

ACORN

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Editor
David Acorn

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**Newsletter Contributions,
Letters for Forwarding**

to:- DAVID ACORN

**Membership, Fees, Advice,
Personal Matters**

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Editorial

Hello! and welcome to a new year of *Acorn*. We are now in our 6th year and still going strong, so life can't be all bad. I hope we can still keep pleasing members from both sides of the fence. I know that most of you love all kinds of cocks but with a little preference to one.

Talking of preference! Those members who saw the second episode of 'The Good Sex Guide' on ITV will have noticed that when the lady presenter did a measuring job on 9 cocks, 6 of them were circumcised. This appeared to me to be against the national trend. Then, as she had just been talking to some gay males, I thought that maybe she had used their cocks for her statistics. Then, thinking of statistics, I went through the questionnaires, and lo! Of the members who filled in the questionnaire, 69% are circumcised and 31% have foreskins. When broken down into sexual status it turns out that homosexuals are 83% circumcised, bi-sexuals 88% circumcised and heterosexuals 50%. How's that for some food for thought!

The above does show how the statistics we ask of you can be used. I might add that the questionnaires are now all destroyed and the information is now stored in a secret file in the computer that only I can reach, with no names or addresses attached.

Bearing in mind how many members in the past, wishing to, but having trouble in, keeping their loose foreskins retracted, I have tried out an experiment with the following results. For three days and nights I clamped a 1¼" bulldog clip vertically, to the underside of my penis, just behind the frenum, thus constricting the retracted foreskin. I found that with a new clip there was too much spring in it and hurt a bit, but a fairly worn one was ideal as it doesn't have to be tight. Inside the jaws I put a small piece of lint. I found that it was very comfortable and couldn't feel the clip at all. The only difficulty was when peeing, getting it out of my briefs (boxer shorts might be better).

Conclusion:- After just a few minutes I didn't know whether my foreskin was retracted or not, and had to keep looking to make sure. There was no difference in feeling between the two states. This led me to believe that, for those who longed for, and got circumcised, it's not the fact of having a bare glans that is so satisfying, but knowing that you have a bare glans. More in the mind than anything else. Of course, that makes it just as valid.

Other observations were that, in no time at all, my knob became crinkled, and took on a lighter colour, just like a circumcised one. I think Drs. Masters and Johnson were right when they stated that they could find no basis for thinking that the circumcised glans was less sensitive than a foreskinned one. It appeared to me that with the crinkling that took place when flaccid, only about one fifth of the surface was in contact with clothes, etc., so that the other four-fifths remained just as sensitive.

After taking the clip off, my foreskin had got used to the constriction put upon it and refused to move for another day, so maybe if it was kept on much longer the foreskin might remain constantly retracted. As I am very happy with my present state, I'll leave that to others.

The last item on my agenda refers again to a part of the questionnaire. The most popular topic stated was 'Observations of Foreskins/Circumcisions'. On top of that a few members in their remarks asked if we could have information on celebrities' or well-known people's penis status, either from personal knowledge, reliable second hand, films, magazines, or anywhere else. I think I started the ball rolling a few editions ago, talking about Burt Lancaster's foreskin. So if you have any knowledge please let us know – still all confidential.

David Acorn

Russian Jews

I was utterly gobsmacked to read of the Russian emigrés, trooping off the planes in Tel Aviv to be separated from their wives and children and herded into the nearest 'clip joint' for a quick circumcision. Surely, as good Jews, they should have had it done on the eighth day, or whatever.

Even if circumcision was forbidden, which it probably was, it didn't stop Jews in the past from defying the Roman death penalty and giving their sons the chop. After all, unless you're a rampant shafter, a flasher, or a nudist, who's going to know? So there has to be some other reason.

We know that in the States where 'over the top' is the norm, we have Jewish parents refusing to circumcise their sons in a novel interpretation of the scriptures, which is more than counterbalanced by the advent of the 'mohelet', or lady circumciser (I can't imagine anything more distasteful; you'd think a woman, even a Jewish one, would have a bit more reverence for the male sceptre).

Then, again, we hear that Israelis are battering down the doors of B.U.F.F, wanting foreskin restoration. Once again there is the noble historic precedent of the athletic Hebrews who, unable to face the humiliation of revealing their sawn-off cocks next to their Greek rivals with snake-like foreskins, underwent a primitive uncircumcision procedure.

Could it be that the Jews of Russia, too, have decided that the foreskin is aesthetically desirable, and enhances sexual pleasure for both sexes? I'd like to think that religious prejudice could be overcome by enlightened self-interest, but I'm not optimistic. Can any of your experts on the Jewish faith clarify why Russian Jews aren't circumcised?

R.B.W. – Bedford

Remembering

My interest in circumcision dates back many years, at least to my years at grammar school. My father had been circumcised at the age of 21 as a result of a tight foreskin (a very large glans, but so much spare skin it appeared simply to have been rolled back; I never saw it erect), but neither I nor my brothers were cut. A regular threat, however, if we did not pull our foreskins back to wash behind them was that he would have us 'done'.

As I have remarked before, although the boys in my year were born in 1955/6, which, according to the article in 2/92 should have given over 40% incidence, it was nearer 10%. One was the result of an American father, and one for surgical reasons. As far as I know the others were all at birth. On 'spotting' a new one, the remark, "Oh, I see you've been done" was passed, but no reply was considered necessary. All cases were such that they seemed merely to have a retracted skin, but if they were pushed forward, it proved otherwise. There was also a theory current, that 'all men are circumcised by the time they are twenty' – ie that their foreskins, if not cut off, retracted of their own accord. This was, I think, put about by a boy whose own foreskin covered no more than about half his glans, to explain his situation! Any suggestions as to why this happens in some cases and not in others? It was about this time that I began experimenting with keeping my own foreskin pulled back not a very satisfactory experiment as it tends to slip forward, but I'm working on it still.

I remain extremely interested in the whole subject of foreskins (present or absent). Firsthand observation is somewhat more limited than at school; a college roommate had been cut, and also had the roll of skin behind the glans. But apart from sexual partners, and the odd sighting in public loos, there's little to report, not being a 'sporty' type, and thus having no access to changing rooms. I was interested to see a young man the other day in the public loo pull his foreskin right back before urinating, and not push it forward again until he had shaken all the drops off. You will notice that I have placed some emphasis on the style of circumcision; that all the ones I knew were with a generous amount of skin left. I didn't come across the radical version (ie a completely clean shaft) until a few years ago. I find it infinitely more erotic than the other style.

Anon – Norfolk

A Multi-Lingual Dictionary

English	circumcise	circumcision	foreskin	glans	penis
German	beschneiden	die Beschneidung	die Vorhaut	die Richel	der Penis
Dutch	besnijden	besnijdenis	voorhuid	eikel	mannelijk lid
Danish	omskære	omskærelse	forhud		pik
Norwegian	omskjære		forhud		
Swedish	omskäre	omskärelse			
Finnish		ympärileikkaus			
French	circoncire	circoncision	prépuce	le gland	la verge le membre viril
Italian	circoncidere	circoncisione	prepuzio	glande	pene
Spanish	circuncidar	circuncisión	prepucio	glande bálano	pene
Portugese	circuncidar purificar (figurative)	circuncisão	prepucio	glande bolota	pênis
Manx	giar chymmylt circumcised: chymmylty chymmultit	giarrey chymmylt		kione woid	bwoid <u>slang:</u> bossan bwoid niargan rollian cudjal beg
Gaellic	timchioll-ghearradh				
Welsh	enwaedu	enwaediad	blaengroen		cala pidyn gwialen
Czech	obrezati	obrizka obrezáni			
Polish	obrzezac oczyszczać (serce, namietności)	obrzezanie	naplatek		
Hungarian	körülmeté	korulmeteles	fityma		himvesszo
Romanian	taia imprejur				
Greek	peritemno				
Turkish	sünnet	sünnet			

Any additional languages, or words to fill gaps, will be welcome.

Circumcision And Art

Thank you for printing Jay Rayner's *Guardian* article "Boyz 'n' the Hood". Though a regular reader of the newspaper I missed this gem.

Reading the article brought some of my earliest negative feelings about my own circumcision flooding back. As a child taken on visits to art galleries, I was painfully aware that none of the statues of naked cherubs and nude gods were circumcised. I was particularly intrigued that none of the infant Christs displayed a circumcised penis. I knew enough about circumcision and religion by then to know that this was inaccurate.

My own circumcision had been explained to me as a privileged and desirable state (see 'Unhappy', issue 8/92). Why, then, were these beautiful figures and paintings showing penises with foreskins intact?

I spent many hours looking through art books seeking confirmation that circumcision was OK. I searched in vain. Apart from a few paintings of the actual ritual circumcision of Christ, I have never found a representation of a circumcised Christ. Why is this?

The only example of a circumcised penis in classical art, that I have seen, is on the grand staircase of the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad). Amongst several marble statues of biblical figures, about two-thirds lifesize, I was amazed to see a naked David with a very definitely circumcised penis. Could it be that in Russia, very consciously aware of its own substantial Jewish minority, an artist would be very aware of circumcision, and that it would seem natural to show a Jew as being circumcised.

In California a few years ago, I came across cheap plaster copies of Michelangelo's David with a circumcised penis. The American friend I was with said that the large reproduction of the statue in Forest Lawns cemetery in Hollywood also displays a cut cock – perhaps my leg was being pulled!

Modern artists don't seem to have any problems in portraying the circumcised penis. Most notably, David Hockney's beautiful drawings of male nudes, most drawn from American models, show many examples.

G. – Birmingham

Plea For Female Views

I've recently enjoyed discovering and catching up on the past issues of *Acorn*. Some of the views and angles are a bit OTT, but I really appreciate the letters from women, either pro or anti roundhead. Whilst taboos have relaxed to allow almost all sexual topics for discussion in after dinner conversation, circumcision still creates coyness when raised in mixed company. I suspect the ladies are reluctant to tell all for fear of offending their partners, but *Acorn* now affords them anonymity and an eager audience. In an effort to draw forth

more female comment, I outline several areas in which it would be good to have their views, feelings and experiences.

1) Early Years

The majority of girls grow up unaware of circumcision, but a few will have seen brothers or playmates who have been cut. How did parents answer their questions which would naturally arise? What explanation was given when brothers were whisked off for surgery and returned with penises which were dramatically altered? Was the sexual dimension ever discussed? Did it influence their own preference in later life?

2) Age of Discovery

Though circumcised boys are in a minority, I'm sure when one is encountered the word spreads among sexually active girls. Please tell us how you first learned of this mysterious male modification. Did you speculate about a partner beforehand? Were you right/wrong, pleased/disappointed? Did you ask? Were you told? Did you find out with your fingers? Was it a surprise? How did you react? Did you say anything to your partner at the time? Was it the truth, or did you lie to spare his feelings?

3) Motherhood

It's clear many women prefer circumcised penises and have a strong wish to see their sons cut, simply to express it! To achieve this they may have overcome fierce objections from their partners, parents (on both sides), and the medical establishment. Do tell us your story. Conversely, many mothers are anguished when, against their wishes, they have to see their sons cut for religious or medical reasons. In either case, did you witness or take part in the operation? What were your feelings and emotions at the time? What did you say to comfort boys who were old enough to understand what was to happen to them? Or to console them afterwards? Have your views altered as a result of your experiences?

4) Women Professionals

There must be many female doctors and midwives and nurses who perform or assist circumcisions every week. Are their views in conflict or accord with the action their work requires? Just what do they explain about circumcision to young patients before and after the op? Have any midwives or nurses performed the operation on their own sons, or those of family or friends? Or been begged to advise after frustration with the NHS?

5) Feedback

Mature mums may often be the buffer for their sons' reaction to being circumcised, especially when it was done outside the bounds of informed consent. How many have had to defend their decision? Or been thanked for it? Would they do the same again with hindsight? Of special interest is any woman to woman feedback from satisfied/dissatisfied daughters-in-law and

partners. Have they ever spoken out to promote or prevent the circumcisions of grandsons?

Every day, somewhere, this whole fascinating topic must be subject of conversation in all female company. Here's one man who'd love to be a fly on the wall! In many ways women are close to the deed and the decision, so yours is the view we value most. As an early edition of *Acorn* put it so perfectly, "it's the 'end' user's opinion that really matters."

So, fellas, show this to your wives and partners – persuade them to write to *Acorn* uninhibitedly.

The young mother just takes a decision
and without asking her young son's permission.
She takes him away
to the doctor one day,
who gives him a neat circumcision.

Anon

[No need, ladies, to even tell your partners that you are writing. Everything will be published completely anonymously. — *D.A.*]

Inevitable Trauma?

The widely-held view of British childcare professionals is that circumcision performed at later ages than the postnatal stage and early infancy is inevitably accompanied by the risk of lasting psychological trauma, which can exert a damaging influence on the psycho-sexual development of the individual. While the intensity of such trauma will vary, with some children being able to control and sublimate the effects better than others, it is argued that all children will sustain some degree of underlying psychological and emotional injury. Some children will be more conscious of this than others.

This is an area, however, in which the amount of investigative research has been inadequate. The current climate, in which there is an unquestioned acceptance of the proposition that circumcision performed in later childhood, particularly between the approximate ages of four to ten years, is damaging, is influenced to a considerable extent by Freudian studies and long-fashionable castration theory.

There has been minimal study into the actual situation as it relates to differing ethnic and religious groups for instance, and the infrequent studies that have been made among Anglo-Saxon children do not convince in respect of their generality. Among other aspects of this issue requiring fuller investigation there is, for example, the child's perception of the relative role of responsibility

for decision-making he sees as being exercised by each of his parents in his circumcision.

Two examples cited in support of the general proposition of inevitable trauma in late childhood circumcisions, though differing significantly individually, are as follows:-

The first is a case reported by psychoanalyst Gerald Pearson, which involved a nine-year-old boy who had been referred to him because of a reading disability, enuresis, and a trance-like attack. The mother, who had adopted him as a baby, had a very warm loving relationship with him. When he was four years old, however, she became antagonistic to his frequent masturbation, and decided to have him circumcised as a means of stopping it. He was frightened by the experience and by the hospitalisation. Although he ceased masturbating, the problems for which he was eventually referred for psychoanalysis, subsequently appeared.

In a brief summary of his conclusions, and discarding as much psychoanalytic jargon as possible, Pearson concluded that the boy regarded his circumcision as punishment for masturbating. He had consequently begun to suffer typical castration fears, compelling him to repress his masturbation and sexual feelings – particularly towards his mother and older sister, who were sources of stimulation – because of the fear of losing the rest of his genitals as further punishment. Instead, the problems which developed were symptoms of his conversion hysteria.

Another instance of late childhood circumcision from which far-reaching deductions have been made, concerns the poet, A. E. Housman (*A Shropshire Lad*, etc.).

After the death of Alfred Housman's mother, his father remarried. At 50, his new stepmother was several years older than his father. She had a good relationship with her stepchildren of five boys and two girls, Alfred being the eldest. Shortly after the marriage, Alfred's father suddenly decided to have all the boys circumcised, Alfred being about fourteen at the time.

In later years, one of Alfred's sisters, Kate, commented, "I don't think that it was to fulfil a scriptural rite that he (her father) sought, for there was no Abrahamic tradition in our family, but on sanitary mosaic lines ... he ought to have thought of it in their babyhood. It was severe treatment, mentally and physically, for wellgrown boys."

Kate and subsequent Housman biographers have all expressed bewilderment at Housman senior's sudden and seemingly impulsive decision. Yet can it be mere coincidence that the decision to have the boys circumcised occurred so soon after they had acquired a stepmother who, understandably, would have her own views on child management.

But that is not the focus for the present. More importantly, for those who regard circumcision in late childhood as unavoidably damaging, psycho-

sexual implications can be identified from the experience of the Housman family. On Alfred's brothers there is little circumcision related information, as they have never been biographically scrutinised to the same degree as Alfred. In Alfred's own case however, there has been no scarcity of claims that his experience of being circumcised was so traumatic for him, causing him to regard heterosexual activity as dirty and forbidden (with the ultimate punishment of castration, as in Pearson's analysis), that this was the core experience influencing his subsequent homosexual development.

Space does not permit a more detailed examination of these two examples, but, while differing individually, they appear to be reasonably representative of a range of evidence used to support the view that later childhood circumcision inevitably produces negative effects, whether obvious in the individual or not.

In the two examples cited there may indeed be justification in believing that circumcision was the trigger for what occurred later, their validity in this respect not being challenged. But such assessments of individual cases raise more questions than they answer if extrapolated to support a thesis of both generality and inevitability of lasting psychological trauma.

What about, for instance, those non Anglo-Saxon children who are traditionally circumcised at later ages for cultural or religious reasons? What is the trauma incidence amongst them? If it is minimal or even non-existent, why?

These, and related issues will be discussed in a future issue of *Acorn*. Meanwhile, you may be asking: But is this just an academic exercise of posing theory against theory? Is the author's own personal experience in any way relevant to these issues, and sufficient at least to provide an overview?

Perhaps, yes – as a socio-anthropologist who has spent most of his professional life in Africa; as an English Muslim with cross-cultural affinities; and as someone with total recall of his own circumcision when nearly five years old.

D. – West Midlands

Asking

I was reading the letter of a few editions ago by Brian of the West Country, and A.W.'s reply to it in the next issue. Brian suggests that we might talk to our friends about circumcision, but A.W.'s reply tells us that it would be too embarrassing. All I can say is that if it is done with tact and doesn't appear to trespass on people's privacy, it's perfectly possible to ask if a guy is cut. I've done it from time to time and no one has ever minded, although some

found it a big surprise, and one or two have not felt like answering (which is their right of course). The people you can ask easiest, it seems to me, are fairly close friends and total strangers; anything in between seems to be more difficult. I don't know why!

Another thing I noticed recently was an article in *The Guardian* in which the reporter had been talking to a Kenyan just before the elections there. They were talking about a particular politician, and the man said, "I couldn't vote for him, he is uncircumcised." What a great idea! If only our politicians would undergo a foreskin check.

D.P. – London

French Book

Members who can read French will be interested to learn that a 220 page book on the history of circumcision came out in November in Paris (I have ordered a copy but have not yet received it). The author, Malek Chebel, is an Algerian anthropologist who lives in France. The book guide says it treats the question from religious, historical, and surgical points of view. The title translates directly to "History of Circumcision: from its origins to our day." Obtainable from André Balland, 33 Rue Saint - Audre des Arts, 75006 Paris. Price 135 Francs.

Please can anyone living in London find out the address of "The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star", the Nigerian Christian sect that requires circumcision, mentioned in Newsletter Issue 4/91.

Following the recent item in the newsletter regarding the fact that all Bolivians must have a foreskin, The Jewish Travel Guide lists 4 synagogues in Bolivia and a Jewish School in La Paz.

J.M. – Spain

[Seems to be a conflict of interests somewhere. — D.A.]

The Year Of The Cock

Those of you who celebrated Chinese New Year on January 23rd. this year will know that it marked the end of the year of the Snake, and the start of the year of the Rooster. Australians tell me that a slang term for penis there, is 'one-eyed trouser snake', so last year should have been an auspicious one for snake-fanciers. But the new year should be even more auspicious. The term 'rooster' became widely used in America because people were too prudish to say cock, which of course is one of the most widespread slang terms for penis. It seems that just as good a translation from the Chinese would be 'The Year of the Cock'.

Cock is in itself an interesting word linguistically for its many usages, all of them with an ambiguous connotation, linking it to its slang meaning. *The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* gives the following usages of cock:

1) the male domestic fowl (ever since Chaucer's *Canterbury Tale* about Chanticleer, a proverbially randy bird, as he was expected to service a whole flock of hens);

2) the leader, head or chief man as in the Cockney greeting, "Wotcher, Cock";

3) a spout through which the flow of a liquid can be controlled;

4) to turn up (e.g. hat rim) (or the erect penis);

5) to stick stiffly up or out (e.g. haycock) (or the erect penis)

So, with most of it still to look forward to, here's wishing all *Acorn* readers a very pleasurable and successful Year of the Cock.

Tony Acorn

G.J. of Devon sends in the following news item (as did others).

Laser Circumcision

Israeli doctors have performed their first circumcision by laser on a 14-year-old Jewish immigrant from Moscow, who has a rare blood disease, and was unable to undergo the usual operation.

G.J. asks if anyone could comment on the laser method, because he for one would like to know more about it. It has obvious haemostatic advantages, but it is surprising that the method is acceptable in Jewish law, because circumcision is symbolic of the (blood-)Covenant between God and the Jewish people.

Our Oslo correspondent sends two letters from the very respectable newspaper *Aftenposten*, which Tony Acorn translates as follows:

Infant Circumcision (25 November 1992)

Norwegian Broadcasting's documentary series about religions started on Sunday 22 November with the title, 'Faith meets Faith', a very informative meeting with the Jewish faith. It is quite unbelievable that the modern Jewish faith can survive old-fashioned and strange rites and customs. A scene in the programme showed a family gathering in which the circumcision of an eight-day-old infant boy was the central event. Three old men stepped forward, two held the child, laid it down and held it fast, whilst a rabbi set to with a knife and cut off the foreskin of the penis – not exactly the most unfeeling part of the body! As the rabbi began to cut, the boy began to scream. He was not anaesthetised.

It is a shame that modern Jews keep to this bestial circumcision. It is illegal to give a child a smack on the back. But the Jews in this country are obviously allowed, in relatively unhygienic conditions compared to an operating theatre, to carry out, without anaesthetic, a very painful operation

Circumcision Of Jews (1 December 1992)

Olav Skeie's contribution to these columns on 25/11 about the circumcision of boys is evidence of great intolerance and ignorance. Even if a ritual is foreign and unknown in this country, that does not make it 'old-fashioned and strange'. In many countries, such as U.S.A., Canada and Australia, a majority of non-Jewish boys are circumcised for hygienic reasons.

Jewish boys are circumcised eight days after birth because their sensitivity to pain is minimal at this stage. If they cry, it is partly because they are being held, and partly from some pain. This pain can be compared to the pain a small child feels when vaccinated. Most people accept vaccination, and are glad to subject their child to the pain of an injection, without anaesthetic, many times during childhood. As after a vaccination, a child calms down quickly after circumcision. The rabbis who do the operation have completed a special course on circumcision for several years, and have worked in hospitals. Many hospital doctors have been present at his circumcisions to learn how it is done. In addition there is always a responsible doctor present at a circumcision.

Skeie writes about hygiene. Circumcision is done under sterile conditions, and complications are rarely seen. I would also point out that for many centuries Jewish people have survived great infectious epidemics precisely because of rituals in which cleanliness and hygiene are central — *H.F.*

Dr. Ray's Answer

I've been looking at the photo of J.B.'s appendage, which he sent with the questions published in 8/92. I don't know why he should have this particular line of pigmentation, for that's what it almost certainly is, but I suspect that it could be that there was always a line at this point. I think that after his circumcision the remaining skin on his shaft has been stretched to lie in a slightly different resting place from its previous disposition. Maybe what used to be a slight fold is now laid flat because the stitches have just pulled the skin into a slightly different position. Skin which is usually in a fold is often slightly more pigmented than 'flat' skin. Now that the fold has been unfolded the line of pigmentation has been revealed. It's only a thought and it may not fit the facts, but I can't offer any other suggestion – and in any case, I'm sure it doesn't matter.

I confess to not being well up in the latest 'named' techniques for circumcision operation variants. Many surgeons have their own particular styles and I don't attach much significance to the 'V' line on the undersurface of the shaft.

So that's two rather negative answers. Just one more question to go: I suppose that careful tissue typing might make foreskin transplant a possibility, but the economics of doing it would almost certainly put the operation quite beyond the reach of any but the richest patient. The cost of discovering a tissue compatible foreskin, involving a search through possibly hundreds of foreskins from amongst dozens of different operating centres would be astronomical. It's worth it for a life-saving procedure like a heart or kidney transplant, and the necessary logistical machinery has been set up all over Europe – even the world. To establish the same for foreskins isn't on. As for transplanting the whole penis. Yes, again, subject to establishing a network to trace tissue compatible organs, it may be technically possible, but the transplanted penis would not have a natural nerve supply and wouldn't have any sexual sensation. Nor would it become erect on stimulation. Hearts, lungs and kidneys don't depend on a nerve supply to perform their automatic functions. Sadly, penises do.

Dr. Ray Hamble

[Editor's note: Due to the fact that they came from the same part of the world and their stories were similar, I mistakenly stated in the last issue that J.B. was also the author of 'Saga'. My apologies, J.B.]

Saga (Continued)

The pre-med had had no effect by the time I was wheeled in at 9.20 to a scene less dramatic in its impact than before. One of the assistants said good morning through her mask – she appeared very attractive. The sister I recognised from before.

A thick folded cloth was put across my chest to shield my view, an evil looking weapon with some pinkish fluid on the end was used to swab, and then the injections. I hardly bothered to take much in this time. The exploratory nick was painful, followed very soon after by another hardly less so. "Not so much as before?" quoth the surgeon, and I must have grunted with misgivings, for off he went. Very soon I felt a sharp pain as the first cut was done, but I didn't worry overmuch, thinking that the deadening would soon take full effect. It didn't, and the slices came one after another, incredibly fine and sharp, each seeming to last quite a long time. I was able to avoid wincing or jerking, but my mouth went dry, and my face must have been a bit of a sight. The sister moistened my lips with a swab, and held my left forearm, once or twice stroking it back and forth (lovely!), and I enjoyed watching the assistant's

gorgeous eyes fixed intently on ... over her mask. So that, when the surgeon glanced at me and said, "I think I'd better give you a little chloroform, I had no hesitation in saying no, especially as things didn't seem in any danger of worsening. Shortly thereafter, I mentioned that it was better than the dentist – which was about true when I thought back to earlier experiences.

I feel that I might have dozed a little towards the end, being awakened by a few more slices and a strange stretching sensation. I glancing up, and suddenly realised that I could see my bloodied member reflected in the chrome rim of the big theatre light. Soon, though, I could see from the large arm movements that the stitches were being applied. For this, I could actually feel my penis being handled, so I wondered just how much anaesthesia I had actually had.

Conversation seemed to be in grunts. I couldn't tell what was being said, but wondered at one point whether anything had gone slightly awry (which was not, actually, the case).

Back to the ward, and a different ward sister, Asian, who smiled and said, "No pain?", to which I could easily agree. Interestingly, the only time I felt any at all was during the cutting. Lunch, and then some reading. But, by now, the pre-med must have taken effect, for I could not stay awake, and slept until 6.30, whereupon I got permission to dress and depart.

Again, I kept a log, but with so much repetition of past experiences, less detailed. Convalescence proceeded much faster, which I can only attribute to the lower doses, and also, perhaps, to the modified technique which the surgeon mentioned at the review on D9. Initial discomfort was confined to when I was moving around. I awoke at 9am on the day after without any pain, and was able to take a swim the same way on D3.

I removed the very much more substantial dressing after 24 hours in the evening bath, as I had learned previously how to keep it dry after urination, by judicious use of a little gutter of tissue held below and near the meatus.

The all-important inspection revealed far more than I ever expected: instead of a tiny removal, almost a complete recircumcision! At any rate, the cut extended fully round 40% of the periphery, this presumably having been necessary to obtain access to the offending parts.

Stitches were fewer in number, and the offending little tag had gone, leaving a spot of blood, but the usual bruising and swelling precluded any further conclusions being drawn – in truth, I was worried about the possibility of too much having been removed.

The hedgehog effect of the stitches began again on D4, but this time I left well alone. The first came out the next day, and all but one of the remainder at review on D9, when the surgeon busied himself plucking them out. Some inflammation was already starting, but he made no comment. All

he said as I left was, “I crushed it – now it ought to be alright”, with a pleased expression.

The following day I discovered one minute one left behind, which I got out with a tiny jab of pain and bleeding. Later in the morning the inflammation was starting to annoy so I decided to go to our clinic, remembering my unsuccessful attempts at self-treatment the previous year. I just asked for a treatment for post-operative inflammation. The nurse said that although old-fashioned, a saline solution should do the trick. I went home and mixed a tablespoon of salt in a toothmug of water, and sunk my length into it. Relief was immediate and lasted some hours. This might be of assistance to others and I wished I had known of it a year ago.

