the rim. I always pulled it forwards for medicals, such as when joining the forces, so as not to attract attention. I assumed I was the only idiot in the world who kept his foreskin pulled back all the time.

The desire for circumcision remained, as I felt that I was cheating by appearing to be circumcised when I was not. But how to attain the ideal seemed impossible, as I felt that any approach to a doctor would result in me being 'certified' uncircumcised. Some years later I joined a firm and had to be seen by a doctor before joining their superannuation scheme. I thought it would just be a simple affair, chest, eyes, blood pressure etc, and had gone with my foreskin retracted as I had not expected a below-the-waist inspection. As I stood before the doctor, stripped to the waist, to my horror he told me to drop my trousers and underpants.

He looked at me, felt my balls, then pushed the skin right back along the shaft of my penis, noting, I imagine, that there was no circumcision scar. He asked me why I kept my foreskin pulled back, and I said I found it more comfortable like that. Then he said, had I ever thought about having a circumcision? (Every minute of every day for the last 25 years I had thought about it!) I said, as casually as I could, that I would like to be circumcised. He then said "I could put you in touch with a surgeon friend of mine in London who would do a nice neat job. When healed it would be as neat as one done at birth."

I could hardly contain my excitement as he gave me a slip of paper with an address and phone number on it. I rushed home and rang the number, and to my surprise it was answered by the surgeon, Dr Newill, himself. I explained how I had got his number and said I would like to have myself circumcised. He said he would do it and a date was arranged.

The interval was the longest ten days of my life. I went up to London on the day in question, to the Harley Street address. After a few preliminary questions he told me to remove trousers and underpants and get onto the operating table. I watched him inject me several times around the base of my penis, but I had decided beforehand that I did not wish to see him perform the operation, so I fixed my gaze on the ceiling. About half an hour later he told me to get up, and with his help we put my bandaged penis into the 'jock strap' and tight underpants he had told me to bring. I was sore for about ten days, but it was no worse than having a tooth out.

I took the stitches out myself, as he had instructed me. It looked a bit of a mess, but after about three months all I was left with was a perfect scar about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch behind the glans when erect. Now, many years later, the scar has blended in to the extent that a small amount of remaining 'underskin' blends with the skin of the shaft almost as though no surgery had ever taken place. It is indistinguishable from a circumcision performed at birth: just what I always wanted.

All this took place long before the days of *Forum* and *Acorn*. Had I known then what I know now I would have asked him to remove all the underskin and make the scar right close up behind the knob in the Jewish fashion. This would I think prevent the slight 'bunched up' effect of the remaining underskin when flaccid, which gives the appearance at times of a retracted foreskin.

However there is no doubt that I have been fairly radically circumcised, and I have such a perfect scar that I would not risk any further surgery. My story, I now realise, is very similar to others you have published, but I hope you find it interesting. I would be prepared to be put in touch with other *Acorn* members, anonymously at first, if further details of my experience would help them. I would be willing to allow myself to be inspected and would be interested to inspect others (in a non-sexual context). I would be interested in seeing (or buying) any videos available showing circumcision being performed, or any clear colour photos of circumcised penises which showed different results.

*K.E. - Nottingham*

## Tightening Up

Dear Tony: I have always been fascinated by the subject of circumcision, ever since about the age of 10 when I discovered that not all penises are the same. As I became older the desire to be circumcised grew, but because there were no medical grounds for my having the operation, I didn't think I'd ever achieve this desire.

Fortunately I heard about the Surgical Advisory Service. Eventually, 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years ago in my early thirties, I had the operation I had longed for. Shortly afterwards I obtained a copy of the book, *Circumcision: an ethnomedical study*, and was pleasantly surprised to read how much medical support there is for circumcision. I was also intrigued by the many different techniques used and the different results they produce. The surgeon who circumcised me, Mr Hasan, didn't ask me what sort of result I wanted. Although he did a very neat job, I soon regretted not having asked him to remove more foreskin.

Eventually I approached another doctor who was willing to try to achieve the result I wanted. Unfortunately there did not appear to be much difference, except that the raphé hadn't been lined up properly with the frenulum. I went back to Mr Hasan a second time and he managed to remove a little more skin for me and realign the raphé.

The result I long for is to have as much skin removed as possible, with the scar-line well down the shaft. I'm not gay, but I'd like to have the sort of circumcision that other men would admire, or at least take notice of in the changing room of my sports club (i.e. a cut above the rest!)

I discussed the result I wanted with somebody knowledgeable, who pointed out that the amount of skin that can be removed is determined by the difference in size of the penis when flaccid and erect. For example, if the penis is small when flaccid and much larger when erect, a lot of skin removed when flaccid might result in an over-stretched and painful penis when erect. My own penis varies quite considerably in size, comparing its flaccid and erect states. When completely flaccid, and I am sitting upright, the remains of my foreskin come well over the corona. When erect, the skin is quite tight but can still be stretched above the corona, which means I could lose another 1/2" of foreskin. But I was also told that, having been circumcised already, it would be difficult to create the desired result because of suturing difficulties. What I'm wondering is, is it possible to have more skin cut away and then firmly bandage the wound rather than using sutures to help the healing process

It would be both helpful and interesting to hear from other members who have achieved the sort of result that I'd like, particularly after more than one operation. In one of last year's editions of *Acorn* a member wrote about how, as a boy in Egypt, he'd noticed how far down the shaft his father's and brother's circumcision scars had been, and that he intended soon to achieve the same result. It would be interesting to know whether he's had this operation, and if so, what the outcome is like.

My personal fantasy is to be circumcised at a special tribal ceremony, in a primitive method of circumcision. The entire assembly is naked and those presiding over the solemn proceedings or performing the operation have been cut well down their shafts. It is my turn. My foreskin is pulled tightly through the centre hole of a protective disc. It is about to be cut off when I cry: "Tighter!" The elders respectfully nod their approval, since the more skin is removed, the greater the esteem given to that member of the tribe. Eventually it is stretched as tightly as possible, and then cut off as close to the disc as possible with a jewelled dagger. The result is an incision line barely clear of the base of the penis, leaving a smooth, skinless, sensitive shaft. The elders and circumcisers congratulate all the initiates, welcoming us into full membership of the tribe and inviting us to choose our wishes from among the women who have been patiently waiting outside the ceremonial hall.

*T.J. – Norfolk*

[Good to hear from you, T.J. Your fantasy is an excellent example of an initiation ritual: the candidate is separated from 'normal' society into the initiatory assembly (of naked men); there is a test to be passed (in this case, the onerous one of circumcision, which also leaves its distinguishing mark); the successful candidate is reintegrated into society, this time in his new role (full tribal membership). You have added additional rewards: special congratulations from the elders for the especially brave, and the choice of a wife – presumably she will also assist in the convalescence of the candidate!

As to the result you want to achieve, you seem confident that removal of another  $\frac{1}{2}$ " band of skin would be possible to achieve the radically tight result that you want, without becoming over-tight when erect. Normally a revision operation would involve removing the strip of skin which included the scar line of the previous circumcision – otherwise the patient would end up with two scar lines, which would be an obvious indication of having had a second operation. This would imply that the new scar line could be no further from the glans rim than the old one – and most of the skin removed would come from the most elastic shaft skin. But if you didn't mind the double scar line, the new line could be anywhere on the shaft, including a line 'barely clear of the base of the penis', such as you describe in your fantasy.

I do not imagine that there would be any particular problem with suturing a revision incision. The neatest results generally follow from careful alignment of the two cut edges, paying particular attention to alignment of raphé with frenulum (your second operation seems to have been unfortunate in this respect). Use of many stitches helps to achieve a fine, neat line. Someone who wanted a prominently visible scar line might have just a few stitches, remove them after 3-4 days, and keep separating the cut edges to encourage the formation of a wider scar. The bandaging you suggest is standard practice in after-treatment of Jewish infant circumcisions (when healing is likely to be rapid) but in an adult is likely to be uncomfortably tight in the event of an erection. – T.A.]

## Family Likenesses

In *Acorn* 8/89 there was a letter about family penis resemblances which prompts the following comments. I discovered masturbation in the bath at 13 or 14, by holding my erect foreskinned penis upright under the running tap to let the strong jet of water shoot into the opening of my foreskin. (I did not yet know about foreskin retraction.) But my creamy white ejaculate worried me deeply, not knowing what it was, so I just had to consult another male about it, and my father was the only man around at the time.

Our family is ethnically Chinese, and we were living in SE Asia. My father was a rather reserved and stern individual in relation to sexual matters. Sex was never mentioned to me in my puberty, and yet it was he who eventually taught me the facts of life, and in the most direct manner possible.

One evening, as he was preparing his bath, I asked him. With shaking voice, and my heart thumping in trepidation, I blurted out that I had a problem with my cock. I expected a rebuff, but to my surprise father was gentle with me. He invited me into his bathroom, locking the door so that we should not be disturbed. Then he smiled, and in a whisper asked me the problem.

In my excitement and relief at not being scolded or rebuffed, words failed me. Feeling that I was confessing the greatest crime, I dropped my trousers and let father see my erect cock. I admitted that I often played with it, after which a white creamy liquid shot out. What was the matter? Was I sick, or had I some disease?

My father listened, and then gently explained to me the facts of life, especially the functions of my male genitalia. I was shocked that men and women actually played with each others genitals to produce a baby, but relieved that my cream was a natural phenomenon. Father then gently took my erect penis in his hand and slowly, with some difficulty, coaxed back my foreskin for the first time ever. Emboldened by this new sexual knowledge and father's mood of intimacy, I asked him if I could see his cock too, not knowing how he would take this request. He hesitated, looked embarrassed, then smiled: this was the father I had never known before. Already shirtless, he looked down to unbutton his trousers. He never wore underpants. Occasionally, if he forgot to button his fly, a maid or servant might catch a glimpse of his cock. I overheard them mentioning its size once, in their lewd gossip. In a moment his trousers dropped and he was naked before me.

Even in my inexperience, not having seen an adult cock before, I was surprised at the smallness of his cock. It was flaccid, perhaps a bit over 2" long and of average girth. Instead of the foreskinned sausage I had expected all penises to be, father's foreskin covered just a bit of the glans rim (corona), leaving  $\frac{8}{10}$ ths of his glans exposed: a short foreskin indeed. Moreover, his dry glans was a deep dark blackcurrant colour, in fact, black with a purple tinge. This is unusual, as he is Chinese, not black, and his is very much darker

than mine, and a little smaller. Otherwise the skin in his genital area was a light brown, as is mine. His balls were fairly big and hung much lower than his penis. His scrotum, bulging and prominent, was dotted with hairs, some as much as 3" long. His pubic hair was profuse, long and slightly curled. His penis was nicely bullet-shaped (like mine); in fact it looked like a threatening black bullet, bobbing a bit between his legs. I had just learnt that my very life came from this small blackcurrant bullet. How potent it must be!

So father stood, naked and vulnerable, gazing over my head in his mild embarrassment. Perhaps in his naked display he was expiating his own guilt at having neglected my puberty and sex education. Fascinated, I knelt down, my eyes level with his cock for a detailed scrutiny, and took father's penis in my hands. He did not object. His penis did not erect as he let me push his short foreskin back and forth. I touched him all over and parted the opening of his pee-hole with my fingers. When I gently squeezed his balls, he joked that not so long ago his scrotum was my former home, and I had lived as his sperm in his creamy white liquid.

To my query about his almost black glans and his short foreskin he could find no adequate answer except to say that in adulthood and maturity foreskins tend to shorten by themselves, and cock-heads tend to darken through exposure (though I since know this to be untrue). It remains an enigma to me why his was so black.

He confided that (then in his fifties) he did not erect frequently, and he had sexual intercourse about once a month. To my tactless remark about the small size of his penis, he said good-humouredly that he had never had my problem with it, as some women prefer a small one. I have seven brothers and sisters, so father's 2" penis with its black bullet glans did not lack potency! My own penis is similar in size now (25 years later) and erects to about 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>". I assume that father's in erection would probably have been similar. In retrospect, having since seen hundreds of cocks, father's remains one of the sexiest cocks I have seen.

Mine resembles my father's in shape, size, the hang of my balls, and even to my foreskin shortening somewhat, though mine is not as short as his. My bullet-shaped glans is certainly father's legacy. But there are also differences. In youth my glans was a liver-colour when covered with foreskin. Retraction has made it a dry pink in adulthood. Masturbation with powdered pepper, mustard, etc, has given it a greyish tint, although the underlying colour is still pink. I resemble father most in my glans and my scrotum, though his cock-head was more rounded and mine is 'sharper'. His pee hole was wider, hence my desire to widen mine. His balls were slightly bigger than mine, but the hang, colour of scrotum, and even the sparse hairs on my scrotal sac are similar (though I keep myself shaven).

Although we did not masturbate each other, I have sometimes thought, in retrospect, whether examining, touching and fondling my father's cock

amounted to gay incest – parent abuse, perhaps. It happened only once, but thenceforth our talk became extremely relaxed and, when alone, we could discuss sexual matters fully.

Frequently, if we visited a public urinal together, we would stand side by side and watch each other peeing without embarrassment. Other onlookers did not bother him. At most he might use a forefinger to tilt his penis to the right angle, but he would never cover it from view. Although his glans was small his pee was voluminous as his meatus was bigger than mine. The lips of his meatus were always slightly open and turned outwards, like a negro's lips. This may have been the result of a small operation concerning difficult urination some years earlier; although I did not know the details, this could have involved meatotomy.

H.C. – London

## **Fucking Wankers!**

Dear Tony: Here I am again, with a follow up to the article which appeared in *Acorn* 7/89: it was entitled 'Masturbation Techniques' (pp.22-24). I hope the article proved to be of interest to your readers. Two of them have contacted me and are proving helpful. However things have changed since I wrote the article. Some of your readers may still be able to help me, but the sort of help that I'm looking for is now somewhat different. Let me fill in the background.

On page 140 of the February 1990 edition of *Forum* there is an ad I placed which reads: 'Study of Female masturbation. For details contact: Box No. 232.16' So far (it is early days yet) this has produced three replies, all from men, hoping to acquire an enlightening book on the subject. I have written to each of them with a more or less standard letter, which fills in the story as well as I can: I feel your readers might like to hear more. The letter went as follows

"Many thanks for replying to my *Forum* ad 232.16. I'm afraid that I'm probably going to disappoint you to some extent; however my actions were all done in good faith: the details may interest you. In July, August, Sept 89 I inserted the following ad in *Forum*:

"Female DIY. I'm making a survey of female masturbation methods, partly for fun, but mainly for the purpose of opening out the subject with a descriptive article. Exchange letters with me, and we'll both learn a lot. Confidentiality assured. ALA."

I had previously run a similar series of three such ads for men (my objective being to acquire sufficient information to write a book on the subject of how to masturbate to best advantage). From these ads, addressed to males, I received 65 replies. However the above ad, directed to women, repeated three times, resulted in only two replies. The two respondents were great ladies; one of them suggested that I would get a better result from the fair sex if I made my ad more simple; she suggested to me the wording of the ad to which you replied. It did not occur to me when placing the ad that it would be open to misinterpretation, though I now see that it obviously is.

I'm already gathering together the information obtained from the men into book form, and hope to publish it under the name, *The FB Story*, within the next couple of years. Doubtless you will see information about it in *Forum*.

I don't expect that it was part of your intention in writing to me, to get yourself involved in what I am about to suggest: but one thing that my research has uncovered is the fact that there are two categories of men: I describe them as 'Wankers' and 'Fucking Wankers'. (Not the slightest insult intended of course!). The latter category, the fucking wankers, are those who (quite frequently at least) aim to recreate the sensations of fucking during their wanking activities. I have already acquired most of the information that I need, via my correspondence, but I could do with some more help from some enthusiastic 'fucking wankers'.

But what do I mean by enthusiastic? To put some figures on it, if you are in the happy position of enjoying a good 'fucking wank' two or three times a week, then you could be just the person to try out one device which is still in the development phase. It is the FB as we call it. It is best described as a double-sheath, but I won't go into a detailed description now. Anyhow before I engage you in my 'research team' I would like to exchange a letter or two: We won't go into the full procedure of questionnaire, letter exchange, and graduated experiments that I did with most of my respondents: but I would like first to exchange a letter or two, with the aim of assuring myself that you are enough in tune with my objectives to be a reliable tester and reporter. As mentioned in my ads I do take every step to ensure confidentiality. My system is chiefly to use reference numbers and first names, and I keep addresses separately, so that only I can connect addresses with coded reference numbers and names.

Thanks for writing, and I hope that you will feel that you might be interested in my proposition, and then I hope to hear from you in some detail. The model of FB has to be selected for size, particularly circumference, so one detail that would be of interest is the girth of your cock when it is good and hard.



Of course my other requirement remains: namely to enlist information from a few more women. If you happen to know any who you can egg on to replying to my ad then I would indeed be grateful.”

It is interesting to speculate why there is such a difference in the response from females, as compared to males. It is probably fair to say that only about one in six of the men who wrote to me proved to be useful. Most of the others either had problems of one sort or another, or were really looking for a bit of titillation in exchanging letters, and were not what I would call ‘serious wankers’. Few were at the extreme of casualness about their wanking as one person who wrote, after receiving my questionnaire: “I don’t think that I can really help you with your enquiries. As far as I’m concerned, I just masturbate ‘as and when’ the need for relief occurs. I’m afraid I only wrote to you to find out how it was possible that anyone could make enough of it to exchange letters on the subject.”

In other words that respondent was ‘just curious’. I think quite a lot of other men were too. Perhaps man is a more curious animal than woman, and that helps to explain the difference in response. Certainly both the women who wrote did not do so because they were just curious, but rather because they were ardent explorers of bodily sensations: two great ladies, as I said in my letter. If you are not ‘just curious’ but rather an ardent practitioner, then please write to me:

*Andrew Ferguson – 11 Harcourt Close, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon. RG9 1UZ*

## **Unkind Cut**

A banner saying ‘welcome’ in 27 languages in San Jose, California, actually says ‘circumcision’ to Filipinos. [Short item in the *Daily Mirror*, sent in by H.F. – Cambridge]: it would be interesting to know what ‘circumcision’ is in the 27 languages: any more contributions to our recurring “What’s yours called?” feature?







# Impotence: it is not all in the mind

Implants and injections can now help men with physical sexual problems. Oliver Gillie reports

"YOU FEEL you are not fully a man. Impotence really works on your nerves and your mind. It is something you think about full time..." Bobby Roberts had been married only two years when he became physically incapable of having sexual intercourse. He is one of the first men to have been cured by an operation and then gone on to prove his potency by fathering a child.

Bobby and his wife Miki were in their twenties when he suddenly became impotent. At a time when other couples are starting a family they began to lead separate lives. Miki thought he had a girlfriend. She started to work 60 hours a week to take her mind off her worries, while Bobby spent more time with his friends in the Freemasons.

Bobby, who now lives happily with Miki in Cantonment, Florida, was able to get good advice from his doctor — advice which is still relatively rare in Britain. He suffers from diabetes, which reduces the blood supply to all the extremities of the body: the hands, the feet and the penis. Impotence is a common, although not invariable, complication of this disease.

Bobby was one of the lucky ones. His local doctor referred him to Dr Brantley Scott, a urologist in Houston, Texas, who has developed one of the most advanced surgical methods for treatment of impotence.

Dr Scott has designed an implant consisting of two inflatable rods which are surgically installed in the penis. The rods are inserted into the *corpora cavernosa* — the two spongy chambers on each side of the penis which normally fill with blood when a man has an erection. These rods are inflated hydraulically by a little pump, placed in the scrotum, which draws fluid from a reservoir inserted in the abdomen. This makes the penis rigid, enabling intercourse to be achieved.

Afterwards the penis is deflated by pressing a little button attached to the pump. The rods are of fixed length which means the penis remains extended even when they are deflated. Nevertheless, since the penis is soft it can easily be folded away. The man is not aware of the pump in his scrotum except when he feels for it.

"You can't tell the difference,"

said Miki. "In fact it makes intercourse better. You pump it up, and you can't do that naturally. Dr Scott did a survey which showed that the wives of men with implants had a better sex life from that standpoint."

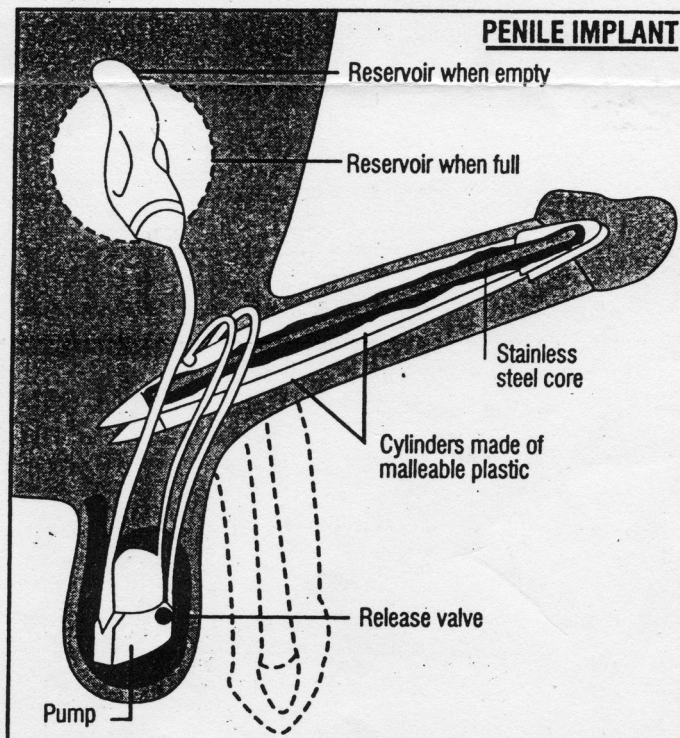
After Bobby had the implant he and Miki decided that they wanted to have a baby, and Bobby Jr, now 8, was conceived.

Many thousands of operations to install prostheses are done every year in the United States where lasting impotence is widely recognised to be a common complication of physical illness. In Britain the operation is available on the National Health Service, but no more than 200 are done each year — only a very small proportion of those who might

of taking certain drugs — particularly some of those commonly prescribed for high blood-pressure. It may also be a result of accidents or operations which damage the nerve supply in the pelvis. And impotence can be a complication of certain diseases such as diabetes and multiple sclerosis.

But by far the most common cause in older men is the furring-up of arteries, atherosclerosis, which is caused by smoking and a diet rich in animal fat.

Atherosclerosis affects arteries throughout the body: when the coronary arteries are affected it may cause a heart attack; when arteries in the legs are affected it causes intermittent claudication — pain on walking; and when the arteries of the pelvis are most



Graphic: Will Bown

benefit from the operation get it in this country.

Until a few years ago most doctors believed that lasting impotence was a psychological problem in the vast majority of cases. Most men have experienced temporary impotence when, through anxiety, or too much alcohol, they are unable to have an erection. This common experience led doctors to assume that potency was a mental attribute.

However, it is now known that impotence is frequently the result

affected it causes impotence.

Another great advance in the understanding and treatment of impotence came when a French surgeon, Dr Ronald Virag, discovered that erections could be induced artificially by the injection of drugs into the penis. Dr Virag was operating on a patient to improve the blood supply to the penis and injected a drug, papaverine, into an artery in his groin to dilate it. The patient had an erection on the operating table despite being under anaesthetic.

Dr Virag reasoned that the treatment might be used to help men with impotence. First he tried it on himself. It worked. He had invented the injection erection. Very cautiously at first, he used the injection in his clinic as a test and as a way of "exercising" the penis. He found that some men who had exercised their penises in laboratory tests were able to have spontaneous erections and intercourse at home.

Others asked Dr Virag if they could make use of the drug at home, so he taught patients to inject themselves. Within five or 10 minutes of the injection the penis becomes fully erect and the patient can have normal intercourse.

This treatment of impotence is now widely used in Britain. However, there is a small risk of complications with an injection erection. In some men the response is unpredictable and an erection may last a long time. If it lasts more than four hours there is a danger of damage to the penis and men are told that if necessary they should go to a casualty department and have the erection reduced by removing blood with a syringe.

The injection only works when the blood supply to the penis is adequate. Diabetes severely re-

duces the supply and so the injection cannot be used to overcome impotence associated with this disease, except perhaps in its earlier stages.

A man in normal good health has erections naturally during sleep. If an impotent man has strong night-time erections then his impotence probably has a psychological cause. A man may, for example, begin to have difficulty with potency on being made redundant or on experiencing financial loss.

"Anything which makes a man feel badly about himself can erode his sexual responsiveness," says Dr Elizabeth Stanley, a specialist in marital advice and sex therapy.

"Failure to deal with anger which arises in a relationship is one of the commonest causes of problems with erections. If emotional problems are not openly expressed in a relationship then it's very difficult to talk through a problem. Hidden resentments may build up — sometimes over years — and cause problems with erections."

Another problem for some men and women is a subconscious feeling that sex is dirty, that nice people don't do it together. Some men may be able to have a satisfactory sexual relationship in a

short-term affair or with a prostitute, but not with their wives.

"A man may sometimes become impotent because he loses confidence in his sexual ability. He may have failed to have an erection once because he was tired and then be afraid it will happen again," says Dr Stanley.

"One such failure early on in the honeymoon may lead to years of impotence. Good sex is all to do with good communication — being able to tell your partner what you like and don't like.

"It means getting rid of this dreadful myth that men know exactly what to do to arouse a woman and that it's not for the woman to give her partner any information."

However, many men who have suffered from impotence caused by physical illness have wasted years in distressing sex therapy which, they felt, blamed their mind when it was their body that was letting them down. Others who have had real psychological problems with potency have failed to respond to years of psychotherapy.

Increasingly, doctors are willing to prescribe injections for men who suffer psychological impotence. Sometimes a low-dose injection is all that is necessary to increase the responsiveness of

these men — and they find that they don't need to use an injection every time. Psychotherapists may be prepared to continue the treatment for years if the patient can pay. But eventually patients become impatient, and psychotherapists may recognise that they are getting nowhere. When this happens Dr Brantley Scott has been persuaded to operate and install his hydraulic implant.

Men who have had years of unsuccessful psychotherapy for impotence but have night-time erections have been able to have successful intercourse this way. There could be no more elegant proof that the unconscious mind is sometimes at war with the conscious will. And when the unconscious cannot be changed by therapy then it may sometimes be outwitted by surgery.

*Oliver Gillie reports in the documentary: Impotence — one in ten men, Meditel Productions, to be broadcast on Channel 4 at 9pm tonight. A help line, 0800 767 800, will be open for two hours after the programme and from 10am to 8pm tomorrow. A free Channel 4 booklet by Oliver Gillie is available. Send self-addressed A5 envelope with two second-class stamps to: One in ten men, PO Box 4000, London W3 6XJ, or Glasgow G12 9JQ.*

## THE INDEPENDENT Tuesday 20 February 1990



Success story: Bobby and Miki Roberts with son Bobby Jnr, conceived after Bobby Snr had two inflatable rods installed in his penis

# **ACORN**

**1990 Issue No 4**  
(Formerly Issue U)

**Editor**  
**Tony Acorn**

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**Membership, Fees, Advice, Personal Matters,  
Newsletter Contributions, Letters for Forwarding**

To:- ACORN

P.O. Box 113, WESTON-SUPER-MARE, AVON, BS23 2ED

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### **Editorial**

Communications to the Editor, Tony Acorn, should be sent to the address on page 1. Letters to other *Acorn* members will also be forwarded if sent in this way.

Earlier issues this year included some long articles, which it is hoped readers enjoyed. The article on impotence in issue 3/90 was not intended to cast aspersions on any reader's potency, but rather to share information about a little discussed (but perhaps quite widespread) problem and a little known treatment for it. Readers who watched the associated tv programme will have seen the insertion of a penile implant for a well-circumcised Turkish patient and may have noted the surgeon's comment that there was really very little bleeding, which also showed that the patient's inability to obtain an erection was a consequence of poor circulation of blood to the penis. The procedure is also interesting as a way to restore sexual function using a drastic procedure of genital modification.

This issues reverts to a larger number of briefer items, some responding to earlier contributions. Thank you for all your material. Please keep items coming; you the readers are the people who make the newsletter continually interesting.

This is the fourth issue of 1990. The Editor apologises for the fairly erratic intervals between previous issues, but hopes that readers will understand that the editorial task has to be fitted in with other commitments (and that a broken arm further added to the problem of managing these). Issue 5 is planned for early July. There will then be a gap until September. It is planned to publish issues 6, 7 and 8 during September – December 1990.

T.A.

### **Circumcised In Infancy**

Dear Tony: I have recently been allowed to examine the penis of a 54 year old man. I have known its 'owner' since infant school, but until recently was not privileged to examine it closely. The general appearance is quite good. It is about 6" long. He was circumcised a few weeks after birth at a local clinic, following advice in the *Motherhood* book: there were no religious implications.



Without doubt it has been very thoroughly circumcised, but close inspection reveals what I think to be a rather 'clumsy' job. The scar is not well defined for about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on top, but appears to have been stitched there once. At the sides the scar-line is at right angles to the axis of the penis, rather than running at an angle to the axis but parallel to the glans rim. At the sides it is well defined and can be felt as slightly raised. There is an area underneath where a large ugly brown 'clump' or 'knot' of skin forms a distinct lump. At this point the scar is about one-third the way along the shaft, and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " clear from the proximal end of the frenulum. Is this the result of an average mid-1930s routine infant circumcision? How was it performed? Is the stitching on top and the knot of skin underneath a result of poor skill on the operator's part?

It was the sight of the circumcised penises of my school pals that always gave rise to the desire to be circumcised myself. I always regretted that I was not done shortly after birth. All the other lads in this area had been. I had to wait until I was in my mid-20s before I found a surgeon who would circumcise me and attain the state I had always longed for. But, perhaps as a result of waiting until I was adult, I have got a far better job. My circumcision has resulted in a scar which is parallel to the glans, which I think looks better, and a scar which has now 'blended in' so as to be almost invisible. Even the stitch marks have vanished.

*K.E. – Nottingham*

[Dear K.E.: It is hard to say what was an 'average' result. The small scale of a baby's penis may make accuracy difficult, which is why so much ingenuity (mainly in the USA) went into trying to design a circumcision instrument which would produce a standard, cosmetically attractive result even in the hands of an inexperienced duty-surgeon. Several of these, including the Gomco clamp and the 'Plastibell', were designed to crush together the two layers of foreskin, resulting in a virtually bloodless operation and no need for stitches. These devices did not catch on much in the UK, where circumcision was usually done freehand or with a pair of forceps used to grip the foreskin and guide the scalpel. The forceps could be applied straight across, or at an angle roughly parallel to the glans rim. The skill lay in knowing how much tension to apply when pulling the foreskin forward before tightening the forceps. It seems that in the case you describe, the foreskin was pulled quite tight on top, needing a stitch to keep it together, but was much slacker underneath. Often no stitches were used: the two cut edges of skin were simply allowed to grow together, which was usually no problem, but the result was often quite variable. By contrast, a practised surgeon can usually be much more precise in the type of result obtained in an adult. If his skill extends to the stitching, and to judging correctly when to take stitches out, the sort of neat result of which you are so proud can be achieved. Otherwise the specialised Gomco clamp is available in sizes suitable for adults, and can also give a very neat result. – T.A.]

## **Circumcision As A Preventive Of Disease**

My parents had me circumcised when I was 9 days old, in 1957. Their GP did it – presumably this had their approval. They did so chiefly as a protection for my future wife and to spare me the unpleasantness of having to have it done later, should it become necessary, as had happened to my father when he was 14. Before we started school I and my younger brothers were primed with the basic facts about why our willies would look different from most of the other boys'. As we grew older we were taught the full reasons for our circumcisions. I do not feel – and in this I speak for my brothers as well – that the operation was a crime against my basic rights and freedoms, nor that it is uncivilised. On the contrary, if our circumcisions have lessened the risk of our wives developing cervical cancer, we are very thankful.

I know that the preventive value of this operation is contentious, but there is substantial evidence that it is of value. The young wife of a friend did get this cancer, despite having had smear tests. He is uncircumcised. Her treatment was most unpleasant, lasting nearly two years, and involved her having a hysterectomy as well as radiation and chemotherapy. Unfortunately cervical cancer is a risk that a woman must accept if she has sexual intercourse; so is conception. As to the latter, the man can play his part by having a vasectomy. Is it not just as civilised to have an inessential part of his genitalia removed to lessen the risk of cervical cancer?

Even more important is the possible role of the foreskin in the transmission of AIDS. It is found that in heterosexuals, AIDS is 19 times more frequent when the male has a foreskin than when he is circumcised. Here both partners are at risk. Furthermore, a recent Australian study found that herpes and gonorrhoea were twice as common and thrush and syphilis were five times as common in uncircumcised males as in circumcised ones. It has also been found that urinary tract infections are ten times more frequent in uncircumcised children than in circumcised ones, and that nearly all renal (kidney) failures have a history of urinary tract infection.

This information was given to me by a urological registrar, a close friend since childhood and circumcised like us. In his opinion this lower rate of genital infections in circumcised males is the consequence of the frenulum and surrounding areas becoming toughened by its continuous exposure, whereas in the foreskinned male abrasions, splits and tears in this region are common, and these are often troublesome enough to necessitate circumcision.

He is an advocate of routine circumcision at birth, but is up against resistance from the paediatricians in the hospitals. He did a very neat job on our two boys under a local anaesthetic, free of charge and has obliged several of our friends who have been thwarted, like us, in their endeavours to get it done. I would agree that there is a case for leaving the baby 'intact' if circumcision caused any distress, but it is quite clear that it does not. Our Sunday paper carries regular advertisements for 'instant' circumcision – but at a price! I

reckon there must be a lot of men wishing their parents and/or medics had been enlightened enough to get it out of the way when they were born.

Some time ago *Forum* carried a letter from a female reader reporting that a woman's magazine had carried out a survey of female preferences in their sexual partner and found they overwhelmingly expressed a preference for the circumcised male. Does anybody know which magazine and when this survey was carried out? Enquiries by my wife among relatives and friends lend support to the survey's findings.

*J.W. – Ipswich*

[Thanks for a very sane, informative and thoughtful letter. Would your urologist friend like to write a brief contribution to a future issue of *Acorn*? I can not help with the reference to the women's magazine: perhaps another reader will do so. – T.A.]

### **Self-Circumcision Revision**

Dear Tony: You published an account of my original circumcision in issue 3/88. Early in 1989 I decided to re-circumcise myself to correct some of the things I disliked about the original job. I made a ring from U-section copper which was a nice easy fit in the sulcus. I then drew as much skin as I could, including the original circumcision scar and the original internal fold, forward over the ring.

I used sticking plaster to hold the skin forward onto the glans, while I wound a couple of turns of nichrome wire round the groove I had made in the outside of the ring. The ends of the wire were then twisted together as tightly as possible. This was a bit painful, but not excessively so – not bad enough to stop me going to bed and going to sleep soon after. In the morning my cock felt a bit sore, but quite bearable. After three days the skin trapped beyond the wire was dead so I took a scalpel and cut round both the outer and inner surfaces about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) from the wire. When flattened out, the ring of skin removed measured  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (15 mm) wide, so (with the dead skin left next to the wire) I removed a total of  $\frac{7}{8}$ ". This dead skin turned black and dried in about 24 hours, so a couple of days later (after 6 days in total) I cut the wire and removed it and the copper ring. It took about two weeks to complete the healing and for the bits of dead skin to drop off.

The new scar is  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (9 mm) from the corona on top and on the right side, and  $\frac{5}{8}$ " from the corona on the left. The distance at the frenulum is about 1". I also tried to correct the misalignment of the median raphe: my original circumcision had left it displaced  $\frac{3}{8}$ " to the left; now it is very slightly to the right of the correct alignment with the frenulum.

The result closely approximates to my ideal penis. There is no surplus skin to fold over the glans or form wrinkles when flaccid. When erect the skin is fairly tight, especially on top, although there is enough 'give' to allow for about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " movement for masturbation purposes. My usual method is thumb on top and two or three fingers underneath on the frenulum.

S.W. – Gwent

[Dear S.W.: Congratulations on your courage and determination to achieve the ideal, and your success in achieving it! This method is, of course, an adaptation of the idea behind the Plastibell technique, used mainly in the USA (but also by some paediatricians in the UK). It is closely related also to the Gomco clamp method. A member kindly supplied me with one of these recently, of the large size suitable for adults. The instructions are published with this issue of *Acorn*, so that members can become familiar with a technique which is more widely known in the USA than the UK. – T.A.]

### **Circumcision Rings**

Dear Tony: In *Acorn* 5/89, E.S. – Salisbury wrote about having read in a book by Bud Berkeley about circumcision rings, and you commented on how they might be fitted. I have a copy of Berkeley's book, *Foreskin: its past, its present, and its future?* and they were not circumcision rings but anti-circumcision rings. From the description, it does not seem as if any piercing was done (quotation below). I have written twice to Bud Berkeley for more details but have had no reply.

E.S. – Rochdale

Berkeley writes (p.41) about

...the fabulous fifties, the golden era of the all-American boy, cut clean... of hair, of jaw, of penis... Many ethnic minority groups, previously missed by the circumcision band-wagon, now started sending their little squires to school with unmuzzled acorns. Circumcision tools became big business for the surgical supply companies, with new gadgets flooding the market. One gadget was advertised as a 'self-circumcision kit'. Another gadget was a set of Anti-Circumcision Rings. The rings were marketed as giving all the benefits of circumcision without the pain of surgery. They were to be worn by youngsters much as they would wear braces on their teeth; fitting on the shaft of the penis and trapping the foreskin behind the corona of the glans penis. The theory was that the glans would permanently expand once the restriction of the foreskin was eliminated, thus trapping the foreskin behind it forever. One farm-raised man recalled his experience with the rings: "My new step father fit the rings on me when I was 12 years old. He told me all the boys had to wear them. They must have worked because I didn't have to wear them after about a year

and my foreskin still does not move forward unless I tug at it. My older brother wasn't so lucky. He was 16 when he got fitted and I guess it was too late. We did everything we could think of to make his cock-head get fatter, but every time we took off his rings his ole foreskin would just roll on over everything. He wore the rings right up to the time he joined the Marines. They solved his problem in Korea when they circumcised him clean off."

## Penis Survey

Dimensions are in inches.

1. Length of penis along top from base to tip of glans, flaccid.
2. Length of penis along top from base to tip of glans, erect.
3. Circumference of penis at base, flaccid.
4. Circumference of penis at base, erect.
5. If circumcised, distance of scar-line from glans rim.  
If uncircumcised: U
6. If uncircumcised, how much ( $\frac{1}{10}$ ths) of glans is covered, flaccid?
7. If uncircumcised, how much ( $\frac{1}{10}$ ths) of glans is covered, erect?
8. If uncircumcised, is foreskin tight (T) or loose (L)?
9. When standing against the wall with erect penis, how far from glans tip to nearest part of stomach?
10. Height
11. Age
12. Identification (initials and place).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4.4	6.4	5.1	6.0	0.4	-	-	-	-	5'11"	57	S.W. – Gwent
1.9	7.3	4.7	5.7	0.6	-	-	-	-	5'4"	75	H.M. – Colchester
4.5	6.0	5.0	5.5	0	6	0	L	5	6'0"	42	J.McC. – Bathgate
3.2	5.3	4.2	4.8	1.0	-	-	-	5.8	5'6"	38	I.W. – Dorset
3.5	5.8	4.4	5.9	0.5	-	-	-	6.0	5'11"	52	W.M. – Surrey

### Comments

I was subjected to a dorsal slit, and have since myself done a partially successful reversal; I have answered both the circumcised question (5) and the uncircumcised ones (6,7,8) since they both apply. — *J.McC.*

Scar-line to corona, flaccid: dorsal 0.5", frenulum 1"; erect: dorsal 1", frenulum 2". The frenulum I imagine is mostly intact. The frenulum used to be tighter, but a torn piercing near the corona reduced the tension when erect. I was cut as a baby in 1951, though I think it was going out of fashion: see the letter 'Piercings' below. — *I.W. – Dorset*

## Piercings

Dear Tony: My cock was cut as a baby. When erect there is no movement on the shaft skin at all and it appears to be stretched to its maximum, so I gather that I am radically cut. I have no idea what method was used to de-skin me, but it is very obvious, unlike some who appear so loosely cut that one often cannot make up one's mind if they are done or not. The scar is about an inch from the corona in front, but almost two inches away at the frenulum where it forms a shallow V pointing away from the tip.

Until about three years ago my frenulum did pull a bit tight during a full erection. If I was not careful when masturbating it was sometimes a bit raw and sore for a couple of days. So I pierced it through, about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge, right near my knob rim. Then I forced a small ring (the self fastening type used to hold together a necklace) through the hole. After about 2-3 weeks and frequent stretching the skin between the hole and the edge of the frenulum started to dry up. The hole got slowly bigger until it finally broke through the frenulum edge. This left a small V in the frenulum, with a little pimple-like point at each side. These healed over but are still very sensitive. During erection they pull apart to leave about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " between them. This has relieved the strain on the frenulum and the tightness of the skin on the underside of the shaft during erection. It also relieves the pull on the meatus, which is more elongated than round, with pronounced lips on each side.