(To be continued)

Contact Corner

D.J. – Gwent, would like to write to other members, or hear from them, on any matters relating to circumcision. All letters answered.

ACORN

1993 Issue No 2

**Editor
David Acorn**

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**Newsletter Contributions,
Letters for Forwarding**

to:- DAVID ACORN

**Membership, Fees, Advice,
Personal Matters**

to:- TONY ACORN

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Editorial

The few members that I have met have heard something of my first interest in circumcision etc., but most have not. Unlike any of the other stories that have been told, mine is principally a tale of poverty. Like most of the other stories, though, it will probably be a little longwinded and digressive, so please forgive me as I set the scene.

I was brought up in the country in a tiny cottage whose lath and plaster walls couldn't keep out the winter winds, and tended to blow the candles around when we went to bed. The hot water bottle was one of Mum's irons wrapped in a piece of old rag. The last thing that was done at night was to fill the kettle. The first thing in the morning was to clean out and light the range, boil the kettle and pour it down the pump outside to unfreeze it and prime it. The mats on the floor were made from sacks from the nearby farm with bits of rag woven into them, a task that the whole family applied themselves to. And, of course, the toilet was a bucket in a little wooden privy at the bottom of the garden, the contents of which my father buried every week. (It wasn't until the early sixties, the Macmillan government I think, that grants were given so that water, baths and toilets could be indoors). An oil lamp on the table was the only light. My father was never in work. So you see, when people talk about poverty now, I fall about laughing.

Came the time to start school. I enjoyed it and did very well. In those days, every lesson was a competition, with marks out of ten. Some of the time I came top, with only one boy consistently beating me. I couldn't understand why, not knowing that that sort of thing came from the brain, so I kept looking for an answer. Then, one day in the school toilet I found it. He had a different willy to me. This was the answer. God had made him that way because He favoured him. I remember going to bed at night, and when the iron had cooled enough to be bearable, I took the rag off, pulled my foreskin back and pressed the iron on my knob. I did this night after night in the hope that it would stay back permanently. I could be like the other boy, and in favour with God. Needless to say it didn't work. My foreskin could never have fully retracted anyway as the inner foreskin fully adhered to the rim of my knob until I forcibly freed it when I was twelve.

The next thing I noticed by chance, was that the village doctor's son was also different, as were the twins from the village shop. In fact all those who lived in big houses and wore nice clothes were just about all the same. This also applied to those in the small council house estate (I always thought of them as well-off and superior to me because they had water indoors and gas). The poor farm labourers' boys were all the same as me. So I then decided that those with bare knobs were the chosen ones in life, and that I had to know my place which was below everyone else. I couldn't possibly allow anyone to see my willy as I was so ashamed of it, it showed so clearly my lowly estate

(this stayed with me until I was about twenty). My self-esteem was absolutely zero, and thus began my life's personal pecking order.

Everyone, in life, puts everyone they know on a scale of respect, and no-one uses the same scale as another. A football fan would put a footballer at the top with maybe a pop star next, while someone else would have a film star top with a tennis player next, and so on. This also happens with your personal acquaintances, each one being on a slightly different plane according to their attributes. Of course, one of the top requisites on my pecking order was circumcision, and I did my best to find out the penis status of everyone. None of this was sexual, just a pure inner urge. I joined the Navy as a boy with 200 other boys, and to this day I can remember exactly what each boy's penis looked like.

In my late teens I decided that I would have to do something about my lack of self-esteem, so I did some amateur dramatics. After a time it worked with me saying to myself as I delivered my lines, "Five hundred people are sitting there hanging on my every word, so I can't be as low as I think." The final test came when I went out with a girl and plucked up enough courage to allow the petting to get to the feeling and looking stage. I was trembling with anxiety about what she would say when she saw my lowly foreskin, fearing the scornful rejection. Nothing. She didn't bat an eyelid. From then on I became, as it were, normal.

The peculiar thing about all this, is that even after I had learned all about circumcision, it didn't alter my basic thinking, which must show that what gets into your mind as a small child never leaves it, even when logic tells you different; something like the anorexic syndrome. Even though over half of the chaps that I knew were just like me, this was completely dismissed from my mind as being of no importance. Another peculiar thing is that after the first childhood wish, I never ever contemplated being circumcised. Later, I learned to love what I'd got and it has repaid me with hours and hours of pleasure. I still like to know everyone's status, but it isn't the desperate urge that it was.

How's that for baring the soul. There's not much about me now that you don't know.

David Acorn

Celebrities' States

Since so many members stated on their questionnaires that they were interested in the penis status of famous men, six months ago I started searching for a man in America who had compiled a list over the years of about 1800 celebrities. I have had no luck until recently when a friend in California took up the quest for me, and I am expecting it any time now. Then I mentioned the idea in the last newsletter to see if we could get some British

names. J.M. of Middx. sent me the list that I had been searching for, many thanks to him. The list is so long and covers film stars, sportsmen, politicians and other personalities, that it couldn't possibly go in one edition. So for a start I'm publishing just the film stars in this issue.

American Stars With Foreskins

Nick Adams	Lou Ferrigno	Audie Murphy
Alan Alda	Clark Gable	Eddie Murphy
Keith Andes	Ben Gazzara	Ramon Navarro
Desi Arnez	Christopher George	Hugh O'Brian
James Arness	Peter Graves	Jack Palance
Dan Blocker	Andy Griffiths	Elvis Presley
Marlon Brando	Dan Haggerty	Robert Preston
Rossano Brazzi	Charlton Heston	Anthony Quinn
Yul Brynner	William Holden	Aldo Ray
Ed Byrnes	Earl Holliman	Robert Redford
Maxwell Caulfield	Rock Hudson	Burt Reynolds
George Chakiris	William Hurt	Cliff Robertson
Charlie Chaplin	John Huston	Mickey Rooney
Montgomery Clift	David Jansson	John Saxon
Charles Coburn	Van Johnson	Arnold Sxhwarzenegg
Chuck Connors	Gene Kelly	David Selby
William Conrad	Alan Ladd	Tom Selleck
Frank Converse	Fernando Lamas	Frank Sinatra
Jackie Cooper	Burt Lancaster	Donald Sutherland
Bill Cosby	James Macarthur	Mr. T.
Bob Crane	George Maharis	Robert Taylor
Richard Crenna	Nick Mancuso	Rudolph Valentino
Bing Crosby	Ed Marinero	Raf Vallone
Bing's Sons	Dean Martin	Dick Van Dyke
Robert Culp	Marcello Mastroianni	Robert Vaughn
William Defoe	Victor Mature	Dennis Weaver
Buddy Ebsen	Sal Mineo	Johnny Weismuller
Vince Edwards	Ricardo Montalban	Lee Marvin
Douglas Fairbanks Sr.	Greg Morris	Rod Taylor

American Stars, Circumcised

Woody Allen	Glenn Ford	Steve McQueen
Alan Arkin	Harrison Ford	Robert Mitchum
Ed Asner	Michael J. Fox	Dan Monahan
Fred Astaire	Tony Franciosa	David Morse
Christopher Atkins	James Franciscus	Zero Mostel
Max Baer Jr.	Robert Fuller	Paul Muni
Martin Balsam	John Garfield	Bill Murray
Gene Barry	James Garner	Don Murray

Warren Beatty
John Beck
Richard Benjamin
Jack Benny
Milton Berle
Theodore Bikel
Bill Bixby
Pat Boone
Joseph Bottoms
Timothy Bottoms
Bruce Boxleitner
Scott Brady
Beau Bridges
Jeff Bridges
Lloyd Bridges
James Brolin
Charles Bronson
Mel Brooks
Jim Brown
George Burns
Raymond Burr
Gary Busey
Red Buttons
James Caan
Sid Caesar
Rory Calhoun
Joseph Calliea
McDonald Carey
David Carradine
Keith Carradine
Richard Chamberlain
Jeff Chandler
Chevy Chase
Lee J. Cobb
James Coburn
Gary Cole
Jackie Coogan
Gary Cooper
Danny
Kevin Costner
Tom Cruise
Tony Curtis
Ted Danson
Howard da Silva
Jim Davis
Sammy Davis Jr.
James Dean

Tom Geary
Richard Gere
Mel Gibson
Jack Gilford
Michael Paul Glaser
Jeff Goldblum
Leo Gorcey
Elliot Gould
Harold Gould
Farley Granger
Cary Grant
Lorne Green
Joel Grey
Steve Guttenberg
Buddy Hackett
Gene Hackman
Larry Hagman
Mark Hamill
George Hamilton
Ty Hardin
David Hasselhoff
Hurd Hatfield
Van Heflin
Robert Hegyes
Darryl Hickman
Dustin Hoffman
Bo Hopkins
Lee Horsley
John Houseman
Jeffrey Hunter
Tab Hunter
Jim Hutton
Tim Hutton
John Ireland
Richard Jaeckel
Sam Jaffe
Al Jolson
Kaye Harry
Stacey Keach
Michael Keaton
Brian Keith
Tommy Kirk
Jack Klugman
Kevin Kline
Chris Christopherson
Bert Lahr

George Nader
Barry Newman
Paul Newman
Leonard Nimoy
Carrol O'connor
Ryan O'Neal
Al Pacino
Larry Parks
Sean Penn
Joe Penny
George Peppard
Anthony Perkins
Tyrone Power
Denver Pyle
Dennis Quaid
Tony Randall
Basil Rathbone
Robert Reed
Christopher Reeve
The Ritz Bros.
Jason Robards
Pernell Roberts
Edward G. Robinson
Will Rogers
Bobby Rydell
Michael Sarrazin
Roy Scheider
George Segal
Omar Sharif
William Shatner
Charlie Sheen
Martin Sheen
Phil Silvers
Red Skelton
Tom Skerrit
David Soul
Sylvester Stallone
Dean Stanton
Rod Steiger
James Stewart
Dean Stockwell
The 3 Stooges
Peter Strauss
Don Stroud
Patrick Swayze
Russ Tamblyn

Robert de Niro	Martin Landau	Topol
Bruce Dern	Bruce Lee	Rip Torn
Brandon de Wilde	Sam Levene	John Travolta
Bradford Dillman	Jerry Lewis	Jan Michael Vincent
Matt Dillon	Jack Lord	Jon Voight
Kevin Dobson	Peter Lorre	Robert Wagner
Troy Donahue	Chad Lowe	Christopher Walken
Kirk Douglas	Rob Lowe	Eli Wallach
Melvyn Douglas	Paul Lukas	Jack Warden
Michael Douglas	Kyle Maclachlan	John Wayne
Richard Dreyfuss	Guy Madison	Adam West
Patrick Duffy	Lee Majors	Cornel Wilde
Clint Eastwood	Karl Malden	Gene Wilder
Richard Egan	Fredric March	Robin Williams
Emilio Estevez	Stuart Margolin	Henry Winkler
Peter Falk	Steve Martin	Keenan Wynn
Norman Fell	The Marx Bros.	Effrem Zimbalist
Errol Flynn	Walter Matthau	Michael Landon
Peter Fonda	Doug McClure	

British Stars With Foreskins

Richard Attenborough	John Hamill	Ian McKellan
Richard Burton	Richard Harris	Dudley Moore
Michael Caine	Benny Hill	Christopher Neame
Graham Chapman	Paul Hogan (Aus)	John Noakes
Ian Charleson	Anthony Hopkins	Peter O'Toole
Nicholas Clay	Jeremy Irons	Vincent Price
Sean Connery	Gordon Jackson	Oliver Reed
Tom Courteney	Gordon Kaye	Leonard Rossiter
Roger Daltrey	Mark Lester	Terence Stamp
Albert Finney	Roddy McDowall	Richard Warwick
Peter Firth	Malcolm McDowall	Michael York
Stewart Grainger		

British Stars, Circumcised

Anthony Andrews	Roy Dotrice	Ron Moody
Phil Banyard	Barry Evans	Roger Moore
Ray Barrett (Aus)	Marty Feldman	Anthony Newley
Alan Bates	Laurence Harvey	Christopher Plummer
Stephen Boyd	Leslie Howard	Peter Sellers
Jeremy Brett	Derek Jacobi	Peter Ustinov
Simon Callow	David McCallum	Kevin Whately
David Cassidy	Warren Mitchell	Michael Wilding
Michael Craig		

More Circumcisers

I have found out about two more places to obtain adult circumcisions which can be published:-

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. West One Clinic,
57, Harley Street,
London. W1N 1DD | Tel. 071-637 7614
Price £595
Local Anaesthetic |
| 2. Transform Medical Group,
502, Eccleshall Road,
Sheffield. S11 8PY | Tel. (0742) 660798
Price £485
Local Anaesthetic |

Both are very expensive. I am continuing in my quest to obtain other names and addresses of those performing circumcisions.

Could we ask all roundhead members who have had adult circumcisions to pass on details of who performed the operation on them – might get some extra names.

Brian of the West Country

Old Spain

Last year was an important one for Spain. It was the 500th. anniversary, not only of Columbus' discovery of America, but also of the expulsion of the Moors from al-Andalus, the last Islamic stronghold in western Europe.

In some respects, the Moors in Spain, who had been there for 800 years when they were finally kicked out, represented the pinnacle of Islamic achievement in scholarship and architecture, being way ahead of their Christian neighbours, who in those days were relative barbarians. But they were not highly regarded by other Muslims when it came to religious observance. They were far too keen on their booze and their women, and had a reputation for immodesty and lechery, a scandalous state of affairs to God-fearing Muslims.

Moorish Spaniards were very little different from Christian Spaniards in appearance, since assimilation had taken place over so many centuries, and, until the final push which expelled them, lived fairly amicably with their Christian neighbours. There were often disputes and skirmishes though, and any Christian warrior captured by the Moors was offered the choice of istislam (conversion) or death. A surprising number chose death: istislam meant the stigma of circumcison, which meant that they could never go back to their own society, since they would be branded indelibly as heretics.

Those who did opt for istislam were given a couple of weeks' grace before being divested of their foreskins, and if the man was well-born or of personable appearance this bonus extended to the sort of sexual favours he could only have dreamed of previously. In the free and easy society of Moorish Spain, whilst the men were out breaking the strict prohibition on strong drink, the women were left free to break the even stricter prohibition on female unchastity.

The novelty of having a bit of rumpy-pumpy with a foreskinned man was highly prized among these women, who could normally only expect to experience circumcised partners. Consequently, any dishy or well-connected Christian prisoner was immediately taken over by the girls of the harem, and for two weeks he was required to perform prodigies of sexual virtuosity to satisfy these saucy Muslim ladies' lust and curiosity for gift-wrapped winkle. Thereafter of course he was given the chop and had the rest of his life to lament his lost foreskin, made all the more poignant by the value put on it just before the knife descended.

After the expulsion of the Moors (and Jews) in 1492, Spain joined the rest of Europe in being a totally uncircumcised society. And so it continued to the present day.

V.S. – London

Observations

For the first time I was disappointed by an *Acorn* newsletter – 5/92. Please don't let the pendulum swing too far and have it become an anti-circumcision manifesto. Instead of people bemoaning lost foreskins, they should be thanking their lucky stars for the comfort, cleanliness, and protection against urinary infection their circumcision has bestowed on them. As far as masturbation goes, and I have tried it with and without a foreskin, circumcised is infinitely more pleasurable. Before, I had to contend with a sore penis every time I sought some relief, which isn't much fun, whereas now it is a guaranteed source of pleasure.

I am the first roundhead that my present girlfriend has experienced, and she is a convert on the grounds of shape, cleanliness, feel, and staying power, not necessarily in that order. Prior to meeting me she worked in Italy, and has loads of horror stories concerning foreskins, from smell, smegma all over the place, to boys being able to have sex about once a fortnight because of sore and abraided foreskins. It seems that, in Italy, boys are not taught to retract their foreskins, and so a tight one on a boy ends up as a tight one on an adult. Catholic teaching, at least in Europe, shamefully and inaccurately, equates circumcision to being Jewish, and for this reason alone some parents are reluctant to have their sons done, hoping that the problem will 'go away'.

Back to my girlfriend. She thinks that all boys should be done, and has become very adept at working the subject into the conversation, which can be a lot of fun at times.

Now, some amateur statistics. Recently we spent a weekend at a very large nudist complex on the south coast of France. Walking down the beach, and counting in one direction only, so as not to count twice, I observed all the naked boys from babies to the age of twelve or so. On the first day I counted 133, of whom 13 were circumcised. Of these, one was an Arab, and two Jewish brothers (parent wearing the star of David), thus leaving 10 non-religious circumcisions – or 7.5%. On day two, at a different time, the count was 98, of whom 8 were circumcised, or 8.1%. This proves to me that the message of the health benefits of this benign and simple operation are not getting through to modern parents, which I simply cannot understand. Is it a conspiracy by the medical profession, and if so, why? From overheard conversation, the circumcised boys were from many different countries – France, Germany Italy, England, Scandinavia and so on, no country having a monopoly. Most semmed neatly done (plastibell?), but all seemed to me to have had too little skin removed, leaving it either bunched up behind the glans or even slightly covering the rim, which surely cuts down on the hygiene benefits. One unfortunate boy (French) had the left side of his glans completely uncovered, but the right side covered halfway along its length. Scandalous. When I reload film in total darkness in my darkroom I cut it much more accurately than that. This, of course, is a catch 22 thing. If more circumcisions were carried out, the person doing it could achieve and maintain a high standard. I still feel that the best method is freehand by a skilled operator.

We all know that America and Australia are the main proponents of non-religious circumcision. A few years ago I was in Mexico on business, and I noticed that at least 50% of the naked boys on the beach were circumcised, both the 'European descent' upper class and local Indian children. Could this be because of the proximity to the USA? I once saw a collection of photographs of male nudes taken in Brazil by a very talented lady photographer, and 90% were circumcised, with visible circumcision lines on the shaft some way behind the glans, so they weren't faking it. Not like that pathetic sight so prevalent on nude beaches, of the cavalier with his foreskin retracted with all the skin bunched up, fooling nobody.

V.W. – France

Vasectomy

As an ardent supporter of *Acorn* I always look forward to receiving the next copy. Long may the publication run, and many thanks for giving us, the readers, such a vehicle. Like, I suspect, most males who give circumcision consideration, I fall into one of the two camps. For the record, I'm in favour – my parents were not – so I elected to have the cut privately, via a *Forum*

recommendation, some 12 years ago. Strange to say, I enjoyed the experience (the only loss I felt was that I would not be able to have it again!). My only regret at being circumcised was to find that I still had that ugly bunch of skin underneath my shaft, known as the frenulum. Like other views expressed, I too would like to see more articles on that 'little tag of skin' including the combined effects of the loss of same, and also techniques for properly excising it.

That however is not the main point of this letter, which is to develop a more contentious debate. Namely, who are the people who want circumcision, and what sex are they? The other, if it is relevant, is to make the readers aware of the details of vasectomy.

For a number of years I have gradually come round to the conclusion that, despite what we males hope, the majority of women are not interested in circumcision, and that, in general, we kid ourselves that we are cut for the benefit of women, when in fact it is to appease some hidden urge in ourselves. I suspect that, for those in favour of the cut, the reason is that it makes the penis look more 'penis-like' and ready for action even when flaccid.

Certainly, the reaction from friends, when on a recent first-time naturist holiday, supports the distinction between the sexes. Amongst a group of 6 couples from different parts of the UK who banded themselves together, it was interesting to note the reaction when, towards the end of the holiday – when we had all got on 'comfortable' together – we had a farewell meal and drinks to long in the night in one of the chalets. Late on, the topic changed to circumcision, caused by my wife warning one of the men to be careful with the scissors he was using (in trimming some rope-soled sandals he was making as his holiday project), as otherwise he would end up like me. This broke the ice, and it was amazing as to how something that had been ignored (I was the only circumcised one in the group) for the whole holiday, now was talked about by all present for the best part of an hour. What I did notice, was that the women were very direct, including some investigative 'clinical' handling (with my wife's permission). But once their questions and statements were made, that was it, whilst the men were more 'furtive', and did not want to drop the subject. Basically, the women's comments that could be treated as being favourable were, that it looked neater and was easier to keep clean; those against were that there was nothing to play with. Of the other five couples, three wives concluded that they did not mind either way, one was vehemently opposed and felt sorry that such a barbaric thing had been done to me, and the last one was in favour, but only if the surgeon could do it thoroughly enough so that masturbation could be made more difficult. She felt strongly that sex should be just that – internal – and was upset at the thought of other alternatives as they implied that she couldn't satisfy her husband. Four of the men preferred the cut look, with two of them actually thinking about the operation seriously. Amusingly, the one against was the husband of the wife who was in favour. Food for thought!

Finally I come to the other point of my letter, and that is vasectomy. I knew the theory and seen small articles, but never really in the actual sense of how is it done and how do you feel (apart from the propoganda view – I went back to the office in the afternoon. Or the joke – I was in intensive care for about three months). I would say that my pain threshold is average and my healing qualities are good. I'm reasonably fit. So what happens?

First of all you have to make the decision in your own minds. My wife wanted to come off the pill, we are in our early forties and have children (I for one feel a shudder at the thought of more sleepless nights and have no urge to return to them). We are monogamous so AIDS is not, hopefully, a worry, and I hate the sheath as I find it a real turnoff to stop and put a condom on as events get exciting. With that in mind we decided on sterilisation, and as my wife did the work with the 'kids' it was decided that I do the work with the 'snip'.

The next decision was NHS or private. From what we could see the choice was really 'you pay if you want it done tomorrow'. I made three or four enquiries and found that private prices verged from about £80 to £400, with a maximum wait of about a week. The NHS was free but the wait was 12 weeks. We went for the wait (apart from the cost it also give a breathing space for reconsideration which I feel is no bad thing).

I rang the local family planning clinic and got an appointment within the week for both my wife and myself. Personally I was disappointed with this interview as I felt it went through the motions and was just a vehicle. This may well have been purely the individuals responsible. I left with an appointment card.

On my own initiative, closer to the actual vasectomy date, I rang the centre and was luckily put through to the vasectomy nurse. From my questions I learnt things, most of which should have been explained or advised me at the interview.

1. Travelling – If you are driving yourself it's OK as long as the trip is not much more than thirty minutes, as by then the local starts to wear off.
2. Work – Unless you're a macho hero take at least one day off after the operation.
3. Shaving – Shave yourself all around your scrotum (and penis) for about a week before the operation. Your skin is stabilised better regarding irritations. Use a ladies shaving cream as it is more oily, and do the shaving whilst lying in the bath.
4. Support – Forget the line about tight underpants for support, swimming trunks are best. You really do need all the support you can get, not only for your testicles, but to keep the dressings in place (in my case two squares of dressing on each cut).

The day came. I duly arrived and was ushered into the vasectomy suite (for want of better words) by the vasectomy nurse, a nice calming middle-aged woman, not a dragon or a young slip of a girl. She asked me to remove my trousers and underpants and climb onto the table, where she arranged me lying with my legs together. She cupped my testicles and asked me to forget being vasectomised, but did I still want my testicles sterilised so that they could not make any more children. When I said I did she then gave my whole genital area a thorough antiseptic wash. For the record, as she was doing this she remarked that she saw someone had done a very thorough job circumcising me and “did it ever feel too tight, poor thing” It was then time for the surgeon. A man of very few words who got to work quickly. He injected around my scrotum and the base of my penis (the same degree of pain as the dentist’s injection), and, after pausing, he dug into my sac where it joined the groin, made a cut of about an inch and a half and fished out about 2” of my vas deferens tubing. He then clamped, tied, and cut off each end, and stitched. The only sensation was a dull pulling feeling when he was teasing out the tubes. This was repeated on the other side, and then he left, leaving the nurse to dab away the drops of blood and put a dressing over the incision on each side. Picking up the tubes that had been cut off, she remarked that the surgeon believed in doing a thorough job, and once my residue sperm had cleared out of the tubes she would be surprised if my testicles hadn’t been sterilised, which proved to be the case.

My observations are:-

1. Yes, the operation as claimed is simple, quick and relatively painless.
2. Afterwards you’ve got about three or four hours before the local fully wears off.
3. Forget about going to work the next day. Despite what’s said, you feel pretty rough.
4. For the first month or so afterwards you need a jockstrap.

C.W. – Fife

The Multi-Lingual Dictionary

Here are a few more words for the dictionary.

- Finnish:- Circumcise = Ymparileikata.
Foreskin = Esinahka
Glans = Terska
Penis = Penis or Siitin
Willy = Kikkeli or Pippeli
Cock = Kyrpa or Mulkku

Swedish:- Foreskin = Forhud
Glans = Ollon (Acorn!)
Penis = Penis or Manslem (Male member)
Williy = Snopp
Cock = Kuk or Pitt

Arabic:- Circumcision = Khitan

J.H. – Helsinki

Saga (Conclusion)

The first erection was, again, on D4, but during the daytime. This again was truly alarming, but for a slightly different reason. Whereas before the whole organ was stretched to truly drumtight intensity, only the underside now was, with the result that the knob tipped over like a nodding head, so that I was looking along its top surface obliquely instead of down on to it. For a while this really was worrying, as the previous result had not been that unsatisfactory, and I hated the idea that too much had been removed. Nevertheless, by D45 the returned elasticity of the affected area almost entirely eliminated the effect. By the sixth month the tightest spot was by the dorsal vein, where the corona is pulled very slightly out of line by the shaft skin when erect – the whole glans being pulled also slightly out of shape all around the erect tissue. The frenum, despite the earlier refusal, appeared to have been almost completely eliminated, and the scarline there seemingly further back than before, possibly as a result of the release of what tension had been caused by it.

Now, nine months after my ‘tailoring’, I feel ready to take stock and try to give an overall impression of something I can still scarcely believe has come to pass. Many are interested in the difference before and after. Even to one retracted for more than four decades, they are still considerable, although the exposure of the glans and its desensitising, which must be the main one, are for me, back in history.

In the first few days, the first thing I noticed was the extra exposure of the corona, which caught the light in a way never before. Behind it, a thin dark groove denoted a truly circumcised state. Here, I was pleased to see that the sulcus was free of the little roll of skin, even when fully flaccid. A little later, when feeling started to return, I could feel a new sensation: of the all-round pull of the shaft on the corona about which nothing could be done, there being now no way to release the small amount of tension which caused it. Before, the tension, such as there was, was taken up by the frenum. Even when erect, the tension would gradually diminish from it around and upward, so that a slight fold of retracted foreskin at 6 o'clock (the dorsal vein area) was visible.

Later still, when walking around, I had an odd sensation as if the underside of the foreskin only had been replaced and was forward. Investigation revealed that this was caused by contact with the scrotum by the newly exposed

and still slightly sensitive inner foreskin – areas of which having been given exposure because of the almost complete removal of the frenum, and resultant flattening out of the skin which before had lain in folds around it. Visually, this results in a distinct ‘undercut’ on the underside, which is very satisfying to me, although it makes the whole penis feel smaller – something which is felt every time it is pulled out for a pee, as all four fingers were normally placed along here with the thumb above in order to take a grip.

Urination was inclined to be messy until I realised that I had changed my grip from my normal first and second fingertips above and below the glans, to either side, because of a tender frenal area. The usual squeezing on completion was less effective in exhausting the last drops this way, and when I had re-learned to place my fingers above and below for the final squeeze, all was again well.

The little roll of skin mentioned earlier when fully flaccid, can obviously be the cause of difficulty in differentiating between the two states. However, with most retracts, a dark area among the folds betrays the existence there of a foreskin, being the area around the opening when forward. This can be seen in many *H. & E.* photographs. This roll is un-noticeable, unlike a retracted foreskin, which always gave a feeling of constriction, however slight. The effect now is of total comfort – something I had never dreamed of.

I consider myself as satisfied as possible with the present result, which has achieved the aim of keeping the corona free at all times. The only slight reservation is the slight untidiness when totally flaccid, but this could be the result from my mature age when cut.

The scarline is intriguing, as it makes a big departure on the underside from the main line at 0.6 to 0.8cm from the corona, to form a vee at 2cm to enclose most of the remainder of the frenum, much of whose sensitivity (although far from all) has now returned. The scar on the left is now neater, presumably as a result of the crushing technique used. The stitches used were at either end of the recut length, which followed the original cut line entirely, only departing near the frenum, presumably as the result of a slip. The little twinges of pain appear to be a thing of the past. When erect, the glans is pulled very slightly out of shape – a very acceptable penalty.