I vary from the 'normal' as follows. I have through my frenulum adjacent to the scar-line a triangular pattern of piercings: a transverse one (A-B) in the frenulum, and one running from each end of this to a single exit (C) on the raphé near where it meets the frenulum at the scar line. I have never had it pierced. C is the smallest, and it is just possible to push a largish bodkin into its opening. B is the largest, about the size of a match-head, and A is the size of a match-stick. At A-B the frenulum is raised very proud of the shaft so that I can gather up a good pinch of it even when erect. Holes A and B lie deep into the bed of the frenulum, almost on the shaft skin, which I presume to be what was once the inner layer of my long-gone foreskin.

I frequently clean out this network by pulling a thread though it to remove the smegma-like material which gathers. Although it is exceedingly sensitive when I do this, it in no way hurts. I have never seen this on any other circumcised cock, and over the years I have seen quite a few. Can you or another reader offer an explanation?

*I.W. – Dorset*

[First, congratulations on solving the problem of your over tight frenulum. This also illustrates the importance of care in the placing of a piercing and in choosing the correct thickness of a ring to be worn in it: a piercing is likely to pull through and break unless it is placed about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (1 cm) or more from the edge, and if the sleeper or ring worn in it is 1.5 mm or more thick. The

cutting effect of a thinner ring placed under frequent tension can sometimes be useful if it is intended to enlarge the piercing, but the effect should always be remembered.

Second: the three holes. The explanation which occurs to me as most likely is that this was the location of the triangular stitch which was recommended to be inserted where it would tie off the frenulum and align it to the raphé. Several texts on circumcision technique recommended this to tie off the frenal 'artery' (which does not in fact exist). Any arterial blood in this area would result from incision of the corpus spongiosum (the underlying spongy tissue which forms one third of the shaft and the glans), but the frenulum does sometimes bleed quite profusely. A self-dissolving stitch would often be used, to avoid the need to see the patient again to remove it. A quick-healing patient might simply form skin around the stitch, leaving the little passageways (fistulae) which you describe. So even 'self dissolving' stitches should be removed after a week, to avoid this effect.

What to do about them? You can leave them, keep them clean as you have been doing, and wear a ring or rings in them if you like (but make it/them the thickest you can take). Or you can cut them through. In that case ensure that all items are sterile (over 20 minutes in a preheated oven at over 120°C for metal items; other items soaked in strong disinfectant overnight). Insert an object to stretch the hole as tightly as possible, then cut through with a clean, sterile razor blade, in two places if possible to avoid forming the tags/pimples which would result from a single cut. – T.A.]

## **Nipple And Genital Modifications**

Dear Tony: Many thanks for the latest *Acorn*, and congratulations for keeping the magazine interesting and thriving throughout the year. I think it's improved, as there has been more of a 'balanced' view and several personal accounts, which are always interesting.

I felt a lot for R.B.W., who had obviously suffered so much in his childhood. Unfortunately, I think the issue of circumcision is something of a red herring, as others have also suggested. I know it is a bit naive of me to say so but the problem is really one of ignorance, when children who can be so very cruel pick on somebody because they are different, irrespective of what the difference actually is. Perhaps with a little education, such as takes place through *Acorn*, we can help a little in this respect.

On another topic, I was very interested to see 'nipple sensitivity' mentioned. As a young teenager I read a book called *Sex and the Single Man* by, I think, Dr Robert Chartham. He said that there is much in common between the bodies of men and women, and with regular stimulation men could develop as sensitive nipples as women. Ever since then I've regularly stimulated my nipples, and Dr Chartham was right! Whenever I undress I always squeeze my

nipples and over the years have experimented with all sorts of nipple clamps to stimulate them and develop sensitivity. During the day, too, it is quite easy to squeeze one's nipples discreetly while dressed, to liven up a boring moment. In 1988 I had both nipples pierced by Mr Sebastian in London, but eventually had to let them close up again as the piercing never completely healed. I'm not sure whether this did lead to a further increase in sensitivity, but I've heard of several who say that piercing does.

Last year another correspondent sent me a pair of spring loaded nipple clamps and I've found them to be the best yet, as I can wear them for about 15-20 minutes, take them off, and find my nipples *extremely* sensitive when squeezed. Indeed the first time I did this I came without penile stimulation, so it is possible (and most enjoyable!) My last girl friend would stimulate my nipples, but often with the lightest, most teasing caresses rather than hard squeezing. I found that this further increased sensitivity. During intercourse, squeezing my nipples will help to quickly bring me to a climax, if required. Having sensitive nipples stimulated while coming further adds to the pleasure.

I also love having my balls squeezed and massaged. A favourite way of spending Sunday morning is to be in bed with a skilled and willing partner who will indulge me with a prolonged session of nipple stimulation and ball squeezing, with occasional cock stimulation. A session of mutual masturbation, giving each other pleasure and receiving it, is often preferable to a simple screw. One of my fantasies is to be lying down, possibly tied, with one beautiful woman biting and squeezing each nipple, one squeezing and massaging my balls, one rubbing my glans, and another stimulating my anus and prostate. Any volunteers?

The magazine *Body Art* (issue 7, 1989, pp.22-26) recently had an article on 'Female Nipple Development', gradually using increasingly long 'nipple trainers' to lengthen and enlarge pierced nipples. There's a beautiful photograph of Katherine with exquisitely protruding nipples, over 1" long and  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. While nowhere near this, for a man my own nipples have become remarkably well developed, compared to some who have little more than a dark brown 'target area' of skin. There is enough of mine protruding to squeeze and enjoy.

I also practice scrotum stretching and have bought a number of weights for this purpose. While still a comparative beginner, I currently wear 2 x 1 lb (about 950 gm) weights, 60 mm long. I find it best to wear them walking with a loose track suit so that the weights bobble about on my balls as I walk. In fact the phrase 'coming for a stroll?' takes on a whole new meaning if you are wearing nipple clamps, ball weights and a butt plug, and just happen to have an exposed glans rubbing against the inside of your coat! Do any other readers have any tips for stimulation during the day or as they walk?

I was recently browsing in a book called, I think, *Tattooing, Piercing and Scarification* that had several photos of penises with multiple piercings and some scrotum stretching, including an Indian 'fakir' wearing 14 rings to



stretch his scrotum. Another had a heavy weight behind his glans around his penis, which was stretched quite long and thin towards his knees. The most bizarre, however, was a penis that was completely divided in two for about  $\frac{2}{3}$  rds of its length.

Finally, I'd love to hear from others about something that interests me very much: how much direct stimulation of the glans can a man stand? For example, with a well-lubricated glans, how long could you stand it being rubbed directly and continuously with the cupped palm of a hand? Do you notice a difference in sensitivity between rubbing the glans at the back (under) the penis, the front of the glans, or directly across the top? Or between using the palm or the fingers? Is it more bearable to have a hand moving up and down the full length of the penis, rubbing the shaft as well as including the glans? Hurry up with the next issue!

*R.A. – Brighton*

### **Mickey-Taking**

Dear Tony: I hope R.B.W. (issue 8/89) will be able to come to terms with his condition, having put pen to paper. I can sympathise with his feelings of ostracism, as I too had a similar experience, although, fortunately for me, a change of scene at about the age of 11 brought me wide contact with school fellows, both cavalier and roundhead, who were more interested in competition between the two than mickey-taking. Our contacts with the opposite sex in the 1920s were more non-existent than limited.

*H.M. – Colchester*

### **Cocky Cavalier**

Call me cocky if you like, but unlike many of your readers, I've always found my foreskin to be a definite advantage, and find it hard to understand why so many people take such a violent dislike to a natural part of their body. The only drawback with mine is when my lady friend takes me in hand, to our mutual enjoyment!

When I was a kid a lot of my playmates were circumcised, but I tended to be curious rather than envious. In fact I felt somewhat superior in having something they did not. Unlike those who claim that girls prefer roundheads, I found the opposite. This was first brought home to me in a most satisfying way when I used to visit my aunt in the Midlands. Her daughter, Ann, whom I adored, was a couple of years older than me. Her son Alan was my age, fat and pushy, and I loathed him. Ann was precocious as a kid (and a right raver when she grew up!), and she had the cock out of my trousers the first occasion

we kids were alone. Alan was a roundhead, so she was excited to find I had a foreskin. Although she'd seen foreskins before, she'd never had a chance to 'have a go' with one. She made Alan get his out too, so that she could compare them: there's no doubt that his was a size larger than mine, with a glans like a button mushroom, but it was mine she gave all her attention. She explored my foreskin in every possible way, pulling it, pushing it, sliding it up and down, making me blow it out with pee, then stuffing marbles under it to see how many it would take. I was dead flattered, I can tell you. Alan was furious and tried to rough me up afterwards – but I was quicker than he was!

This was only the start. When I later asked the girls I met if they preferred foreskins and why, those who were able to make the comparison said, without exception, that they did. The reasons they gave included: I like a man to be complete; peeled ones look funny; its easier to wank a foreskin; it's more mysterious; I love pulling it back to reveal the shiny knob; nature know's best; circumcision destroys sensitivity; and so on. Not one of them said she'd like to have her kids done when the time came to have a family. But my experience may be different from others. Why don't *Acorn* members get their lady friends to state their preference and give their reasons for it?

*Desmond Compton – Harrow*

## **Multiple Male Orgasms**

Sex can be surprisingly better for men after the age of 35. Scientists have always believed that only women are capable of having multiple orgasms. But some recent research has shown that there are men who can perform this feat too.

American doctors have published evidence of 21 multiple orgasmic men, most of whom had no idea that they were special until told by a partner. Many of them had been multiple orgasmic since adolescence, but almost half had discovered their capacity after the age of 35. The men reported having from two to nine orgasms per session, apart from one man who had as many as 16 orgasms in one sexual encounter.

Dr Marian Dunn, Director of the Centre for Human Sexuality at the State University of New York, who performed the study, is very confident of the reliability of her data: 'I just stated at the end of lectures I was giving that I was interested in interviewing multiple-orgasmic men, and often it was women who came up and gave me the contacts. In fact, more women came forward than men. In all, 14 of the men's partners were interviewed and were able to provide corroboration.

'I could have talked to many more men,' continued Dr Dunn, 'and now the study has been published, I've had letters from a number of colleagues and other men, saying that they have had the same experience. It is strange

that it is such a little-known phenomenon. You would think that men would brag about it, but actually they don't seem to.'

The word orgasm is often used to mean orgasm and ejaculation, since for most men the one does not occur without the other. Butterworth's medical dictionary says of the word orgasm: 'Synonymous with ejaculation in the male.' But orgasm in men is more accurately defined as the experience of an intense and diffuse pleasurable sensation during sexual activity, and as such is distinct from ejaculation which usually occurs moments after orgasm itself.

The term 'multiple orgasm', however, is difficult to define, particularly in the male. Dr Dunn attempts to define it as: 'two or more orgasms with or without ejaculation and without, or with only very limited, detumescence during one and the same sexual encounter'.

'Very limited detumescence' is an imprecise phrase, but the meaning was that the erection should be sufficiently maintained for neither partner to notice significant change in rigidity. The men in the study varied considerably in their experiences. Some ejaculated usually at the first orgasm, some at the last, and some in between. Some had only one ejaculation during a single sexual encounter, and others more.

One surprising feature of the study was that eight of the 21 men interviewed only began to have multiple orgasms in their mid-thirties, continuing to do so into their fifties and sixties. One man, a clay-pigeon shooter, still having multiple orgasms at the age of 59, recalled that he was so excited when he had the first experience, at the age of 40, that he shouted 'Doublee!' – the term for shooting two clay pigeons with a double-barrelled gun.

Dr Dunn believes that social conditioning might explain this finding. 'Men are scripted to believe that they ejaculate and detumescence and that's that. They don't hang in there. At a later date, when they're in the relaxed atmosphere of a loving relationship, those that are capable of multiple orgasms find that they don't necessarily lose their erection and so they carry on.'

Dr Dunn stresses how important the setting of each encounter was. Few of the men were multiple-orgasmic on all occasions. Most claimed they needed a non-demand atmosphere, emotional closeness and the opportunity for leisurely sex. They also needed a sexually responsive partner who did not tire of prolonged intercourse, otherwise their own interest and arousal quickly waned.

Not all men, however, discovered themselves to have this capacity by chance. Two of the 21, reasoning that if women could have multiple orgasms then men could too, deliberately set out to become multi-orgasmic. These men practised coming to the brink of orgasm and inhibiting ejaculation until they could separate the sensation of orgasm and the experience of ejaculation. In most men these two events occur a second or so apart but are linked by virtue of the point of ejaculatory inevitability, which occurs just before orgasm.

Masters and Johnson, authors of the definitive guide to sex and sexuality – *Human Sexual Response* – published in the 1960s, held that ‘immediately after ejaculation, the male enters the refractory period’, during which he cannot be stimulated. But Marion Dunn disagrees. ‘It seems that there is a great deal of variation in the length of the refractory period men need. As with all things, there are always going to be people at the top end of the spectrum, and these men need very little or no refractory period.’

This study shows that not all men experience loss of erection after ejaculation, but that some can continue to further orgasms, with or without further ejaculation. Dr Dunn also differs with Masters and Johnson over female orgasm. ‘They contended that all women were capable of having multiple orgasms, but I don’t agree. Some women have a single satisfying orgasm and are refractory to stimulation thereafter. Sexuality as a whole should be viewed with an open mind, not with hard and fast rules.’

Just how many men are multi-orgasmic is not known. It cannot be many, suggests Dr Dunn, otherwise the phenomenon would be better documented. But there has been great hostility to the idea of the male multi-orgasm – and particularly from scientists. It seems that Kinsey was right in his appraisal of the subject, when he wrote in 1948 in his book, *Sexual Behaviour in the Human Male*: ‘Scepticism over the possibility of repeated response in the male merely emphasises the incapacity of even scientifically trained persons to comprehend that others may be made differently from themselves.’

*David Hildick-Smith, The Independent, 2 January 1990*

## **Replies**

Dear Tony: A few comments on newsletter 2/90: (a) I thought the descriptions of the circumcisions in Ankara were very good. But it was a little difficult to visualise the flexible probe which was clearly an important part of the procedure.

[The probe traditionally used by Turkish circumcisers is about as thick as a matchstick, with a small knob at one end and a handle at the other. The circumciser inserts it between glans and foreskin, taking care not to enter the urethra with it. While holding the tip of the foreskin, the probe is pushed as far as the sulcus, then moved around to left and right as far as the frenulum. Its purpose is first, to free any adhesions between glans and foreskin, and second, to indicate to the circumciser the position of the corona and the length of the foreskin; he may make a mark on the foreskin at this level. The probe is then withdrawn and tension is applied to the foreskin until the mark is well clear of the tip of the glans. Thus the probing is important in the guidance it gives to the circumciser on how much tension to apply and thus how much foreskin he will remove. – T.A.]

(b) It would seem that the Kikuyu carried out an initiation to manhood rather than an actual circumcision; it would seem that no foreskin is actually removed. I suggest that 'circumcision' means that some or all of the foreskin must be removed. The result of the Kikuyu procedure would seem to make masturbation and intercourse difficult and possibly painful, and would not in any way enhance the appearance of the penis.

[You are right that no foreskin is removed: the transverse slit does, however, mean that the glans is thereafter fully exposed. When healed, the shaft skin on the upper side is quite tight, and there is a circular scar-line. But the entire foreskin then hangs in a roll under the glans: one account likens it to a uvula. In time it may shrivel and become quite small. There is no problem masturbating, and the roll of foreskin retains most of its sensation. It adds somewhat to the bulk of the penis, and is said to be appreciated by the women for this reason. As to appearance, it serves as something of a distinguishing mark (though the Masai have a similar operating technique, and the two tribes have sometimes intermarried; or, at least in the past, girls were captured in cattle-raids. The initiation was very important in marking the transition from boy to man and to warrior status, in tribes where no distinction was made between military and civilian and domestic life. Tribes such as the Kikuyu and Masai have nothing but contempt for their uncircumcised neighbours. – T.A.]

(c) I thought that the quotations from the Bible about circumcision were interesting, but it should be stressed that the underlying reason for circumcision was cleanliness and hygiene. This very much extends to other aspects of Jewish culture: the ban on the eating of pork is perhaps the most obvious. I would also suggest that as circumcision was extended to slaves and other members of the household it was not only popular among male Jews but among females as well, possibly because they found a circumcised penis more satisfying.

*All the best, W.M. – Surrey*

[The origins of such customs may well have been in hygiene. But once established, a custom becomes self-perpetuating: "Why do you do it?" "Because it is the custom." Traditionalists and the religious faithful may find an explanation in terms of hygiene a useful rationalisation or by-product. – T.A.]

### **Seen On A T-Shirt**

"It's hard to be good. And vice versa."

## **There Was A Young Lad From Dundee**

There Was A Young Lad From Dundee  
Whose foreskin obstructed his pee.  
The doctor said he would agree  
To a circumcision done for free.  
His glans at last he can see  
And fellatio's a time of great glee.  
Circumcision for all's his decree  
As he's benefited in high degree.

*W.M. – Surrey*

## **Philistine Foreskins**

Dear Sir: A friend lends me your paper and I think you might be interested in the situation in the Middle East which will come as a surprise to some of your readers. I am a Christian Palestinian woman who has lived half my life in this country.

Our predecessors the Philistines were distinguished for being uncircumcised, and although most Palestinians today are circumcised because they are Moslems, you should know that there is a big minority of Palestinian Christians who remain uncircumcised like their Philistine forebears. With us the foreskin is a symbol of our Christian status in a predominantly Moslem part of the world and as such we treat it with pride and respect: an Arab Christian prizes his foreskin next to his life!

As the true descendants of the ancient Phoenecian and Philistine civilizations we consider ourselves a step ahead of our Moslem neighbours who have adopted the foreign custom of Tat-heer (male circumcision), whilst in some of the poorer families they still have the barbaric practice of Tabzeer (clitoris removal).

Whilst it is true that the Christians of Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan all cherish the foreskin as the emblem of their faith, setting them apart from the Islamic majority, the Coptic Christians of Egypt prefer to follow the Muslims in this respect and their children are circumcised. They also adopt the Islamic prayer posture and so the only distinguishing mark for a Coptic Christian is a small cross tattooed on the wrist.

During the troubles in Beirut I'm told that Christian children who fell into the hands of the fanatical Moslem militias were forcibly circumcised before being returned to the Christian sector – they could not have invented a more devilish punishment for those poor kids! Such boys will henceforth be isolated in their own community. They will have problems in marrying decent Christian girls and will probably have to emigrate to Egypt or the USA. Although we would not be so cruel as to ostracise such boys, everyone in the community

would be acutely aware of the damage done to them and their Christian status and unconscious barriers would exist. The case is similar to Hindu boys in India who were forcibly circumcised by Moslems during the troubles, since like us they take a pride and zeal in preserving their foreskins.

Imagine my surprise then in arriving in the UK to find that my first boyfriend, a Christian of course, was circumcised. Due to my background I was slightly disgusted. How could a Christian undergo an operation which is associated only with the Jewish and Moslem religions, or with some of the more primitive people in the world? Have the English got Semitic blood? Are they the lost tribe of Israel perhaps?

My faith in the rightness of things has been restored since then when I found all my subsequent male acquaintances were properly uncircumcised, although I'm still amazed at the number of Englishmen who have submitted to the tat-heer!

*Yours faithfully, Ms G. – London E14*

[Many thanks for your interesting letter, which once again emphasises the aspect of cultural differentiation bound up with circumcised or uncircumcised status. The Old Testament is, of course, full of references to Philistines as an uncircumcised people, and the implication is generally that they were also unclean. You mention that a Christian boy circumcised during the troubles would have difficulty in marrying a decent Christian girl: how would her parents know that he is circumcised? Would her father or brother insist on an inspection? As to the prevalence of circumcision in England, you may perhaps have heard that it is most common among upper class families, and not least among those able to afford to send their sons to the better boarding schools. There were several attempts in the 19th century to 'prove' by speculation a link with the lost tribe of Israel. – T.A.]

## **Old Member**

Dear Tony: Thank you for all you have sent me, it has been most helpful. I was a 1917 boarding prep school boy, and then to public school. From the age of 14 I longed to be an Acorn but never managed it until on leave in Jerusalem in the 1940s. I was left with  $\frac{9}{10}$  cover. I am now 85 and not well, so must resign my membership, with thanks and thanks again.

*H.B. – Norwich*

## **There Was An Incurable Limey**

There was an incurable Limey  
Who begged his new girlfriend, "Just try me:  
But I'm not like a Jew  
So a tissue will do,  
The uncovered end will be slimey."

## **Calculating The Odds**

What are the odds of catching AIDS from an infected partner? Researchers at the 27th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy in Manhattan presented evidence that the odds are not equal for all players in today's sexual roulette. Drawing on a study of 357 men at a venereal diseases clinic in Nairobi, Microbiologist William Cameron reported that uncircumcised men are  $9\frac{1}{2}$  times as likely as circumcised males to become infected after exposure. According to Cameron, "The mucosal membrane underneath the foreskin may trap the virus, making it more likely to enter the blood-stream."

Cameron and others at the conference also reported that men with genital ulcers, caused by such infections as herpes simplex 2, syphilis or chancroid, were three times as vulnerable to the AIDS virus as those who were lesion free. "An ulcer breaks the integrity of the skin and allows infected blood to come into contact with a sexual partner", says Cameron. Thus, he adds, controlling treatable diseases like herpes and educating uncircumcised men about the risk could make a slight dent in the so far incurable scourge.

[Many tribal groups in Kenya, notably the Kikuyu, Masai, Kalenjin, and most who live along the coast, customarily circumcise and are contemptuous of the uncircumcised Luo and other tribes who live mainly around Lake Victoria. In the post-colonial era some tribal lines of division have been blurred by travel and commerce, but the distinction between circumcised and uncircumcised remains, even if the traditional initiation ceremonies have increasingly given way to a less painful hospital operation. – T.A.]



## **Advertisements**

Cavaliers of the world unite. Please contact *P.B. – London NW11*

*Brian – West Country*, is considering a further cut and wishes to correspond with anyone circumcised as an adult, especially anyone who lost their frenulum either at the time of their first circumcision or subsequently.

Slim 50-year-old guy, non-smoker, wishes to add to his circle of Acorn-orientated friends, both cavaliers and roundheads. We meet regularly in Central Scotland and our interests include d.i.y., watersports, videos and photography. *G.P. – Perth*



# **ACORN**

**1990 Issue No 5**  
(Formerly Issue W)

**Editor**  
**Tony Acorn**

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**Membership, Fees, Advice, Personal Matters,  
Newsletter Contributions, Letters for Forwarding**

To:- ACORN

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## **Editorial**

Communications to the Editor, Tony Acorn, should be sent to the address on page 1. Letters to other *Acorn* members will also be forwarded if sent in this way.

Help: Can anyone help, please, with the distribution of *Acorn*, particularly with some or all of the following tasks: photocopying (please indicate price per sheet); filling, sticking, addressing, stamping and posting envelopes. About 100 copies of each issue go out, and these tasks take about 5 person-hours. Please write to the Editor with details if you can assist.

T.A.

## **The Dorsal Slit**

Shortly before he died, my father was talking about his life and mine, the similarities and differences, the good times and the not so good. At one point he asked me whether I had any regrets about the way I had been brought up. "Only one," I replied, "being circumcised." I went on to ask why it had been done, for there was no mention of it in my medical records, but he had no recollection of the circumstances. He confirmed one thing to me, however, that it was probably he who had done it, and that would be why it had not been recorded.

He had been the single G.P. in a small remote country practice. For reasons of medical ethics, he and his immediate family were all registered with the G.P. in the neighbouring practice. To visit that doctor meant a round trip of nearly thirty miles at a time when petrol rationing after the war was still in force. For reasons of practicality and convenience, therefore, all our medical treatment was actually done by my father.

I only once questioned my mother about it: she, in her inimitable way, firmly changed the subject; it is not, in her opinion, proper to talk of such things. From conversations overheard during my youth between her and other women, it was apparent that she considered that all boys just had to be circumcised; anything else was unthinkable. The fact that I remained intact as long as I did, then, was probably the result of one of the many disagreements my parents continually lived with. These disagreements covered many subjects but always took the same form: both were strong-willed and stubborn people and would never back down; each would argue his or her case, sometimes very heatedly, over several days, neither giving an inch; they would then 'agree to differ', and so the disagreement remained, never mentioned and totally unresolved, but ever present, sometimes for years.

I think I must have been about eleven months old when I was finally 'done', although the only recollection I have is a vague and misty one, and not in the least terrifying, of a shiny oval ring backed with ether-soaked lint

being pressed over my face. I suspect my mother of all too vigorous attempts at hygiene beneath my foreskin, inevitably resulting in the infection and swelling known as phimosis; perhaps it was her unconscious reaction to the unresolved confrontation. The result would have been allowed to reach the point where surgical intervention became essential, ('I told you so'), and my father would have been obliged, despite his views, to perform the operation.

In such a case it is normal practice to perform an emergency 'dorsal slit' operation to allow the infection to heal and the swelling to die down, and later to perform a 'revision' operation to leave a tidy and comfortable result. In my case, the complication of the unresolved and unspoken battle between my parents ensured that the second operation never actually occurred. I do not, of course, know how much, if anything, of this is true, I can only surmise from vague recollections of half understood overheard conversations and my knowledge of the characters of the people involved.

I ought to explain some of the terms I have used. The 'dorsal slit' operation consists of a single longitudinal slit of the foreskin performed by placing one blade of a pair of scissors under the upper side of the foreskin and sliding it part-way towards the glans-rim, then closing the scissors. The foreskin parts like the two sides of the petal of an arum lily, and heals in this position.

Phimosis is a condition where an infection under the foreskin has caused a swelling; the swelling causes a restriction in blood-flow in the foreskin; the restriction in blood-flow causes more swelling and impedes the ability of the immune system to clear up the infection. Once started, the condition is thus self-perpetuating. The normal procedure in a case of phimosis is to cut only just far enough down to sever the constriction which is causing the problem.

#### § § § §

The incomplete state of my operation was not a particular problem before puberty except in one small way. The dormitory of the boarding school which I attended at the age of eight divided itself into 'roundheads' and 'cavaliers'. There were fifteen in the dormitory: seven 'roundheads', seven 'cavaliers', and me. I fitted neither category, and was initially sought by each to make their number prevail over the other in the inevitable battles. I unwisely sought peace in a claim of neutrality, a stance which antagonised both factions and left me friendless. The resulting ostracisation was as inevitable as it was degrading.

Once puberty had passed, however, it became obvious that something was seriously amiss. A mistake must have been made during the operation, for the scar-line left by the action of the scissors went all the way down to the glans-rim and included a millimetre or so of the corona of the glans. I had been unaware of this before puberty, for the severed skin had still covered the majority of the still tiny and relatively insensitive glans most of the time, and I had experienced no especial discomfort. With puberty, however, things now became very different, for the glans grows of its own accord, but the foreskin grows mainly as a result of stretching by the glans. The much increased size

of the glans had forced the remaining, now too small, foreskin downwards towards the under-side, where it remained even when the penis was fully flaccid, (not often, then), leaving the upper side permanently naked. The upper side of the glans was, thus, always in contact with my clothing, and I found that it was terribly sensitive in one particular spot, and the slightest rubbing against underwear caused torment. Later, I had an injury on my hand which damaged a nerve, and I immediately recognised the resulting hypersensitivity as being identical to the sensation that I experience from my glans.

I once used a pen to plot out the affected area. There is a lop-sided tear-drop shaped area which is totally numb; the point of the tear-drop is on the glans-rim where the scar cuts into it, and the bulk of it is to the left of centre, reaching about half-way to the tip. To the right is an uneven-shaped area which covers a little more of the glans-rim and extends further up towards the tip; this area is very sensitive indeed. Most of the surface of my glans is quite sensitive, just like everybody else; this bit is more so by perhaps twenty times. Contact with clothing causes discomfort. Occasional friction produces an incredibly uncomfortable continuous prickling crawling sensation. But if I am moving about in loose clothing, the continuous friction makes it seem as if my penis is on fire. I cannot use boxer shorts; I must choose underwear which allows no room for relative movement.

But the worst problem was sex, for the scissor-cut extended so far down that whenever I had an erection, the skin on the upper surface became quite taut, applying severe tension concentrated on the point where the scar cut into the glans-rim, the hypersensitive place. Remember that the under skin is quite loose, so the tension is all applied in this single spot. I never had a wet dream, the pain caused by the tension of erection would always wake me up first. Self masturbation was not too bad, for I would draw the skin forward as far as it would go to reduce the tension to a comfortable level, then rub the under-skin. But if I allowed a girl-friend to play with it, there was no way she could avoid hurting me. You have no idea how unromantic and off putting it is if you have to keep saying: "Ouch! Not that way, it hurts! Do it like this."

Intercourse carries its own special problems. The hypersensitivity is just tolerable in a well lubricated vagina, but any dryness is a total put-off. Full penetration inevitably causes the skin at the base of the penis to be drawn down, increasing the tension on the scar, and causing intense pain. I soon learnt to hold back, and not let my penis go in all the way so as to avoid the pain, but, at the critical moment, I would always lose control and push right in, causing every climax to be accompanied by a sharp stab of intense pain. Holding back from full penetration was frustrating for my partner also, for it meant that her clitoris did not get all the attention it craved, and she was often left unsatisfied.

But worse than any of these things is a little tiny presence, an undefinable nerve sensation, a cold pressure which registers deep in the base of the brain. Sometimes it is closer, sometimes further away, but always just hovering

around the threshold of awareness. This constant presence never allows me to forget my damaged penis. It may be psychological, it may be a genuine physical phenomenon, but the effect of its constant presence throughout my waking hours is far far more than an annoyance, it is an indescribably subtle torture.

For me, then, orgasm and pain have become inseparable; this has resulted in some considerable psychological consequences. In particular, I have a profound fascination (obsession perhaps?), with the relationship between pain and pleasure, with sadomasochism, and also with sexual deprivation and enforced frustration. These things are so deeply ingrained in my soul now that I will never be without them, no matter what else happens. It has also led to an interest in, (and a profound sympathy with), the victims of ethnic female circumcision, as practised in parts of Africa, for I feel that their problems and experiences must be very similar to mine in many ways. I feel certain that they suffer the same problems of pain accompanying the sex act, of hypersensitivity and discomfort from clothing and that same nagging ever present coldness deep in the brain.

Having my complete foreskin present, despite its mutilated condition, meant that the possibility of reversal existed. Because of what had happened in my infancy, I have a profound mistrust in the medical profession, so it was D.I.Y. or nothing; I decided to try to work towards this end.

Testing carefully showed that my foreskin was not large enough to meet round the erect glans, it had not grown with the glans, but I had heard that the skin could be stretched. I used Micropore tape to hold the severed sides together for days and weeks at a time, removing it only for daily hygiene and sex, then replacing it again immediately afterwards. The skin does stretch; it could soon meet round the erect glans for at least half the length of the scar.

Meanwhile I had been reading all I could on the subject of circumcision reversal and on the anatomy of that area. I acquired some instruments, antiseptic lotion and anaesthetic spray, (Waspeeze). It took months to pluck up my courage, but eventually the great day arrived. I bathed in weak Dettol and washed down everything in sight in the bathroom with the nauseous stuff. I sprayed the area with Waspeeze; this was horrible because, although it is alright on normal skin, it burns terribly at first on the mucus membranes, and then everything goes numb a minute or two later. I sprayed on more Waspeeze and rubbed it well in.

The longitudinal line of the original dorsal slit became transverse under the normal tension of the skin and had healed to lie across my penis just behind the glans. The line I chose to cut along was parallel to and about 1mm away from this original scar, proximally (i.e. on the side towards my body, not on the glans side). I cut along about half of the length of the scar, working from

the centre outwards, first to one side then to the other. The elastic membrane within was the most difficult part, being slippery and tough.

Perhaps I should explain that under the skin of the penis, between it and the shaft, are two layers of slippery elastic membrane, called fascia, like the cartilage in the joints, with a very slippery clear fluid between them. It is this which allows the friction-free motion of the foreskin. It is the lack of this membrane which causes any circumcision reversals which involve skin-grafts from elsewhere to fail. The only way to sever this membrane, I found, was to pick up a pinch of it with forceps, pass a needle through it, then to run a scalpel-blade firmly down the shaft of the needle; it is very tough indeed and very slippery. Having cut the skin apart, using monofilament nylon thread I sutured it together again the way it had originally been, thirty-five years before. Instead of a transverse scar line, I now had a short longitudinal one again, and a glans partly covered with foreskin.

Healing was slow and rather traumatic. One problem was frequent erections which threatened to open the stitches despite my preparatory stretching. Another was the tendency for the healing cut-lines on the inner and outer surfaces to adhere to each other. To prevent the adhesion problem, I had to pull the skin to and fro frequently, which tended to precipitate the erection problem. Eventually, when the healing had become reasonably stable, the stitches were removed. Four weeks after the operation, sex was resumed, very gingerly at first. It was not totally pain-free, because the scar was still tender, but the awful stabbing pain of tension onto the hypersensitive area of the glans was missing. It was a profound relief, but at first, such is the contrariness of the mind, I missed it; orgasm just did not seem complete without it!

With time, the skin, which was initially tight, has stretched further. If I pull it forward, it continues to cover the glans by about 60-70% when the penis is flaccid. When it is erect, the skin rolls back, staying back until I pull it forward again. I would very much like to complete the reversal, and have as nearly as possible a full foreskin. I would certainly like to get to the point where it rolls forward of its own accord after an erection subsides. The difficulties of achieving this, however, are not inconsiderable. I wonder if I will ever pluck up the necessary courage?

*J.G. McCulloch*

[Thanks, John, for your interesting and informative account. – T.A.]



## **Tight Foreskin Relieved**

Dear Tony: I was very grateful for the exceptionally fullsome article of John McC's on infibulation in Issue 7/89. I think that if I had had a slave in ancient times I would have fastened the ring or rings of the foreskin to some similar ring in part of the belly-button, thereby keeping the cock nicely upright and ensuring clear exposure of the balls.

I have written earlier regarding my once so very tight foreskin and how by perseverance and daily exercise in the last year or two I have loosened it to a point at which the foreskin will retract right back to base at body with no problem or discomfort and looks as though I am completely circumcised. Now, with my shaft and glans bared and delightfully sensitive I can enjoy the most fantastic masturbation with long distant ejaculation. With the skin turned under behind the glans rim it will stay permanently retracted, and I keep the glans fully uncovered at all times. I now seem to have the best of both worlds of cavalier and roundhead.

I have removed much of the hair around the base of my cock and the ball sack. I have done this using cream hair remover (which can sting), by shaving, or, best of all, by plucking the hairs – a very erotic sensation. As a result the cock and balls look larger and the ball sack has the feel of soft silk.

I am still very keen to correspond with any member on the subject of piercings and decorations although it is rumoured that the police have brought charges of aiding and abetting actual bodily harm to oneself. I have no wish to be involved in any form of illegal practice. Can you clarify this situation? For example, I hear that 'Scimitar' is closing down.

*Yours sincerely, D.N. – Deal*

## **'Aiding And Abetting Grievous Bodily Harm On Himself'**

Thanks for your interesting letter D.N., and congratulations on the improvements you have been able to make. Regarding your final question, I think you are referring to the report (*Independent*, 19.9.1990) that Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications Branch had brought charges against 16 men after a two-year 'Operation Spanner' investigation. It is not clear that the 16 were acting together or were connected with each other, and there was a diverse range of charges, including 'running a disorderly house' and 'distribution of indecent material'. But what was legally interesting was the inclusion of charges of 'aiding and abetting grievous (or in another case 'actual') bodily harm on himself', 'aiding and abetting an assault', 'conspiracy to commit assaults', plus 'actual bodily harm' and 'grievous bodily harm'.

In English law consent is normally a defence against a charge of assault (for example, a rugby tackle is not an assault on the playing field but is on the street). So charges of assault against oneself are rare, but can be brought

under the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act, usually if injuries were allegedly inflicted for a false insurance claim. It is well known, for example, that 'conspiracy' can be a way of widening the scope of the law to catch statements or publications describing an act which would not itself be illegal, or impose penalties for 'conspiring' more extensive than those for the performance of the act contemplated. So far as is known, the cases have not yet been brought to trial, and it is therefore not possible to say how many or which of these accusations have been substantiated, or whether the courts have accepted that such charges can be brought. All a bit legalistic perhaps, but the implications for the piercing scene are alarming and uncertain, at least until the charges are upheld or rejected.

T.A.

## **Lubrication**

Dear Tony: Thanks for issue 3/90, which, as ever, is very interesting. In response to R.W. – Sussex, and to the article on auto-lubrication, I have found while observing myself masturbating that I have been able to produce three degrees of lubrication following the prolonged titillation which you mention. The first is a clear, somewhat sticky liquid. When feelings of orgasm start just a few drops of a thin pale blue liquid appear, about the colour and consistency of the dregs of milk in the bottom of a milk bottle. I imagine that this pale blue fluid is likely to neutralise any acid, as it tastes distinctly alkaline and almost immediately precedes the semen. Further stimulation produces orgasm and the normal creamy ejaculate. But unless the stimulation is prolonged, the amount of initial lubrication is insufficient to wet the knob. In my prime I could never rely on it solely to complete the exercise as it dried out in a few rubs.

The production of all emissions declines slowly with age, in my case, although a 'normal' ejaculate is usual provided the resources are not called on too frequently, say twice in 48 hours and then abstinence for about a fortnight. Prolonged stimulation, mental and/or physical, still produces the clear fluid in excess of that produced by a straight rub up. I agree with the old theologian's observation that a mental content is usually necessary. I am circumcised, so observation is accurate and easy. Incidentally, I find that the sulcus behind the glans rim produces some moistness. If confined by an uncut foreskin this would presumably add to the general lubrication of the glans.

I find a little soy edible oil is excellent for prolonged stimulation. It is clean, long-lasting and is easily cleaned up afterwards. Being edible it is harmless, nor is it absorbed.

*Sincerely, Henry – Colchester*

## Seen In The Sauna

Dear Tony: Although I am still a cavalier, the subject of circumcision has always fascinated me. I have read everything I could find on the subject and considered myself fairly knowledgeable. But when I purchased *Circumcision: an Ethnomedical Study* I found the answers to many things that had mystified me, or found that I had jumped to totally wrong pre-conceived conclusions. It was the best value I had ever had for £20.

Other *Acorn* members may be interested in an incident which occurred some 20 years ago. Two men arranged to meet for the first time in our local sauna, where they sat on an upper bench which gave everyone a good view. Initially their conversation was polite and covered general topics. One kept staring at the other's circumcised penis, and then remarked: "I just can't get over it. It is so beautiful." This remark was openly addressed in a loud voice with a sweeping glance around which virtually invited everyone to have a good look and see if they agreed. But there was not a flicker of reaction to what was doubtless considered an offensive remark in a straight sauna. But what was he saying? His friend's penis was truly a work of surgical art, and it was a mirror image of his own. Although very different in build, their genitals were so alike and so unusual that in this respect they could have been twins. I have never seen anything so beautiful, either before or since, and the image remains very vivid in my memory.

They were also unusual in wanting people to stare. Does any adult male who has only recently been circumcised feel that all eyes are on his penis when he first goes nude in public? Have other readers felt exhibitionist urges just after surgery? The two glamour boys I speak of certainly did, and must have been disappointed when no-one showed the slightest overt interest. Most of us almost accept that a permanently exposed head is natural and forget that any surgery was involved.

But in the hot room I later observed just why they were so unusual. On the upper side of the shaft the skin was tight as a drum: very erotic. But the underside had received the brunt of the surgeon's knife, although there was not the hint of a scar to prove it: neither of them had a frenulum. Where others have a thin membrane of loose skin attached to the apex of the cleavage, these two had a deep clean tight cleavage. It was so deep that I am convinced that they had been cut right through to open the urethra, perhaps to where a Prince Albert ring had been. There was no visible circumcision scar, and they must have been cut close in under the head, with the original shaft skin tailored and stitched to fit. They looked so clean and so natural that it was impossible to imagine that they had not been born like that. In both cases the head was a very different skin colour from the shaft. This was accentuated, since it looked as though they had rubbed on oil or moisturising cream, which made the head look shiny and the skin tissue thin and almost transparent. By contrast, other circumcised men had tough weather-beaten heads of similar

colour and texture to the shaft, which made me think that the two men who were attracting my attention had been circumcised recently.

That was not all. Their scrotums, even in the heat of the sauna, seemed unnaturally tight and held their testicles proud and high. The testicles were over-generously large, but the scrotum had not developed enough to accommodate them. Huge adult testicles were bursting to escape from a pre-adolescent tight scrotum. Even loose trousers would not have concealed their bulging crutchiness. Although totally nude they looked as though they were wearing invisible scrotal supports. They were in their prime when I saw them, but such perfection would last a lifetime.