I have been confined to masturbation for about two years now (I consider myself as hetero as possible). I found after the first op that I had to experiment a fair amount, the second making no difference to my problems. My method had been the normal foreskin backward and forward routine, although very occasionally I would fantasise about being circumcised while just moving the shaft skin, gliding the fingertips along the whole length. And, in the shower with soap, taking a deep (but not tight) grip and sliding. Now, I tried all these, the first requiring a lot of effort and giving me an elbow ache just to barely cover the glans. (Just moving the shaft skin, circumcised or un, was never really satisfactory; the extra effort had to be made to get the skin available up

on to the corona). I used this method in a horrible Asian loo with the aid of a mental picture of a particularly lovely model, to 'collect' my specimen. The method I now use without elbow ache is with the thumb loosely along the top. I find that it provides almost the same effect and satisfaction as the foreskin, as the shock of covering the corona, which is so important, is fleeting only – lasting just as long as the pressure point (the thumb) passes overhead on its way forward.

Nevertheless, it is not quite the same, and coupled with the loss of the sensitive frenum, I can easily understand and sympathise with those who didn't want the op. All the same, I find orgasms enhanced, presumably for psychological reasons.

I was confused by the term 'crushing', so one day I asked my Australian doctor friend about it. She said, "It's used for the reuniting of any fine flesh which has been severed, such as internally, or where the edges can be accurately realigned, such as the foreskin. They are clamped hard together for a few seconds, after which they stick together."

(The End)

Does Circumcision Affect Penis Sensitivity? **By Dr. C.A. Tripp (Writing in American Forum)**

Yes, certainly. Circumcision causes a number of penile changes and, strangely enough, both circumcised and uncircumcised men tend to claim 'advantages' for their respective conditions.

The glans of the penis, and especially the corona, is loaded with nerve endings. When these surfaces are protected by a foreskin, that is mainly drawn back only during sexual excitement, they are sensitive.

But is that good or bad? Retention of foreskin is a clear disadvantage for the male who happens to have hair-trigger responses and who is often thrust into premature ejaculation. But other males may especially enjoy playing with this very same kind of high sensitivity – first revving themselves up with delicate stimulations, then suddenly stopping all stimuli to allow their arousal to wane, then again building up their excitement, perhaps to ever increasing peaks, and so on.

When the penis lacks a foreskin, its exposure to air and to routine friction from clothing leaves it less sensitive to small tactile stimulations – in effect, making it require more arousal before it gets started. But, as the circumcised male might be quick to point out, there is seldom any shortage of stimulation in sex.

A far more common problem in sex is painful overstimulation – especially during mouth-genital contacts, and in various other situations in which a man may not have instant control over the amount of pleasure being delivered. Here, a circumcised male's less sensitive penis surfaces may give him an advantage. Not that that debate ends anywhere near here: like sex itself, it goes on and on.

A major complaint for a great many males is a nerve-jangling, excruciating over-sensitivity of the penis immediately following orgasm. (For an especially unlucky few, this pain occurs right before and during orgasm, sometimes causing them to have to withdraw instantly and/or scream in anguish). The specific origins of this probably neurologic condition are not known.

But in its more ordinary, everyday form (an immediate post-orgasmic leave-me-alone or let-me-out-here reaction that many wives interpret as 'selfishness') the uncircumcised male may have a surprising advantage. His withdrawing penis tends to be promptly covered and thus protected by the foreskin – all the more reliably so if, as with most males, he begins to lose his erection immediately following orgasm.

Various cultures around the world have long held beliefs in favour of circumcision. For example, circumcision is said to help prevent cancer of the penis, and that it is otherwise necessary for cleanliness. In fact, the smegma that is secreted under the foreskin is largely antibiotic, and the limited kinds of bacteria that do survive there tend to be slightly itchy, forcing males in even the most unhygienic societies to keep this area most remarkably clean.

While various advantages and disadvantages can be cited for or against circumcision, they all tend to be trade-offs. In any case, it is clear that circumcision does affect the penis and alter its sensitivities.

Contact Corner

I am a 30 year-old American tattoo artist who was brought up with a foreskin, but had myself circumcised at 20. I would like to correspond with any member circumcised as an adult.

Bil Brierley
P.O.Box 26465
San Jose
California 95159-6465
U.S.A.

A member, who wishes to remain anonymous, would like to hear the views from other *Acorn* members who have recently had circumcisions, before he finally considers the cut. I will forward all letters on to him. *D.A.*

ACORN

1993 Issue No 3

**Editor
David Acorn**

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**Newsletter Contributions,
Letters for Forwarding**

to:- DAVID ACORN

**Membership, Fees, Advice,
Personal Matters**

to:- TONY ACORN

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Editorial

My American friend Bill, who advertised in the last issue, found himself on the wrong side of the law, a very easy thing to do in California apparently. He had what is known as a 'traffic violation', and found himself in the local jail for a statutory 90 days. However, he has managed to extricate himself and got out after about 30 days. His findings in the prison were a little of a revelation to him. There were 100 men in his wing, 55 Mexican/Latino, 25 black, 15 white and 5 Asians. What bugged him was that he saw more foreskins than he had ever seen, just about only the whites being circumcised. And this, America.

Another thing that puzzled him was the fact that nearly all retracted their foreskins in the showers; he thought, to emulate the circumcised. I had to tell him that this was normal practice with foreskinned men.

I've received quite a few letters thanking goodness that 'Saga' is over at last. When I started it I had nothing to put in the newsletter even though I'd begged around the members and, once started, there was no stopping. As I've said before, I don't like cutting items around – and it was a good space filler, giving me no problems on filling all the pages accurately. May I say here that I'm always short of 'personals', and overloaded with literature from books and magazines etc. How about some 'beginnings' like what I wrote (Ernie Wise) in the last issue?

D.A.

Your Morning Hard-on Explained An article in *The New Scientist* sent in by P.D. – Dublin

Forget the oysters – reach for the oxygen cylinder. This, roughly interpreted, is the implication of a joint study on the common causes of impotence by researchers from the U.S. and Israel.

Irwin Goldstein of Boston University and his colleagues from Ramban Medical Centre in Israel and the University of Southern California carried out clinical and experimental studies on humans and rabbits. They say that the physiological mechanisms that promote the erection of the penis are driven by oxygen. Anything that stops the oxygen from getting to the penile tissue – high blood pressure, atherosclerosis, diabetes, smoking or physical injury – can cause impotence.

A year ago, the same research team challenged conventional wisdom by claiming that most cases of male impotence are the result of physiological, not psychological factors. They and other researchers reported that crucial to a successful erection is the local production of nitric acid – by certain nerves to the penis, and by the endothelium, or cell lining, of certain penile blood vessels. Via the autonomic dilator nerves, sexual arousal promotes the production of

nitric oxide, which causes the penis's spongy tissue – corpora cavernosa – to relax and flood with blood from the penile artery. Meanwhile, the penile veins are constricted, blocking the outflow of blood, causing a sustained erection.

The new study by Goldstein and his colleagues reveals that the production of nitric oxide by penile tissues is completely dependent on a high level of oxygen. Blood in the flaccid penis has low oxygen, typical of venous blood, while blood in an erect penis is fully oxygenated like arterial blood. These findings came to light thanks to volunteers, from whom blood samples were drawn at appropriate stages of their penile activity. The researchers tested the effect of varying levels of oxygen on nitric oxide production in laboratory experiments on human and rabbit tissue. They found that a high level of oxygen stimulated nitric oxide to be made, from the amino acid L-arginine and citruline, under the activity of the enzyme nitric oxide synthase. Nitric oxide, either produced via the enzyme system or added directly, stimulated the tissue samples to relax, the first step towards erection in the intact animal. Low levels of oxygen inhibited nitric oxide synthesis.

For most of the day, the penis is in a state of low oxygen, a circumstance that allows males to go about in a state of comfort. During sleep, however, an automatic system comes into play, producing four or five erections, each lasting about 45 minutes. It would appear that the possible function of these night-time erections is to give the penis the oxygen it needs to function normally.

[A lot of long words, but I'm sure you get the drift.

D.A.]

List of Penis Statues (Continued)

World Figures With Foreskins

Spiro Agnew	US Vice Pres.	Martin Luther King	
Prince Albert	of Monaco	Sir Paul Latham	Bart
John Dean III	Nixon Aide	Rod McKuen	Poet
John Gavin	U.S. Amb. to Mexico	Henry Miller	Author
Prince Harry		Ezra Pound	Author
Hugh Hefner	Playboy Mag.	Ronald Reagan	President
David Hockney	Artist	Justin Trudeau	Canada
Rev. Jesse Jackson		Harry Truman	President
Edward Kennedy's Sons		Jimmy Walker	N.Y. Mayor
Jack Kerouac	Writer	Prince William	

World Figures Circumcised

Idi Amin	Uganda	Robert Kennedy	Senator
Prince Andrew		Ted Kennedy	Senator
Yasser Arafat	P.L.O.	John Maynard Keynes	Econ.

W.H.Auden	Poet	Henry Kissinger	Diplomat
Ray Bradbury	Author	Calvin Klein	Designer
Richard Burton	Explorer	D.R.Lange	N.Z.P.M.
George Bush	President	Robert Ludlum	Author
Jimmy Carter	President	Norman Mailer	Author
Prince Charles		Robert Maxwell	
Eric Delvalle	Panama Pres	Prince Michael	of Kent
Prince Edward		Brian Mulroney	Canada P.M
Edward V111		Richard Nixon	President
Albert Einstein	Maths	Oliver North	U.S.Army
Sigmund Freud	Psycho.	Joe Orton	Playwright
Uri Geller	Physics	Lee Harvey Oswald	Assassin
Prince Georg	Denmark	Shimon Peres	Israel P.M
George V		Csar Peter the Great	
George VI		Tsar Peter 111	
Prince George	Duke Kent	Prince Phillip	
J. Paul Getty Jnr.		Mark Phillips	
Barry Goldwater	Senator	Ronald Reagan Jnr.	
Sir Edmond Hillary		Vidal Sassoon	Hair
Sir Keith Holyoake	N.Z.P.M.	Neil Simon	Playwright
A.E.Housman	Poet	Lytton Strachey	Writer
Anthony Armstrong Jones		Gore Vidal	Author
Kadaffi	Libya	Evelyn Waugh	Writer
John F. Kennedy	President	Tennessee Williams	Author

Sportsmen With Foreskins

Mario Andretti	Car Racing	Geoff Howarth	NZ Cricket
Max Baer	Boxing	Magic Johnson	Basketball
Boris Becker	Tennis	Jean Claude Killy	Skiing
Jeff Crowe	NZ Cricket	Ivan Lendl	Tennis
John Curry	Skating	Joe Louis	Boxing
Jack Dempsey	Boxing	Diego Maradona	Football
Joe Dimaggio	Baseball	Mike Mazurki	Wrestling
Stefan Edberg	Tennis	Miloslav Mecir	Tennis
Bobby Fischer	Chess	Ilia Nastase	Tennis
Vitas Gerualitis	Tennis	Pele	Football
Jason Goodall	Tennis	Guillermo Vilas	Tennis
Emille Griffith	Boxing	Mats Willander	Tennis
Bjorn Borg	Tennis		

Sportsmen Circumcised

Muhammad Ali	Boxing	Bruce Lee	Mart. Arts
Arthur Ashe	Tennis	Sugar Ray Leonard	Boxing
Allan Border	Cricket	Carl Lewis	Athletics
Rick Carey	Swimming	Dennis Lillee	Cricket

Pat Cash	Tennis	John McEnroe	Tennis
Steve Cauthen	Jockey	Yannick Noah	Tennis
Jimmy Connors	Tennis	Ken Norton	Boxing
Peter Doohan	Tennis	Mark Spitz	Swimming
Bob Falkenberg	Tennis	Tom Watson	Golf
Tom Falkenberg	Tennis	Lew Hoad	Tennis

Entertainers With Foreskin

Benny Anderson	Abba	Tom Jones	Singer
Paul Anka	Singer	Mario Lanza	Opera
Adam Ant	Pop	John Lennon	Beatles
Dezi Arnaz Jr	Singer	Daniel Lewis	Conductor
Eddie Arnold	Singer	Jerry Lee Lewis	Pop
Baryshnikov	Ballet	Liberace	Pianist
Chuck Berry	Pop	Johnny Mathis	Singer
Sonny Bono	Bono	Don MacLean	Singer
David Bowie	Pop	Keith Moon	Pop
Glen Campbell	Singer	Bob Newhart	Comedian
Kenneth Carr	Singer	Peter Noone	Pop
Johnny Carson	US TV Host	Rudolph Nureyev	Ballet
Johnny Cash	Singer	Tony Orlando	Singer
Gower Champion	Dancer	Charlie Pride	Singer
Francis F Coppola	Director	Johnny Ray	Singer
Franco Corelli	Opera	Jerry Reed	Singer
Walter Cronkite	US TV	Steve Reeves	Mr Univ
John Denver	Singer	Cliff Richard	Singer
Anton Dolin	Ballet	Keith Richard	R Stones
Placido Domingo	Opera	Little Richard	Pop
Donovan	Pop	Ringo Starr	Beatles
Duane Eddy	Pop	Sting	Pop
Everly Bros.	Pop	Bjorn Ulvaeus	Abba
Rainer Fassbinder	Director	Sid Vicious	Pop
Bob Geldorf	Pop	Bobby Vinton	Singer
Boy George	Pop	Andy Williams	Singer
Robert Goulet	Singer	Bill Wyman	R Stones
George Harrison	Beatles	Billy Idol	Pop
Jimi Hendrix	Singer	Mick Jagger	R Stones
Julio Iglesias	Singer	Elton John	Singer

Entertainers Circumcised

Don Adams	Comedian	Marty Ingels	Comedian
Larry Adler	Harmonica	Michael Jackson	Pop
Peter Allen	Singer	Jackson Five	Pop
Herb Alpert	Musician	George Jessel	Comedian
Mory Amsterdam	Comedian	Billy Joel	Singer

Frankie Avalon	Singer	Brian Jones	R Stones
Burt Bacharach	Composer	Alan Ladd Jr	Producer
Jon Bauman	Pop	Frankie Laine	Singer
BeeGees	Pop	Steve Lawrence	Singer
Tony Bennett	Singer	Ted Lewis	Musician
Edgar Bergen	Ventrillo	Barry Manilow	Singer
Irving Berlin	Composer	Manfred Mann	Pop
Shelly Berman	Comedian	Sir Nev Marriner	Conductor
Leonard Bernstein	Conductor	Tony Martin	Singer
Joey Bishop	Comedian	Jacky Mason	Comedian
Mel Blanc	Cartoons	Paul McCartney	Beatles
Marc Bolan	Pop	Yehudi Menuhin	Violin
Victor Borge	Comedian	Arthur Miller	Playwright
Lenny Bruce	Comedian	Mitch Miller	Singer
Eddie Cantor	Comedian	Jim Morrison	Doors
Alice Cooper	Pop	Rick Nelson	Singer
Aaron Copland	Composer	Osmonds	Pop
David Copperfield	Magician	Jan Peerce	Opera
Billy Crystal	Comedian	Roman Polanski	Director
Xavier Cugat	Musician	Cole Porter	Composer
Bobby Darin	Singer	Otto Preminger	Director
Neil Diamond	Singer	Andre Previn	Conductor
Walt Disney	Cartoons	Carl Reiner	Comedian
Jason Donovan	Singer	Buddy Rich	Musician
Bob Dylan	Pop	Rubinstein	Pianist
Ziggy Elman	Musician	Tommy Sands	Singer
Brian Epstein	Beatles	Neil Sedaka	Singer
Eddie Fisher	Singer	Artie Shaw	Musician
Art Garfunkel	Singer	Dick Shawn	Comedian
George Gershwin	Composer	Stephen Sondheim	Composer
Ira Gershwin	Lyricist	Aaron Spelling	Producer
Stan Getz	Musician	Steven Spielberg	Director
Peter Green	Pop	Bruce Springsteen	Singer
George Hamilton	Singer	Isaac Stern	Violin
Marvin Hamlisch	Composer	Mick Taylor	R Stones
Lorenz Hart	Lyricist	Mike Todd	Producer
Jascha Heifetz	Violin	Mel Torme	Singer
Ernest Hemingway	Writer	Frankie Vaughan	Singer
Jerry Herman	Composer	Andy Warhol	Artist
Horowitz	Pianist	Charlie Watts	R.Stones
Houdini	Magician	Billy Wilder	Director
Eng Humperdinck	Singer		

[I've left hundreds out, but they're all those that I think are well-known in America but not here, such as baseball, ice hockey, TV, and comedy stars. Now here are some comments I've already received regarding the first lists.]

Reliability

I am fascinated by the lists of famous cuts and uncuts, but what certainty is there that the information is correct. From the errors I have spotted I doubt that the lists are really reliable. For example:-

Charlie Chaplin and Johnny Weismuller were Jews and so would have been circumcised. George Maharis, when he appeared in *Playgirl*, although his dick was meant to be discreetly hidden, in one shot you can see a well-defined and exposed dick-head. As the photos were not meant to be full frontal I doubt he had skimmed back his foreskin for the sake of his American viewers.

Also I have seen photos of Arnold Schwarzenegger looking very much like a roundhead, unless he has such a naturally short foreskin it is permanently behind the rim.

I happen to know, but cannot without breaking a confidence say how, that Tom Selleck has a big cut dick. [The more up-to-date list that I have received does put Tom Selleck as circumcised. *D.A.*]

To turn to the cut list, neither of the Carradines are roundheads, nor is Kris Kristopherson; and Errol Flynn was famous for his foreskin – there is even a limerick with skin and Flynn rhyming.

On the British list, John Hamill was a bodybuilder before he became a star. I know from a friend of mine who was competing often with him, that he went off and had himself done, and thereafter was proud of showing it off 'backstage'. If you saw Caligula then you will know that Malcolm McDowall is also a member of the cut club.

So you see I am sceptical as to how accurate these lists are. To the circumcised American list you can add Don Johnson and Brad Pitt.

R.H. – London

In the list of uncut U.S. actors I was bemused to read the name of Yul Brynner. Many years ago I saw a nude full-frontal picture of the man in one of the Sunday paper magazines. It showed the young Yul sporting a full head of hair and a long thick, heavy organ with a fully exposed acorn. I am searching my files for this picture, which I know I have saved.

Just before his death, Rudolph Nureyev made a TV documentary about his art. At the end he appears nude, fully frontal, displaying a long well-formed organ with a fully exposed glans.

Possibly both men retracted their foreskins for the photo opportunity.

A.D. – Oxford

Commonwealth Statistics

The list of 'famous foreskins' made quite interesting reading, and gave rise to three observations:-

1. How on earth was this list compiled? I will admit to discreet 'cock-spotting' at the swimming baths and on the local naturist beach – does this go on in Hollywood too?

2. I think Peter Sellers was born in India, where circumcision of 'British' children was common. His fellow Goon, Spike Milligan, was born to an army family and circumcised in Poona circ. 1920. He admits to this in one of his many army autobiographies.

3. Some of the names given as American are not so. Charlie Chaplin was British and Schwarzenegger German, hence it is quite probable that they were not circumcised at birth (which they almost certainly would have been if born in the U.S.). I note that British born Bob Hope is on neither list. Many of the names seem to be south European in origin – Brando, Brazzi etc. and also Dean Martin (born Dino Crocetti). Were parents from such backgrounds less likely to have had their sons circumcised.

A pattern of this nature has certainly been seen in Canada. In 1973/74 47.4% of baby boys and in 1974/75 46.8% were neonatally circumcised (source: *Medical Journal of Australia*, 1977, p.760). However, whereas circumcision is very common amongst Canadian families of British origin, it is virtually unknown in French Quebec. Out of interest, members might like the Australian figures too; 49.5% and 48.6% for the years in question. The Australian figures are thought to underestimate the true numbers, as they relate only to those performed on babies whose parents had health insurance. All baby boys of uninsured parents, boys born in the public wards of public hospitals, and boys born at home, could have been circumcised, not counted in the above figures. The Journal defines neonatal as under four weeks old, thus perhaps further reducing the figures. As an advocate of neonatal circumcision (though circumcised as an adult myself), I feel that Britain has abandoned a valuable health and hygiene matter, and perhaps ought to reconsider the issue in the light of the high proportions of U.S., Canadian and Australian circumcisions.

Regarding Transform Medical Group (in the last issue). When I lived in the North I contacted them about circumcision. They wanted a recommendation from my G.P. before they would proceed. Mine was eventually done by Dr. Siffman.

Anon

[Chuck Thompson doesn't claim his lists to be infallible. In fact he asks for corrections and updates, and gets them as shown below:-

President Kennedy had been in the uncut columns until someone sent in a book called *The Kennedy's: An American Drama* where it noted that the future President was circumcised in 1938, while a student at Harvard. Writing to a friend at Princeton, John Kennedy wrote, "Get me a room away from all others, as I don't want you coming in for a chat and discussing how sore my cock is. As for your rather unnatural interest in my becoming circumcised, my cock has never been in better shape or doing better service."

Phil Donahue devoted one of his shows to circumcision (we get them in the middle of the night on ITV), and with the list in his hand stated that he was improperly listed, so we know that one's correct. D.A.]

Looking Back In Time

When I was 13 years old I became friendly with a boy in our street who was 3 years older than me. Instead of playing kids' games I went to the cinema, billiard halls, and roller skating etc. with him. He was a nice boy who my parents liked and knew that I wouldn't get into trouble with him.

We sometimes called in the gents' on the way home, and one day I noticed that his penis was about three times larger than mine, with about a 1.5" overhang. I told him that I wished that I had one like his, and after looking at mine, he said that I would in a couple of years, and not to worry.

We went for a walk in the country one nice summer day and sat down behind a hedge in a field for a rest. I dozed off, and when I awoke I could see Dave carressing his 'pride and joy'. It was a beautiful sight, although it was fully erect. There was about half an inch of foreskin overhang. I have never seen anything to compare since. He asked me if I would carress it for him and I was only too happy to oblige. He gave me instructions on how he wanted me to do it. It was very flexible and mobile to manipulate, as though his foreskin was made of elastic. On the downstroke, although I drew it back below the rim, the tip never became uncovered. He took over when he reached the point of no return. Incidents like this happened frequently throughout that summer until he got a job, after which I never saw him again.

I have seen many cocks in the showers, but nothing to compare with Dave's.

H.J.M. – Mid Glamorgan

Vasectomy

It was a vasectomy at the age of 28 that re-awakened my urge to be circumcised, in spite of having a permanently retracted foreskin since I had been about 21. My recollections, 22 years later, of the events are somewhat

patchy, but I remember I had no interview or counselling beforehand, as the job was done in East London, and I was living and working in Ireland.

It was in December and it was miserably cold. I had shaved the day before and was still uncomfortable. The operation itself was quite fascinating and painless, and was done with my wife watching also. We travelled up to Cambridge that afternoon by train, to spend the next few days redecorating our old house in between lets. That night we made love, which was probably a mistake, as the next morning my scrotum resembled a sort of double fig, dark purple, but not so swollen as to remove the wrinkles. I continued to add insult to injury by indulging in painting the house from top to bottom in the next three days, without adequate support in the injured region. The most discomfort that I remember came from the regrowing hairs in my groin, pricking both tender scrotum and less tender thighs. We had a needed rest at our parents' homes over Christmas.

When I got back I did my own sperm count immediately (14 days after the op) and found it to be zero. Subsequent counts at one week intervals for a month confirmed this, and my wife went off the pill in February. My semen changed colour from whitish to yellowish, and the vasectomy scars disappeared within a year. I also made my first attempt at self-circumcision within that year.

P.D. – Dublin

Bead Implants

Following on from a question that we put to Dr. Ray, I recently saw an advert in the magazine *Piercing World*, of a piercing specialist who was offering to do 'foreskin bead implants'. As he worked very near to me I called round to see him and asked some questions. I found that the diameter of the beads were from 6mm to 10mm and they can be either pearls, glass or stainless steel, the latter being the most common. Although they can be inserted anywhere along the shaft of the penis, they are generally placed under the inner foreskin, otherwise when the foreskin is retracted for sex the beads would be down at the base of the shaft. In circumcised cocks they can be inserted anywhere. A 0.25" slit is made in the skin, the ball inserted and then either a stitch is put in, or a piece of medical cling film put over it. It then heals within a week. Removing them is the same procedure. A drawing he gave me makes it look like a wart-covered penis. A recommendation is to have a large one on the top of the shaft to keep rubbing the clitoris during each stroke in intercourse.

For more information contact Phil Barry, 201, Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood, Bristol. Tel. (0272) 603923. He also offered to give a £5 discount on any implant or piercing on production of a copy of *Acorn*.

Phil also gave me a copy of an interview with a woman who lived as a mistress in the Japanese underworld, which I will paraphrase for simplicity:

The yakuza are the Japanese mafia who often have beautiful tattoos all over their bodies. Supposedly the custom originated as a means of guarding against would-be infiltrators and informers. Generally, parts of their fingers are missing because over the years they chop them off, knuckle by knuckle, for various transgressions committed. They have to do this in front of their boss, and show no pain.

Men who have been in the yakuza often go to prison for various reasons – these are the lower class that take the fall for their boss. In prison they do penile implants, taking a pearl and inserting it under the skin of their penis, one for every year they're in jail. They carve down a chopstick or toothbrush to a very sharp point, split the skin open about 1/4" wide (anywhere from about 1/2" below the knob to about 1/2" above the base), lift the skin up and away, insert the pearl, and then bandage it so that the skin heals over and the area resembles a really big wart about 1/3" in diameter. Her boyfriend had 13 in his penis, going all round the shaft.

Self-mutilation appears to be a sign of humility and sacrifice. She says they are also into shooting up 'speed', they shoot it into their finger before they cut it off.

I'm glad I'm sort of civilised, or at least an ardent coward.

D.A.

Double Willy

I thought you might like to see the enclosed snippet from the *Daily Mirror* of 30.11.92:-

"A man held for a sex assault was found to have two penises. Jose Lopez, 26, was born with the abnormality, say the police in Malaga, Spain. A woman aged 30 had been held in his car for four hours, and he allegedly claimed other victims."

Other instances of double penis have been recorded, but this is the only example I have seen in the popular press.

A.W. – Sussex

[I was playing Trivia in mixed company one day, One lady was asked, under a biology question, what was the meaning of the condition known as 'diphallus'. She thought for a minute, then laughed to herself and said, "No, that's ridiculous". When asked, she told us that all she could think of was that di was the prefix for two and that left phallus, but whoever heard of anyone having

two penises. She was right, though! I remember thinking, “Who should be so lucky!”, but I’ve since read that there is accompanying malformation of the rest of the genital system to go with it. D.A.]

Preference

A young lady set out on a mission
to find out about circumcision.
 And whether that way,
 it helped men to stay
Provided she gave them permission.

This saucy young girl’s name was Harrison,
and so she crept into a garrison.
 She wasn’t oversexed,
 or jealous, or vexed,
but just wanted to make a comparison.

The first lad was a slim cavalier,
who thought he had nothing to fear.
 Till she forced back his skin,
 before he went in,
and said, “It’s a bit smelly, my dear.”

The next was a chubby young roundhead,
and in him her fears proved unfounded.
 As he pushed in his knob,
 it felt just the job,
and the shriek of her orgasm sounded

Anon. – Bradford

Matriarchal Sexual Abuse

I was quite moved by your account of triumph over adversity in 2/93. The fact that you managed to emerge from a background of grinding poverty so successfully, and did not give in to the pernicious neurosis of envy which drives so many weaker brethren to part with their foreskins does you considerable credit. I hope you gained as much relief from your worries in ‘baring your soul’ as I did from doing the same in Issue Q a couple of years ago. You are lucky too in having the support of a ladyfriend who takes the normal commonsense view on such matters.