*L.J. – Glasgow*

## **BUFF**

Dear *Acorn*: Through your columns, may I commend the services of BUFF [a US organisation which was concerned with foreskin stretching; the initials stood for Brothers United for Future Foreskins and it was active in the 1970s, but I have not heard of it recently. – T.A.] to those of your more intense readers who get their jollies from contemplating the act rather than the condition of circumcision.

As you know, BUFF exists to restore a rough approximation of the foreskin to a circumcised penis through an uncomfortable and long-winded stretching procedure using surgical tape.

Just think, your lucky lads will be able, after savouring a year or two of acute discomfort, to reconstruct their loathsome foreskins, and then – can any greater joy exist? – they can hack the damned thing off again!

*R.B.W. – Bedford*

PS. You know, Tony, I almost think some of your headbangers will take this letter seriously – if you have the bottle to print it!

[So, what editor could refuse a challenge like that? – T.A.]

## **More Wanted On Experience Before And After Circumcision**

Dear Tony: I salute the magnificent work you have done with *Acorn*, but I've been a little disappointed with the content this year. For me there are too many long-winded accounts of how the writer was circumcised, and not enough variety of opinion and comparison of pros and cons, such as a questionnaire to the circumcised, probing the ways they think they have benefited or not. It would be particularly interesting to have the views of those done as adults and thus able to make a good comparison. There must be many men who

have toyed with the idea of circumcision, as I have, but who would not want to sacrifice the foreskin for an inferior situation.

*Yours sincerely, M.L. – Gwent*

## **Long Articles**

Dear Tony: Just a quick letter this time. I am most impressed with the recent newsletters, first 'The Circumcision Master' and then 'A Trip to Ankara'. The Ankaran adventure is a definite high spot and an even bigger turn-on! It sounds very realistic and I hope it is true! I notice that he says he will think about the sunnet, but he is so intrigued that he is back at the barber's the next day. I'm sure that is how I would have been: tremendously excited and not able to stay away! What a joy it would have been, too, to see the twins receive their birthday presents.

*Thanks, M.H. – Ilford*

## **In Praise Of The Foreskin**

Dear Tony: I cannot understand the preference of most of your readers for the circumcised penis. I and many of my friends, male and female, find it boring and too standardised. One is just like another, and they all might well be made of plastic.

The only reason for circumcision which may still be valid is cleanliness, but most of us wash the penis at least once a day (or don't we?) [Probably only very few men wash it more than twice a week, and fewer still pull back the foreskin to wash under it. – T.A.]

It never gets dry, though there doesn't have to be the slime which some people mention, and it can ejaculate with the skin either up or down. There are also vastly more ways of wanking with a foreskin than with a roundhead.

My own foreskin will still cover the glans 100% when stiff if I want, and I can roll it up and back at will. I'm told that it looks elegant, and that for fellatio it is interesting and far superior.

The uncircumcised penis has so many moods and shapes which the roundhead can't touch: crumpled like a bud when cold, soft when flaccid, at its most beautiful when half erect (in my view), and superb when fully up.

I could go on and on; but if anyone is interested, would they please get in touch with:

*P.B. – London NW*

## **For Sale**

From the Editor. Prices include postage and secure packing.

By Rites a Man

A summary of the long chapter in Robert Daniels' PhD study of initiation of adolescent males among the Kipsigis of Kenya, including his description of the two-stage circumcision as one of the main ordeals. 25 page typescript. £3

Keyo Initiation

F.B. Welbourn's article in the *Journal of Religion in Africa* which mainly comprises D.K. Kiprono's first hand account of his circumcision and other ordeals when he was initiated as a schoolboy in 1958. 10 pages. £1.50

The Dangerous Journey

A 17 page summary of Andre Droogers' description and analysis of boys' initiation among the Wagenia of Kisangani, Zaire. Every seven years or so boys and young men are circumcised in groups in a three-stage operation beside the Zaire (formerly Congo) river in celebrations which last almost five months and involve the whole tribal group. 17 page typescript. £2.20

Circumcision: an ethnomedical study

200 pages covering origins, motives, methods, evolution of special instruments, traditional and tribal ceremonies, case histories. Illustrated. £20

## **Masturbation Survey**

The Danish magazine *Press*, in its May 1990 number, wrote of masturbation as 'the last taboo' and asked readers to complete a questionnaire. Many of the questions raised may be of interest to *Acorn* readers, so we are carrying a similar questionnaire and look forward to receiving some interesting replies or correspondence from readers on this theme.

Your age.

When did you first masturbate? Under 10/10-15/15-20/over 20.

How often do you masturbate? Several times daily/Daily/ Twice per week/ Several times per month/Once a month/Less often.

When you have a steady partner, do you masturbate More/Less/As often?

Do you masturbate more at some times than at others? Yes/No.

If yes, in what circumstances?

When you masturbate, for how long do you do it? <5 minutes/5-15 minutes/15-30 minutes/30-60 minutes/longer.

When you masturbate, do you have an orgasm? Always/usually/sometimes/never.

If you reach orgasm, how many orgasms do you have? Once/Twice/Three times/More.

Where do you masturbate? In bed/In the bathroom/In the toilet/On a chair/On the floor/Outside/Elsewhere?

When do you feel like masturbating, and what gives you the feeling?

What excites you when you masturbate? Fantasies or day dreams/Photos or magazines/Drawings/Written descriptions/Something else – what?

Try to describe the fantasies or day-dreams/photos or magazines/drawings/written descriptions which excite you most.

Do you hide your drawings/pictures/descriptions? Yes/No.

Do you watch pornographic films/videos? Yes/No.

If so, how frequently? Frequently/sometimes/occasionally.

What fantasies do you have? Previous experiences relived/sex with the other sex/sex with the same sex/group sex/sadomasochism/violent sex/anal sex/oral sex/other.

Describe, if you can, an especially exciting fantasy.

If you have a lover, do you think of him/her when you masturbate? Always/Usually/Sometimes/Never.

What do you use to masturbate with? Hands/bedding/shower/vibrator/lubricants/other.

Which part(s) of your penis do you find the most sensitive to stimulation?

If a cavalier, what use do you make of your foreskin when masturbating?

When masturbating, do you stimulate other areas than you penis?

If so, which: balls/anus/stomach/nipples/face/other.

Are you naked when you masturbate? Yes/No/Sometimes.

If not, do you dress in a special way, and if so, how?

Do you masturbate with other people? Yes/No.

If so, who with? Lover/Friend(s) of own sex/Friend of opposite sex.

Do you think of masturbation as a substitute for sex? Yes/No.

How does a masturbating orgasm compare with an orgasm in intercourse? Better/Same/Worse/Different – how?

How do you feel when you have masturbated? Relaxed/Energetic/Happy/  
Pleased/Tired/Depressed/Ashamed/How else?

What do you do with your ejaculate (semen)?

Have you talked about masturbation with your lover? Yes/No.

If you have, what did you talk about?

If not, why not?

Have you talked about masturbation with other people? Yes/No.

If you have, who with? Parents/Friend(s) of own/opposite sex/Others  
– who?

If you have, what did you talk about?

If you have not, why not?

Describe how you like best to masturbate.







# **ACORN**

**1990 Issue No 6**  
(Formerly Issue X)

**Editor**  
**Tony Acorn**

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**Membership, Fees, Advice, Personal Matters,  
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## **Editorial**

This is Issue 6/90, once again full of correspondence and news of priapic and phallic interest, including plenty to delight foreskin fans and circumcision enthusiasts. Many thanks to all our contributors, and please keep your offers flowing in. But please ensure that your name and full postal address are included with contributions. If you do not wish to receive correspondence, that wish will be respected. But we have had a string of rather similar letters from the Hertfordshire area written over pseudonyms, which have stayed fairly low in priority for inclusion because there is no address for replies and there is a boring similarity in their opposition to circumcision.

Thanks for offers to help with distribution. A new system comes into operation with this issue. We have done our best to ensure that all goes smoothly and that your copy of *Acorn* reaches you without difficulty. But please let your Editor know if any problem arises.

T.A.

## **Four Skin**

At secondary school Philip enjoyed most subjects except physical training. He didn't mind the exercise: aboard a boat he revelled in it almost to the point of exhaustion, so that wasn't the problem. It was the compulsory shower afterwards that he feared, right from the start.

As an only child, Philip was completely unused to being naked in front of other children, even other boys. Until secondary school there had not been much of a problem. Even then, it was only after he slipped on some soap in the shower that he kept on his glasses, and for the first time could see the other boys as other than a blur. He found it a daunting experience. Blushingly self-conscious, he tried to hide himself with a towel, but this just put off the inevitable. In the shower he no longer escaped the prying eyes. Within that steamy atmosphere he also discovered that he was unlike all the other boys except his friend David. Among all the slippery boys' bodies wriggling in and out of the sprinkling water, his cock looked different. The others seemed assured in their collective likeness, assured enough to make sniggering remarks to Philip. One asked, "Are you Jewish?". It was an unexpected question, and he did not know how to reply.

From then on Philip, like David, picked a secluded corner of the changing room; but they still had to run the gauntlet of whispers and stares on the way to and from the shower. Now that everyone knew, there was no point in trying to hide his cock with a towel. He hated feeling more exposed than anyone else, hated those other slithering bodies and the shame they made him feel, and most of all hated not knowing what had been done or why.

"I never thought there would be anything else", he confided in David, "but

they always find something to embarrass you. I just didn't know anything was missing."

"That's bad, not knowing. I'm Jewish, so it's talked about at home. It's a small thing done to a baby, required by our law, a token of acceptance, like your Christening. Don't let the others get you down. They don't know any better."

In the dining room they all quickly cleared their plates of meat pie, peas and chips. It was the sweet that ended on a sour note for Philip. A bowl of prunes was put in front of each of them, with a jug of custard in front of the monitor. The custard was thick and lumpy, with a heavy skin on top. The monitor's job was to share round the custard. At Philip's table the monitor was Christopher Brown. He really hated Philip and took every opportunity to insult him. Sharing out the custard gave him another chance. Walking round the table, he counted each ladled delivery – "One skin", to Julie Grant. "Two skin", for himself. "Three skin", for David Levene. Pausing at Philip's plate, he smirked and tilted the ladle, with the inevitable "Four skin", called out louder than before; quite loud enough for everyone to hear, including the girls. Philip coloured with embarrassment. "What's the matter?", Christopher Brown said with a leer. "I thought you could do with some."

Philip told his father how he felt hated at school: in class, in the shower, in the dining room. The others made him feel friendless, ashamed, and isolated. He related the custard incident, adding: "Why couldn't you have told me about my operation? I just didn't know. I found that I was unlike anyone except David."

"Son", said Bill, "I wanted to. But when I was going to, in the end I didn't because I didn't want to reopen family differences. I just hoped the Bible would explain it to you."

"The Bible?" asked Philip. "What's that got to do with it?"

Bill reached to the bookcase in the dayroom part of the wheelhouse, took out the seldom-used Bible, turned over the first few pages, and handed it to his son. "It's here in the Moses story", said Bill, "Well after the bulrushes bit, and his marriage to Ziporah." "Crikey Moses", quipped Philip.

"Here, son, Exodus, chapter four, verses 25 and 26. You'll see what it's all about there." Philip read the small print slowly: "During the journey, while they were camped for the night, the Lord met Moses, meaning to kill him, but Ziporah picked up a sharp flint, cut off her son's foreskin and touched him with it, saying, 'You are my blood bridegroom.' So the Lord let Moses alone. Then she said, 'Blood-bridegroom by circumcision.'" Philip passed the heavy book back to his father. "But that was done by a woman with a flint, and to her own son. How awful."

"At least you were luckier", said Bill, glad that he had thought of using

the Bible story when his son broached the topic. “They don’t use flints in the National Health Service. It was something that had to be done. The Jews think of it as a covenant, a contract with God. That goes back to Abraham the founder of the Jewish race. It’s in Genesis 17. Let me see if I can find it. Here: “God said to Abraham, ‘For your part, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you, generation by generation. This is how you shall keep my covenant between myself and you and your descendants after you: circumcise yourselves, every male among you. You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between us. Every male among you, in every generation, shall be circumcised on the eighth day, both those born in your house and any foreigner not of your blood but bought with your money. Circumcise both those born in your house and those bought with your money; thus shall my covenant be marked in your flesh as an everlasting covenant. Every uncircumcised male, everyone who has not had the flesh of his foreskin circumcised, shall be cut off from the kin of his father. He has broken my covenant.’ ... Then Abraham took Ishmael his son, everyone who had been born in his household and everyone bought with money, every male in his household, and he circumcised them that very same day in the flesh of their foreskins as God had told him to do. Abraham was ninety nine years old when he circumcised the flesh of his foreskin. Ishmael was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. Both Abraham and Ishmael were circumcised on the same day, and all the men of his household, born in the house or bought with money from foreigners, were circumcised with him.”

“I remember you being well and truly stitched up, and the family doctor telling your mother and I what a neat job it was. As you know, we are not Jewish, but your mother believes very strongly in doing what it says in the Bible, and she said that the command couldn’t be clearer, and that God’s covenant with Abraham ought to cover you too. There was no arguing with her. At least you now know that David is like you, and you are only different from the others because of a little operation, so don’t let it worry you.”

*Anthony – North Devon*

## **Revisions**

Dear Tony: Like your correspondent T.J. (issue 3/90), I was not circumcised as a lad, and by the age of eight was fascinated with the differences I saw around me in the changing rooms. About half my London prep-school mates were circumcised and I envied them their dry smell-free knobs. I tried all sorts of ways to keep my rather short foreskin behind my knob, but to no avail, until I started to go out with my second girl-friend (to whom I am still happily married, 27 years later). I kept on having such massive erections while kissing and cuddling that my foreskin gave up the battle and stayed back thereafter! About five years after we were married I had a vasectomy under

local anaesthetic, and that must have reawakened my desire to have myself circumcised: about two years after the vasectomy I experimented with small cuts to the foreskin, with and without stitching, to see how painful it might be and how quickly it would heal. At the same time I read in all the three local medical libraries to see what was said about circumcision techniques. The reading convinced me that some version of the cuff resection method would give the most accurate result, but it scared me with stories of the frenal artery. So in my first attempt, slowly and painfully, with sharp scissors, I removed a crescent of foreskin about 35 mm thick on the topside, narrowing to zero at the frenulum, and leaving about 15 mm of inner foreskin on the top. I stitched with nylon sutures and, apart from a haematoma (bruise and swelling caused by bleeding below the skin) on the right, healed rapidly enough to have intercourse two weeks later.

As will be obvious to readers, I left myself with a sag on the underside and about 10 mm of inner foreskin on the topside beyond the natural fold that is found in all uncircumcised, about 5 mm from the glans. When erect the topside was reasonably tight, but when flaccid and particularly when sitting, the topside folded forward to a concertina behind the glans rim. My wife, who did not know what I had done, did not notice any difference from the previously permanently retracted foreskin, but I found intercourse more pleasurable as my foreskin did not form a ramp behind my glans on the outstroke. Masturbation was more difficult than before.

In the next year or two I realized how to mark up my penis for a more accurate job. I also realized that for those of us uncircumcised in infancy the tendency of the remaining inner foreskin to fold forward into the coronal sulcus or over the glans was uncorrectable. To have enough shaft skin to cover 100 mm of erect shaft must mean folds 30–50 mm long in the flaccid, sitting state. The first place that folding occurs in those not circumcised in infancy is the one immediately behind the glans. I also found that the cause of my haematoma was a small superficial artery that ran from the topside of my penis at its base in a half spiral toward the very tip of the frenulum, so I began to suspect that either my frenal artery was misplaced, or that it was part of medical lore rather than anatomical fact.

When the next operative opportunity presented itself, just over three years after the first, I marked a line about 10 mm from and parallel to the glans on my inner foreskin, and with my penis erect pulled the remaining skin to a comfortable tension and drew another line 10 mm from the glans. The two lines enclosed the first scar line and a band of inner and outer foreskin about 5 mm wide on the top and 30 mm wide at the frenulum. Without anaesthetic again, but with a tourniquet, cutting was less bloody, and less painful except at the frenulum, than the first time. Healing was rapid and uneventful except for a haematoma again on the right. The scar line disappeared within a couple of years, but the remaining inner foreskin remained pinker and paler than the outer foreskin. There was a small bulge on the underside when flaccid but

when erect the whole shaft was uniformly tensioned, vindicating the accuracy of the marking out.

However, matters did not rest there, as subsequent fruitless attempts with a vacuum penis enlarger only succeeded in stretching the remaining inner foreskin to 15 mm from the glans and resulted in a foreskin collar rolling over the back of my glans for the first time for 18 years. So two years later I marked a line along the natural fold line 5 mm from the back of the glans and a parallel one behind the scar line, measured to give drum-tight tension when erect. The skin on the fold was much thicker and more sensitive than any I had cut before, so I can see why conventional circumcisions do not get as close to the glans as that. Healing was as rapid as usual (stitches out after four days) and this time I photographed the process in colour. The result was drum-tight as planned, but now, six years later, I notice the inner foreskin has stretched a couple of millimetres.

So as a result of these experiences, I must conclude that those circumcised late in life (after puberty, if not older than 2 or 3 years old) will run the risk of their remaining inner foreskin rolling over the glans in the flaccid state unless it is made as short as possible, preferably less than 10 mm from the glans. I would be interested in others' observations on this dividing characteristic between those circumcised in infancy and those done as adults.

*P.D. – Dublin*

## **The Roman God Priapus**

Dear Sir: Congratulations on filling an information gap on a subject which loads of people are interested in but few will admit to. I recently found a book of Roman erotica, the pictures in which make it very clear that not only was circumcision unknown to the Romans, but also that they took a delight in excessive foreskin development.

It would appear that they found the sight of the bare glans a definite turn-off, since they portray time and again exceptionally long foreskins, even when the phallus is erect, when you'd expect the foreskin to slide back to some extent. The most impressive is a wall painting of the god Priapus sporting an enormous cylindrical cock with a swollen knob: this bulges out a narrow foreskin which hangs below his knees. He is weighing this fearsome weapon on a balance. There is another statue of the same god with a huge hard on, and once again he has a long hose of foreskin swinging on the end.

Another picture depicts a bronze of a young lad with a dirty grin on his face looking down at his powerful erection, which resembles a plump pork sausage pressed against his belly. Once again his knob is clearly defined through the long tight foreskin extending to a terminal bud. There are pictures of three other bronzes with large well-depicted penises, all equipped with unusually



long tassels of foreskin extending beyond their knobs. I read somewhere that the Romans used to cultivate their foreskins by stretching them, and that would explain the case of one of the bronzes where the foreskin is ridiculously long, once again hanging down to the knees.

This is of particular interest to me since my own foreskin is on the short side, barely covering the knob when flaccid and retreating all the way with the merest hint of a hard on. This is a disappointment to me and also to my girl friend, who declares that she dearly loves to peel back a tight foreskin from a powerful hard on. So I've been trying to stretch the old 'pullover' by threading it through a half inch rubber ring, in the manner of a serviette ring, and leaving it all day with a good couple of inches of loose skin hanging off the end. It looks a bit of a giggle, but it seems to work for about half an hour only after I remove the ring, before it shrinks to its normal position. Can anyone advise me on a way of lengthening it permanently? And can someone more learned than I tell us more about the Romans and their attitude to foreskins and circumcision?

*H.S. – Harrow*

[Thanks, H.S., for your letter. Can you tell us the name of the book where you saw these pictures, its author, and when it was published? Then we could share your interest. The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary tells us that Priapus was (1) the Greek and Roman god of procreation, and so of gardens, vineyards, etc. Hence (2) a statue or image of the god which was often placed in gardens to protect them from depredators or as a scarecrow (a usage dating from as late as 1632). (3) the word was used to mean a phallus or (1613) a drinking vessel of phallic shape. The derivative Priapism refers pathologically to a persistent erection of the penis; and also to mean licentiousness or intentional indecency, both literally and, from 1758, figuratively. The statuettes would obviously use a monstrous penis to make it clear what they were representing.

The Roman medical writer and physician Celsus gives a description of an operation to 'uncircumcise' a patient by trying to recreate a foreskin. It involved cutting round at the sulcus, pulling the skin forward to cover the glans, and bandaging it firmly in place until it healed in its new position. While this would provide a covering, of a sort, for the glans, it would not be retractable in the normal way. But presumably there was sufficient demand from patients to make it worth including in his text-book. They would probably be Jews or others from the eastern Roman provinces who wished to pass for Romans on the sports field or in the bath-house.