My congratulations too, on restoring the balance in *Acorn’s* content, thereby enabling me to renew my subscription. If it’s too slanted one way or the other you stand to lose customers, and anyway, a bit of cut and thrust make the paper so much more interesting in this connection. Why is it, I wonder, that it’s only the circumcisionists who take up an intolerant and

unyielding attitude [only very few. *D.A.*], whereas the pro-foreskins tend to be a bit hesitant and apologetic? I seem to be the only bloke who is prepared to have a go at the sort of people who decreed that I should be mutilated at birth. What about some of you others who hint at how you feel (are you listening Anthony?) telling the blighters what their ill-considered actions can lead to? A bit of well-directed good-hearted resentment cannot go amiss. Incidentally, David, I do think people should be discouraged from writing sagas. The recent one did, unfairly in my view, monopolise a large chunk of last year's output, and, although entertaining in parts, the inevitable grind down the rose-strewn path to the nirvana of circumcision was so familiar. [See editorial *D.A.*]

Finally, something to exercise the minds of our more extreme tendency who aspire to the wholesale circumcision of mankind. There is an interesting report in *Stern* magazine of Mar 25th on the subject of women who commit child abuse in Germany. Apparently, about 10% of all sexually abused German boys are molested by women, two-thirds of them their own mothers or step-mothers. Prof. Gerhard Amendt of Bremen circulated about a thousand questionnaires on the subject and came to a surprising conclusion:- about one boy in every three is sexually stimulated by his mother when, out of fear of phimosis, she makes regular checks of his foreskin, thereby provoking sexual excitement in the lad. Amendt stresses that this is not abuse, but draws a fine line between motherly care and unacceptable acts, which could easily lead to incestuous activities and confusion.

The article then goes on to describe how some mothers bathe with their adolescent sons. Treating them as infants, they soap them all over and often worry that their offspring may have phimosis (seems to be a real source of angst in Germany), causing them to manipulate and examine their foreskins, thus provoking erections and sexual excitement. Matthias Dreb explains that many mothers, particularly if there's no man in the household, thus satisfy their own needs whilst justifying it as proper maternal concern. Such mothers have no guilt feelings; they claim it is for the child's own good. Dreb goes on to recount how a lot of mothers rationalise blatant sexual acts in this way, on the grounds of defusing the boy's sex drive. He cites a social worker who progressed from checking her 13 year-old's foreskin to full manual manipulation.

Now here's a chance for all you guys imbued with the crusading spirit! Why not form a mission to spread the word among the poor ignorant unenlightened and uncircumcised people of Germany? Sock it to them by leaflet and the spoken word how circumcision not only gives immunity from AIDS, pox, clap, urinary infections, excessive wanking and ingrowing toenails, but will also stop mothers from molesting their own sons, since they won't have anything to molest. And then, if in later life they discover, like I did, that their sawn-off organs are not acceptable to the German girl in the street, they can take comfort in *Acorn's* statistics which show they'll be welcomed by the gay community (who form a preponderance of *Acorn's* membership). Can't you just see all those hard-headed sensible German Fraus skipping about with anticipatory

joy as they register this message of hope and happiness, and rush to join the queue to get young Fritz's foreskin whacked off.

R.B.W. – Bedford

Masturbation — Getting It Right

Introduction

There is no doubt that masturbation is by far the commonest form of sexual release enjoyed by man. Often from long before puberty the habit is established as a regular source of deriving personal pleasure. Only 1% of adult males claim never to have experimented with masturbation, and 95% of teenagers admit to it as a regular practice. Though there is a decline in prevalence during the passage of the years, even beyond the age of retirement at 65, one respected piece of research a few years ago revealed that over 40% of men enjoyed masturbating at least once a week. In their teens and twenties, the most sexually active years, many young people toss themselves off twice, or even three times a day, though the average seems to be about three times a week.

Yet, for all its popularity, masturbation is still surrounded by totally outdated taboos and prohibitions, leading to guilt, shame, embarrassment on the part of the individual, and obsessive vigilance against its practice by the forces of law in even the most remote of 'public' places. Where a copulating heterosexual couple may be mildly admonished by a bemused constable, a lone masturbator is more than likely to be arrested for obscene behaviour, and the press will have a field day reporting the case.

But masturbation is nature's safety valve, enabling the release of sexual energy which might otherwise so easily be diverted into violence, rape, incest and other truly offensive forms of sexual behaviour. Masturbation should be interpreted as a Celebration of Male Sexuality, to be enjoyed, encouraged and developed into a sophisticated form of sexual expression in its own right.

Masturbation is 'the real thing', no more and no less than fully partnered hetero- or homo-sexual penetrative intercourse. It is not a substitute for these other sexual activities. It is a totally legitimate and potentially fully satisfying form of sexual expression in its own right. It should be fostered, nurtured and worshipped as such.

Setting the Scene

Just as extreme hunger will drive a man to snatch at any opportunity to fill his stomach, regardless of the quality of the food or the ambience of the dining room, so there are times when masturbation is an urgent necessity to release high levels of sexual arousal. In such circumstance it may be

necessary to forgo the luxury of choosing the right moment and surroundings, and to enjoy a 'quick wank'. This will restore the genital discomfort, inability to concentrate and temperamental irritability which frustrated sexual desire can generate.

However, masturbation is at its most successful when careful attention is given to such factors as the availability of plenty of time, a completely relaxed state of mind, security from undesirable interruptions, and a suitable ambience to suit the mood of the practitioner. This latter may vary from the soft furnished comfort of the low-lit lounge or 'boudoir' to the alfresco freedom of open beaches, country pastures, rugged mountain wastelands, or even a lonely pitch-dark cave. And masturbation is usually at its best when the session is commenced from a state of total sexual 'non-arousal', so that the full joys of developing what we loosely call 'the urge' completely from scratch, can be savoured to the full.

Whenever possible, total nakedness is usually preferred so that all parts of the body may be readily explored and stimulated. Masturbation should always be perceived as a 'whole body' – physical and emotional – experience, not merely a genitally orientated burst of physical stimulation.

Enjoying the Action

Sexual arousal is marked by several recognised stages which together form a complete cycle. At each of these stages there are techniques available to enhance the pleasure and to facilitate progression from one stage to the next.

- i) The totally quiescent state – the resting state of non-arousal

This can be uplifted at least to a pleasant state of constant vague sexual awareness by the routine wearing of cockstraps, rings, snug briefs etc.

- ii) The state of preliminary awareness and triggered arousal

Gradually, after a resting period, most men develop a vague, but persistent genital awareness or fullness, coupled with a sense of general irritability, inability to concentrate, and the emergence of sexual fantasies. This 'urge consciousness' is a spontaneous natural process which builds up as a period of sexual inactivity becomes prolonged. It can be triggered to occur more rapidly by such stimulants as pornography, sexy talk, explicit correspondence, visually attractive companions or passers-by etc.

In the context of masturbation starting from the resting state, this preliminary arousal can be achieved by stripping off in the chosen surroundings, consciously fantasising, relaxing and beginning the process of self-caressing and fondling.

(to be continued)

Dr. Ray

Snippet

(From Forum Advice)

I've noticed that when I go two or three weeks without sex or masturbating, my sperm comes out as a gelatinous sponge-like substance, with a more yellowish colour than usual. This only lasts for two or three ejaculations and then my sperm returns to normal. What could cause this and is it anything to worry about?

Answer: The ejaculate is less coloured and also known to be less viscous or thick after a few ejaculations or with frequent ejaculations. Probably the ejaculated material becomes more concentrated when it remains in the body for a period of time compared with the thinning and dilution that would take place by frequent ejaculations. There is a characteristic odour that is noted with ejaculation, and is normal.

Contact Corner

Retired hetero couple, both depilated and circumcised, wish correspondence with ladies or couples having similar interests. All letters answered and confidence respected.

A.W. – Sussex

ACORN

1993 Issue No 4

**Editor
David Acorn**

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Letters for Forwarding**

to:- DAVID ACORN

**Membership, Fees, Advice,
Personal Matters**

to:- TONY ACORN

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Editorial

Not much to say this time. I was hoping to get this out earlier, but a lot of personal events have held me up. I expect to be moving house shortly, so I would ask those who write to my home address to use the Box number from now on. The telephone number should remain the same.

Also, I'm not altogether happy with the balance this month. I have loads of pro-foreskin material, but very little pro-circumcision. Anyone want to rectify matters a little? Anyway, happy reading.

D.A.

Guessing And Reading

I wrote in 6/92 asking for ideas to provide a taper to my reconstructed foreskin, and am grateful to P.D. for going to the trouble of describing a D.I.Y. solution in 8/92, although I'm not sure which way the cuts should go. Even if I was, I'd still have problems because I tend to throw a wobbly at the sight of blood. And anyway, I can't even carve a roast without cocking it up. I've had one knife and fork job done on my unfortunate organ – I couldn't take another! Perhaps someone has a suggestion which doesn't require me to be surgically trained.

Incidentally I recently had an open-heart op. and found myself fitted with a urinary catheter up my pipe when I woke up. I got friendly with the nurses and, chatting to one of them, discovered that she'd been the one to insert the catheter. I pulled her leg about it, whereupon she hesitated and then said could she ask me a personal question. Apparently when the guy is under and being prepared, the girls run a book on guessing whether he is circumcised, before the covers are removed (the patients are mostly my generation so the girls have an even chance). Most of the girls guessed (rightly) that I'd been done, but had to pay up 10p each for the Xmas fund on seeing my reconstituted foreskin. But when this was pulled back to free the opening of the glans to insert the catheter, the anaesthetist noticed the unsightly remains left by the butcher who had mutilated me as a kid, and told the nurses they'd been right first time. So my nurse was dead curious. When I told her how I'd stretched it to relieve the deep distress and anger I'd felt, she was entirely sympathetic, saying she couldn't understand why they were so keen to deform little boys in those days when it was totally unnecessary – very few younger men had it done, even among the so-called educated classes, nowadays.

Now some recommended reading: If you've got a decent library you could do worse than read Albert Moravia's subtle and sexually titillating novel '1934', about a young Italian in Capri who falls in love at a distance with a neurotic German girl. She leads him on whilst gently rebuffing him, only to disappear back to Germany and be replaced a day later by her identical twin sister who is her exact opposite character-wise. Lucio, being all fired up for

the first sister, is attracted to the second by her close resemblance to the first, but slightly put off by her direct sexual approach. For example, when she invites him into her changing cubicle on the beach, and strips off in front of him, he admires her nude body but declines her insistent demand that he strip off too, and goes to change in private. They then take out a boat, and the girl starts questioning him about his background, eventually asking him if he is a Jew. He takes offence and wants to know why. She replies that she would have to go back to the beach and have nothing more to do with him if he was. He really takes umbrage, and says he'll row back anyway, whereupon she gets alarmed and stops him, but insists again in knowing if he's a Jew. When he finally admits he isn't, the girl asks him why he's not prepared to prove it – the Fuhrer (who had just come to power) forbade German girls to go with Jews. Lucio is perplexed, and asked what proof the girl expected. She explained that she had invited him into her cabin to undress only to see if his penis was circumcised; and thought his reluctance to do so may have meant he was Jewish and ashamed of it. Lucio was totally gobsmacked, but when she went on demanding proof, he gave in, pulled his trunks down and revealed his pristine fully foreskinned dong.

(This struck a chord with me, since I went through a similar process in Munchen-Gladbach in 1959 – but failed the test – see Issue Q.)

When Lucio goes to pull his trunks up, she won't let him, but stares avidly at his member until he erects. She then gets so aroused at the sight of his erect uncircumcised penis that she grabs his foot by the heel and toe, places the sole over her vulva and rubs it rapidly up and down until she comes. When she recovers, she says "Again!", and repeats the operation, eventually flopping back in total satisfaction.

This goes to illustrate the strength of the revulsion felt by German women for the circumcised organ, not just during the Nazi era either! From what I've heard they still feel the same way today.

R.B.W. – Bedford

The Lists

I've just received the most recent journal, most interesting as usual, and I wanted to say a couple of things about the lists:-

a) Charlie Chaplin was not in fact Jewish, so it is quite likely that he had a foreskin.

b) Nureyev was born of Muslim Tartar parents in the late thirties or early forties (his name contains the Arab root Nur). So it is very likely that he was circumcised. Two other great dancers, Irek Mukhammedov and Faroukh Ruzimatov, are also of Muslim origin; the disgraceful Soviet attempt to stamp

out religious circumcisions from the fifties onwards may mean that they are uncircumcised.

c) There is a full frontal of Stallone in this month's *For Women*. It's poor quality, from his early career in soft porn movies, so don't rush to buy, but check it out in the shop. A close look shows that he is quite neatly circumcised.

d) We do need someone to do a similar list for British sportsmen.

D.P. – London

Further to my recent letter about my scepticism of the lists of 'celebrities' you have printed in Issue 2/93, you can add the following 'dead certs' to your American cut list:-

Brad Davies – run the video of *Midnight Express* frame by frame when he is naked before the police chief.

Sam J. Jones – he was Flash Gordon in the film, and a *Playgirl* centrefold.

Michael Brandon – of T.V. detectives Dempsey and Makepeace, but who, in another T.V. play, was clearly cut when he turned over in a bed scene.

I suspect you can add David Niven to the English cut list. In his autobiography *The Moon's a Balloon*, in his story of when caught short at a regimental dinner, he wrote about his 'acorn'.

R.H. – London

The Dictionary

A Malay Vocabulary.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Penis | Zakar or Butuh |
| 2. Foreskin | Kulup |
| 3. Testicle | Buah Pelir |
| 4. Scrotum | Kandung Buah Pelir (Kandung means to carry in a sack/sac) |
| 5. Semen | Mani |
| 6. Masturbation | Rancap |
| 7. To Masturbate | Merancap |
| 8. Circumcision | Khatan, Sunat |
| 9. To Circumcise | Mengkhatankan or Menyunatkhan |
| 10. Penis (obscene) | Lanchiao |

H.C. – London

Latin

1. Circumcise Circumcidere
2. Circumcision Circumcisio
3. Foreskin Praeputium
4. Glans and Penis are latin

Greek (Classical)

1. Penis Posthe (grammatically feminine)

Olde English

1. Circumcise Ymbeceorfan
2. Circumcision Ymbeceorfnes

Arabic

1. Foreskin Qulfa-t
2. Penis Zakr (pronounced thak r)

Gaelic

1. Foreskin Roimh-chraicin

Esperanto

1. Circumcise Cirkumcido
2. Foreskin Prepucio

One of the topics that interests me most is the permanent retraction of the foreskin. This was not an 'option' in the questionnaire as I recall; either cut or not. Amongst uncut guys, there are those who are very fond of their foreskins and keep them in the 'natural' state always. But there are those who, for various reasons, prefer to keep them retracted. There has certainly been plenty of evidence amongst the newsletter material to suggest that this is fairly common. I have compiled a further questionnaire on this topic and would be very willing to analyse the replies if you would be willing to send them on to me. It would save time and money if all replies were forwarded at the same time, so perhaps a 'cut-off' date of four weeks or so after the publication date of the next newsletter could be imposed.

N.G. – Norfolk

[A questionnaire is included with this edition, and will go to the circumcised as well as the foreskinned, just for interests sake. *D.A.*]

Masturbation – Getting It Right (Continued)

iii) The Stage of Active Arousal and Foreplay.

We are now moving into the 'big time' and talking of the developing erection, more positive body caressing with concentration on the erogenous areas and specific methods of genital stimulation. The erogenous areas of the body vary somewhat from individual to individual, but tend to be concentrated in certain specific parts. These include the inner aspects of the thighs, the lower back and loins, the nape of the neck, the soles of the feet, the palms of the hands, the areas surrounding any natural body orifice – eg: mouth, nostrils, ears, eye orbits, nipples, umbilicus, anus – and of course, the whole genital area of cock, balls, perineum and pubis.

The pleasure of caressing any of these areas may be enhanced by the use of a lubricant such as baby oil or lotion or, in some areas, an astringent like after-shave or, even, a heat producing balm like Ralgex or Deepheat. Those who are 'nipple sensitive' may enjoy stimulating them with a nailbrush or with 'tit-clips' or weights. Silk, velvet cloth or soft fur can be gainfully employed in body caressing activities.

Techniques of penis stimulation by hand depends to some extent upon whether or not an individual is circumcised. Those with a mobile foreskin will be able to draw this to and fro over the glans penis by establishing a fairly firm grip on the shaft of the penis. Those without a foreskin, or those who prefer to masturbate with their foreskin fully retracted, are likely to employ a looser grip on the shaft, or simply the glans, and stimulate themselves with a sort of friction rub. The hand rubs over the glans to produce the arousal. This latter technique is rather more likely to cause minor abrasions and friction burns, but the risk of these can be reduced by the use of a lubricant.

As a general rule it should be remembered that the frenulum, the fold of skin on the under surface of the glans which attaches it to the foreskin, is usually particularly sensitive.

Penile 'containment' in a tight condom or proprietary masturbating device – eg: the 'Jac Pac' or the latex 'glove' of a penile vibrator – is often a very successful aid. It should not be forgotten that, where such devices are made of rubber, a non-oily, waterbased lubricant such as KY Jelly should be used.

A simple and very effective cock-containment device can be made from hollowing out a length of thick cucumber. The sleeve thus produced provides a deliciously cool masturbating tool.

Other aids, such as cock-straps or rings around the base of the penis or scrotum, to strengthen erection, or as a collar around the neck of the scrotum above the testicles, to resist the natural inclination of the testicles to rise up as arousal advances, are often very beneficial.

Penile base straps of the sort referred to above, not only impede blood drainage from the penis, thus encouraging erection, but also, when fitted fairly tightly to the flaccid organ before the commencement of masturbation, impose a narrowing at the base of the shaft during erection. This narrowing gives the erect penis a considerable flexibility of movement at its base, facilitating, for example, the ability to pull it downwards and firmly backwards between the legs from behind. Masturbation in this position is favoured by many for enhanced sensation.

Scrotum collar straps, because they prevent the testicles from rising up as arousal advances, require that the muscles involved in this lifting process must contract more firmly in an attempt to overcome this restraint. The stronger the muscles pull, the more exciting the sensation.

Other specific physical aids – eg: butt plugs and dildoes, inserted into the rectum to stimulate the prostate through the bowel wall; anal and penile vibrators; gradually stripping out of carefully selected erotic clothing, etc – can be experimented with. The growing sense of arousal may also be improved by employing more subtle outside stimuli – eg, masturbating in front of a mirror, using porn mags or videos, dialling stimulating telephone ‘chat lines’, or choosing suitable background music (I find Ravel’s Bolero particularly exciting as it builds up to its crashing crescendo in time with a leisurely wank). The ability to fantasize can be nurtured. Some people are able to develop the imaginative process tremendously, enabling pictures in the mind to be so vivid that they can virtually achieve orgasm without any manual stimulation at all. This, of course, reflects what happens during the course of a ‘wet dream’.

Hand-grip techniques vary enormously: to each his own preference. Some will prefer a fairly light two or three-finger grip while others favour a full fist encirclement of the shaft, with the thumb either at the base or the distal end of the penis. Yet others enjoy a two-handed grip and there are also those who swear by ‘rolling’ the penis between their open palms as if they were rolling out a length of plasticine. Some masturbators place equal emphasis on the upward and downward strokes, while others prefer true stimulation in one direction only, virtually releasing their grip on the ‘recoil’ stroke.

There are those who masturbate quickly and with great energy, often utilizing short strokes, while others prefer much slower, longer strokes. Exploring the variation of stroke, timing and grip, rather than sticking to one established pattern, can be fun.

It has already been pointed out that masturbation should be a whole body experience and, during arousal, while one hand is engaged in penile stimulation, the other should be caressing and exploring the rest of the body – tweaking nipples, pinching buttocks, stroking sensitive areas, sucking on fingers, poking quite firmly into the umbilicus, ‘finger-fucking’ the anus, etc. Body writhing and pelvic thrusting add to the developing excitement. New postures can be tried – pulling the penis between the legs from behind has

already been mentioned – standing up, lying down on front, back or side, squatting, bending forward, drawing up the knees, arching the back and buttocks while supporting the body on feet and shoulders, etc. all help to bring into play groups of muscles which are more than happy, if given the opportunity, to get in on the action. Even tightly curling the toes can increase the general sense of well-being and excitement. A few young and supple men, apparently about 0.05%, are actually able to fellate themselves (suck themselves off) – there’s no harm in trying. Another popular trick is to grip the penis between the thighs and masturbate by rolling it between them as they are worked backwards and forwards.

For many, the most successful of all solo masturbation techniques is simply fucking a mattress or pillow (the more sophisticated may invest in a rubber inflatable doll), or even the gap between a cushion and the chair on which it is resting. Others prefer the gaps in the folds of a folded up bath towel, possibly with a condom to prevent soiling the towel. One particular friend of mine uses a hollowed out bath sponge and surrounds his cock in a damp face flannel which he has pre-warmed in the microwave oven.

I am aware at this point that I should make a reference to the use of drugs to enhance arousal. A little judicious alcoholic imbibing helps to loosen inhibitions, but excessive indulgence is a sexual depressant, not a stimulant. For a variety of reasons, into which I do not wish to be sidetracked at this juncture, I am not happy about the general use of ‘poppers’ (amyl and butyl nitrates), nor can I encourage cannabis or ‘crack’, or any of the other illegal so-called drug stimulants. They are mentioned only for the sake of completeness alongside a strong background of prejudice against their employment on my part.

(to be continued)

Dr. Ray

Ian’s Tail

I was born in the north of England just before the outbreak of W.W.2, the first of my parents’ two sons. Because my mother had suffered from rheumatic fever my birth was planned to take place, not in the local maternity home, but in the city hospital. Apart from being a week earlier than was expected, I gather my arrival was quite normal. On the Thursday before our discharge from hospital the midwifery sister breezed up to my mother and said that she had a fine young son and surely she would like him circumcised? My mother said that circumcision had not been considered and that she would discuss it with my father when he visited that evening. The midwife told my mother that there could be no delay as circumcisions were done once a week, on Thursday mornings. The midwife told my mother that it was a good thing to do to little boys, it made the penis easy to keep clean, it “prevented trouble later” (damning phrase!) and that I would be thankful for it when I was older and

when I was married. From discussion I sense that the midwife pressured my mother into agreement. I was circumcised later that morning. On learning of the operation on visiting that evening, I am told that my father was distressed, not because he particularly wanted me to keep my foreskin, but because I needed medical intervention so early in life.

When we arrived home, our friendly family doctor arrived to see my mother and take a look at me at the same time. He was horrified at the state of my penis, at the ragged scar, and at the incomplete division of the adhesions between my penis and glans. The doctor offered to have me return to hospital to be tidied up, but my father refused his offer. In discussion it was agreed that, should my parents decide to have my tonsils and adenoids removed, or should I need to have my appendix removed, the tidying up could be done at that time. Apart from foreskin and a few teeth I still have all the bits and pieces with which I was born.

When I was at school and about ten years old I was selected to go off on a 'field study'. The accommodation was basic but sufficient for our needs, we were required to bath in pairs, and it was here that I first discovered that I was not born with an exposed knob. Trevor asked if I had arranged to bath with anyone, and if not, could we bath together. I agreed. Trevor went on to tell me that he had had an operation and didn't like the water too hot. When we went off to the bathroom and stripped off, I asked to see the evidence of his operation and, much to my surprise, he showed me his cock. It was almost like my own. Trevor then looked at my cock and told me that I too had had the operation, that we had been born with skin covering the knob, but that it had been cut off. I couldn't believe him!

I remember returning home at the end of the trip and finding my mother in the kitchen preparing the tea. She was delighted to see me and encouraged me to talk about the trip, which I was pleased to do. Eventually I told her that the boys had been required to bath in pairs, and that I had bathed with Trevor. She said that she remembered Trevor, that our birthdays must be very close as his mother had also been in the city hospital maternity unit at the time she had given birth to me. I told my mother that Trevor had said that I had had an operation on my penis to cut away the skin. She confirmed this, and said that the operation was called circumcision, and that Trevor and I were circumcised on the same day. My mother also told me that she had been waiting for the time when I would ask questions about my penis so that she could explain to me why my penis was different from that of most boys. This was the first of several conversations I had with my parents about circumcision, my own and the subject generally. I believe that such openness between parents and their son is unusual.

I was untroubled by the appearance of my cock until I was selected for secondary education, and found myself in a school where there were three sessions of P.E. and games each week and, yes, showers were compulsory. It was here that I found that there were cocks with hoods (about 75%), some

hoods being long and twirly at the tip, others shorter and open. There were cocks without hoods, and then there was my cock. By this time the ragged scar had subsided and was less visible, but the bridge of skin had not. This bridge of skin started at the circumcision scar line, about a third of the way down the shaft measuring from glans rim to belly, half encircled the shaft, and tapered to about half an inch at the glans where it was firmly attached beside the urethral opening. The bridge was adherent only at the two ends, and I had been taught by my father to keep it clean by passing a soapy finger behind it each day when I bathed.

There was, however, another problem. I suffered from those irrepressible and aching erections that plague adolescent boys. When this occurred, the bridge of skin, which had not grown as much as my cock, pulled the glans firmly to one side. This was uncomfortable. Indeed, on a real 'boner', it was painful, but never painful enough to diminish my erection.

As a young adult I went through a stage of regretting, indeed, bitterly regretting, what had happened to my cock. I wished all manner of ill to befall the midwifery sister who had persuaded my mother to have my penis circumcised, and on the doctor who made such an unsatisfactory job of it. Having said this, I would defend the right of parents to take the decision to have their sons circumcised, but, incumbent upon parents electing for circumcision must be the commitment to tell their son that he is circumcised, and why that choice was made.

I did have a tidying up procedure, but that is another story.

Ian

Malayan Events

A further experience of my Malay chauffeur, Rahbi, recounted by him in great detail, is perhaps worth a mention. The following I know to be true, as I later met, through Rahbi himself, two participants of this tale, who corroborated the evidence. To begin:

My previous essay 'Malaysian Experience', issue Z, Dec. 1990, revealed that Rahbi was circumcised in early boyhood by an English doctor who, to win his patient's trust and to forge a personal link, had stripped himself naked to perform the operation. In current parlance, the term is 'bonding'. For convenience I shall call this doctor, Dr. Smith -

Thenceforth, Rahbi became a regular patient of Dr. Smith. During visits for treatment, if they were alone in the surgery, some mutual fondling and horseplay took place, though not always reaching orgasm. Thus the doctor became a friend and a sexual confidante of sorts. When Rhabi married, Dr.

Smith treated his wife, dispensed sexual advice, and delivered his two babies. But to go back earlier:-

Dr. Smith was somewhat appalled that a large number of pre-pubescent Malay Muslim boys who came to him for circumcision, knew very little about sex. And they knew still less about the purposes and effects of circumcision, except that it was an inevitable religious ceremony. They were often nervous and shy, frightened at the prospect of being 'cut', and sometimes so embarrassed they even vehemently refused to reveal their cocks.

Due to the reluctance in Muslim families to discuss sex, most of them had never seen an adult cock, still less a circumcised one, despite the fact that their fathers, brothers, and uncles were all 'cut'.

So Dr. Smith decided to approach the Imam of the Metropolis (Imam = a religious teacher or leader, greatly respected in Islamic society) with a proposal. The Imam happened to be one of his patients and possessed great clout among the locals.

As a large proportion of candidates for circumcision came from outlying villages, where peasant parents were too unsophisticated to give their young a sex talk, Dr. Smith proposed to visit as many villages as possible and lecture to groups of boys on sex and circumcision. When their time approached, they would be prepared to lose their foreskins without fear, and look forward to a good sex life. The Imam agreed to this.

Each month, Dr. Smith would travel to two villages, usually by car, but if very remote, by army helicopter. For this project Dr. Smith needed the help of a companion and chauffeur, and he approached Rahbi with the offer. The job was periodic, entailing 4 or 5 days away each month. But it was well paid and promised adventure, so Rahbi agreed.

Weeks before they arrived, the sub-Imam of the village would be notified and board and lodging would be provided, and a schoolroom for the lecture prepared. The boys who were to attend had also been selected. Dr. Smith and Rahbi found nothing wanting, despite the primitive conditions. To maintain a friendly, personal and intimate atmosphere, numbers were kept low – each lecture not exceeding 15 boys. If there were more boys, separate lectures were given. Dr. Smith spoke Malay fluently through long residence in the country and close contact with the locals.

The first lecture, given to about 10 boys, went smoothly enough, though at the end of it the doctor had felt an inexplicable frustration. Inundated with questions, he had been unable to convey the 'look and feel' of a circumcised penis, despite some chalk diagrams and one or two illustrations from his medical books. This had somehow offset the joy he desired from having got the project off the ground.

That night, the doctor was restless, and towards dawn he shook Rahbi awake with a sudden inspiration. Would Rahbi be willing to let his naked body be used as a medical specimen and illustration? Rahbi's dark brown body (and his enormous black glans) was a fine example of a mature Malay male. Moreover, as all the boys were Malay and of similar complexion, their own cock-heads, when eventually circumcised, would probably have the same dark hue and texture as Rahbi's. This appealed to Rahbi's exhibitionism and he readily agreed.

At the next lecture, having explained 'the birds and bees', the doctor told the boys that he would now like to show them the naked body of a mature Malay male, and his circumcised cock. At this juncture, Rahbi stood up, removed his three items of clothes, and stood naked before them with his enormous black glans bobbing like a large jellyfish between his legs. He then moved slowly around the room, stopping close-up to each boy for several minutes to offer them a detailed scrutiny. Now and then he massaged his glans to demonstrate that it had become desensitised, or lifted his penis to show his small scrotal sac. That first time, he quickly became erect, and remained hard throughout the lecture.

The atmosphere was electric, and questions came thick and fast. Rahbi answered each question frankly, not shying away from marital details either. He added that as a good Muslim he shaved his cock and armpits, and exhorted the boys to do likewise if their pubic growth had already begun. Dr. Smith finally told the boys that the body was an object of pride and not of shame. With Rahbi's naked body in front of them, the boys had become more forthcoming about themselves. Some admitted already experiencing erections, pubic growth, masturbation and wet dreams. Others were still awaiting puberty. Penis size, foreskins and glans were all freely discussed. So Dr. Smith realised he had at last found the successful lecture formula.

The village sub-Imam was always invited to attend, but told beforehand what to expect. Objections were never raised for various reasons:-

- 1) He had to defer to the central Imam's authority.
- 2) It was in the interest of (sex) education.
- 3) Village life was so boring anyway, who would not welcome a free show – especially a free cock-show?
- 4) Anyone who had ever met Rahbi was always struck by his strong aura of sexuality, and a chance to see his cock was not to be missed. Also the Malays are a fairly bi-sexual people, and curiosity of one man over another man's cock was not uncommon. And indeed, not infrequently, the village sub-Imam would seek Rahbi out when he had some moments alone and make sexual offers. Dr. Smith had predicted this as a likely consequence, but left Rahbi to deal with it as he saw fit. He usually acquiesced.

This enjoyable job lasted for more than 10 years, from his late adolescence into his marriage, and beyond his fatherhood. It terminated just before he came to work for our family – in his early thirties. In a strict Islamic society where sex and nudity were anathema, Rahbi became the proud possessor of the country's most well-known cock. A whole generation of rural Malay youths had reason to be grateful, for, without his cock, they would never have been initiated so smoothly into the secrets of manhood and circumcision, and directed onto the path of a good sex life.

H.C. – London

Forward Women

Britain in the mid-seventies was the pits, with the economy in free fall and a dead-beat government in charge (seems familiar, doesn't it?). So I accepted the chance of an overseas post and found myself in the Middle East. The expatriate British community covered the spectrum from hopeless drunks to real characters, and it's about this last category that I'm writing today.

Sadie was an outrageous lady by any standards. She was terribly well-connected with a cut-glass accent, and was blessed with a luscious body of which she and her many admirers were constantly aware. She was in her mid-thirties, had two young children (known to Sadie as the brats), and a rather precious artist husband (that great poofter) who she said tended to skip when walking. She worked for an Arab trading company and so impressed her millionaire Arab boss, that he showed his appreciation of her talents by giving her the use of an expensive and sexy sports car.

Sadie particularly distinguished herself on the expatriate beach by wearing a thoroughly obscene chamoix leather bikini. When wet, not only did her nipples show through in stark relief, but she always seemed unable to prevent a fold of the material getting trapped between her lower lips. As you can imagine, this intriguing sight created considerable emotion among those who had the privilege of looking at her; in particular a bunch of rampant army colonels (known as "Sadie's junta") who used to gather round her like flies on a jampot, vainly trying to hide their erections.

I got friendly with Sadie and managed at times to tear her away from her junta – although flattered by hanging tongues and standing cocks, she said military types bored her – and took her up-country in my company Range-Rover for the odd desert picnic. One day I went with her and her friend, a lady schoolteacher called Joan, who seemed her exact opposite, being quiet, thin and generally mousey, on a trip up the Wadi Ghawaref into the mountains. This was a spectacular run which left the desert behind, and entered a world of steep stony gullies, sudden rainfall, and consequently, deep pools of cool water surrounded by oleander bushes – the Arab version of paradise in one of the hottest regions in the world.

Coming upon one of these pools in a remote and isolated spot after a hot, tiring drive, we didn't hesitate, but jumped right in. The girls went in in their blouses and shorts – light clothing dries in minutes in that heat – while I stripped down to my Y-fronts. After a glorious half-hour in the pool we got out, demolished the smoked salmon and champagne, and laid down on a blanket to relax. We got talking and I regaled them with a little story about my Arabic classes. I told them how I'd turned my elegant Egyptian lady teacher into an incoherent and near-incontinent jelly by translating the phrase, "the English here are all stupid", but instead of using the word "mughaffalin", meaning stupid, I'd used the word "mughallafin", meaning uncircumcised! This tickled the girls no end and they were nearly as creased up as my teacher.

This story fired Sadie up to tell a rather questionable joke which one normally wouldn't expect to hear from a sophisticated well-brought-up lady, but which certainly helped secure her outrageous reputation: "A sergeant-major, addressing his platoon, told the men that they were due for a short-arm inspection, but since the M.O. was a total wimp who got the vapours at the use of rough language, he said he'd do the whole thing by numbers. "On the command 1, undo your flies and get your cock out. On the command 2, pull your foreskin back. On the command 3, pull it forward again. And on the command 4, put your cock away, do your flies up and dismiss". The M.O. turned up, the sergeant-major went through the routine, and after the men did themselves up and dismissed, he was about to follow them when he discovered the platoon idiot, Private Berk, standing behind a pillar with a red face and glazed eyes going "2-3, 2-3, 2-3".

This time it was my turn to fall about laughing, and so did Joan of course, but Sadie wasn't finished yet. She went on to tell us how she had gone to dinner with her Arab boss and another group of western women who took his fancy, and the highlight of the evening came when he summoned the cook to present the guests with a steaming platter of goat and rice, seemingly unaware that his dhoti had come loose, showing him to be woefully devoid of underpants, since his enormous cock was rolling and swinging about in full view. The girls threw hysterics on the spot, but not before eagle-eyed Sadie had noticed that the gentleman was uncircumcised. Being the girl she was, she didn't hesitate to ask bossikins (as she called him) how his cook happened to have a foreskin in a staunch Muslim country, and was told that he was Hindu. (What she wasn't told was that such a sight was considered by the local Muslims to be a deadly insult to a woman, but since they looked upon all western women as honorary whores anyway, it didn't count.)

She then went on to talk about her husband who, besides ignoring her in favour of small boys, was circumcised, as was her male 'brat'. She said that all men-folks of her acquaintance had been circumcised, and that the Hindu cook's foreskin came as a divine revelation. There was a pause before she asked the question I'd been dreading – "What about you, Paul. Are you circumcised?" I tried to fend her off by telling her she'd have to get to know

me a bit better before I'd discuss such a personal thing, but if she played her cards right she might stand a chance. But she turned the charm on and got Joan, who hadn't said a word up to then, to join in. Eventually I admitted that my parts were the same as they were when I was born. That was a big mistake, because then the wheedling started again. "Come on Paul, be a sport and let us have a look. I only got a little glimpse of the cook's cock and I'm dying to see what a normal cock really looks like."

You might think it odd of me to even hesitate in what seems to be the sort of sexual scene that most men would give their eye teeth to respond to, but I have to admit that any urge I had was overshadowed by anxiety and inhibition. I am not overgifted with sexual confidence and I just couldn't cope with being browbeaten on an embarrassingly personal subject by two women (nowadays you could probably take them to court and get a few million for sexual harrasment). I continued to refuse, whereupon Sadie accused me of being a hopeless wet and had a quick whispered conversation with Joan. She then knelt at my head, whipped her blouse and bra off, and, holding my arms firmly, let her large shapely tits flop over my face completely, blocking my vision and nearly cutting off my air supply. Meanwhile Joan grabbed my waistband and pulled my Y-fronts off, leaving me wondering what had hit me. I looked down to see my willy shrinking even further under its skin cover before their inquisitive gaze.

"For heaven's sake stop looking so horrified," said Sadie. "We're only having a look at it. I think it looks quite sweet, don't you, Joan?" Joan just giggled, but Sadie went on, "It's much more streamlined than my husband's and looks like those statues in the Louvre." Joan replied, "I reckon it looks like a great fat worm crawling down his leg", and both girls collapsed with laughter whilst I just lay there red-faced and embarrassed. Sadie took her sunglasses off and used the arm to poke at my prick, flipping it up to lay along my stomach. She then got down close to examine it, fascinated by the seam which extended from the root right down to the floppy tip of my foreskin. "Mummy says foreskins are dirty", she said. "Is yours dirty, Paul?" Joan answered for me. "Soon find out", she said, and taking my cock in her hand, pulled my foreskin right back. Since I'm very particular about personal standards I had no fears on that one, but, snapping out of my inhibition, I started responding in the time honoured way to female handling and started to get a massive horn on.

I'd like to be able to say that this was followed by a fantastic sex scene with both girls taking it in turns to sample my unaccustomed wares so as to be able to deliver a verdict, but sadly my erection signalled the end to what had, for the girls, been purely a bit of fun. After commenting that she could find nothing dirty about my uncovered glans and drawn foreskin, Sadie realised from my burgeoning erection that things were getting more serious than she had intended, and both girls dropped the subject, seemingly losing interest in my rampant organ, whilst I hurriedly covered up and got dressed. I would

dearly like to have been able to report that Sadie had carried out the 2-3, 2-3, routine on me, but sadly this was not the case – not this time anyway.

On the drive back, Joan admitted that her boyfriend back in UK had been uncircumcised, and so nothing I had come as a surprise. Sadie, despite her strong sexuality, was surprisingly ignorant about such matters, and was very curious about the whole circumcision scene, wondering why some people considered it necessary, since, as far as she could see, there was no cleanliness problem and very little difference in fact when erect. I said I could see no reason for it either, but thought that the compulsion to cut bits off the sexual organs was very widespread: the locals not only circumcised their boys, but their girls got 'done' too, so as to destroy all sexual feeling and keep them 'pure'. Both women were horrified, declared the whole business unspeakable, and changed the subject.

I could write a book about my life as an expatriate, and the episode with Sadie and Joan was merely one in a whole number of experiences which just don't seem to happen back home. The subject matter covers too wide a spectrum though to be of interest to *Acorn*.

P.G.W. – Chesham

P.S. You ask to be told if stories are fantasy. This one is absolutely true, although the names have been changed.

ACORN

1993 Issue No 5

**Editor
David Acorn**

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Personal Matters**

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Editorial

A while back Brian of the West Country and I inserted an advertisement in *Forum* for anyone interested in circumcision or foreskins. There was a response and we now have about a dozen new members. We wish them welcome and hope that they find a lot to interest them in the group. If there are any questions they want to ask, please feel free, and any contributions to the newsletter would be welcome. Don't worry if you think that what you want to say might have been said before, there are always new angles to everything.

D.A.

Knobs In Art

In issue 1/93, G. of Birmingham raised the most interesting subject of 'Circumcision in Art'. I have always been puzzled as to why there are so few cut cocks in western art. There are only a very few representations of the circumcised infant Christ in early Italian painting, which is extraordinary since His is such a well-documented circumcision. I suspect it has something to do with the Catholic Church wanting to claim Christ as their own and not admit that he was first and foremost a Jew. In all the thousands of western European paintings of biblical subjects with nude males, one never sees, despite all Jews being so, circumcised cocks. In sculpture it is most strange, as it must be a great deal easier to carve a roundhead than a wrinkly bit of dangly skin. Maybe that is the reason – ie, it shows more skill, and obviously, one slip of the chisel and the guy would end up cut anyway!

Until the twentieth century, and except for primitive peoples and the circumcising religions, artists must have seen very few circumcised models or individuals. Perhaps readers could start sending in details of cut cocks in art that they have spotted?

I have noted in particular the following:-

A nude man holding a rope (probably a sailor, and of the East India Company who insisted their employees were circumcised if they could not draw back their foreskins) by Christen Kooke, the nineteenth century Danish artist, in a Copenhagen museum.

A bronze sculpture by Vincenzo Gemito 1852-1929 of a fisherboy, in the Bargello Museum in Florence. Although his net is discreetly covering the shaft, peeking out below is a most obviously circumcised cock.

The statue of 'Hercules and Diomedes Fighting', in the Palazzo Vecchio, Florence, where Diomedes has hold of Hercules' cock, the head of which is popping out, probably because the cock is being squeezed, rather than Hercules actually being cut, which I have seen in a bronze of Hercules by Gian Bologna in a London auction sale.

There are, of course, many representations of males circumcised in 20th. century art – eg, Munch, Hockney, Freud etc.

R.H. – London

Discovery Time

I saw my first circumcised penis around the age of four. Together with a couple of friends I was playing in the back garden where we had been joined by two brothers from across the road. At the same time we all decided that we wanted a pee, and gathered around the grate outside our kitchen window. As we all hoisted up a leg of our shorts in the approved manner, I noticed straightaway that the newcomers had bullet-heads on their cocks and peed with a fine accurate jet, unlike the spray that issued from our wrinkled rosettes. I was immediately impressed and asked why they were so different. They told me in a disinterested way that the doctor had “put them new ones on”. No more information was forthcoming; thus began my consuming interest in the topic. How could I get one of those superior pricks? Ask Santa Claus perhaps?

Through school I observed that numbers were almost equally divided into two sorts of cocks. Nobody seemed to know why, but I gleaned that some sort of surgery was done at an early age and that was that for life! (as indeed it is). I certainly didn't realise that it could be done to older boys and adults, and thought that if you'd 'missed the bus' you were stuck with what you had. Strange thought when the reverse is the case!

Around the age of eight I was admitted to the Children's Ward of the local hospital suffering from pneumonia. After the crisis passed, the prescribed treatment was complete bed-rest for some weeks. Around twice a week the nurses came round and gave us bed baths – a sort of sponge down whilst placed naked on a blanket. On the first occasion, the nurse asked me to pull my foreskin back for washing, and as I had never done this before I tried somewhat gingerly but could only expose the eye. In a moment of impatience she grasped my willy and gave a short, sharp jerk downwards as per technique used for removing elastoplast. To my astonishment, a bright purple plum popped into view – something I never knew I possessed! It was speckled with spots of white smegma which she quickly washed away before flipping back the cover. As soon as I had some privacy I tried this for myself under the bedclothes. Two things were observed: the glans was so sensitive that I couldn't bear the sheets touching it, and the foreskin wouldn't stay back, as I would have liked to try it, for more than a minute or two.

At all subsequent bedbaths I was required to retract and wash my foreskin myself. Everything seemed to be in perfect working order, which made what happened a week or two later something of a surprise. I was suddenly wheeled into a next-door treatment room, lifted onto a table and had my pyjamas removed. A senior nurse examined my penis, retracted my foreskin a time or

two, then leaned forward and said, "We're going to make it easier for you to keep this little soldier clean." I now surmise she was probably a midwife. She floated between maternity and a small glass-walled side room on our ward where I saw her tend newborn babies. They were seemingly brought there for a day's observation (or circumcision?). Could it be that she was the chief sniper (or snippess)?

Whatever, she did the job on me. I have to say the nursing staff were very good; friendly but firm. They had helped me to bear penicillin injections and lung drainage. I was laid back, a nurse held my hand for comfort, and another swabbed my loins with something icy cold. I was told that there would be a sharp pain and then it would all be over. And so it was – something akin to a bee sting; painful but bearable, as, unseen by me, she presumably drew over my surplus skin and cut it off with scissors. I say scissors, because, probably due to the crushing effect, there was very little bleeding and I have a very neat, almost scarless result, with none of the puckered and stitched effect of which some complain. This now poses the point; isn't it better to let females shape our ends? Many of us are cut because our mothers, or in some cases our partners, wanted it. Although not possessors of penises, they have a vested interest in its appearance and performance. Women are generally better at needle and scissor skills, and my operator certainly took a pride in her work.

Another matter of interest is the questionable use of anaesthetic. Other than preventing a possible disaster if the patient moved at a critical moment (surmountable with a physical restraint?), there are risks with general, and as we have read from 'Saga', complications from a local. The pain is over in a split second, and aftermath pain has to be borne anyway, once anaesthetics have worn off.

From what I remember, recovery was swift. I didn't see my penis until the bandage padding was soaked off after a day or two. When it was revealed, with a swollen collar of red skin around the glans, I didn't at first realise fully what had happened to me, and thought, naively, that my foreskin was just temporarily retracted. However, as the swelling rapidly subsided and I found it impossible to push the skin forward over the rim, it dawned with slight shock, that my new state was permanent – a fact confirmed when I questioned the nurse, who said, "It's better for you like that." "Why?" "Because it gets washed every time you have a bath." Another remarked, "You're a gentleman now." "Why?" "You'll learn when you get older."

All this began a process of deep intrigue which is still within me today. I sensed that something significant had happened to me but, not being sexually aware, wasn't sure what. Like a girl starting her periods, a 'rite of passage' unexplained. My parents made no comment when I returned home, though mother doubtless observed me at bathtime. Somehow I was aware that it was not a subject for question or discussion with them. To this day I don't know whether my parents requested my circumcision, or the nursing staff used

their initiative and followed the fashion of the day. Looking back I think the latter, because they gave off vibes of satisfaction over the result.

One immediate change I noted was that I became more cock conscious. The constant rubbing of the sensitive exposed tip caused more frequent erections. Every time you pulled it out for a pee or stripped off, it was there to remind you that you had been cut (a feeling that still persists today, and is heightened even more during sexual activity). Whilst now I had the knob I'd always wanted, my pleasure was slightly tempered by the perverse thought that I'd had no choice in the matter. Someone else (a female!) had, in a few minutes, determined how my penis would look and the sexual sensations I and my partner would experience; – as a parental advice book on the subject is titled, 'Circumcision is for Life'.

Luckily, apart from a wistful curiosity as to how foreplay and sex would feel with a foreskin, I don't mind being circumcised and on balance much prefer it, but I can well understand the sense of loss in those who think otherwise.

My main legacy from the procedure has been a strange feeling of apprehension as to how women react to circumcision. But that will be the subject of another letter, another time.

Anon

Interview

If you remember I interviewed a lady friend a while back on her views on cocks. Now I have a very different interview. It's a young man of 25 who, I think, is a little out of the ordinary. Although white himself, his penis is jet-black. His dimensions are:

Flaccid:

Length 6.5"

Corona Circumference 4"

Base circumference 5.5"

Hard:

Length 8.5"

Corona Circumference 6"

Base circumference 6.5"

These measurements don't take into account his foreskin, which overhangs the glans by about an inch when flaccid and 0.25" when hard. It is also tight, and won't retract when hard.

- Q.** As a little boy, do you ever remember your mother retracting your foreskin at bathtime?
- A.** No
- Q.** Can you remember any foreskin adherence round the knob rim?
- A.** No.
- Q.** Was your foreskin longer before puberty than it is now?
- A.** I can't remember.
- Q.** When young, did you ever consider that you were different from other boys?
- A.** No.
- Q.** Do you consider yourself lucky to be well-endowed.
- A.** Women show a great interest at first.
- Q.** If you retract your foreskin when soft, and then get hard, does it feel as if your knob is strangled?
- A.** No, it can't stay back when hard, it comes forward as it gets hard.
- Q.** Then does it hurt at all if you have a dry or tight vagina, which tends to force your foreskin back?
- A.** No, it goes back a little.
- Q.** How often do you masturbate?
- A.** Three or four times a week.
- Q.** What is the most sensitive part, that brings you to orgasm when masturbating?
- A.** The glans rim through the foreskin.
- Q.** Does your frenum play any sensitive part during sex or masturbation?
- A.** No.
- Q.** Is your foreskin itself sensitive?
- A.** Sometimes.
- Q.** Are you curious to know how other men feel about themselves?
- A.** No, not really.
- Q.** What did you think when you saw your very first circumcised penis?
- A.** I wouldn't like to have been like it.
- Q.** Are you happy with everything about your penis?
- A.** Yes, completely happy.

Sadly, as might be seen from the answers, he has no get up and go, no self-confidence sexually or otherwise, no curiosity. He wants sex badly, but cannot initiate it himself. How many thousands of us would like to own a tool like that, get it into our own idea of good working order, and sally forth confidently into the world?

D.A.

Another Bit Of Ian's Tail

The time came when I had to make decisions about a career. I should like to have read Medicine, but a predisposing interest in Arts had landed me with the wrong O-levels, and staying on at school was not an available opportunity. Eventually I made the decision to train as a nurse.

I can recall only two circumcisions in the three years I spent as a student nurse. One was my thirty-five year old maths master with whom there was some mutual embarrassment when I shaved him prior to surgery. He dispelled this by taxing me with mental arithmetic questions:- "Filled to the brim the bath in your house holds 63.275 gallons of water. When you withdraw the plug it discharges 5.725 gallons a minute, and there is a leak which lets out 0.275 gallons a minute. Giving your answer in minutes and seconds, how long is it before the bath is empty?" And all this whilst I was removing the hair from his most treasured possession! The second adult circumcision was on an 18 year old boy who had spilled petrol on the front of his overalls which ignited when he lit a cigarette. He was severely burned, but the damage to his genitals was limited to his foreskin which had healed with some deformity, formed scar tissue and could not be retracted. I remember he told me that he didn't mind having to be circumcised, as lots of men were. I agreed, but to my shame I did not tell him of my own circumcised state.

At the end of my training I was sent to work in the outpatient department where I found that up to six boys were listed for circumcision on the first and third Monday mornings in the month. These were boys from one to five years of age, boys of five and above being admitted to the children's ward for circumcision, and stayed at least one night in hospital.

For outpatient circumcision, the boys were brought to the hospital by a parent for 8 o'clock in the morning, parents being required to give an assurance that the child had not taken food nor drink after midnight, as every child received a general anaesthetic. At this stage, my role was to weigh the child, calculate and administer the pre-anaesthetic medication, to ensure that a cot was available for the recovery of each child, and to reassure the parents when they signed the consent form. When this was done I laid up the instrument trolleys and called the Surgical Registrar to tell him we were ready to proceed. I scrubbed up with the surgeon to assist him.

The detail of the surgical technique used depended on the Senior Registrar or Registrar available. Clamps were not used – I doubt that Plastibells had arrived in England at that time. Usually the technique involved two pairs of artery forceps applied to the tip of the upper surface of the foreskin, a dorsal slit with scissors down to the rim of the glans, the turning back of the foreskin flaps, followed by the dissection of any adhesions. When this was done the outer foreskin was cut away following the outline of the glans rim, the inner foreskin was removed 2 or 3 mm from the glans rim, the frenum not usually being removed. Bleeding, if any, was usually slight (boys with ginger hair being the exception). The outer foreskin was sutured to the remnants of the inner foreskin at regular intervals, 4 to 8 sutures being the minimum and maximum. The material used for sutures was absorbent, therefore removal was not required. When the operation was completed, the penis was bandaged with ribbon gauze soaked in Tinc. Benz. Co. (commonly known as Friar's Balsam). Parents were instructed to leave the dressing in place for 5 days, then put the child in the bath to soak it off. There were small variations in technique, some surgeons not following the line of the glans when cutting away the outer foreskin. One left behind more than 2 to 3 mm of inner foreskin, another left most of the inner foreskin behind, giving a finished appearance of the glans nestling in a cup.

I had become quite familiar with this procedure when both the Senior Registrar and the Registrar left the hospital, one replacement being a bright, breezy and brash young Australian. At our first meeting he said, "Jesus Christ! Why are we circ'ing these kids now. It should be done at birth. That's when we do it at home." On looking at the sterilised instruments, he said, "Hell's bells, what are all that bloody lot for? Get me a pair of straight rib shears from the theatre." This technique was different – and swift. When requested I took the tip of the foreskin between finger and thumb and pulled it firmly forward. The surgeon felt for the glans, making sure that it was behind the tips of his thumb and finger. The blades of the shears were applied straight across (east to west) and the handles grasped firmly together. We counted three minutes by the clock, then a scalpel was used to cut off the foreskin beside the blades of the rib shears. When the shears were removed, the skin of the penis retreated down the shaft, the glans was fully exposed, and the frenum untouched. The remains of the inner and outer foreskin were bonded together by the earlier pressure of the rib shears at the level of the incision, which was usually some distance behind the glans. No sutures were used, but the usual dressing applied.

It was whilst our Australian colleague was in post that a most unusual event took place. Twin boys were brought for circumcision by their father. The man, older than most fathers of three-year-olds, was easily identified by his dress as a 'Deputy' in a coalmine. He carried a straight walking cane, wore a grubby trench coat, and a felt hat which he declined to remove. When I went to weigh the boys he asked if I was the doctor. When I said that I was a nurse he asked to see the doctor that would be "cutting my boys". I told

my Australian colleague and, as there were mothers around clearly intrigued by the presence of a father asking to speak to the doctor, sent them off into a vacant consulting room for a private chat. When my colleague returned he was smiling and said that the boys had a brother – 12 years older, that he had been circumcised and, “Had a spot of bother because not enough had been removed – just wanted to make sure they’d be properly cut.”

Writing this for *Acorn*, so many years after the event, has raised two particular questions in my mind. I can understand why the greater part of childcare is in the hands of women, but why is the circumcision decision, this important aspect of masculinity, so often left to the mother. I believe, from listening to the mothers who brought their boys in for circumcision, that some fathers would be unaware of what was to happen to their son on that day. Perhaps the scene has changed and, with the advent of compassionate leave schemes in most work places, fathers are now more involved in childcare, and indeed, may take their son to be circumcised. I sincerely hope that fathers of today’s youngsters inform and educate their sons about circumcision. The second question is, why does the patient (client or customer) so seldom seek information from the surgeon about the outcome of his surgery. Starting from the premise that all uncircumcised cocks do not look alike, all circumcised cocks cannot look alike. But surely, men having circumcision have an idea about the outcome they would prefer, for themselves or their boys, if only in the terms of complete or partial exposure of the glans. Yet in my experience, neither parents nor mature men express an opinion or seek information about the cosmetic outcome of this surgical procedure.

Ian

Masturbation — Getting It Right

iv) The Plateau Stage

Gradually the build-up of sexual arousal reaches the ‘plateau stage’ – a sort of top level of excitement just short of orgasm and ejaculation. If this plateau can be protracted, then the overall period of the masturbatory cycle from start to finish can be substantially prolonged. It is difficult to offer much advice about this stage, since it mainly involves learning to control arousal by a series of stops and starts in the stimulatory activities as the imminence of orgasm either approaches or recedes.

The well-known sexologists, Masters and Johnson, have described the ‘squeeze technique’ to defuse sensation when orgasm might otherwise be inevitable. This involves very tightly squeezing the glans penis between finger and thumb at the level of the frenulum underneath, and the corona (rim of the glans) on the top until the acute sense of ejaculation dies away. This is a

useful delaying technique to those who learn the knack, but from personal experience it is very hit or miss.

Mental concentration is also very helpful at this stage. The psychological determination either to 'cum' or not to 'cum' at a given point in time substantially influences the occurrence of orgasm. The conscious mental act of relaxing the whole body, and thinking of other things, such as solving a complex sum by mental arithmetic, can manifestly delay orgasm.