From 168 AD King Antiochus IV tried to impose Greek culture on the province of Judah. Observance of Jewish religious laws, including circumcision, was punished by death. While the number of applicants for Celsus' operation must have increased, so did Jewish resistance. From then on, a second stage was added to the Jewish operation: after the foreskin had been pulled forward

and cut off, the inner skin was torn down and turned back so that the glans would always remain fully exposed, a feature of the Jewish ritual procedure which is still retained.

To ensure that their foreskins remained in place, Romans used to infibulate the youths attending the public schools, as well as the actors, dancers, and choristers who were sold to the directors of plays and spectacles (i.e. circuses). Small statues still exist representing infibulated musicians, remarkable for the excessive size of the ring (through their foreskins) and the leanness of the persons to which they are attached. Remondino, in his 1891 *History of Circumcision* (p.59) tells us that 'the mode of applying this ring did not differ much from the usual method of preparing the ear for pendants.'

He goes on to tell us that 'Among the Greek monks, the infibulation serves a manifold purpose; it not only is a sure badge of chastity, but its weight and size is very often increased so as to render it an instrument of penitence, and considerable rivalry exists at times in this regard.' He also mentions that the Hindu 'fakir at times submits to infibulation at the same time as he takes his vows of chastity. This ring is at times enormous, being sometimes six inches in diameter, so that it is a burden. These saints are held in great esteem and veneration.' Presumably the skills of actors, dancers and chorister were thought to be helped by ensuring their inability to perform sexually, either in coitus or in masturbation. But wearing a heavy ring in a pierced foreskin would be one way of extending the foreskin. – T.A.]

## On Feeling The Odd One Out

Dear Tony: I had experiences in my childhood and youth much like R.B.W. of Bedford. He was perceived by his peers, and so by himself, as mutilated and deficient because he was circumcised. I experienced similar teasing and ridicule during my childhood here in the USA, but in my case it was because I was **not** circumcised. Therefore, in the perception of my peers, and in mine too, my cock was abnormal, dirty and stinky.

When I was five or six the older sister of a boy I often played with wanted to see my penis. She said that she would show me her 'pee hole' if I would show her my cock. I was reluctant, but her brother said he was not afraid, and showed her his penis. She fondled his circumcised penis, making it grow hard. I then showed her mine. She said, "Yours does not have any head on it." I pulled my foreskin back to show her that mine did indeed have a head. She was repelled by what she saw and smelled, and ran away without touching my penis or showing me her 'hole'. Her brother had told me about girls' genitals, and I really wanted to see her hole.

On a later occasion I was caught by a gang of older boys. Being bigger than me, they easily held me down. Then they pulled my pants and underpants down, and started making remarks about how ugly my penis was. There were girls in the gang, and they gathered round and looked too. I was very

embarrassed, especially when they fondled my penis and it got hard. They called my foreskin 'ugly baby fat', and pulled it back to expose my glans. This released an odour which they all made nasty remarks about.

The gang leader was rather a bully. He pulled back so hard on my foreskin that the end of my glans pointed at right angles to my shaft. This hurt. It hurt even more, however – almost more than I could stand – when he started rubbing my exposed glans. I started to cry, and one of the girls said "Let him go. We have seen enough of his cock – it's ugly and it stinks." One of the boys said, "Let's cut that baby fat off and make a man of him." Another said, "Naa, we don't want to get blood all over the place." They let me go, but made it very clear that if I told anyone what they had done, they would catch me and cut off my cock. As I ran away the bully leader yelled after me to go home and clean my stinking cock. After that, whenever he saw me he called me 'Stinky'. Other picked it up. How I hated the nickname, 'Stinky'.

Throughout my youth I tried never to let anyone see my cock. I avoided sports because of the shower room. When I became 21 I circumcised myself. Since then I have had a clean, odourless, attractive, larger than average cock that others could envy rather than disparage. No longer do I feel the odd one out.

W.H. – U.S.A.

## **Silly Cock-Ups**

A review by Miles Copeland of *The Imperfect Spies: the History of Israeli Intelligence* by Yossi Melman and Dan Raviv in the *Daily Telegraph* of 6.1.90 reports that some Mossad agents have undergone reverse circumcision to support their cover stories. The reader who sent in this cutting comments: I thought the Jewish operation was so effective that later 'rectification' was impossible. Evidently not!

## **Same-Day Surgery Could Cut Waiting Lists By One-Fifth**

Waiting lists for operations could be cut by up to one-fifth if more surgical patients were admitted and discharged on the same day, according to the Audit Commission. It has concluded that between 100,000 and 200,000 people could be removed from waiting lists if all hospitals followed best practice in twenty procedures dealing with, for example, hernias, varicose veins and circumcision. The commission's backing for greatly increased 'day-case surgery', in a report due out in October, will be popular with the Government, which has made waiting list cuts a central policy objective.

*Independent, 1 October 1990*

## Observations

I have tabulated observations of 45 penes observed in school and leisure situations. My entire class of 36 at school were observed (some years ago) at ages 14-16; the remainder were aged 20 to 55, all white gentile males, of whom only two had been mohel circumcised. Sixteen of the 45 (36 per cent) were circumcised. The size distribution was as follows:

- 5 (11%) small. 60% of small penes were circumcised.
- 7 (16%) small to average.
- 21 (46%) average: 33% of average-sized penes were circumcised.
- 3 (7%) average to well-endowed.
- 9 (20%) well-endowed: 44% of these were circumcised.

The extent of flaccid glans coverage in the uncircumcised was also variable:

- 1 with 30% coverage }
- 1 with 40% coverage } 10% at or less than half covered.
- 1 with 50% coverage }
- 1 with 90% coverage }
- 9 with 100% coverage }
- 9 with 10% overhang } 83% with full cover or overhang.
- 6 with 20% overhang }
- 1 with more than 20% overhang }

Most had an average skin thickness, but 8% had thin and membranous foreskins and 10% had thick, fleshy ones.

Two circumcised had partial glans cover, of 10% and 20% respectively; in both cases the organs were exceedingly underdeveloped. In my class at a selective secondary school, 45% were circumcised. In my nephew's, two decades later, 9% are circumcised.

Other less complete observations take the total to just over 100. Work acquaintances (mainly professional) were 24% circumcised, whereas outside acquaintances (mainly non professional) had a circumcision rate of only 15%. Of personal friends, 21% were circumcised, confirmed visually in two-thirds of instances. Two actually asked for an examination: one had an exceedingly short foreskin and was unsure of his status, and the other, circumcised at nine years of age after a tree fall, was concerned about a retained suture.

I discovered during showers at school that modesty towels were used mainly by the circumcised and those with small penes, whether clipped or not. Also the bared glans is exposed in urinal stalls more discretely, and with a modesty bordering on embarrassment. It is the cavalier who makes exhibitionism an art-form, with frequent adjustments prior to urination, the pinched tip splashing, and with a concluding orgy of sleeve-shaking. The latter is so commonplace that roundheads do likewise so as not to be thought

circumcised for lack of shaking.

In my generation at school, short trousers were worn into teen-age years, and access for urination was overwhelmingly via a pulled-up right trouser-leg. Repeated stretching to the right caused the penis to veer in that direction. Although this fashion no longer holds, penis-handling – especially masturbation – is a right-handed affair.

*Anthony – Devon*

## **Observations 2**

A visit to the swimming pool yielded the following observations:

- (1) a boy of 14, with well developed pubic hair, neatly circumcised, without visible scar.
- (2) his slightly older brother, with a slightly larger penis, complete with foreskin offering  $11/10$  coverage despite loose opening.
- (3) a boy of 11, circumcised with evident scar visible well back along the shaft, no pubic hair but well endowed for his age.
- (4) his father, fairly small penis, tightly circumcised.
- (5) an Asian boy of about 5, circumcised but with a prominent collar of skin surrounding his small glans.
- (6) a white boy of similar age, circumcised tightly, with his bright red glans and a little pink inner foreskin contrasting sharply with the paler skin of his shaft and body.
- (7) his rather corpulent father, early 40s, also circumcised, with short flaccid foreskin.
- (8) a man in his 30s, slim, well endowed, foreskin giving  $11/10$  coverage to his glans, the rim of which nevertheless showed prominently.
- (9) a very corpulent man, late 40s, minuscule uncircumcised penis – indeed, almost the only thing visible was the loose end of his foreskin.

Overall score: 6 circumcised, 3 uncircumcised.

## **Circumcisions Save Bunnies!**

Medical researchers in Massachusetts have found that new formulations of drugs or cosmetics don't have to be tested on rabbits or other laboratory animals. Hitherto the standard test has been to drop the substance to be tested into the eyes of laboratory animals and study the adverse effects, if any. Now they have found that foreskins removed at circumcision can be kept alive, grown as tissue culture and used in similar tests.

*Independent, September 1990*

## **Masturbation Survey: Reply 1**

I first masturbated to spunk ejaculation at age 12. I masturbate as often when I'm alone as when I have a steady partner, more when my partner is having her period.

I masturbate most days after work before going home for 5-15 minutes, mostly in car in lay-by on the way home at the end of the working day, after visiting the toilet in the lay-by, where I can see other blokes' cocks at the urinal and look to see if they are circumcised or not; sometimes I go to orgasm, which is single.

My fantasy is of group sex with a willing female who likes blokes with hard erect cocks standing around her wanking whilst one of them fucks her doggy-fashion.

A friend has a collection of magazines showing large cocks being sucked and in various fucking positions in a forest. I sometimes imagine a group of blokes with large cocks engaging in various sex activities leading to a slow fuck of each other, not necessarily to ejaculation, and then entering a woman who likes group activity. I sometimes think of my partner while I masturbate. But I don't think of masturbation as a substitute for sex.

Some weekends I lubricate my cock with soya oil and masturbate slowly with my hands. I find a full grip along my shaft and holding my balls away from me the most stimulating. I have a permanently retracted foreskin and use my thumb to slide it over my knob when masturbating. I am not usually naked, but do not dress in any unusual way. I occasionally masturbate with a very randy bisexual friend who fucks his wife most days.

Masturbating can give a greater climax than intercourse because I can vary the grip or tightness. I feel very relaxed after a wank, particularly if I can shout out at the point of climax. I catch the spunk in a tissue, or if in the woods just let it go.

I have talked about masturbation with my partner and watched her masturbate herself, and have also talked about masturbation techniques with a male friend.

I like best to masturbate on a beach – I once visited a nudist beach where most were male and watched them slowly wank from time to time whilst I kept myself hard.

*E.L. – Avon*

## **Masturbation Survey: Reply 2**

Now aged 50, I first masturbated at age 13, and now do so daily. I masturbate as often when I have a steady partner. When on holiday from work I masturbate several times daily. I make it last longer than an hour and sometimes orgasm. I have a single orgasm and try to build up a really good volume of spunk.

I feel like masturbating after seeing a slim teenage boy, in reality or pictorially. Photos or magazines, drawings, written descriptions and videos excite me: any literature or photos on the subject of slim boys. I do not hide my drawings/pictures etc, and frequently watch pornographic films/videos.

My fantasies are of previous experiences relived, sex with my own sex, group sex, anal and oral sex, and pissing. An especially exciting fantasy would be spending the day with a slim 13/14 year old lad, kissing, wanking, pissing etc. I sometimes think of my lover when I masturbate.

I masturbate with my hands and a lubricant. I find the head (glans) and my balls the parts of my penis most sensitive to stimulation. When masturbating, I also stimulate my balls, anus and stomach. I am sometimes naked when I masturbate. If not, I particularly enjoy wearing short shorts.

I sometimes masturbate with friends of my own sex, and do not think of masturbation as a substitute for sex. I think that a masturbating orgasm is better than an orgasm in intercourse because all the action is visible. I feel happy when I have masturbated, and drink the semen afterwards if possible.

I have talked about masturbation and the randiest techniques with my lover, but not with other people: I have always assumed that the subject is of little interest to them.

I like best of all to masturbate sitting on a bean bag, sipping a drink, enjoying a video of male action, pissing occasionally, and rubbing my cock, balls and anus with a mixture of piss and olive oil. If I am lucky, spunk escapes gently, which is most enjoyable – so it goes on!

*Anon*

## **Bridegroom**

Way back in the Swinging Sixties when I was working for a time in Madrid I had a girl friend who worked in a high-class 'establishment'. There was a house-rule that sheaths were never used: instead a girl used a bidet before and afterwards, and carefully inspected and washed the client's penis before intercourse. Maria-Teresa said it was always a relief to see someone circumcised. With uncircumcised clients it was a messy business to peel back the foreskin, and invariably she would have to wash away a deposit of smegma.

She would never, ever, perform orally on the uncut. In non-working hours she and I had a marvellous relationship. About five years later I was invited to her wedding, and in a quiet moment with her I asked, was her husband circumcised? As I had guessed, the reply was yes: she had made it a condition of her betrothal that he went and had the operation!

*Inuwik*







# **ACORN**

**1990 Issue No 7**  
(Formerly Issue Y)

**Editor**  
**Tony Acorn**

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**Membership, Fees, Advice, Personal Matters,  
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## **Editorial**

Welcome to the seventh issue of *Acorn* for 1990. Time has been short because of other commitments, so this November issue is later than planned but still full of the usual excitements for our readers. The final 1990 issue will go out at the end of the year, probably after Christmas. It will soon be time to ask you to renew your subscription so an order form is included on the back page of this issue. 1991 issues will only be sent out after your 1991 subscription is paid.

This issue includes two replies to the masturbation survey; let's have more for future issues. We also have an interesting contribution on the theme of childhood curiosity, plus a scattering of smaller items. This is your newsletter, and it depends on your contributions for its success. To the extent that there is an editorial policy, it is a preference for variety and for contributions from members who have not been published before. There is also a tendency to favour a pro-circumcision view, partly because the anti view is the dominant one in Britain not least in the medical profession, but mainly because that is what clearly interests most of our members. But we will also try to range more widely, as will be seen from our masturbation survey replies and from the item below on infibulation.

*Tony Acorn*

## **Visual Aids**

In order to encourage the use of condoms and slow the spread of aids, the government in Zimbabwe has ordered 5,000 artificial penises. They are made from wood, and will be used by instructors to illustrate the correct use of a condom.

## **Infibulation**

Dear Tony Acorn; As a new member of *Acorn* I am writing to thank and congratulate you for *Acorn* Newsletter, which I find very interesting and informative. Your comments on infibulation (Issue 6/90, page 7) prompt me to add some details. You mentioned a few sources of historical evidence (statuettes, written references), and I have heard of vase paintings. These survivals are scant but informative sources sufficient for historians to make rational assumptions. The ancient Greeks and Romans believed in 'a healthy mind in a healthy body', *mens sana in corpore sano*. Hence their preoccupation with physical training, exercises, and cleanliness. Their schools and towns were provided with gymnasia and baths for the youths and men to use frequently and were places which they attended nude. The participants as well as the spectators were also required to attend the Olympic Games naked.

The exposed glans or erect penis were considered barbaric or uncivilised. Vase paintings and statuettes, etc. always depicted the satyrs and foreigners in such conditions, implying their lack of classical civilization, with its emphasis on self-control and moderation in all things. Hence the need for their youths and men to keep their glans covered in public. To achieve this they probably resorted to the fitting and wearing of infibulation rings. This is not as drastic as it sounds: the operation is simple and heals quickly; youths were expected to bear pain stoically; and wearing a ring in the piercing can be quite comfortable.

Imagine the humiliation and sense of helplessness experienced by those endowed with a short foreskin, 'barely covering the knob when flaccid and retracting all the way back with the merest hint of an erection', as H.S. of Harrow, described it (Issue 7/90, p.7). I chose infibulation for this very reason.

The ring worn through a pair of perforations pierced on opposite sides of the foreskin would keep the glans hooded when flaccid, but any erection caused discomfort, increasing in intensity with the intensity of the erection. To eliminate this (which was sometimes the reason for infibulating slaves), the foreskin can be easily stretched by attaching a weight to the ring so that this extends both the foreskin and the holes so that thicker and heavier rings and weights can be used.

I did this and found the experience both stimulating and practical. My elongated foreskin has an 'overhang' of over two inches when a weight of 600 grams is attached and an 'overhang' of over an inch without a weight. I have also extended the circumference of my elongated foreskin, transforming a 'bottle-neck' type overhang (a long, narrow nozzle of excess foreskin at the penis tip) into a flared 'bell bottom' look. If *Acorn* readers are interested, I would be happy to describe the mechanics, the stages, and the foreskin effects (the peek-a-boo look, the tassel, the rosette, etc) which I experienced while creating a long, loose foreskin. [Yes, please! – *Ed.*]

My endeavours were probably similar to those of the Greeks and Romans interested in the same pursuits. In the societies of Ancient Greece and Rome, and of the American Deep South up to 1865, slaves were infibulated for a variety of utilitarian purposes: to prevent them getting randy (a safeguard for their masters' womenfolk); to preserve the slave's vigour, for their master to exploit in physical work; to prevent breeding by unsuitable males with household or estate slave women; to facilitate selective slave breeding for the market – suitable stud slaves were loaned or hired to be used like prize bulls or stallions, and were ringed to control their sexual activities; and last but not least, as a badge of bondage, reminding the slave of his status and his submission to his master's needs and whims. The last served as a type of ritual emasculation and has its appeal today for dominant women and submissive men.

These practices and reasons are vividly portrayed in the novel *Mandingo* by Kyle Onstott, set in the American Deep South during the era of slavery. Indeed this novel and others of the same genre by such authors as Ashley Carter, Lance Horner, Tressilian, and Simon Finch, engendered my interest in the subject of infibulation. If *Acorn* readers know of any other novels or writers on these themes, please write in. Any other ideas on the theme would also be welcome, such as those of D.N. – Deal, who mentions ‘thereby keeping the cock upright and ensuring clear exposure of the balls’. This was practised by ancient athletes, who attached their infibulation ring to a cord tied around the waist to prevent it flopping about when running a race. But readers should note that piercing can be dangerous unless performed with knowledge, under hygienic conditions, and using stainless steel rings.

*M.D. – Oxford*

### **Wildcat International**

Readers my like to know of Wildcat International, 16 Preston Street, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 2HN. Tel: 0273-23758. This firm caters to those who have an interest in the piercing scene. It has a substantial list of videos on this theme, and also supplies items of innovative body jewellery in stainless steel, including barbells, ball-closure rings, enlarging crescents and tapered stretching staffs, tapered insertion pins, horseshoes, stirrups, ball weights, nipple stretchers, etc., all in a range of gauges and sizes. They specifically do not supply pointed or hollow needles, anaesthetics, hypodermic syringes or any other such merchandise. They will send a list on request, and will also make up special orders.

### **Circumcision — The Video?**

Dear Tony Acorn: Thanks for the latest copy of *Acorn*: I always look forward to its arrival. It is good to see men (and women) talk freely about circumcision.

When I was a lad of about six or seven, I remember that my mother would sit me on the kitchen table after my bath. Auntie was called in from next door and between them they would pull my foreskin back and forth and then talk very quietly to each other about whether I should be circumcised. After much talk they would conclude: ‘I think we must keep an eye on it just in case it gets tight or sore.’ This would be repeated next bath night. I think they just enjoyed playing with my foreskin.

The same thing happened to my brother. His foreskin was tight, and he was circumcised at the age of eleven. I can remember asking my mother if I could go to the hospital with my brother to have my willie done, but I got a great big NO, and was told not to talk about it to anyone.

Needless to say, unfortunately I have still not been circumcised although I have a very long foreskin which needs removing. I made a booking with the Surgical Advisory Service to be circumcised but cancelled it in case they made a mess of my penis and made it look unsightly. I would dearly like to see a penis being circumcised, or see one immediately afterwards to see what it looks like while still not healed.

It would be very helpful to see a video in close-up of a circumcision from start to finish. If I could pluck up enough courage to be circumcised, I would love to have my operation videoed, to be able to see it all happening at a later date, and also to share my experience with other men and women, who I know are just as keen as I am to talk freely about this subject. Watching a video would, I am sure, give people more confidence to have that unsightly piece of skin cut off. What about it, chaps? How about being a video star and encourage us to have the best cut of a lifetime?

I have many friends, some male and quite a lot female, who get together and discuss circumcision. The females mostly seem to like the uncovered penis head. As naturists we have no shyness and we can see both tight and slack foreskins demonstrated and discuss who needs circumcising. Most of the lads are in favour of the circumcised penis.

*C.P. – Wiltshire*

## **Masturbation Survey Reply**

I started to masturbate so young that I can't remember when. It seems like I always masturbated. I masturbate daily on the average. Sometimes I miss a few days, but other days I may masturbate more than once. I have coitus about three times a week. We nearly always masturbate each other, but not to orgasm, before coitus.