During the plateau phase, all the techniques already described to encourage arousal should, of course, continue to be employed to maintain a controlled level of excitement. Often the simple expedient of suddenly changing from one particular form of physical stimulation of the genitals to another, may be nothing more than altering the handgrip, will be sufficient to postpone an imminent orgasm.

The plateau stage is often characterised by the emission of a few drops of 'pre-cum' fluid or 'love-juice'. This crystal clear sticky liquid is produced as a natural lubricant by glands in the urethra – the tube along the penis. It is not to be confused with semen as such, although, sometimes, early spurts of genuine spunk may occur in advance of any true sense of orgasm. The 'pre-cum' fluid can be smeared into the penis in order to perform its lubricating function as physical stimulation of the organ builds up in the moments leading to orgasm. This fluid is completely tasteless and, for those who may subsequently wish to imbibe their own semen at the time of ejaculation, licking droplets of it from a finger on which they have been collected is a useful mood stimulator and inhibition breaker.

V) The Stage of Orgasm.

The term orgasm is usually synonymous with ejaculation, but this is not always so. Obviously the pre-pubertal masturbator has no semen to ejaculate, and, similarly, older men may often fail to ejaculate at the time of orgasm. It is a very unusual phenomenon in healthy young men, but it does sometimes occur, and medical advice should be sought in such circumstances with a view to trying to resolve the problem. Prostatectomy (removal of the prostate gland) is usually associated with subsequent inability to ejaculate, though orgasm is not impaired, because it is the prostate gland at the neck of the bladder which is responsible for producing some 95% of the total seminal liquid volume.

Orgasm involves an intensely violent series of contractions of the reproductive system muscles, which result in the squirting out of a series of spurts of semen. Pleasure will be enhanced if these muscular contractions can be exaggerated. This can be achieved voluntarily simply by 'putting a bit of extra effort into it' and also artificially, by forcing the muscles to contract against restrictions – eg. by squeezing the penis shaft, or by leaving a tight cock-strap or ring in place. The primitive 'Coitus Saxonicus' method of birth control can be employed. This consists of finding the 'bulb' of the urethra in

the deep-base under-surface of the penis by pushing the testicles to either side and pressing almost into the perineum. Very powerful finger pressure here will compress the urethra and prevent the emission of semen during orgasm. Muscular contractions will be intensified which should heighten the feeling of orgasm. Truly successful 'Saxonicus' actually results in the semen being forced backwards through the muscle sphincter which closes the bladder. Inside the bladder the semen is mixed and diluted with the urine, and will then be passed to the exterior completely without the knowledge of the individual when next he has a pee. However, finding the right spot by trial and error at which to apply the pressure, may mean that early attempts will simply delay emission only until the pressure is released. It will then dribble out without sensation.

Orgasm, like arousal, once again calls to the fore the concept of whole body experience. The more generally convulsive it can be contrived to be, and the more muscle groups which can be brought into action, the more fully satisfying is the overall effect. Just as 'arousal' in some postures is more interesting than others, so some will find it more exciting to 'cum' while lying face down or face up or stooping or squatting or pressing into a pillow or ejaculating into a condom etc., etc. Of course, during orgasm, the whole range of sex aids to which reference has already been made in earlier stages can still be employed – from vibrators to videos, and from poking the prostate to watching pornography. Many like to vocalise their feelings, shouting out erotic phrases often associated with their fantasies, like "Fuck me hard, now, now, now." They may violently overbreathe or moan and groan. Quite a few people close their eyes at orgasm.

The duration of orgasm, usually barely half a minute, can be prolonged by the intensely exciting – almost painful – process of continuing to stimulate the penis quite violently throughout the period of the climax. Quite a number of people find this virtually impossible to do by themselves simply because the sensation is too intense.

Having emphasised the total body convulsive/explosive technique for orgasm, an occasional alternative idea is to try lying completely still, discouraging any form of heightened muscular tension whatsoever, and concentrating on keeping breathing at a low and regular level. In short, doing nothing beyond allowing the semen to emerge in as innocuous a way as possible. Strangely, this can sometimes be remarkably satisfying.

A fascinating trick, well worth cultivating, but not easy to perform, and frequently needing a long period of repeated trial and error, is to learn the knack of having a full orgasm while at the same time consciously preventing ejaculation from occurring by refusing to allow the muscles of ejaculation to contract. In any orgasm it is usually possible to voluntarily delay inevitable ejaculation for a few seconds by concentrated mental effort. With repeated practice it **may** eventually become possible to train oneself to experience the full sensation of orgasm while completely holding back on the emission of semen.

This is not the same as stopping just short of orgasm in the plateau stage and letting the sensation die away. This is mind over matter, involving a complete withholding of ejaculation at the time of orgasm. The main advantages of this technique are no mess, and repeated orgasms can be achieved with the same erection. There is no resting period and re-arousal is possible as soon as the sensation of orgasm has finished. Multiple orgasms achieved in this way are a bonus, but the technique is hard to learn.

Somewhat related to the above is incomplete orgasm. When this occurs, usually as the result of holding back at the crucial moment, after a fairly long plateau phase, and not being totally successful, a sort of semi-orgasm occurs. It is virtually impossible to control this. There is quite a strong orgasmic sensation and a partial ejaculation, but the erection does not subside, and, after a few minutes, re-stimulation will result in a second climax and completion of the ejaculation.

True repeated orgasms following upon the same arousal and plateau phases, and off the same erection, unless voluntary withholding of ejaculation has occurred, probably never occur. Orgasm is normally followed by detumescence and a refractory period, both of which are described in the next section. These phases may be very brief, but they serve to distinctly separate one incident of sexual arousal and climax from another, so that, in fact, two separate cycles have occurred.

A final word on orgasm concerns wipe-up arrangements. Preparation for the wipe-up operation should always be made beforehand. The ready availability of a damp flannel and a few paper tissues can eliminate many a pleasure-disrupting panic dash to the bathroom at a crucial moment.

(to be continued)

Dr. Ray

Some Requests

I was going through some old newsletters and came across the list of particulars. After reading it I became aware that there was an interesting point that needed to be explored. Twelve of the circumcised respondents have a scarline that is from 1" up to one with a scarline of 2" behind the glans. It would be most interesting to find out, as they were done as adults, what method was used. Did they have any say in the matter of the location of the scarline? Were any done with the adult version of the Hollister Plastibell? Is their skin now taut and, I think it unlikely, did they have the frenulum removed?

[Would those referred to mind giving the information? D.A.]

Do we have any correspondents who are from ethnic groups; ie. West Indian, Indian, Chinese, Malayan, African?

[H.C. – London (Chinese) is the only one I know, from whom we have had some very informative articles. Any others? D.A.]

Another point made at the end of the statistics was the split between hetero, bi, and gay members. I think it would be nice if an indication was made against the reference who is what. This would allow a little more freedom in writing to other members without assuming they are one or the other. The anonymity would still be preserved as they are only known by initials and town.

[I pondered over this a lot at the time, but a few members asked that this be left confidential – in two cases they had been introduced to Acorn by friends who didn't know they were gay, and felt that it might harm the friendship. So I thought that if a few were left out that alone would let the cat out of the bag. Thus I left it all out, giving a sure indication that confidentiality would not be betrayed even implicitly. Anonymity is everything to a lot of members, as witnessed by the lack of names at the bottom of the letters in this issue. D.A.]

It should also be pointed out to members that if you ask for correspondence for any reason, you should in all fairness reply to the correspondent who has taken time and trouble to write to you, even if only to say thank you. I personally find it irritating when I am in this situation.

[I probably should have apologised for this before, which I do now. The fact is that my time is limited (I already correspond regularly with a few members), and it would cost me about a hundred pounds a year, which I haven't to spare. What I can say is that over 90% of what is sent for publishing eventually finds its way into the newsletter, unless it reiterates too much on what has already been said (in the interests of freshness). It just might take a little time as I have to try to make a balance of the material. If anyone feels that I should note in the newsletter the correspondence not yet used, please let me know and I will do it. D.A.]

Lastly, another name of a group doing circumcisions. It was in the Evening Standard:

'Harley Street Consultants' Tel. 0296 641543

B.H. – Leeds

For R.B.W.
'Recollections'

1. While standing in the shower
I peered down at my feet,
and glimpsed the shrivelled power
so sadly incomplete.
2. I spent ten years not knowing
of what the knife had done,
while others went on showing
sleek organs in the sun.
3. My loss I never figured,
I finally got wised –
'twas when a schoolmate sniggered,
"Ah, you've been circumcised!"
4. Beside the neatly covered,
mine seemed a ragged tool.
That time I first discovered
that I'd been 'cut' _ at school.
5. Now what had I been missing?
Sensations never known...
The warmth of urine passing?
Retraction's cooler zone?
6. I rose and pee'd, grimacing,
I shook it to and fro,
as with the hood's replacing,
the last uncertain flow.
7. Then came a sudden issue.
Forgetting I was shorn,
I thought I bore all tissue,
with which I had been born.
8. False hopes had not intruded
reality so far.
My roundhead stood denuded,
set high upon a scar.
9. My mother thought it 'nicer',
'Far easier to clean'.
"You'd seen the circumciser,
a surgeon dressed in green!"

10. Her manner then was snappy.
 But there's no need to care,
 in heaven she'd be happy.
 There are no foreskins there.
11. My wishful hope restraining,
 uncovered, in disdain
 the scar ringed shaft remaining
 a naked severed shame.

Not only did I take your comments seriously, Mr. R.B.W. of Bedford, I thought I'd reply in simple verse. That way feelings can be more effectively expressed.

Anthony – North Devon

Ageing

I've found that ageing takes its toll in many ways, not the least being bits and pieces of my favourite hobby, wanking. It works on both the physical side and the mental side, but that's not to say that it's all bad.

On the physical side the most noticeable things are that the squirts of come that used to be are now just oozes – and not much at that, and balls tend to hang much lower and swing around during the beginning of the action until the head of steam arrives, getting hurt as they bang against legs and things.

On the mental side the problem is the effort to get and hold fantasy pictures in the mind, so necessary for reaching the vinegar stroke. I don't mean that I've done everything there is to do so there's nothing left to fantasise about, more that the mind wanders a bit in the middle of it and starts thinking about mundane things, like feeding the cat. This results in a wank lasting anything up to two hours. There really isn't any grumble about that, because every minute is pleasurable in itself. What happens is that the shaft skin, but mostly the foreskin, which in my case is loose and long, thickens very quickly within an hour of finishing, and ends up with my cock more than twice its usual thickness. My knob, which is generally quite prominent, is lost inside this great big sausage. Again, no grumble, because with a slightly numb sensation as well, it keeps making its presence felt, which is no bad thing, and it goes down within a day. It certainly doesn't hurt at all, and no lasting ill effects are evident, as it first happened to me over 50 years ago when I used to experiment with how many times I could wank on the trot before I got fed up and didn't feel like it any more, or at other times to see how many times it took to run out of come. For the curious, it would generally be four to run out of come, and eight to get fed up. All in less time than it takes me to come once now. That's ageing.

I'd like to know if anyone else has experienced having a big sausage-cock through doing that.

I've also got another question. At the start of a wank there is the loveliest sensation in the world as the foreskin is pulled back off the glans for about the first twenty times. This is caused by the slight stickiness between the inner foreskin and the knob. It's exquisite! Then it dries and the sensation stops. It would be nice if the foreskin caused some sort of abrasive action on the knob, but it doesn't. I've tried various sticky substances (jam, honey, syrup, etc.) but they all seem to turn to liquid – the warmth I suppose. Forgetting the Loctite glues etc. has anyone got any ideas?

Anon

[I admire a man who sticks with his hobby, through thick and thin. Sorry - I just couldn't resist that. *D.A.*]

Funnies

Did you ever come across the girl who liked tight foreskins?
— She was never at a loose end!

Rampant randy roundhead to his girl:
“I guess I carry my brains in my cock!”
Girl: “Perhaps that's why people say you're not all there!”

When did smegma first appear?
The garden of Edam!!

A straight youth to a gay friend:
“I thought coming out was when you developed a redundant prepuce.”
“No, it's when you grow to love Sonny and Share!”

Anthony – N. Devon

Contact Corner

Depilated and circumcised male would like to correspond with Depilated lady interested in circumcision and depilation. All letters answered with the utmost discretion. 100% secrecy assured. Photos are also available to interested persons. Must be genuine. Contact through *Acorn* in first instance.

ACORN

1993 Issue No 6

**Editor
David Acorn**

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Letters for Forwarding**

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Personal Matters**

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Editorial

It's not often that our favourite subject gets a large airing in the media, so I make no apologies for the amount of space that I'm giving to the latest facet that's been under debate

On August 3rd. *The Independent* gave a large spread in the Health Section to an article on uncircumcising. My thanks go to the several members who sent me a copy of the article. The interest arose from a book just published in America by a doctor (psychology) on methods of regrowing a foreskin. He had been circumcised as a baby and resented it and was determined to put himself right in his eyes. I won't print the entire article but will paraphrase it as best I can. The article was entitled 'They took my foreskin, and I want it back'.

Like many other middle-aged American men, Jim Bigelow was circumcised at birth but was never happy about it. "I often prayed that God would give my foreskin back to me," he recalls. "As I got older I tried to convince myself it was for the best. But the feelings of loss and violation never went away."

Now 60, four years ago he began hopefully to redevelop a foreskin. He started to stretch the skin of the penile shaft over the glans, keeping it in place with surgical adhesive tape, cut in such a way that he could still pee. When it fell off he replaced it with some more. After four years he has a foreskin that, when flaccid, permanently covers more than three-quarters of the glans. He hopes to cover completely in another 18 months. He says the foreskin has made the head of his penis more sensitive, and the glans has changed in texture from toughened skin to become more like mucous tissue. It has also given him a psychological sense of wholeness which was missing.

His book has sold over 5,000 copies so far and has engendered much interest such as this article and radio items. His programme may sound unlikely, but it is based on tissue expansion, by which existing skin is progressively stretched, a technique common in plastic and reconstructive surgery. He has had to be very persistent as he had a very tight circumcision, but some of his 'patients' have been able to fool their doctors into believing them uncircumcised, within a space of two years.

Some doctors now accept that without the foreskin the glans becomes less sensitive and tough skinned, a process taking place called keratinisation. The greater the exposure to abrasion, pressure and use, the thicker the layer of keratin, a fibrous protein that is the main constituent of the outer layer of skin. This toughening process continues throughout life. In the uncircumcised, the glans and the inner covering of foreskin resemble the mucous tissue of the inside of the lip, which offers "exceedingly intense" sensations by the mutual stimulation as the foreskin slides back and forth over the glans during foreplay and intercourse. A Canadian doctor states that the foreskin's inner surface contains a "tightly pleated zone that is more endowed with specialised nerve endings than the glans itself".

One disadvantage, they state, of the restored foreskin is its “unruliness”; it doesn’t always stay in place over the glans, since it doesn’t narrow at the tip like a natural foreskin. If this is really troublesome, minor surgery may be used to reduce the opening of the new foreskin.

The Method of Foreskin Re-creation

Stage 1. The skin of the penile shaft is pulled forward over the glans and kept in place with a two-to-three-inch strip of adhesive tape, which runs from both sides of the penis and over the glans. The tape is worn virtually 24 hours a day. Another square of tape is stuck, sticky side to sticky side, in the centre of the first piece so that the tape does not stick to the glans.

A small weighted device (two-ounce lead fishing weight) can be attached to the middle of the tape to provide further pull.

Stage 2. Once enough new skin has developed for it to be stretched over and beyond the glans, a strip of tape $\frac{7}{8}$ ” long is wrapped around the tip of the skin to form a ring. Again, a small weight can be attached to the tape to add further tension.

Stage 3. Expansion devices are used to allow for further skin expansion. A foam-rubber cone (which comes in various sizes) is fitted over the glans to give extra length, and the foreskin is taped over it.

A few days after the article I sent the following letter to the writer, a lady called Cherrill Hicks.

Dear Cherrill,

I read with great interest your article on uncircumcision.

Although it deals mainly with the feelings of some Americans on the subject of circumcision, it is also a very emotive problem for many men in this country. It is not generally broadcast as it is a very private matter and there is the very real risk of being derided for having deep feelings about what is considered a petty subject (“You’ve got it, now learn to live with it”). G.P’s, psychologists, urologists, therapists, wives, partners etc. all think it’s too trivial to bother with. Even the Samaritans would, I think, tend to bracket this subject as a sex pest call and discourage it. In fact there are very few places for men to turn to with sensitive sexual emotional problems.

A group called *Acorn* (for obvious reasons) was set up about 5 years ago so that, through a regular newsletter, those who have deep and traumatic feelings on the subjects of foreskins and circumcisions could, with total confidentiality, confide their feelings with like-minded people and find that they aren’t alone. Members all say how wonderful it is to be able to disclose

their innermost feelings and not only find that they are taken seriously, but also find others who feel exactly the same feelings.

Of course, over 5 years, the subject matter has inevitably widened to encompass all manners of associated subjects, and the six-weekly, 16 page newsletter is never short of material, 90% of which are members letters.

To write an open letter to *The Independent* would probably bring responses from undesirable sources, so I thought I would ask you if you wouldn't mind putting anyone who responds to your article, and you feel they would benefit, in touch with us.

Your co-operation in this would be greatly appreciated, and we would be much obliged if you would convey our thanks to the Health Editor of *The Independent* for the number of articles on the subject of circumcision which he has sanctioned over the past year or so, which has so helped this formerly forbidden subject to become more commonplace.

I received a reply from her saying that she would indeed pass on any information about *Acorn* to anyone who might be interested. I have since had one inquiry from an interested person who I feel will soon join us.

I have been sent a cutting from the October issue of *Playgirl* in which a question is asked about the restoration of a foreskin, and their answer is to quote some passages from the above mentioned book.

D.A.

Radio Phone-In On The Above Subject

A day or so after the article appeared in *The Independent* a discussion was held on Mike Deakin's early evening phone-in on London Talkback Radio on 1152 AM and the following is a resume of most of the contributions, taped and transcribed.

Mike Deakin was clearly attempting to follow the lead from the article, to agree that infant circumcision was an unnecessary (in most cases) mutilation, and callers were invited to comment/express their views and experiences.

The first caller I heard was Alan who agreed it was a mutilation which was unnecessary and could be avoided in most cases. Religious reasons were acceptable but hygienic reasons were not valid, and he felt that the sensitivity of the knob was lost if it was permanently exposed (he was not circumcised!) and stated you didn't need to be sans foreskin to be hygienic.

Sarah had a three-and-a-half year old boy whose foreskin was extremely tight and which was forever causing infections which had to be treated with antibiotics. The boy's doctor said circumcision was the only answer and, while

she was not keen on him being done, felt it was better to be done now than later. A Jewish friend of hers had refused to have her son circumcised and had been 'cut off' (excuse the pun) by the rest of the family for not following Jewish tradition.

John had been done at the age of 44 and found the operation an extremely painful process, despite the fact that it solved the even more painful tight foreskin he'd had. His G.P. had referred him to a consultant as he was always very sore after intercourse. He wondered how many men actually needed the operation but didn't go through with what they needed.

Eva felt that if the operation was carried out on children over the age of about three it could have dire psychological effects, particularly as it made the child different from other boys. Her husband had had their son done when 8 days old and he had haemorrhaged badly. She felt that the operation was not explained very well, to those done. Mike Deakin said he had no idea whether most boys were done or not. (Can people really go round not noticing all their lives?)

Julian agreed that it was mutilation at birth, but had his son done at aged 2 because of phimosis, and stated that the child still had a problem about it now, a year later. He however said that there was nothing wrong with it being performed later in life, but at an early age it was barbaric.

Mike Deakin in referring once again to the article, said there was little justification in the 20th Century for following old customs – the child should decide.

Tom referred to an article he had read in a French magazine which stated that circumcision could help to stop the spread of AIDS, and also assisted in stopping sexually transmitted diseases. The article alleged that there was a higher incidence of AIDS amongst the uncircumcised. A Canadian study of various regions of Africa showed fewer cases of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases amongst the circumcised. Mike Deakin made little of the magazine report, but there was no doubt that he was in favour of circumcision.

Molly said she was beginning to feel guilty about her 4 sons, 3 of whom she and her husband had had circumcised. The first son had problems and was done at 14 months, the second son being done at an earlier age some 13 months later to avoid problems previously encountered with the eldest. The third boy had not been done and she couldn't remember why, but the 4th lad was again circumcised. She wondered whether they'd done something awful, but as the doctor had advised it at least for the first son, and it was clearly in the 40s/early 50s when the operation was more widespread, no one ever questioned why. (I bet the one not done felt different however!) Molly had never discussed the matter with her sons but would now, though she did say that all were long since grown up and healthy.

Yvonne worked for a medical firm who perform circumcisions at their clinic, it being the most popular operation. An enormous number of men wish to be circumcised, some for phimosis, but mainly for cosmetic reasons in their's or their partner's eyes. She stated it helps prevent cervical cancer in the man's partner and research had been carried out in the USA on that very point. The operation was carried out on a day case basis using a local anaesthetic, taking about 20 minutes, she said. A dressing was applied for 48 hours, a course of antibiotics was prescribed to avoid infections and all should be healed in 3 weeks. Cost £400. She reiterated that it was the most popular operation performed and said it was all ages between 19 and 65, some being referred by their G.P., others being strictly private patients. Mike Deakin asked her which she preferred aesthetically but she said that she'd only known roundheads (a term not mentioned during the phone-in!).

Hilary stated that it was the quality of the gent that was important, not the apparatus, and she referred to female circumcision being a mutilation, not male.

The next gentleman didn't give his name but said that with an exposed glans, which was prone to being rubbed by clothes etc. a man was more able to control himself, and a circumcised penis was a hell of a lot cleaner and prettier looking.

Freda had recently accompanied her daughter and grandson to a London hospital for his circumcision. She stated that the operation on the baby took hardly any time at all and the baby didn't even cry. She felt we were listening to "an awful lot of guff". She was Jewish and felt that it was healthier, and helped to lessen the risk of cancer. A non-Jewish friend of hers had her 8-year-old son done recently and he'd had a lot of pain. She thought that it was better to be done early in life.

Joan knew a doctor in Chelsea in the early 60s who had told her that a survey had shown that unmarried ladies and Jewish ladies had a much lesser risk of cervical cancer. If there is such evidence shouldn't all males be done? Mike Deakin interjected and stated that there was no proof of this.

Then followed a discussion with Marilyn Milos of NOCIRC who stated that the operation started on the West Coast of Africa, and the Egyptians, Jews and Moslems all circumcise. In the English-speaking world it came into fashion in the late 1800's to prevent self-abuse. She stated that excuses given for the operation – cleaner, more hygienic, infections less likely, had all been discredited, and that it was a quarter billion dollar industry in the USA. The media in the US refuses to address the situation. Marilyn Milos admitted to having three sons circumcised, as she was told by the doctor at the time that it didn't hurt. But when she became a nurse in 1979 she saw what actually happened to her sons. She stated that it was excruciatingly painful and caused both physical and psychological scars. The resistance to her campaign in the US is amazing, and she was fired from her job. She is amazed at how deeply

ingrained this unnecessary surgery has become (her words, not mine!). No one wants to talk about it over there. She stated that the incidence in Canada is about 25%, Australia 20%, and in Great Britain less than 1/2%. The operation on the NHS is now only performed for serious medical reasons, following Dr. Douglas Gairdner's exposé of 1949. In the USA, parents didn't want to listen to her, and she felt the operation was tantamount to sexual child abuse. The glans was supposed to be an internal organ, and once the foreskin was removed it became abraded and makes a callus to protect itself. Marilyn Milos stated that there were thousands of men wanting to follow Dr. Bigelow and reconstitute their foreskins. Most said that the sensations returned in two to three weeks once they had re-covered their knob.

Peter referred to the circumcision of his son who had had problems with a tightening foreskin, and was done at the age of 12. His G.P. stated that the method used by the NHS under a general anaesthetic was extremely painful, but he offered an alternative method which would cost £40. The operation was carried out under a local anaesthetic and Peter watched it. A small incision was made in the foreskin, a collar was put over the glans, and a ligature applied on top of the foreskin which was on top of the collar. It took 20 minutes, and 3 hours later he and his son were in McDonalds having a hamburger. There was no pain at all when the anaesthetic wore off and Peter said that this was quite clearly the way to perform circumcisions.

Richard was done on the kitchen table when aged 3 in 1922, and stated that it hadn't affected him or his sex life in any way. Both his brothers were also done. He was cut off in his prime, so to speak, by Mike Deakin, who stated that the discussion was about circumcision and not Richard's sex life.

Caroline stated that her husband had been done when he converted to Judaism, and he therefore had sexual experience before and after the operation, and there was no doubt in his mind that it was best after the circumcision. She referred to the Jewish origins when Abraham was told to circumcise Isaac, and stated that it was a mark of one's Jewishness. Mike Deakin wanted to know who was going to know, and Caroline stated that it was traditional and personal.

Mark referred to his twin brother who was done at the age of 28 for medical reasons, and apparently stated that he was worse off afterwards. Mark, not having been done, couldn't say himself, but wondered why his brother had waited 27 years. (It didn't sound as if the subject had been discussed between him and his brother).

The final caller I heard was Cyril, who was circumcised. It hadn't made any difference to his sex life, and most of his friends who are circumcised agree. Apparently he had seen in his doctor's surgery an article saying that it was definitely more hygienic to be circumcised, for without the secretions of the sulcus there was much less risk to partners in respect of causing an

aggravating disease of the cervix, and also a rare tumour of the penis could remain undetected if covered by the foreskin.

Mike Deakin again backed up Marilyn Milos, saying that these studies had been utterly discredited, but it was acknowledged that there were more than just one medical opinion to listen to.

After listening to the tape for most of the programme, I felt Mike Deakin to be a rather arrogant individual who browbeat those who didn't say what he wanted to hear, and that really seemed to be that. He agreed with everything that Marilyn Milos said, despite what was being said by a large number of callers. I leave readers to make their minds up. Is infant circumcision a mutilation? One thing is certain – there needs to be more information on the subject more readily available to the populace.

Brian Of The West Country

Different Ends

There has been an abundance of correspondence, remarked on by the Editor, in favour of letting foreskins remain as natural. To redress the balance, and perhaps infer a warning, may I tell you about an incident which occurred when I was at school.

Just before the last war, the campaign by the medical profession against routine circumcision had only just begun, and some doctors had already started to refuse to circumcise unless the condition necessitated it. I was one of the early victims and although my parents wished me to be circumcised, their doctor considered it unnecessary, as he had done in my brothers' cases. However, our mother was an ardent defender of having her boys bare their ends. She had been a nurse in Canada before marriage, and, in lonely districts, had been the only medical person available to deal with cuts, maternity, breaks and small operations – stitching, making-good abrasions and so on. Although she never admitted to it, when asked why we had not been 'done', answered that, because the doctor refused to cut our foreskins, we had been 'snipped' – the loose tassel of foreskin had been cut off. Now, how she had persuaded the doctor to do this in view of his anti-circumcision stand, or whether she had used her own skills and applied the remedy herself, we were never to know. The fact is that we grew up with shortish foreskins which just exposed the end of the glans and had a wide aperture.

In early years when bath time was supervised by parents, we were told to wash under the skin, which meant pushing it back as far as it would go. Mine seemed to be adherent to the glans and would only retract so far. Despite instructions to "keep pushing – it should go further back", it was some years later, around age 6 or 7, that, one morning I had been playing with my willy, pulling and stretching it, when suddenly the skin came right back. The adhesions had parted and the purple helmet, wet and shiny, came into the

daylight. I remember rushing into my parents' bedroom and holding it out for inspection. They complimented me on it and recognising that it would be tender, put vaseline on it, but told me to keep pushing it back. Each bath time afterwards, we were all told to keep the skin back in the bath, and, as each of us became older, mother explained that, "Big boys should keep their foreskin behind the 'bump', because it would otherwise become wet and smelly underneath." Bedtime was the usual series of questions, "Have you washed behind ears, cleaned teeth, fingernails, skin pushed back?" So we grew up believing that everyone else kept their foreskins peeled off. Not until I started to come into contact with other boys at school did I discover that there were all shapes of willies, which were when the questions to parents were prompted.