When I masturbate alone it is usually for 5-15 minutes if I do not continue to orgasm; if I go on to orgasm it is 15-30 minutes. About one time in three I continue to orgasm. In mutual masturbation we seldom masturbate to orgasm but continue into coitus to have our orgasms. I always have an orgasm in coitus. I often come first but continue by hand if necessary until she has her orgasm. I only have one orgasm now, but when I was younger I often had several a few minutes apart without pulling out. Along the way she has her orgasm.

I usually masturbate in bed. Sometimes I masturbate in the bath tub or shower – I like the feeling of a pulsating shower on my cock. When I masturbate by myself I use only my hand. In mutual masturbating we sometimes use a vibrator and frequently use KY lubricant. Fantasies, erotic video tapes, pictures, erotic stories, showering with my wife, or being teased sexually by my wife all excite me to masturbate. I often think of my wife when I masturbate. Daydreaming about circumcising someone probably excites me most. We

sometimes watch pornographic videos. We hide sexy stories, pictures and videos from our kids and nosey neighbours.

Before circumcision I masturbated by sliding my foreskin back and forth over my moist slippery glans. Now I generally place my thumb in the sulcus on top and my fingers on the scar underneath where my frenulum was cut and sort of rub.

In my teens masturbation gained a tremendous hold over me. I knew I was masturbating far too much, often several times a day – so frequently that often I didn't come. I had acquired a very bad habit of rhythmically squeezing my legs together while sitting and studying. This made me lubricate and my foreskin slid back and forth over my glans giving me very erotic sensations. At the time I didn't know of any other male who masturbated in this manner, but I observed that a few girls, including my girlfriend, did. Girls generally crossed their legs to increase the pressure on their clitoris when they did it. My girlfriend did not consider this to be masturbating, because she did not use her hand. I concluded that this form of masturbating was rare among males because most [in the USA] were circumcised. I had read and firmly believed that removing the foreskin removed  $\frac{3}{4}$  the temptation to masturbate.

The squeezing habit continually became worse during my college years. It was a particularly pernicious habit because it was so very easy to do. The worst part was that frequently I would not even be aware that I was masturbating until I felt myself about to come. Usually I could stop before coming, but sometimes I soiled my pants [trousers], once in class. I started wearing a Kotex pad over my penis to catch the come and prevent soiling my pants.

I decided during my Junior year of college that to break the squeezing habit I would have to start keeping my foreskin retracted even if it meant losing glans sensitivity. So I fashioned a rubber collar to wear in the sulcus behind my glans to keep my foreskin retracted, but this didn't work. The collar would press against my sulcus and corona when I squeezed my legs together and produce sufficient, although less pleasant, erotic sensations, to let me masturbate.

So I made a New Year resolution: I would stop squeezing myself and would masturbate only by other means, and no more than once a week. I wrote in my diary that if I broke this vow I would go to the College free health service and have myself circumcised. Honestly, I didn't want to get circumcised. Yes, I wanted to look circumcised, but I didn't want to lose my foreskin or lose any more glans sensitivity than I had already lost. I really enjoyed masturbating with my full foreskin. I thought that knowing this would be the punishment would make me control my masturbation. But the habit was too strong. In less than a week I had broken both parts of my vow.

So I went to the College health service, told them that my foreskin constantly itched and bothered me, and asked for an appointment to get



circumcised. The doctor examined my penis but couldn't find anything wrong with it. He said that my College health insurance did not cover an elective circumcision and there was no evident phimosis, disease or irritation. This gave me an out. I told myself that I had tried to get circumcised. I gave myself a second and third chance to bring my masturbation under control, but still I couldn't. I had to get circumcised. My integrity was at stake. If I didn't keep my word, even though it was to myself, my word wasn't much good.

My girlfriend gave me the final incentive. I was dating a very sexy nurse. I felt sure that before very long we would be in bed together. Then during some heavy petting she discovered that I was not circumcised. This turned her off completely. She said she thought an uncircumcised prick was dirty and unattractive. She feared that I would give her cancer of the cervix. Moreover, by retaining my foreskin I was, she said, risking cancer of my penis, which could require amputation of my entire penis. This clinched it! My foreskin had to go. There could be no more hesitation.

Since I knew my Dad was against circumcision and I didn't have the money to pay for a circumcision, I decided to do the job myself. I had read widely about circumcision in medical journals, army and navy reports, medical and surgical text books, patents, etc. I felt confident to do it. Primitive people performed circumcisions safely with much less knowledge of medicine and surgery than I had. I chose the ecraseur or strangulation method because it was bloodless and seemed simple and safe. I had seen a picture of the Plastibell circumcision device, and had also seen my cousin's infant son wearing one when he came home from the hospital. Using a lathe available to me at the College, I fabricated a bell to fit over my glans with a deep groove in the surface at the rim, and a hole at the other end for urine to escape.

Instead of going home for the Easter holidays, as my room-mate and nearly everyone else did, I circumcised myself. First I sterilized all my equipment with either heat or alcohol. I shaved off my pubic hair and took a bath, carefully washing my genitals. When everything was ready I slipped the bell over my glans, pulled my foreskin forward over the bell, and held it in place temporarily with a rubber band. Then I looped a piece of fine nichrome wire tightly twice round the back part of my foreskin, over the groove in the bell, and pulled and twisted the ends together with pliers. I used no anaesthetic because at that time I still did not know I could obtain a topical local anaesthetic without prescription. So I applied tension slowly, stopping when the pain became too great. Surprisingly, my penis thought this was fun and became very hard. As a result I shot my wad – this didn't help. My hands were full, so cleaning up had to wait. I knew that the wire had to be tight enough to stop all blood circulation. At the same time I didn't want to break the wire or make the wire so tight that it cut through the skin. If anything went wrong, I planned to go to the doctor and tell him that I had caught my foreskin in my zipper and made it bleed badly: 'This bell-like ornament was handy, so I made a tourniquet of it to stop the bleeding.'

I had considerable concern that the wire might not be tight enough to cause the two layers of skin to grow together as they should. However, everything turned out fine. I was sore, but there was no great pain except when I had an erection. For the first two days I had a slight burning sensation in my penis. The skin grew together where the wire pinched it to the bell, and on the sixth day my dead foreskin and the bell, still bound together, fell off while I bathed. The remaining foreskin retracted by itself behind the glans and stayed, leaving my glans and the sulcus behind it uncovered. I had removed a bit more foreskin than I had planned, but still could pull my foreskin forward to cover  $\frac{2}{3}$  of my glans. The skin is taut only during an erection. I did not lose any additional glans sensitivity. My previous exposure had fully toughened it.

In fact circumcision increased the erotic sensitivity of my penis. I was amazed at how erotically sensitive my circumcision scar was, particularly for the first few months. It still continues to be my most sensitive area. It seems that all the nerve endings that went to my foreskin are now concentrated in the scar. The most important result was that circumcision also brought my masturbation under control. Squeezing no longer worked. For masturbation by hand to be as erotic as before I have to apply a lubricant. Then it is super, but it requires preparation and is now a controllable act, not a habit.

When I told my girlfriend that I had circumcised myself for her, at first she didn't believe me, but she gave me a date and when she examined my penis she couldn't believe her eyes. She took my penis into her mouth without my asking. It was great. This was the first time I had ever experienced fellatio, although other fellows had told me about their girl friends doing it for them. This turned out to be another advantage of being circumcised.

My most erotic areas, in order of decreasing sensitivity, are now my frenulum scar, my circumcision scar, my sulcus, my glans, my nipples, my inner thighs, my lips, my ears, my balls, my anus. When I masturbate alone I stimulate only the first five; however, when we pet, I enjoy my wife stimulating all of these areas. Sometimes I am nude when I masturbate, but not usually. Nude masturbating is sort of special and very erotic.

Masturbating can be a substitute for coitus, but the orgasm from coitus with someone you love is psychologically superior and more satisfying, probably because it is shared. I now feel relaxed and satisfied after masturbating. I used to feel ashamed before I brought my masturbating under control. I generally catch my ejaculate in a paper towel.

My wife and I have frequently discussed masturbation, including how we used to do it when we were single, and how often. We like to watch each other do it – this usually leads to our doing each other. I like best to lubricate my hand and slide it back and forth over my penis. It is even more erotic when my wife does the same to me. I also greatly enjoy her tickling my sensitive spots with a feather.

We have discussed masturbation with our children. We have explained that it is a perfectly normal thing to do, but it is something one should do only in private.

*W.H. – Pennsylvania, USA*

[Thanks, W.H., for a fascinating article. You don't mention the genders of your children but I wonder whether your experience influenced you to decide to have your son(s) circumcised, if you had boys? – T.A.]

## **Childhood Curiosity**

Childhood sexual curiosity is natural and healthy. It can also be a tremendously exciting experience the first time it happens to you. I was about 13 and just embarking upon puberty when it happened to me. My friend Steve had a pretty sister, Karen, who was a year younger than we were and one day he led me with an air of secrecy to the potting shed at the end of the garden to find Karen waiting there, blushing and giggling. He came straight to the point. "Karen wants to see your cock," he said, and they both gazed at me expectantly. The thing is that, a year previously, I'd caught my foreskin in my zip and had to be circumcised. All the kids at school knew about it and I was the uncomfortable object of much curiosity, especially from Karen who was apparently dying to see what a circumcised cock looked like.

The request came as a bit of a shock, and as I stood there wondering what to do, Steve decided to provide a bit of bait. "Come on," he said, "she'll pull it for you and let you feel her up if you do, won't you, Karen?" She nodded, still giggling. Then Steve lost patience and said, "Look, there's nothing to it. She does it to me often", and under my disbelieving gaze he opened his fly and extracted his large uncircumcised organ, which by this time was in a state of semi-erection. Karen sat down on a crate next to him and, watching my face intently, started milking away at his cock, every now and then pulling his foreskin right down to uncover his wet plum-coloured knob. Steve stood there with his eyes shut, his back arched and his face as red as fire, until suddenly he let out a whoop and, knocking her hand away, rehooded his penis as he went into a wild though dry orgasm.

As he sat gasping, Karen turned to me. "Come on", she said, "don't be a spoil-sport. You can feel me till I come too if you like." She then stepped out of her knickers and, raising her skirt, thrust my hand between her legs so as to lodge my fingertips in her moist and hairless little slot. "Go on", she said, "that's lovely", and got me to slip my fingers rapidly up and down inside the lips of her twatty. I was by now in a state of disbelieving and shuddering excitement and barely noticed as she undid my fly and extracted my erection.

She examined it curiously, noting the puckered red scar that encircled the shaft and the permanently denuded knob, before she started to manipulate it like she had her brother's. This, of course, she found much less easy to do because of the lack of mobile skin, but she overcame this by wetting her hand and sliding it rapidly up and down my taut shaft. Steve watched keenly as both Karen and I got more and more excited, until finally I came with a roar of achievement. To Karen's delight and Steve's envy I produced a powerful jet of sperm which shot clear across the shed – my first ever! The trouble was, I no longer had the energy to maintain my manipulation of Karen's pretty little twatty and the poor girl was on the very threshold of her own orgasm. But Steve immediately stepped in and continued rubbing between her thighs until, with a faint shriek, she too arched her back and showed that girls can come just as well as boys.

These fumbblings and gropings had been a regular feature between Steve and Karen for a long time, and now I joined in on a regular basis until, with puberty, we found our own separate friends and went our separate ways. But it is to this childhood experience that I give the credit for my having grown up without hang-ups, and I now enjoy a happy and fulfilled sex life.

*M.P. – Watford*

## **Sex And The Mature Dutch 12-Year-Old**

Contrary to some newspaper reports, the Dutch have **not** lowered the age of consent to 12. But the change which they have introduced is possibly more interesting. They have lifted the fear of prosecution from children aged between 12 and 16 who engage in a sexual relationship, *provided that it is of their own free will*. Freedom of choice and lack of coercion are the crucial principles underlying the proposal, which was agreed by the lower house of the Dutch Parliament in mid-November 1990.

In the Netherlands the act of sex is still in principle forbidden to both boys and girls between the age of 12 and 16. But if there is no complaint, there is no prosecution. It is still open to a child, or its parents, or a member of the regional Council for the Protection of Children, to complain. And someone who feels they have been abused may bring a complaint via the police within 12 years after the event. The intention of changing the law is to recognise that young people under 16 who want to have sex will do so anyway, despite their parents' disapproval or the risk of prosecution, but to remove the element of guilt and secrecy: to say that it is their own choice.

Unlike Britain, the Dutch have the same age of consent for boys and girls. They also have a much more open acceptance of sexual behaviour. In newsagents, pornography is displayed at knee level, not on the top shelf. It is acceptable for the security guard at the door of a government office to say goodbye to his male friend with a frank, unselfconscious kiss. And everything

in the new Bill that applies to teenage heterosexual couples applies also to two girls or two boys.

The punishment for illegal sex with children under 16, of either sex, is six years' imprisonment, but in practice it is only expected that this procedure will be invoked where one partner is an adult and coercion has been used. In such cases consent is irrelevant and if the child is under 16 the act remains illegal.

*Based on a report in The Independent, 21.11.90*

[This seems to be an admirable liberal piece of legislation, recognising as it does the liberal principle of freedom of action provided the freedom of one is not at the expense of the freedom of the other. At the same time it seems to offer all the necessary safeguards against coercion, either explicitly, or the implicit coercion by the old and experienced of the younger and more immature partner.

It will be interesting to see whether the freedom of movement of people and goods implicit in the single European Market of 1993 will bring pressure on the British government to bring its legislation on the age of consent into line with the Dutch, and/or to reduce the heavy censorship on pornography which operates currently. The British view is based heavily on the view that pornography acts as an incitement to rape and other acts of sexually motivated violence. November 1990 also saw the publication of a Home Office report which carefully reviewed the evidence which might support or refute this view, much of it from the US, and concluded that the link was not established. Indeed, the balance of evidence seemed to point in the opposite direction: availability of pornographic material seemed to offer an outlet for sexual frustrations which reduced the incidence of sexually motivated violence.

That seems to be borne out also by Danish experience: in 1968 they removed the legislation which legalised censorship. Producers of pornography flourished, and it was widely available in newsagents and more specialised shops. But within a very few years the market was sated. A visit to Copenhagen earlier this year revealed less pornography on sale or display than pre-1968: but, if you are going there, the best place to look is Istedgade, the first few hundred yards of the long street which runs west from the side-entrance to the main railway station.]

## **Soviet Students Undergo Mass Circumcision**

Twenty-seven Soviet Jews queued up for an operation which is largely unobtainable in their native land – circumcision. On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, the Garden Hospital in Hendon was the stage for one of the most unusual ceremonies held in this country in recent years. Six *mohelim* (qualified circumcisers), two of whom were doctors, performed the operation on the

Russian men, aged between 15 and 30. They had come to Britain as part of a learning programme organised by Rabbi Sender Dominitz of Stamford Hill. He said: "The boys did not come here for this purpose. We had to explain to them what it is all about. Now they are queuing up for it." The operations were done under local anaesthetic. A total of 32 Russians came to Britain for the programme. However, five of them were already circumcised.

*Jewish Chronicle. October 1990 (From B.H. – Leeds)*

## **Masturbation Survey Reply**

I'm now 57, and first masturbated from the age of about 4, initially pulling my foreskin back and forward to produce an erection. By the age of 5 I had discovered the wonderful feeling produced by rubbing to [dry] orgasm. From the age of 6 until I was 40, I masturbated at least once daily; in my 40s, three times a week, and currently three or four times a month. When I have a steady partner I do it less, but otherwise circumstances make no difference. I masturbate for 5-15 minutes and usually have a single orgasm.

I usually masturbate on going to bed, in bed or in a chair, nearly always naked, especially with a porno book. I find written descriptions most arousing, especially any detailed description of sex or circumcision rituals. I don't hide this material, and watch pornographic films/videos 3-5 times a week. I sometimes think of my partner. My fantasies centre on group sex and oral sex.

I use my hands or bedding to masturbate with. The parts of my penis that are most sensitive to stimulation are my frenulum and corona. I am well circumcised – the shaft skin can be drawn as far as the corona but not over it. When masturbating, I do not stimulate other areas than my penis.

I have masturbated with friends of both sexes and think of masturbation as a substitute for sex: to me a masturbating orgasm is the same as an orgasm in intercourse. I feel relaxed and tired afterwards. I wipe up my ejaculate with a tissue, or if it is on my body let it dry.

I have not talked about it with my partner, but have talked about masturbation methods with friends of my own sex. I like lying on my left side on the bed and using my right hand to wank.

*S.W. – Gwent*

## **Subscriptions**

Subscriptions to the *Acorn* Newsletter for 1991 are now due. One of our principal costs is postage, which has risen substantially since we first set our price at £10. With regret, therefore, the 1991 subscription goes up to £12.

# **ACORN**

**1990 Issue No 8**  
(Formerly Issue Z)

**Editor**  
**Tony Acorn**

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## **Editorial**

Here, at last, is the final issue for 1990, with apologies for the production delay. We hope you enjoy it, and keep sending in the material. We also hope that you will renew your subscription for 1991 (there's a form at the end, to make the process simple). If you have enjoyed *Acorn*, please recommend it to your friends too.

As those who have already renewed for 1991 will know, David Acorn will take over the task of editing the Newsletter, at least for the first part of 1991. This will be a great help, as my commitments have become increasingly demanding. The business arrangements remain unchanged, however. Best wishes to David, and a happy and enjoyable 1991 to all our readers.

*Tony Acorn*

## **Sex At 70**

I have always been very sex-orientated. For many years my wife and I have made love at least daily, usually averaging 11 times a week. I find it difficult to differentiate between mutual masturbation and sex play or foreplay. I am now over 70 and rely on stimulation of my penis before actual intercourse. This my wife does by sliding my foreskin up and down the shaft – the 'normal way', if there is such a thing. I have an elephant's trunk foreskin, completely covering the glans at all times except when it is deliberately moved back, and during intercourse when it slides back during penetration. Although my father was a GP I was told so little about the mechanics of sex that my foreskin was never moved back until I was in my 30s and contracted balanitis – inflammation of the foreskin due to smegma. I remember the discomfort when the doctor pulled back my foreskin for the first time! I also remember his disgust at the collection of smegma etc which he found. I had not been taught any genital hygiene and by then I had had frequent and regular intercourse.

I do not remember when I first masturbated as a child. But I certainly did so soon after sexual maturity. I used to masturbate to orgasm by rotating my foreskin and also squeezing it. I masturbated several times a day, and allowed the come to go into my underpants or wherever. They became stiff with come, and then my father talked to me but still explained nothing. Sex was constantly on my mind and I experimented with anything that would rotate my foreskin. My father had an electric motor and I would hold my foreskin to the rotating spindle. Sometimes that resulted in a bleeding foreskin, but this did not stop me. The gramophone turntable was also useful, though a bit too gentle.

We had a kitten that had been taken from its mother too early and consequently tried to suck at anything remotely suitable – usually a finger tip – and that gave me an idea: I gave it my tip to suck, and when it was reasonably clean the kitten would oblige. I couldn't understand why sometimes it would



refuse, but now I know that sometimes my urine was particularly ammoniacal. I never washed in those days, so the poor thing did not like the idea.

As an adult I masturbate three or four times a week. I am usually dressed but the penis bare, twisting and squeezing while fantasizing, or in a sex cinema. I also liked very much the spray of a hot shower in the bath, my favourite method when away on business trips and missing my wife's fond attention. I have little experience of mutual masturbation except as part of foreplay to intercourse. In school as a teenager I sat next to a boy who was into touching: our ploy was to make holes into our pockets and slide a hand into each other's pocket – even then, I was surprised when he came into my hand. We did that during lessons, and not surprisingly were moved apart by the class teacher, but again no-one actually explained anything.

I know a sex cinema in Germany which caters for homosexuals, and there, to my surprise, men openly masturbate each other. This is the archetypal 'zipless' masturbation – it is dark and you have no idea who it is who touches you. When I noticed that, I got very excited. But it took me a further two visits before I had the courage and got active. I sat there with my cock out and masturbated while watching the screen, and a man soon sat down next to me and took me in hand. Naturally I retaliated, and was amazed at the rock-hardness I encountered. I had always wanted to know what it felt and tasted like to suck cock, so I did this to my neighbour (he was evidently very clean, as it tasted of nothing in particular). He soon went with a gentle touch as thanks, to be followed at once by another man. We exchanged the same type of caresses. Then I noticed a queue of men standing in the gangway: word must have spread like wildfire! I had to get up and leave.

In my sexual heyday, when my wife and I had frequent intercourse during the average week, there was no need for me to masturbate. Sometimes on holiday we made love three times a day. I merely used to visit a sex cinema once a week and masturbate to climax. Now that I am 70 we still have intercourse five or six times a week, but I no longer masturbate to climax.

*J.D. – London NW2*

## **Survey Reply**

Now aged 78, I first masturbated before I was ten. These days I masturbate about twice a week. When I have a steady partner, I masturbate less. This does not vary much. A 'quickie' takes less than 5 minutes. If I have a video I may make it last an hour or longer. I always go to orgasm and normally do so once, but may do so twice after a gay video. I usually masturbate in the bathroom. I feel like masturbating when I feel the need for relief, or when stimulated by a magazine or video.

Fantasies, photos or magazines excite me best. My fantasies are of experiences relived, of sex with the same sex and oral sex. My fantasies

*always* centre around the uncircumcised penis, presumably because I am a roundhead. I imagine meeting two 21-year-olds in a pub; when the conversation turns to sexual matters, I take them home. After a while they will begin to fondle each other and indulge in a spell of deep kissing, proceeding to gradual undressing. I will slowly open their flies and get out their penises, both of which have long loose foreskins. I will play with each in turn for quite some time, working the foreskins up and down until they are fully erect. At this stage they will play with my cock and attempt to pull their foreskins up over my bare knob. If either is successful he will attempt to masturbate with our two knobs covered with his skin. Often I will reach orgasm as a result of fantasizing this far. If not, I imagine that I am performing oral sex on them in turn, pushing their foreskins back with my lips as they enter. When they are near to orgasm, I get them to kneel astride me so that I can finish them off, one with his foreskin forward, and the other with his back. When I get this far in my fantasy, I almost invariably come myself. While I vary detail each time I masturbate, the basic ideas are always the same.

I never think of my lover when I masturbate. I use my hands, a shower and a vibrator to masturbate with. My frenulum and the rim of my glans are the most sensitive to stimulation. When masturbating, I also stimulate my balls, anus and nipples and am usually naked, and seldom masturbate with a friend of my own sex. To me masturbation is a substitute for sex. However, a masturbating orgasm is worse than an orgasm in intercourse because it misses full stimulation of the glans. When I have masturbated I feel relaxed and pleased. I sometimes swallow my semen.

I have not talked about masturbation with my wife because she regards sex as 'dirty', but I have talked with other friends of my own sex about methods and the use of the foreskin. I like best to masturbate when I am on my own in the house watching a gay video of two or more chaps in their late teens or early 20s with uncircumcised cocks playing together and finally reaching orgasm by oral sex. While watching I play with my own cock, finally coming by rubbing with two fingers on the frenulum and my thumb just brushing the glans rim on the outward stroke; for a quickie I rub with my whole fist.

V. – *Shropshire*

## **Circumcision Available In Oslo**

Our Oslo correspondent reports an advertisement in the Oslo phone directory placed by Dr Jon Langeland's Skin Clinic. The Surgical Section offers various procedures including male sterilization, prostate evaluation, and circumcision. A telephone enquiry revealed that circumcision would be no trouble: the operation would take about 30 minutes, and the patient could go home afterwards. The cost would be 750 Norwegian kroner, or about £65 – a very reasonable price compared to the charge in Britain. Brief inspection revealed that the premises appeared first class. The address is Postboks 8764,

Youngstorget, 0028 Oslo 1, with access from Operapassasjen, oppgang 2B, 9th floor, and the telephone number is (02) 41 83 96.

G.N.S. – Oslo

## **First Wank**

I was first introduced to the noble art of wanking by being in the right place at the right time: a huge derelict bomb site (or 'debris') used by local kids as an exciting if dangerous playground just after the war. I was a plain ten year old with plaits and glasses, desperately curious about sex, but although I'd seen my elder brothers' cocks on many occasions they were a po-faced lot and didn't think the subject suitable to discuss with little sister.

So I felt a tinge of excitement the day Ronnie, a disreputable red-haired twelve-year-old whom I'd been forbidden to play with took me on a tour of the debris. We found ourselves in the secluded remains of a kitchen and Ronnie immediately voiced the thought uppermost in his mind and asked me to show him my fanny. I declined (only because I was put off by his blunt approach), whereupon he undid his flies and produced a long fat white sausage which hung dejectedly over his balls. Its appearance immediately struck me as different from my brothers' cocks: they each had a small round tomato on the end whereas Ronnie's cock tapered to a skinny white worm with a pink rosette. I told him it looked different, whereupon he told me he would show me why, but first I had to show him my fanny. So this time I stepped out of my navy blue knickers and bared my tightly closed hairless little vulva to him. He stared at it eagerly, ran his fingers up and down it, and as he did so he lifted his penis up by the loose skin on the tip for me to admire. I was fascinated to see it swell and lengthen jerkily till it stood upright pointing at his navel.

He sniggered and asked me if I knew what wanking was. I shook my head and he gave me a demonstration, claspng his erection in his fist and rubbing it up and down. I noticed that on every back stroke his spout of skin stretched open to form a ring framing a glistening bluish area with an eye in it. He then generously offered me a go and I took over with relish, captivated by the feel of this rock-hard column of flesh in its loose velvety envelope. As my strokes got more energetic I found more and more of his juicy blue plum was revealed: just like my brothers' tomatoes, only more moist and darker coloured. At the same time Ronnie shuddered into a dry climax and collapsed with a lewd grin on his face.

I thus took my first step in the male preserve of wanking. (It wasn't until much later that I found girls could enjoy similar pleasures.) At the same time I discovered that cocks came in two configurations: with foreskins and without.

Since then I must have handled dozens of both sorts of cock over the years, and have come to the conclusion that although 'peeled' ones are cleaner and

seem to appeal to your better-class or so-called 'respectable' girls, foreskins are more fun, particularly in the wanking game, and they are preferred by your unassuming and down-to earth working girl.

This harmless childish exercise in growing up which I experienced in the 'debris' led to an enthusiasm for the sport which has never faded, and even now I get a thrill out of giving my husband's gnarled old hampton the same treatment as I gave Ronnie's all those years ago. Incidentally, my husband is a lovable old reprobate called Ronnie, and he has more foreskin than sense!

M.S. – London N11

## **Male Multiple Orgasm**

I have just started to subscribe to *Acorn*, and I've spent the last fabulous three hours lying in bed with a dozen back numbers when I should have been weeding the garden. Both hands have been fully occupied, one turning the pages and the other under the sheets! As one of your older readers (57) and a gay medical journalist of some twenty years standing, may I congratulate everyone involved in bringing together so much fascinating material.

I suspect there are a lot of people who would find the contents of the Newsletter offensive. For them sexual matters are a very private affair. I imagine, however, that your readers are a select group who share my uninhibited need to express my sexual thoughts openly. To gain the greatest fulfilment from my homosexuality I must share my fantasies and experiences with others by recounting them in the same way as I would enjoy telling friends of a good holiday or social event. Reliving past pleasures is to savour once again the enjoyment of the day. I know already that I shall be one of your frequent future contributors but, on this occasion, I would like to concentrate on your feature in issue 4/90 on the male multiple orgasm.

The best 'student holiday job' I ever had was away back in 1951/52, when I was 18/19. During the long vacations I was 'on the game' as a rent boy. In those far-off pre-Wolfenden days I was a rare breed in a highly risky business. My services were in great demand and I could often count on nine or ten clients in an evening. I soon learnt that to ejaculate with my first 'trick' of the day was a fatal mistake. Subsequent punters weren't amused by a refractory call boy who couldn't get a hard on. Usually, therefore, I stopped myself short of orgasm and helped my partner to climax on his own.

But I enjoyed my work and it wasn't always easy to control myself. Sometimes I would go over the top – beyond the point of no return. Then it was a desperate struggle to exert mind over matter to inhibit my muscular reflexes and attempt to avoid ejaculation. Masters and Johnson hadn't told us about the 'Squeeze Technique' in those days and, anyway, I've never been able to make it work. At first I could delay the inevitability of cumming by only a few seconds but, with practice and supreme effort, the delay period became

more and more prolonged until the great day came when I achieved the total retention of my semen whilst at the same time enjoying the full pleasurable sensation of orgasm – the intense emotional uplift, the quickening heart rate, the heavy breathing, the raised blood pressure, the tightening up of all my muscles, the pelvic thrusting and the jerking penis were all there, but the spunk wasn't. I had managed to completely separate orgasm from ejaculation, and to totally suppress the latter. My cock remained erect and, as soon as the orgasmic sensation had died away, I was ready to go again without any refractory state.

To me, at the time, this was nothing more than an extremely useful yoga trick. I didn't realize that I had accidentally hit upon something which is pretty unusual in men. The more I practised, the more efficient I became and latterly was able to suppress ejaculation during about 90% of orgasms. This was excellent news when it came to combining business with pleasure.

Time passed. I qualified and began to lead a slightly less frenetic sexual existence. Gradually the need to contain myself became less imperative and I began to lose the knack. I thought nothing more of it until I read an Editorial Comment in the *British Journal of Sexual Medicine* (Feb 1980) describing work in California by Professor Gordon B. Jensen and Mina B. Robbins. They clearly identified a male multiple orgasmic response in 13 men ranging from 22 to 56 years old. My interest in the subject was rekindled and, since then, it has come up many times amongst correspondents who have written to my 'Medical Advice Column' in various gay magazines.

One thing I learnt, and should pass on to others, is that it is usually best to allow ejaculation to occur at the final orgasm of any session. If it doesn't, a rather painful testicular ache and an uncomfortable sensation of genital engorgement can ensue which may last for some hours.

Contrary to the comment in your feature (4/90), that older men may find multiple orgasms more easy to achieve than younger men, I am less good at it nowadays than I was 38 years ago. However, there are still times when it is a great advantage to employ this very useful 'trick of the trade' ... during those three happy hours I spent in bed before I commenced this communication, for example!

Ray Hamble

## **Wankers Of The World Unite**

Dear Tony: Thank you for publishing my follow-up article on 'Fucking Wankers' in issue 3/90 of *Acorn*. You will be pleased to know that it has resulted in three more contacts, one originating from Finland – which perhaps justifies the above title.

I am writing mainly to offer some feed-back from the letters I have received. First let me quote a delightful paragraph from an anonymous letter. The

writer could not fully participate in my work, but his letter was a delight and encouragement. At the age of 78 he can be a delight and encouragement to us all: "Unfortunately my wife tends to regard intercourse as an unfortunate necessity, a prelude to getting herself pregnant, so that my sex life with females has been almost non-existent. The result has been that I have been thrown back on wanking for relief. Even now, at the age of 78, I need to do it two or even three times a week." Before proceeding with further comments, may I remind readers briefly of the procedures I follow when people write to me (see also *Acorn*, 7/89, pp.22-24). There is an initial test with the simple combination of towel, plastic bag and tapes, the latter items supplied by me. If successful, this is followed up with a specially designed sponge, with plastic lining. Finally comes the double sheath. The sponge is about the size of a car sponge, so I am not sure that one will be departing for Finland! However, my respondent there is practical with his hands, and our experiments will continue.

Two specific points have arisen from *Acorn* correspondence, both from the same individual. He sent me some super close-up photos of his cock in a state of maximum erection. Its direction was perpendicular to the body. He tells me that he can bend it up to lie parallel with the stomach, but it certainly looks as though this might be uncomfortable. My research so far has shown that, for at least half my respondents, the natural direction of their cocks, is such that it is uncomfortable to bend their cocks, when firmly erect, out at a right-angle to the body. I would be interested to hear from anyone who, like this correspondent, has a natural erection that is perpendicular to the body and for whom bending the cock up, parallel with the stomach, is uncomfortable.

The other surprise was this correspondent's preference for 'dry' masturbation. He is circumcised. He uses what looks like the centre of a kitchen-paper roll; this he lines with a soft woollen lining; he then applies baby talc. I would be most interested to hear, either direct or through the pages of *Acorn*, about those who like 'dry' methods. If you wish to write to me direct, the address is:

*Andrew Ferguson, 11 Harcourt Close, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 1UZ*

## **The Gomco Circumcision Clamp**

An example of this instrument recently reached the Editor. In the US it is said to be the most widely used circumcision instrument. Its introduction in 1935 and the development of the 'bloodless technique' by Yellen, improved by Brodie in 1939, did much to encourage neonatal circumcision. The operation became safer, the chances of infection were reduced, and the haemorrhage risk was practically eliminated.

The Gomco Clamp is made up of four parts: a bell (or cone) and stem, a plate with a hole slightly smaller than the rim of the bell, a levered arm (yoke), and a nut to tighten the clamp. The bell is introduced into the preputial

cavity and the prepuce drawn over it. The hole of the plate is placed over the bell so that the prepuce is sandwiched between them. The arm is then fitted into place. When the nut is screwed tightly it pulls bell and plate together, exerting a crushing force on the prepuce where the bell and the plate meet. The clamp is left on for five minutes to achieve haemostasis; then the prepuce is excised, using the hole in the plate as a guide. The screw is loosened, the clamp disassembled and removed. Stitches are inserted, the penis is bandaged and allowed to heal. The clamp is made in a range of different sized bells and plates to fit different patients.

It is a simple operative procedure which can be readily carried out in the office. The following items are necessary: procaine 2 per cent (with vasoconstrictor), 27 gauge needle, 4 small haemostats, scissors, knife, probe, thumb forceps, needle holder, a piece of No.25 gauge annealed copper wire, No.00 plain catgut suture with atraumatic needle, and a proper size circumcision clamp.

The action of the clamp is dependent upon pressure being exercised upon a very narrow rim of tissue, which ensures adherence of the outer skin and the inner preputial surface. With that accomplished, it permits removal of the redundant tissue and temporarily prevents retraction of the blood vessels.

With the patient on the examining table, the penis is prepared and draped. Hertzler's method of local anaesthesia has been found the most satisfactory. Usually 3 to 5 cc of procaine are sufficient. A circular subcutaneous injection is made about midshaft; 1.5 to 2.5 cc are adequate. Following this, the foreskin is retracted and a series of injections are made about the corona. The solution is forced towards the base of the glans. Considerable care should be taken to prevent distortion of the tissue. The anaesthetic ring must completely encircle the glans and the frenulum should also be infiltrated. Usually 1.5 to 2.5 cc are ample.

If the foreskin is not retractable, a line of infiltration is made dorsally and a slit, just long enough to allow complete retraction, is made; then the coronal infiltration may be done. All adhesions are freed. The redundant tissue is grasped by haemostats at the junction of the skin and mucosa and then retracted. The cone, lubricated on its inner surface with a little vaseline, is slipped over the glans. The mass of tissue is then pulled over the cone. Tension on the haemostats and counter pressure on the cone permit almost any amount of tissue to be removed. However, care in applying the cone is necessary since this prevents any injury to the frenulum. Next a piece of copper wire is twisted about the redundant foreskin to maintain its relationship to the cone. The haemostats are removed and the base plate is slipped over foreskin and cone. The top plate is then hooked under the arms of the cone and slipped into its notch in the base plate and the screw is turned down until it is tight.

At the end of five minutes, the redundant tissue is removed by holding the knife parallel to the base plate and cutting about its circumference. The

instrument is loosened and removed. This pressure has given temporary coaptation of the cut edges and haemostasis. Since neither of these is permanent, considerable care is necessary in suturing. The first step is a mattress stitch at the frenulum. Next, two interrupted sutures are placed on either side of this, to complete and maintain the triangle at the frenulum; then a mattress suture is placed dorsally. A simple running suture on either side with rather closely placed stitches completes the procedure.

Considerable care should be exercised in suturing; any large vessels that can be seen should have a mattress suture placed about them. With care in this step, the operation is practically bloodless. The sutures usually drop out on the fifth day and the wound is sealed in a week. Simple daily dressing are done. No unusual complications have been observed or reported.

It is, of course, necessary to have a cone which properly fits the glans. This can be determined by a trial fitting prior to the procedure. Following a preliminary report in 1935 of the use of his circumcision technique in 10 cases, Brodie presented a survey of 51 additional personal patients who had been operated upon, and data obtained by questionnaire on 102 more. In the cases reported, 6 required a clamp with the base diameter of 3.2 cm, 52 with a diameter of 2.9 cm; and 4 with a diameter of 2.6 cm.

The technique for using the Gomco clamp in infant circumcision was devised by Yellen (1935), who reported 500 cases. Brodie collected records of 300 additional infant circumcisions. There were no complications noted in this series of 800 cases. The method is essentially the same as in the adult, but a few precautions must be carefully noted.

All adhesions must be dissected free before applying the clamp. Ordinarily, stretching the prepuce will permit retraction for the dissection; if it does not, a dorsal slit is done. The slit should not be too long, however, since difficulty in keeping the cone in place will be encountered with a deep slit. Only a clamp of the proper size should be used. No sutures or anaesthesia are needed in the newborn. In older children a few interrupted sutures suffice.

## **Malaysian Experience**

When I was 16 or 17, living in SE Asia, we had a Malay family chauffeur, Mohammed Rahbi. He was about 30, quite handsome in a stocky frame, dark brown in body complexion, Islamic, circumcised in his early teens, with a very large and fat black glans, almost no penis shaft, and very small testicles; indeed they were the smallest I have ever seen, though his scrotum hung black and loose. Although of great girth, it measured about 2.5" flaccid. He said it erected to about 5". The glans rim is very prominent, and I never saw it covered by any surplus shaft skin. His public hair was often cropped or shaven. Though he did not tell me it was an Islamic requirement, I was told this recently by a Turkish friend.



His cock seemed to consist only of glans – and what a wonderful cock-head it was. I could pull, squeeze, and torture it beyond normal endurance, but he never complained. Strangely he never erected in my hands, though his wife became pregnant during our relationship. His small balls were similarly tortured by me and he was likewise resilient.

His attitude was totally passive. He never made the first move, but whenever I asked for his cock, he never refused. No matter how tired or how inconvenient it was for him, if there was a moment's privacy he would always open his fly or lift his sarong (depending what he was wearing) at my request. Indeed, he told me that I was the owner of his cock, while he was its custodian for my enjoyment – a custodian had no right of refusal. How I loved him for this.

One day we were alone together in a secluded part of the house, except for his baby son, aged about 3, whom he was carrying. He had just come from his bath, and they were wearing only sarongs. I jokingly asked whether his son had inherited his big glans. He smiled and without a word, removed his own and his son's sarongs. Sitting down with parted legs, he put his son on his lap and, without a word, invited me to look. He had already retracted his son's foreskin, which would be circumcised in puberty. The boy's cock was remarkably similar to his own: the same big black glans without much shaft and the small balls, although it was impossible to tell how the child's cock would develop. When he put the boy down between his legs, thinking his father's cock was some new toy, he began to play with it. Rahbi said he intended to let his son grow up familiar with his naked body, just as he frequently saw his own father's nudity when women members of the family were not around – an unusual attitude for a Muslim, but then, he was unique.

He told me his unusual circumcision experience, when he was about 14 or 15. His father took him along to the English doctor who practised in the town. The doctor, putting his patient at ease prior to getting him to undress, began to talk freely and easily about cocks and the advantages of circumcision. The conversation quickly became uninhibited. The doctor was a well-built man in his 40s, with a beard, and admitted that he was circumcised. Rahbi's father jokingly remarked that he must have a big cock, as he had heard that Europeans had big ones. The doctor said he would satisfy their curiosity, if they were discrete, and stripped off.

Neither Rahbi nor his father had seen a naked European, and the doctor's cock, large hairy pink balls and brown pubic hair proved a startling sight. When the doctor suggested that Rahbi and his father undress, they needed no further prompting. Rahbi told me that his father's cock was very similar to his own but that the glans was even larger. The doctor told Rahbi that after circumcision his penis would probably look like his father's: big, black, dry, desensitized, and good to play with. By now Rahbi had lost all his inhibitions as the doctor got to work. So Rahbi was circumcised by a naked English doctor with an 8" penis, attended by his naked father with a 4.5" penis.

Rahbi's father had been a village fisherman, spending most of his life in the water in a brief loin-cloth. When out in more remote waters he was always totally naked.

Rahbi was always with him and grew up in his father's nude company. Sometimes when out on a long trip, his father would suddenly have the sex urge, his penis erecting in full view of his son. The father would sit down quietly and masturbate, so Rahbi learnt sex young. When puberty came, Rahbi masturbated as unselfconsciously as did his father.

*H.C. – London SW6*

### **Final Call For 1991 Subscriptions**

Subscriptions to the *Acorn* Newsletter for 1991 are now due. One of our principal costs is postage, which has risen substantially since we first set our price at £10. With regret, therefore, the 1991 subscription goes up to £12. As renewing members will know, the newsletter covers topics such as the foreskin, circumcision, and related matters as masturbation, genital development, modifications such as piercing and infibulation, etc. Membership is international and is open to both individuals and couples. Back numbers and other publications may also be ordered on the form below. Please complete and return it to *Acorn*.

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