When I was about 12 or 13, like many small boys, I became very involved with a group of similarly aged boys who looked for birds' nests, made fires in the woods, and on wet days went into the nearest barn, sat on the hay and had 'cock shows', comparing ourselves and exhibiting our wares. Of my group, about half were circumcised, 3 or 4 boys. The rest of us, apart from one, had either retracted or loose skins which were worn 'back', most of them permanently. Mine was very permanently back, since it had either shrunk or somehow become used to being behind the ridge, and would not stay over without being held. Another boy, Roly, had a very loose skin which would never stay where it was put, sliding on and off so loosely and easily that we could never decide whether he was circumcised or not. The exception to the rule was Ivor, an evacuee, who lived in the village with an old couple. Ivor had a long and slender penis, but such a tight foreskin that he couldn't push it back, no matter how he tried. The blue end of his glans was only just exposed as he manfully struggled to get it back further. He squeezed, nipped, rolled, but to no avail – until one day. He was extremely determined to be like us, since on these occasions we would all expose the retracted penis as a sort of ritual. Ivor concentrated, he grimaced, he squeezed. We watched as the blue of the exposed end of the glans turned purple and the tightness of his foreskin became white, a constricting band that threatened to bisect his shiny helmet. As still he pushed, fraction of an inch by fraction, it started to move further than it had ever done before. Finally, when almost all had been exposed, he made one last valiant attempt, it came back, right behind the ridge of his glans. He looked round, possibly expecting a cheer, but we all sat mesmerised by the resulting phenomenon. His penis, which had been smooth and tubular in external shape, now had taken on the shape of a wasp's thorax with head, attached by the slimmest of connections. In fact, his foreskin was constricting the shaft so tightly that it had sunk deep into the flesh of his penis. After a few minutes of triumph, Ivor decided that it was getting a bit sore and that he should revert it to normal. He did as he had seen some of us do so many times before, holding the shaft between finger and thumb and pushing forward. Nothing happened, just a slight movement of the shaft skin, the tight band staying where it was. He tried different techniques, squeezing the glans,

using his handkerchief to get a better grip, and spitting on it for lubrication. Slowly the fact dawned on him that it wasn't going to go. The knob was getting bluer and distended, by the skin biting into his cock. Still his efforts achieved nothing, and we were all becoming frightened that he had done some sort of permanent injury to himself, perhaps even that it would drop off.

The time came to go home, with Ivor still in his 'condition'. It would be a lonely homecoming for him. Although his evacuee digs were homely, and the people kind, it was just not the sort of thing one could do – walk in with a penis in one hand and explain that it had 'got broken'. So he spent a worrying night alone whilst his swollen penis gradually subsided, and the sheer discomfort of having a sensitive bared glans for the first time uncovered became a reality. I suppose it was then that he decided that he had best make the transition from a cavalier to a roundhead a matter for joy rather than concern. He arrived at school the next day. We cornered him, asking if it had dropped off? had he got over it yet? was it still sore? Ivor manfully parried the questions, becoming braver as the days passed. He found that the initial difficulty of peeing with his 'new' cock had not continued so acutely, and that he could now pee like the rest of us, in a sharp straight jet.

For so long as he remained at our school, Ivor never showed his penis with the skin drawn forward, and I guess he remained with the skin behind the glans ever after. He did however manage to achieve one spectacular display. If his penis was erect, he could coax the tight band of prepuce further down the shaft of his penis, where it would remain, dividing his penis into two halves by a wasp-waist, which to us seemed as though it could be totally bisected and severed by a careless movement. His glans remained smallish, but became whitish-pink in time. He could masturbate by moving the looseness of skin up and down the shaft. He eventually managed to masturbate like some of us, by spitting on his glans and massaging the saliva into the bared end. Meanwhile, Roly happily watched whilst using his prehensile tunnel of rather pointless skin by amalgamating all the techniques of us bare ends, and the long skins amongst us, with or without saliva.

Anon

Masturbation — Getting It Right

vi) The Stage of Detumescence

Immediately following orgasm/ejaculation there is a marked drop in blood pressure and a gradual slowing of the heart rate, both of which become raised as arousal progresses and orgasm occurs. The heavy, and often rapid, breathing which accompanies a sexual climax also subsides. At this time the penis gradually loses its erection, and the testicles, which have been drawn up close to the body, sink lower to their normal resting position. Although the penis may lose its erection quite swiftly, its total volume may take quite a little while to return to the fully relaxed state. Thus the flaccid state to which

it initially returns may be somewhat larger than usual for an hour or more. Similarly the testicles will also have increased in volume during arousal by as much as 50%, and even after they have resumed their normal low-slung position in the scrotum, it can be an hour or two before they fully return to their resting state.

It is during detumescence that any feelings of repressed guilt, shame or anxiety are usually experienced. I have known some young people to become suicidal in this stage and record with long-harboured distress an occasion from my student days well over 30 years ago, when a 16-year-old boy died having hacked off his penis with a sheath knife in a fit of extreme post-organic depression.

It is most important therefore, that the period of detumescence be recognised for what it potentially can be – the most wonderfully relaxing and satisfying period of the whole sexual cycle. It is a time for lying back and thinking sweet thoughts while continuing to caress oneself, gently fondling one's genitals, and making sure one is warm and comfortable. It is important to allow plenty of time for this phase, since it may well be as long as 20 minutes before one really feels ready to get up and resume ordinary living. This is the romantic stage of masturbation and should not be thrown away lightly in the hasty desire to 'get up and go'. For this reason, 'in bed' wankers may find that night time masturbation is more satisfactory than early morning just before getting up time. The late night wanker can drift off into a restful doze or even a full night's sleep while detumescence is occurring. However, others may prefer the option of a morning masturbation on the strength of the ready-made erection which a full bladder of urine collected overnight usually provides.

vii) The Refractory Stage

The stages of detumescence and refraction are often considered as being virtually one and the same, since, during detumescence the individual is already in a refractory state. The refractory period is that period after orgasm when no amount of continued or re-commenced physical stimulation can produce re-arousal. The length of the combined detumescence/refractory period can vary very markedly from individual to individual, or even in the same individual from one day to the next. A lot depends on the intensity of the immediately preceding period of arousal leading to climax. Where this has been very high, the individual may be left with substantial levels of sex hormones still circulating in the blood. This can lead to a very brief period of detumescence/refraction. In fact, on some occasions, re-arousal may be possible after only two or three minutes. In healthy, virile young men, re-arousal within 15 minutes of a previous orgasm is not uncommon. However, in many men, particularly as age advances, the refractory state may persist for many hours. During this time the return to the ordinary quiescent resting stage is a gradual one. Towards the end of the refractory stage, in such circumstances, re-arousal may be possible but the effort involved is considerable. This actually provides a potential for masturbatory enjoyment,

since forced masturbation while the refractory stage is still incomplete may lead to a long but intensely enjoyable cycle of arousal, plateau, and orgasm, often culminating in a climax of quite violent and mind-blowing proportions. However, only a small amount of semen is likely to be produced. The older, twice-a-day masturbator (myself included) often finds himself in this happy state. It sometimes involves considerable determination to initiate a wanking session in defiance of a general mood of disinclination, but the ultimate result more than justifies the initial effort.

Finale

Mention should be made here of the condition known as 'Orchitis Amorosa Rosacea' or bachelor's balls ache. Many regular masturbators are content to bring themselves to the plateau stage and then, after maintaining themselves at this point for some considerable time, cease stimulation and break off the action without proceeding to orgasm. The advantage of this action is that they usually experience quite a prolonged period of enjoyable sexual urge. However, detumescence doesn't occur in the normal way because the climax has been aborted. The testicles remain swollen and engorged, and the penis too sometimes remains semi-erect and swollen. After an hour or two, if the situation isn't resolved, the testicles – indeed the whole genital area – begin to ache and become very tender to touch. There is a reddening of the skin because of blood engorgement, and the individual suffers growing discomfort and distress. This can persist for several hours, and when I was a casualty officer, I was more than once called in the middle of the night to very unhappy young men walking with their legs wide apart and an agonised expression on their faces. The story was usually that they had spent an aroused half-hour saying good night to their girlfriend on the doorstep, but had not been invited in to relieve themselves through intercourse. The masturbator who frustrates his climax can be in the same position.

No account of masturbation can ever be complete, new ideas for experiment always emerging. And what some of us like doing can be totally alien to another. A typical example of this could be the swallowing of semen. Semen has a distinctive and acquired taste. Sexual oralists often derive intense pleasure from imbibing their own semen – catching it on their hand and licking it off at the time of ejaculation. However, many masturbators would be quite appalled at the notion and take offence at the suggestion that the practice is an acceptable one. Essentially, for all that may be written about it, masturbation must be seen as a personal technique, very special to the individual himself. It isn't something that can be learnt from books. An account of this kind merely consolidates some existing ideas and perhaps provides a few ideas for experimentation in the future.

Dr. Ray Hamble

More Female Preferences

An item in the last *Acorn* refers to one printed in Issue Q, and both have a common theme: German girls prefer their men uncircumcised. I wish to recount this true story of one whose preferences were quite different.

I spent almost a month of the Summer of 1986 at a youth hostel near Arcachon on the French Atlantic Coast. The dormitories were mixed, the showers both communal and mixed, and a short walk away was a naturist beach. Almost everybody's swimming trunks, bikinis and night things never left their rucksacks, and naked bliss became the norm. The hostellers divided into two language based groups: German and English. However, few of the latter were in fact English. One man and two women were accompanied by a Welshman (me), two Americans and a Brazilian (all men), a Norwegian couple, two Swedish girls and one young German woman. Four of the six men had been circumcised, Wales and Norway providing the only foreskins. I do not recall seeing even one of the much larger German-speaking group being circumcised. Hygiene, as I recall, was poor. A potent mixture of sweat, sand and suntan oil (not to forget the inevitable smegma) collected under the foreskin. Whilst I have seen few men retract to wash the glans in communal showers at the local pool – certainly no-one was going to do so when those showers were shared with several nubile naked women. (My own 'trick' was to head for the loo after the shower and clean out with my still damp sponge).

From the furtive glances the women were making, it soon became apparent that the circumcised cocks were getting more than their fair share of attention. Admiring glances developed into long hard stares and, in the case of one woman, outright fascination. This woman was the solitary German girl who had joined us. She admitted quite candidly that she had deliberately left her 'volk' after having shared a shower with the two Americans and noticed their cut form. After a few days she increased her acquaintance with circumcision by making love to the Englishman. This woman can have known no shame. Not only had she bared her body, but later opened her soul to state an unequivocal preference for a cut cock in her cunt and in her mouth. After a week or so, they left together, apparently to walk in the foothills of the Pyrenees and no doubt for her to gain further appreciation of the bared glans.

Other readers' experiences suggest that not all German women feel this way; my own observation contradicts this. I'm not saying that they are wrong and I am right – just that we are all (whether German girls or not) individuals. One further thought came to me as I was writing this letter. Was that young woman seduced by the fact that his cock was certainly showered clean on a daily basis, whilst others were not? Perhaps. It mattered nothing to one of the Swedes though – for in her cunt and mouth she happily took my foreskinned member regularly that summer.

Anon

Foreskin Retraction Questionnaire — Results

Thanks to those who replied to my questionnaire, and herewith the answers analysed. For the first four questions it seemed more sense to give the range with an average, and to make lists for the others. In the case of questions 8 to 11, many respondents gave several answers. The interesting thing is that all but one have eventually had themselves circumcised; obviously permanent retraction is more common outside *Acorn* than in it.

It is obviously a minority interest, but one worth pursuing all the same. I should particularly like feedback on the 'further comments' section – especially, as I wrote a few weeks ago, about the practise being common in the Far East. Also in the Army according to this letter to *Zipper* some years back:-

“In Issue 85 you have a lot of guys writing to say they like to see the head of a man’s cock shown with the foreskin back, and John (Southall) asks if it’s common for the skin to slip back from the head. I was in the Army for a few years and they’d look at our cocks regularly to see if we were clean. We’d have to stand in a line and drop our trousers and pants. Most of the blokes were uncut, but I remember most kept their knobs uncovered in their pants.” The writer then goes on to describe the rest of the inspection – anal, etc.

N.G. – Norfolk

1. Age now: range from 33 to 78.
2. a) Age at which retraction first made: range from 6 to 22.
b) Age of final retraction: usually within 3 years of 2a.
3. Penis length flaccid: 4” to 2.5” (mean 2.9”).
4. a) Circumference of corona: 4.9” to 1.75” (mean 4”).
b) Circumference of shaft: 4.3” to 1.5” (mean 3.5”).
5. Foreskin a) longer – 3.
b) shorter – 3.
c) as long as – 1.

All 3 who answered b) had foreskins that retracted naturally behind the glans.

6. Has the glans or corona increased in size? Yes: 5; No: 0; Not sure: 2.
7. a) Easy to keep back – 5
b) Needed training – 2
8. Methods used in training: a) Repeated retraction – 2.
b) Piercing through foreskin – 1.

9. Problems encountered:

None – 1

Sensitivity of glans (pleasant) – 1.

Sensitivity of glans (unpleasant) – 3.

Tightness of retracted foreskin – 2.

Trapped pubic hair – 3.

Embarrassing question from G.P. about it – 1.

10. Reasons for initial retraction:

To be different from other boys – 1.

Stimulating feeling – 2

To prevent irritation – 2.

Parental directive – 1. (Father & brother also retracted)

Exposed glans looks better – 2.

Desire to look circumcised – 2.

To prevent tightness of foreskin – 1.

Foreskin naturally retracted itself – 1.

11. Current reason (if different from 10):

Prefer exposed glans – 3

Feels better – 2.

Hygiene – 1.

Dislike of foreskin – 2.

Contact Corner

Very-well endowed, 38 year-old bi-guy, circumcised as a late teenager at own request, seeks correspondence/meetings with other circumcised guys – Beds/Bucks, anywhere. All letters answered, photo appreciated.

P.H. – Milton Keynes

Because I've been temporarily very busy in the last few weeks this issue is a little overdue, but there'll still be two more issues by the end of the year.

D.A.

ACORN

1993 Issue No 7

**Editor
David Acorn**

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Editorial

I have been asked to inquire if there are any cavaliers considering being circumcised, and if so, the reason for wanting it, and what are their concerns regarding having it done.

It could only happen in America. A urologist has found himself famous for an outlandish reason. A young wife decided that her husband had raped her, so while he was asleep she hacked off his penis with a kitchen knife. She then called the police to say that she had thrown the organ out of the car window. A police search found it lying on a grass verge. When this doctor got to the hospital he found “an oddly calm patient and eight cops sitting around with their knees crossed.” The doctor and a plastic surgeon took more than 9 hours to reattach it, using a microscope to reconnect minuscule nerves and blood vessels, and were totally successful.

The word got out during the operation and afterwards the doctor found himself discussing the operation on radio and TV. The victim’s wife was charged with malicious wounding and the husband with marital rape. They have both hired entertainment lawyers to handle their cases and to organise book, TV, and film rights. Meanwhile the doctor and his family are trying to learn how to deal with fame.

My thanks to the member who sent in the newspaper article covering the story.

There having been no comments forthcoming regarding the letter two issues ago asking for a sticky solution, I, never backward with experimentation, had a go myself. Discarding one by one the various gluey substances through fear of damage, I inevitably came back to the sugar based foods. I found that they did indeed liquefy, but not stopping there I found that after a little while the water part evaporated (I used marmalade), and left it very sticky. So much so that it threatened to keep stuck, but with a tiny drop of saliva applied with the finger now and again it worked beautifully, and the resulting sensation was great.

D.A.

Ian’s Tail — Ian Goes To America

After working in hospitals in England for some years, I determined to rid myself of the travel bug which had been gnawing away at me for some time. A few weeks after making the decision I found myself at Kennedy International Airport in New York, clutching my passport and immigration visa. The Immigration Officer surveyed my one year work permit and said that he hoped I would have “an interesting time.” It was certainly that. It was a year which allowed me to increase my professional knowledge, and to develop my interest and understanding of circumcision.

The day I took up my duties at the hospital, I was sent off for a routine staff medical examination. The receptionist told me to remove my clothes, put on a robe, and go through into the examination room. The doctor was an elderly man, large, smiling and friendly, and very keen to tell me of the wonderful time he had as a U.S. Air Force doctor working in London during W.W.2. I was examined from head to foot. I thought he had finished, but then he told me to get up on the couch where he proceeded to examine my abdomen and then each of my testicles in turn. He then gently took hold of my penis which promptly erected. He examined it thoughtfully, then said, "No trouble there I see, you're a fine upstanding young man, but, my God, when they circumcised you they didn't do too well, did they? If that happened here we'd likely be sued for malpractice. Still, it sure looks fully functional." He smiled quizzically, then said, "OK, you're fit, you can get dressed and go." Scarlet faced I got down from the couch and left.

I was assigned a locker in the staff changing room. I was surprised when I found it was customary for the younger men to strip completely, and to don only a thin, short-sleeved shirt and the slightly thicker, drawstring, pyjama-style trousers to work in. After a few days I joined the crowd and left my traditional Y-fronts in my locker. It was here that I experienced a great revelation. Circumcision was most definitely 'in'; indeed you had to look really hard to find a foreskin. In my immediate group of thirty or so, there were two. One on a doctor, the other on a Spanish-speaking aide who had immigrated from Puerto Rico. After duty almost every man took to the showers, walking there naked and returning naked to his locker, carrying with him a towel taken from the stack in the shower area. Nudity was not paraded, you just took off all your street clothes and put on others to work. After work you stripped off, tossed your soiled clothes into the laundry basket, went off for a shower, returned to your locker space, dried off and dressed. In the doing of this I'm sure that every man had a look at the penis of his colleagues. I was no exception. It was probably at this time that I became sure that, for me, the circumcised cock, with its completely exposed knob, was a thing of beauty, and proclaims masculinity in a way that a knob, peeking out from, or covered by, a foreskin does not.

I had been there about a month when I completed a shift at the same time as an intern from Vermont, who I had worked with on a number of occasions. His ancestors had immigrated from Lancashire in the late 19th. century and he was very interested in life in England. We stripped off, went to the showers, where after a few minutes he said, quietly, "Do many of you guys get circumcised in England?" He came over to me, looked, and said, "Gee, what did they do to you?" He gently took hold of my cock and looked more closely. I pushed his hand away and told him that I knew my circumcision was a mess, and that I hated it. His attitude was one of professional interest, firm but understanding. He apologised for embarrassing me and said that I appeared to have "a bit of a hang-up" about it and that he thought we should "talk it out", and asked me to go to his apartment for supper. Over supper I told

Art my story. Afterwards he suggested that he contact a particular doctor on my behalf who, he was sure, would make a surgical revision for me. I declined this offer through a mixture of embarrassment, fear, and uncertainty about my ability to pay the fees. The next three months, the last of his internship, was a significant time for me. I learnt that Art (Arthur) knew a great deal about circumcision in America. He had performed circumcisions regularly during his time in obstetrics, and as a Medical Officer in the U.S. Army. He could and would talk about it freely without embarrassment, which enabled me to do the same. What I had been able to consider professionally I was now able to discuss personally, openly, and with a detail that would have embarrassed my parents.

Art was not circumcised as a baby, and in talking to me it became clear that, as a boy, Art was as unhappy with his cock as I was with mine, but for rather different reasons. In school he had been the odd man out, teased by his peers, and asked when he was going to get his skin cut like a 'real guy.' High school and college were an improvement in that there were more men with foreskins, but still a significant minority. After medical school, Art was called up for service in Vietnam, where, in his words, thoughts about the state of your cock were obscured by "trying not to piss your pants when the shells dropped, pressure of work, and trying to stay alive." Art's last months of military service were spent back in the U.S. where, he told me, he circumcised a number of new recruits. There was no policy on circumcision, but enlisted men with foreskins were made aware that circumcision was available. In his words, the uncircumcised were "usually born at home in rural areas, Hispanic or Hilly-Billy mountain boys." A number accepted the invitation to be cut, some because they had developed a personal preference, others to 'join the ranks', and some because it was free of charge. At his pre-discharge medical, Art requested to be circumcised, which was done a week before discharge, under general anaesthetic, and was in hospital for three days.

From Art I learned that, at that time in the U.S., more than 80% of the boys were circumcised when they were two or three days old, early in the morning, and without anaesthetic. Freehand circumcision (or cut-and-trim) was almost unknown – "we have a whole range of clamps ... and there's always the Plastibell ... we get a good cosmetic result." I was, from my observations, aware of the cosmetic result, and I had noticed that, apart from the fully exposed knob, some boys showed no sign of surgery. Other boys had a dark ring surrounding their penis, sited anywhere from immediately behind the knob to halfway back along the shaft. Art explained that, aiming for as little bloodshed as possible, compression clamps, applied after the dorsal slit and before the foreskin was cut off, were favoured. These left the dark circling that I had seen, particularly the Plastibell, as that device remained on the penis until it sloughed off, generally between five and ten days after the operation.

Before I left America I assisted in the circumcision procedures on a couple of mornings. We started at 7am and circumcised however many boys

were listed in one session, usually three or four. The babies were deprived of the 6am feed, cried because they were hungry, cried also because they were strapped on a hard moulded plastic board called a circumstraint, their limbs held by velcro straps, and, yes, I am sure that the procedure was painful for a little while. I remember that the doctor talked quietly to the boys during the procedure, saying such things as, "OK little fella ... soon be over ... all for the best ... you'll be fine later." After their circumcision, the boys were fed and quickly settled down. In response to my questions I found that almost all parents elected to have their boys circumcised. The nurse in attendance on the first day had four sons, all circumcised at birth. I was told that general anaesthetic was not advisable for the newly born, and that effective local anaesthetic required multiple injections which were thought to be equally painful and took as long as the circumcision itself. In addition, infiltration of fluid into the penis distorted the tissue, which could result in a less than cosmetic outcome. I was also told that the boys quickly settled down and that they didn't recall the experience. If the boys in who's circumcision I participated develop like the men with whom I shared a locker room they will have nothing to complain about in their circumcision.

At the end of my year I was happy to return to England where circumcision without anaesthetic had been discontinued except for the religious rite. This I find reassuring. I believe that the penis with a ragged circumcision scar, skin tags, or bridges, is more likely to be found on a man circumcised as a child without anaesthetic.

Ian

Tatler

This is an article by A.A. Gill from *The Tatler* sent in by A.K. London.

We are born perfect and complete. Nature and natural selection have spent 10 million years getting us right and nothing about the human body is an optional extra. But in Britain thousands of perfect babies are 'improved' at birth every year, and they are all male. In the pursuit of bettering nature they leave a little bit of themselves behind; they have the tops of their penises docked like spaniels' tails.

Circumcision is a primitive ritual that started as a right of passage for boys at puberty. The pain, blood, and the flaying of the penis by older members of the tribe was an initiation into manhood, the pre-bespoke equivalent of your first pair of long trousers.

The Newspapers

Two items which I am sure will be of interest for *Acorn*. Both are from today's *Guardian*. One is on infant circumcision (see below), and came from the health section. The other is on penis size, and from the women's section (!) circumcision got another mention too; the case of a drowned Scot who, because of his dark complexion and circumcised member, was presumed to be a Turkish sailor lost overboard.

The Guardian seems to be trying to catch up with *The Independent* in its coverage of our favourite topic. Last week life's luxuries were stated to have been until recently, atheism, breast feeding and circumcision. Incidentally I scored nought out of three – obviously a deprived child! (Since then things have changed. Sundays are spent on the local naturist beach, my partner's nipples are gently nibbled, and I was circumcised nearly a year ago.) Of much more interest was the subsequent statement that all three have now become necessities. Reading this, several questions came to mind. Is neonatal circumcision now in fashion amongst *Guardian* readers? Are we to assume that the educated, liberal, upper-middle-classes, at whom the paper is aimed, favour the operation? Is there any link between *The Guardian's* Manchester roots and that city's large Jewish population? That Salford has more mohels than any British city (other than London) must be a welcome fact to any Mancunian parents (of any or no religious faith) who wish to have a son circumcised.

I do not regard circumcision as a luxury – indeed essential for those with balatinitis, phimosis etc. It is most certainly luxurious; a naked glans against the duvet, to soap in my morning shower or, best of all, in or against my partner. I now can truly enjoy her wet cunt rather than my foreskin. Oral sex is now given more frequently and without reluctance, and nestling up against her bare buttocks or her pubic hair is quite blissful (no pyjamas or nighties in this household). I would not go so far as to state that circumcision is a necessity. I firmly believe in parental choice and furthermore, that parents should be allowed to exercise that choice. In this day and age a parent has to be really determined if a son is to be circumcised. A doctor or mohel has to be found, private arrangements will be made, and money will change hands. A better way forward would, I am convinced, be for the health service to adopt the practice of certain private hospitals and to offer all parents the choice of whether or not a baby son should be circumcised. Just as the mother-to-be is offered a long or short stay in hospital option, so the parents should be offered a circumcision or not option. In this way the luxury or necessity debate ceases to be of importance. More babies would, I am sure, be circumcised and hence the whole issue would be less fraught (and perhaps groups like *Acorn* would cease to exist – after all, I initially joined only to find the name of someone who would circumcise me!)

Anon

[Personally I wouldn't have liked *Acorn* to have never existed. Think of all the good friends I would have never known. D.A.]

Naturally 'Cut'

My brother is two years older than me and was circumcised around the age of five. Mother began to try to retract his foreskin at this age, and after achieving only partial success whipped him down to the doctor's where he was cut that day. He later told me it hurt like hell and he was very upset about it.

My turn for inspection came at around the age of four, but mother succeeded in exposing my glans after a few tries on successive bath nights. She used to make me keep the skin back all during the bath and for some time after until she'd dried and dressed me. Even then she said, "Leave it as it is, it's better back." Because it felt uncomfortable I usually pulled it forward again when she'd disappeared.

Not long afterwards, following the usual bath and retraction routine, she spoke to me more seriously, and said I was old enough to keep my skin back all the time like a man. "Keep it back and keep it clean" was her motto. My father was circumcised and had he been otherwise, and had my mother not been a nurse, I might have argued. She is a loving but determined mother, and puts on her professional no-nonsense voice at such times. On this occasion she made sure that my foreskin was carefully tucked in behind the rim, and followed this with a warning that if I released it she would have me cut like my brother.

As I'd had all the gory details from him, I braved the initial discomfort through fear of worse. Our penises now looked alike and it wasn't long afterwards that I tried unsuccessfully to return mine to 'normal' and found my retraction permanent; the glans having grown and the foreskin shrivelled.

In adulthood I saw no reason to undergo an operation to achieve what had already happened. My wife, who is pro-foreskin, was disappointed as she discovered my permanent 'nakedness'. When she heard that I was uncircumcised she thought at first that she might be able to restore things, but after a few vain tries said in sad resignation, "You've had it!"

Frankly, having read much on the argument, I don't mind.

Anon

A Kinder Cut

An article by Randi Epstein in *The Guardian*.

Surely, no grown man would submit to a surgical snip of his penis without a hefty dose of painkillers. Then why not newborns, too? For centuries, doctors, and religious officials have performed circumcisions on newborn males without a care in the world about the infants' pain. Until recently most scientists assumed that the pain pathways in infants were too premature to detect pain. We now know better. Even the speediest nick of the foreskin must hurt fiercely.

But there is good news. Researchers have shown that newborns who get a pat of anaesthetic seem to suffer less than those who get nothing at all. Recent circumcision studies have tested an anaesthetic cream called EMLA: a mix of two commonly used painkillers, lidocaine and prilocaine. An American investigator says, "The current practice is circumcision without the benefit of anaesthesia or analgesia. The inattention to pain from unanaesthetised circumcision might suggest that it is not regarded as painful, but mounting evidence shows the discomfort lasts longer than the procedure."

Reporting in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, her team described how the infants, about two or three days old, were given either cream or placebo. Doctors recorded the babies' heart rates, videotaped their expressions, and recorded their crying. Compared with 13 boys dabbed with the placebo, the 14 treated with EMLA had much lower heart rates, by about 25 beats per minute, and fewer facial signs of distress.

In tests of 81 newborns, University of Alberta researchers also found that treated boys cried less, had lower heart rates, and had less sweat on their palms.

"These studies confirm that neonates undergoing circumcision have behavioural and physiological stress responses that can be diminished by dorsal pedal blocks or EMLA", said a paediatrician at Harvard University. He said several hospitals in the U.S. now do circumcisions using a local anaesthetic.

Female Circumcision

At the risk of stepping outside the boundary of *Acorn* interests, and after reading some letters from subscribers regarding female interest in male circumcision, it occurred to me that you may be interested in female interest in female circumcision.

For many years until about 10 years ago, I was involved in various types of body art, tattooing, body piercing, and wrote some reviews for national magazines. I have also carried out body piercings, mostly for women who saw

beauty and attraction in having this distinctive form of body enhancement. In my activities I met women who were circumcised or appeared to be. Altogether, I knew 6 women who had decided to have their clitoris hood removed.

A dentist, aged about 35, living in North London, asked me to visit her to discuss a piercing in her labia. It is necessary to check the configuration of the area before advising on the possibilities, and I asked her to show me her vulva. She did so by raising her dress to waist height and holding the pubic area tightly upwards, which had the effect of retracting her clitoral hood and exposing a well-developed clitoris. In fact, so prominent was her clitoris that I asked her if she had had the hood removed. I was told not, but we entered a discussion on the possibility of having it removed. The result was that I gave her the name of a doctor friend who carried out male circumcisions, and some time later she wrote saying that she had been circumcised and was very pleased with the result, as was her husband.

Visiting a lady in the Preston area to discuss piercing, I was asked to wait while she prepared herself for examination. She had been wearing jeans when I called but she appeared some minutes later in a bathrobe, and when asked, opened it to show her piercing requirements. Reaching over to check, I was asked, "Please be gentle, I'm circumcised." Enquiring, I was told that she had been persuaded by her boyfriend, who was himself circumcised, to allow him to make a vertical incision through the clitoral hood, leaving it as two 'flaps' with the exposed clitoris between, and had at some later time removed the 'flaps' to tidy her up. She was fully exposed, no vestige of hood remaining. She too was very happy with her new condition, and had no regrets.

I had corresponded with a couple in Southern England the husband being partly circumcised, but unhappy that he was not completely uncovered. I gave him the address of my doctor friend, and later he wrote to tell me that he had had the remaining loose skin removed to form a radical circumcision. And also that, during the visit, his wife had asked the doctor whether it was possible for a woman to have her clitoris fully exposed, since she enjoyed having her hood retracted for greater sensation. No sooner said than done, and she too had her foreskin removed. As they were naturists, she told me that she took much pleasure in sitting in such a way that her vulva was open to view, showing her hoodless clitoris, and that had obviously been noticed by curious fellow naturists, but not remarked on to her.

A letter in *Forum* from a lady who said that she believed herself to be one of the very few English women to be circumcised, prompted me to contact her through the editor. I discovered that she was a wife and mother who had been dissatisfied because her foreskin would not remain retracted during sex because it was rather long and thick. Her husband carried out the operation, which she said was painless and quick, and now she felt liberated and free. Her circumcised clitoris had been noted by one of the doctors when she was in hospital having a baby, but he had not discussed it with her.

Following an article which I wrote for a magazine, I received a letter from an Australian lady, who told me that she had been circumcised by a local doctor after complaining about insensitivity. He concluded that she was 'hooded', which was his term for a clitoris which could not be retracted, possibly due to adhesions or malfunction of the glans and hood. Because she considered it vital to be able to correct her problem, she asked him to correct the accessibility of her clitoris, and he removed her foreskin completely. She was so delighted by the effect that she told her daughter, presumably teenage or older, and discussed the advantages with her.

Finally, a couple who had spent their lives in the Army overseas, now retired and settled in London, where they took up voluntary work for charities to fill in the time. They were referred to me because the wife had numerous body piercings and wished to find a jewellery maker. When in London I visited them and was invited to stay overnight. After dinner, during which the wife wore a long dress, we chatted, and she allowed the dress to fall open, revealing her body decorations. I was fascinated by the number and size of these and bent forward to see more closely. As she opened her thighs I was surprised to see that she had a very large clitoris which was totally uncovered by foreskin, and that she seemed to be happy for it to be seen. We discussed her history of sensual ornamentation, and finally I asked her when she had been circumcised. She simply said that many people had asked her about that, that it was a long story, and had happened a long time ago. I was told no more, but clearly she had had the hood totally and skilfully removed at some time, leaving a very prominent glans which she had no hesitation in touching, and which was obviously a feature of which she was proud.

During researching for articles, I have discovered a much wider interest in female circumcision than is commonly known. An American feature writer carried out investigations into female circumcision, a more frequent operation there than in Europe, perhaps as a counterpoint to American frequency of male circumcision. She met and talked to circumcised women, and because the general view of those done seemed to be very much in favour, she had herself circumcised, the better to understand the effect. She commented very favourably on the better sensation and contact that the bare glans offered.

Perhaps if the subject was aired in *Acorn*, other readers, possibly even female readers, might provide useful comments.

K.J.

P(r)ick Of The Week

A member has sent me another part of the uncircumcising subject. This time it was on the Radio 4 programme 'Pick of the Week', presented by John Peel, an aged-looking disc jockey. I won't go over the transcript of the broadcast

again; suffice it to say that the interviewees were all unsatisfied customers of the medical profession.

What did come to light though, was John Peel's last remark. "You probably don't care to know this, but I am an uncircumcised person. I never thought of my circumcised school chums (I went to a boarding school in North Wales where we greeted each day with a cold plunge, so I knew which ones they were) as having been hurt or violated. Roundheads and cavaliers we called each other, laughing boyishly as we did. But looking back, I imagine that the roundheads felt some sense of loss at puberty and beyond."

Not only is that an addition to the status tables, but also shows again how all boys at school are interested in what the others have got.

D.A.

From America

I wrote the following piece a year or so ago for the magazine *Sexyg*, the human sexuality special interest group of American MENSA.

Recent accounts in *Sexyg* by men circumcised as adults appear to include an element of fantasy, played out, or possibly imagined ... eg. "a reflector was positioned so I could watch the procedure" – how did he get the doctor to agree to that? My own experience aged 21 was different. I thought I was in love for life with Sarah, a Jewish girl, who said that she could not agree to having sex because I was not circumcised. So I visited the university medical clinic, complained of a tight foreskin, and after a brief examination was offered and accepted circumcision, which was done the same day under a general anaesthetic. The recovery period of a couple of weeks was painful and certainly not erotic.

I now believe that Sarah had raised the subject as an easy way to postpone agreeing to sex, and was overwhelmed by the magnitude of what she had initiated. To her credit she never showed this, and in due course she did have sex with me. Unfortunately our relationship only lasted another 6 months or so. The experience left me with an above average (unhealthy?) interest in the subject. At school in England (where the above occurred), boys in the showers classified themselves as Roundheads and Cavaliers after the two sides in the Civil War. As far as I remember there were equal numbers.

The practice has declined in England, and when my son was born there, medical opinion advised firmly against. We didn't. Here in the U.S. it is apparently more common (75% of men in the *Sexyg* survey have had it done, and it is routinely offered to parents of newborn sons) despite the real if slight risk of injury. The Uncircumcised Society of America sent me a news item on a recent case of damage to the penis settled for 22 million dollars, and on TV 'L.A. Law' featured a similar case a while back. In a recent autobiography, the British politician Quentin Hogg describes how at the age of 7 he was taken to

the doctor and, without warning or anaesthetic, subjected to surgical correction of a circumcision apparently inadequately performed at birth. However, this was 60 years ago. It reminded me of a boy at school who was circumcised (for the first time) when his mother got remarried to a Muslim man, who insisted on it during a vacation trip to visit relatives in Pakistan. He was about 14.

As a man who has experienced life both before and after, I don't think it makes a lot of difference to any activity, sexual or otherwise. If you are into mutilation as a sexual stimulus it is probably one of the few socially acceptable possibilities, apart from pierced ears, but this is obviously no reason to do either of them to infants. The medical grounds seem open to dispute. The one physical change I have detected is a noticeable reduction in the sensitivity of the glans (but would this have happened anyway as one gets older?). The base of the glans, which is more protected from abrasion by clothing, is now much more sensitive than the tip. My urologist told me recently that this is, "quite common, nothing to worry about". (A matter of opinion.) Interestingly he also said that the most common age for circumcision, after birth, is in the early twenties. I wonder why?

On balance, given the chance over again, I would not have had it done, but I probably wouldn't have had it done then if they'd given me more time to think about it.

C.E. – Georgia

[Quentin Hogg being another addition to the list.

D.A.]

Trapped Tip

Guys under 30 who have long beautiful foreskins and want to keep them that way should watch out for the 'trapped tip'. This happens when the foreskin is retracted over the glans when urinating or for some other reason. When it is rolled forward again the weighted tip may fold under the foreskin as it is rolled forward over the glans, often leaving the meatus exposed. This is the start of a short foreskin, and if not attended to will get shorter as time goes on.

The remedy is with the thumb and index finger. A slight tug at the bottom lip of the foreskin is generally adequate to bring the tip out to its natural pointed position. A lot of men do this, and that is why you see some men with foreskins as nature intended them to be, and others with the skin covering none, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, or $\frac{3}{4}$ of the glans.

If anyone would like to write to me on this subject I promise to answer.

I was reading in Bud Berkeley's book *Foreskin – A Closer Look* which is on sale over here now, that it said 'docking' is the 'in' thing in America at the present time.

It brings together the natural and the cut guys, where the uncircumcised can share his foreskin by docking it over the bare glans of the cut guy. This must give the circumcised a lot of pleasure and knowledge of what a foreskin feels like. It advises to uncouple before either ejaculates.

There is quite a lot about foreskin reconstruction in the book, a subject also written about in the last issue of *Acorn*.

H.J.M. – Mid-Glamorgan.

[Perhaps, H.J., you could let us know where to obtain the book. D.A.]

Satisfied Customer

I first discovered circumcision when I was 7 years old, staying at a school friend's house for the weekend. Tony was the same age as myself and had a younger brother of 6. As kids will do, we decided to play in the garden. A canal ran at the bottom of his garden and of course we ended up getting very wet and dirty. We went back into the house and his mother immediately said that we were to have a bath to wash ourselves. When the bath had been drawn we were told to get in together, which we did. It was then that I noticed that Tony's penis was very different to mine. I asked him what had happened to it and he replied that he had been 'cut' the previous year. He said that he was very pleased to have been done and that, in fact, his brother Peter had only been cut earlier that week, and if we were demanding enough he would show it to me.

I was fascinated by this since I had always wanted to be like my father who was also cut. After much bullying of Peter he dropped his shorts to show us his newly circumcised penis. It looked very sore, but the most interesting thing was that he had had a really radical circumcision. The skin was incredibly tight. Tony then got his out to compare it with Peter's, and the difference was very marked, his being much looser and had a slight overhang left. Tony said that he wished he'd been cut the same way as Peter, as he was still finding that bits of dirt collected in the creases left.

I went to a public school in 1970 and it was there that I discovered that I was, in fact, in the minority who still had their foreskins, over 80% having been circumcised by the time that they went to the school (age around 10). Over the next ten years or so I tried everything to keep my foreskin trained back, but to no avail. I left in 1980 and it was then that I got my first job, and the spending power to get myself circumcised. However I didn't know

how or where to start! My doctor said that he felt that there was no way that he could recommend me to the NHS, and would not tell me about any other ways that I could get it done.

In 1990 I was on holiday in Canada when I found in the local Yellow Pages an advert for cosmetic surgery. I rang the number and asked them if they were able to perform circumcisions on adult males. They said yes, at a cost of \$350. I immediately made an appointment to go and see the surgeon. I went in and met the man who was to do the operation, and had what I can only describe as the most detailed discussion on what I wanted. I said that I wanted to have a very radical circumcision done and the frenum removed. He agreed to do this and asked me where I wanted the resulting scar to be on the shaft. He explained that the position of this altered the way things looked afterwards, the lower down the shaft the less tighter the result, and the greater likelihood that I would have crinkles on the shaft. I said that I would like it about one inch beneath the rim, but he said that he would prefer to place it closer. I therefore decided that I would leave it to him to decide.

The day came and I arrived at the clinic at 9am. I was told to strip and lie on the operating table. The surgeon came in and went through the requirements again to make sure that I hadn't changed my mind. He then injected the area and whilst it was taking effect he drew out the lines where he was going to make the cut. He said that I could watch him doing it if I wished, to which I readily agreed, and got into a sitting position. He first pulled my foreskin forward and clamped it. After a couple of minutes he simply cut the overhanging skin away with a knife. He then released the clamp and gently pushed the skin back over the glans. He then decided that not enough had been removed, got out a pen and marked out where he would cut again, this time by hand. He asked me if things looked tight enough for me. I was so keen to be cut as tight as possible that I said no, could he make things even tighter? He said he would but decided that to get everything right it would be necessary to reclamp it. This of course was quite difficult, but he eventually succeeded. Again, a simple slice came off and the returning of the skin to position behind the glans.

Time had arrived to remove the frenum. This was remarkably simple and he removed it completely, no bits left at all. I was then stitched back together and bandaged up. I was told not to remove it for two days and then to soak it off in a warm bath which had a quantity of Savlon in it. The stitches would be removed in 10 days.

The two days passed without any great discomfort and I took the long awaited bath. I was very disturbed by what was revealed, my penis bruised and swollen beyond all recognition. However, after a week it had recovered to the point where I could start to judge the end result. I was truly thrilled. I had the exact result that I had asked for. Needless to say I couldn't wait to try and see if everything was still in good working order. The first erection is one which I will never forget, the feelings of tightness being fantastic, and

yes, everything did work. I went back to the clinic and had the stitches out two days before I left for home, the surgeon very pleased that everything had healed so well. He told me that he had never done such a tight circumcision before, but he felt that the result was so good that he would try to make it his standard practise in future.

Well, that's my story. I am still delighted with the result, the shaft still very smooth and tight, whilst the glans has expanded greatly in width. All in all, I don't think that I could have asked or got a better job done.

I.T. – Gwent

'Rabbit At Rest'

A book worth reading, which is a positive compendium of comment on the penile condition, is 'Rabbit at Rest' by John Updike.

Rabbit is the old nickname of Harry Angstrom, a Swedish-American with the full range of penile accessories, and some of the points bear out recent thinking in the States. The first inkling you get of Harry's status is when he explains that, in middle age now, he usually pees sitting down, because at night his foreskin tends to get folded over and his directional delivery becomes as uncertain as a woman's. Is this likely? I'd have thought that a simple thumbing back would avoid the inconvenience of the ignominious female crouch.

Later, Harry sees that his young grandson is circumcised and wonders how he would feel about it if he himself were circumcised. He remembers reports in newspapers saying that the foreskin provides protection like the eyelid: when it is removed the glans becomes less sensitive, more thick skinned and dull. A guy circumcised in mid-life found that his sexual pleasure and responsiveness went so far down that his "circumcised life was no longer worth living". Harry wonders whether he himself would have been a more dependable human being if he had been less sexually responsive and not so crazy to have his 'eye' opened down there: "getting a hard-on you can feel the foreskin gently tug back like freezing cream lifting the paper cap on an old-time milk bottle". From the numb look of his penis, his grandson will be a solid citizen.

Harry's lady love is the wife of a circumcised 'friend', and one of the things she loves about Harry is his uncircumcised penis. She teases him about his 'bonnet' and insists on seeing it when Harry has to go away because it looks so cute with its 'bonnet' on – so different from her husband's.

So John Updike makes it plain that he does not approve of circumcision, although nowhere does he or any of his characters say so. You are left wondering if he has been done himself or if he takes his descriptions from personal experience. As one who has regrettably spent his life 'preputially

challenged', I am in no position to say. Perhaps someone who is fully equipped can hazard an opinion?

R.B.W. – Bedford

[R.B. also sent in a letter on uncircumcising which was covered in the last issue, but he does make the point that, with all the furore and excitement engendered by the book, he finds it a real comfort to know that he's not in the tiny eccentric minority that some people would believe him to be. *D.A.*]

ACORN

1993 Issue No 8

**Editor
David Acorn**

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**Newsletter Contributions,
Letters for Forwarding**

to:- DAVID ACORN

**Membership, Fees, Advice,
Personal Matters**

to:- TONY ACORN

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Editorial

See last page.

D.A.

Posthumous Circumcision

Item in *The Independent*, 17/8/93 sent in by R.B.W. – Bedford.

In one of the more macabre issues dividing religious and secular Jews in Israel, a dispute has arisen over the circumcision of Jewish corpses.

Strictly observant Jews will not permit tampering with deceased bodies. The ultra-Orthodox forbid autopsies and the transplant of organs from the dead. But rabbis generally agree that removal of the foreskin may be performed even on a corpse. The newspaper, *Ha'aretz*, reported that a number of corpses of recently arrived Soviet Jews had been circumcised. Jews in the former Soviet Union were rarely able to fulfil Jewish ritual practises such as circumcision – normally carried out on the 8th day after birth – for fear of persecution. 90% of recent Russian male immigrants are uncircumcised and are under pressure to prove their 'Jewishness' by going under the knife. But many have declined – not least because of the pain. (No anaesthetic?)

Under Jewish law – Halacha – all Jews must be circumcised or, after death, "their soul will not enter the garden of Eden", as a former chief rabbi put it yesterday. "We only want to assure the corpse has no cause for shame at the time of his death. Even the British Royal family carries out circumcision..."

As increasing numbers of new Russian immigrants die in Israel, the question of whether to circumcise the corpse has become urgent. The job has been carried out by religious Jews charged with the ritual preparation of bodies for burial according to a reporter from *Ha'aretz*, citing sources at the Haifa burial society and the Religious Affairs Ministry.

His report has caused uproar. Ran Cohen, a member of parliament for the left-wing secular party Meretz has called for an inquiry by the Attorney-General. "It is a filthy practice. I am utterly ashamed that anyone in my country has done this kind of thing. It is against human rights. It is against the dignity of the dead person. It is an insult to the new immigrants from the former Soviet Union," he said.

But Rabbi Shlomo Goren also a former chief rabbi attacked Mr. Cohen as a 'leftist' and a 'spy'.

[And we worry about what goes on in our parliament.

D.A.]

An Odd Muslim

As a Sayyad (direct descendent of the Prophet) my Islamic credentials are not in question. But they would be if anyone could see inside my underpants! I am one of the very rare cases of a Muslim evading the requirement of circumcision, and I feel that your readers might benefit from knowing how it came about and how it has affected my life.

An adult Muslim who remains uncircumcised is in a state of 'aib' (shame) and according to the Hadith (but not the Koran) should be circumcised at the first opportunity, forcibly if need be. Since I don't relish being waylaid by a bunch of hairy fundamentalists, circumcised with a penknife and left to bleed to death in an alley, you'll forgive me if I give a false name and address.

I was born to immigrant parents but the doctor, who was British, refused my parents' request for circumcision. Since it is quite in order for Muslim boys to be done later in life, the in-laws accepted my parents' promise to have me circumcised before puberty. In the meantime I was happy, proud even, to have a foreskin like my classmates, and to avoid the taunting meted out to the two other Muslim boys in the school, who had been circumcised at birth. They got their own back by reminding me that my turn would come, and the older you were the more it hurt. So as I approached my eleventh year, still in possession of a long Asiatic foreskin, I was in fear and dread of the mutahhir's knife, which I knew would be applied without prior warning so as to avoid anxiety.

As luck would have it, both sets of in-laws moved abroad, and my father got a posting to an area with a nil Muslim population. My parents (and I!) breathed a sigh of relief, the in-laws were told that the deed had been done, I was allowed to keep my foreskin, and my parents conveniently forgot about it.

The only action from me was one of relief at not having to suffer the searing pain of an operation most of my fellow Britons shun in this day and age. As far as the religious side was concerned boys of eleven don't think too much about religious ordinances, especially if there's no Koranis school to go to.

The next hurdle was marriage. Most Muslim girls would run screaming to mother if they found their new husband was uncircumcised (as chronicled in Alf Laila wa Laila – The Thousand and One Nights). But girls in this country have been exposed to lax and easy Western ways, so that, despite the rigid chastity laws for females, some even go to the marriage bed de-virginated, many of them having gone out and had sex with uncircumcised boys. This is another status of shame which concerns the Muslim community very greatly. The number of Asian girls who pose for nude magazines or become strippers, is a pointer to the sort of temptation which a lot of girls find irresistible, and is also a particular cause for concern. This is why so many are sent back to

the country of origin to marry a local, and to keep them out of temptation's way.

I was lucky. I found a Muslim girl who was thoroughly Westernised, shared my Western values, but who was still a staunch Muslim and a virgin. However, she had secretly had a couple of boyfriends at school whose uncircumcised penises she had explored and handled whilst steadfastly preserving her virginity. She consequently knew all about foreskins, and when I anxiously admitted my uncircumcised condition to her, she was amused rather than horrified. I warned her not to mention it to her parents, and so we embarked on matrimony in a state of sublime, sinful uncircumcision, and no one was the wiser.

Circumcision to a Muslim means a state of purity (Tahur), but that applies to religious purity rather than cleanliness, which most Muslims are fussy about anyway (I wash my parts every time I use them). The fact that it is not mentioned in the Koran can be, and has been, quoted as a reason for not being too serious about it: for instance, it is rumoured that a group of high ranking Saudis who, because of prior rigid upbringing and deprivation tend to prize sexual pleasure and sensuality above all things, have secretly avoided the practice of circumcision so as to increase sexual response! They apparently square this with themselves by being prepared to submit to the mutahhir if rumbled, claiming a parental oversight, but hoping to get away with it for as long as possible.

I have come to accept my foreskin as an integral part of my body, and my wife, if anything, is quite keen that I should remain uncircumcised. The problem now is what to do about our son who is coming up to three and is also uncircumcised. Ruqiya has a large circle of Western friends who all have uncircumcised children, and we see no reason not to conform. Therefore we would both be happy to see our son keep his foreskin and explain to him when he is old enough that he may have to lose it if he doesn't keep it to himself. After all these years I've come to the conclusion that circumcision is easily avoidable for a Muslim who wants to keep his foreskin whilst otherwise adhering to Islam, provided he makes the necessary adjustment to his religious principles, stays in the West, and keeps only discreet – and appreciative – female company.

Al-Sayyad Abdul-Razzaq Muhammad

Genital Hygiene

One of the main issues which arises in the circumcision controversy is genital hygiene, and to my knowledge the matter has yet to be discussed in depth. The point that needs to be made is that until recently it was a subject which received little attention from either sex. Male hygiene was singled out as being attainable by circumcision, but nothing much was said about the much greater problems presented by the female genital system, with its intricate folds

of skin through which urine has to pass from a urethra buried deep within them. Moreover, the female's urine, which is expelled with considerably more force than the male's due to a shorter passage from the bladder, contaminates the whole of her outer genital area including the inner lips, clitoris tip and outer lips, by which it is often deflected so that it emerges in more than one stream or a haphazard spray which more often than not wets her thighs as well. The male's urethra on the other hand is either exposed so that no part of the external genitals is wetted or else the urine passes through a few millimetres of uncomplicated skin tubing, with the area to the rear of the urethra only getting wetted if a back pressure is created by a tight foreskin or by pinching the tip.

It was a convention that female hygiene was a far too delicate subject to talk about, and besides, girls automatically take more trouble than boys in such matters. This may be true to a large extent, but it's by no means a rule you can rely on, and if lack of genital hygiene is considered serious enough to warrant a surgical operation for a boy, we must be prepared to discuss it in women, distasteful though it may be.

It's quite easy of course for a girl to effect some degree of hygiene by the careful use of toilet paper every time she takes a pee, but how many actually do? Men who grew up with sisters big or small will know that little girls don't bother, and there can be no doubt that some of your less fussy ones become adults without finding it necessary to acquire the habit of mopping up after a slash. This reminds me of the contrast of those American films bold enough to portray a lady sitting on a loo taking a leak (I've seen two so far) where she invariably uses toilet paper afterwards, with the British film 'A Letter to Brezhnev', in which you get an overhead view of the girls' cubicle where they take it in turns to have a pee. Each girl raises her skirt, does what is necessary and then gets up drops her clothes and walks out. The comment on this contrast is that the Yanks are known to be obsessed by 'hygiene' whereas the British girls (who hailed from Liverpool) not only couldn't care less about it but didn't wear knickers either! The question is, so what? Is obsession with hygiene justified from the medical point of view, or any other?

Before I answer it, perhaps I'd better explain how I acquired all this know-how about feminine functions. As a student in the sixties I spent a term in digs, and the landlady was a delightful but eccentric middle-aged woman. She was a bohemian who made all her own clothes, mostly long dresses gypsy fashion or patchwork quilts, wore flowers and headbands, and took art lessons. She admitted to be 'between husbands' but had lots of men friends whom she entertained in her room with loud music. She was a cheerful sunny person and once you got over her health fads and obsession with nature, she was basically a nice individual. She was also totally uninhibited and didn't hesitate to come into the bathroom whilst I was having a bath if she needed a leak. With a merry shout of, "No peeking, mind!", she lifted her long dress and petticoats up around her waist to reveal an enormous rug of pubic hair

(she didn't believe in knickers), before adopting a semi-crouch, knees slightly bent, and releasing an astounding cascade of urine into the pan, grinning disarmingly at me throughout. From my full-frontal vantage point I remember being enthralled – and disgusted – at how untidily the torrent emerged from her nether lips, quite a lot of it being deflected to run off the cheek of her backside or splashing her thigh. When she'd finished she merely stepped forward and dropped her skirt, saying, "I needed that. You didn't mind, did you?", and walking out without a reply.

She had a powerful sexuality too, because when she and I occasionally spent the evening in without visitors, she would always turn the subject round to sex and ask me embarrassing questions about my sex life. She also wheedled me into posing for her still life contribution, and asked me if I minded stripping off. I agreed with enthusiasm, whereupon she asked, "You're not circumcised, are you?" I shook my head dumbly, whereupon she had me take up a pose on the couch. She drew with rapid strokes, encouraging me with flattering remarks about my build, and explaining that her art mistress preferred uncircumcised models for the 'classical nude'. As I laid there I could feel her eyes on my penis, and to my horror it started twitching itself up into an erection. Her eyes lit up and she immediately packed in her first drawing and started doing another for her 'private collection'. When this was finished she gave me a wrap and joined me on the couch for a drink. She commented on my erection and asked me if I was feeling randy. "What do you think?" I asked and she said that she felt a bit that way too. She then opened up my wrap and started handling my penis to test its rigidity. When satisfied that it was up to standard she lifted her long dress to reveal her bare groin, and put my hand over her vulva with the comment that "a little wank would be nice – helps you sleep."

This mutual exchange of pleasuring became a frequent occurrence, although she never permitted it to progress to the full sex act. But to return to the genital hygiene business. In the days of the weekly bath and no showers, it was very noticeable that her personal perfume grew stronger as the week progressed. It was also noticeable that if our mutual manipulation took place immediately after she'd taken a pee the top of her thighs as well as the whole of her genital region was soaking wet right from the start, not to be confused with the moisture of arousal. This is not to say I found it distasteful – on the contrary I found it highly exciting, but I'm not sure if I'd relished the idea of oral sex with her. In those days though, it was still considered a character defect even among the most liberated of young people.

Which brings me to the point of this story – does genital hygiene matter? My view is that medically it doesn't matter a damn, although now that oral sex has become acceptable, probably under the impulse of porno videos which seem to get their message across on a heavy diet of fellatio and cunnilingus, there's an obvious gain in acceptability from frequent washing. I was not too fussy myself as a younger man and rarely washed under my foreskin more

than once a week, although I did use spit to ensure that it didn't get offensive in between times. I never suffered any problems and was never criticised by my numerous girlfriends – who largely shared my own standards. I think the benefits of genital hygiene should not be over-emphasised.

E.S. – Kent

Yes And No

I've been fascinated by circumcision ever since schooldays. Although at junior school I recall a fellow pupil telling me that he was going to be circumcised, I was rather puzzled by the term, and had no real idea of what it might mean. It wasn't until secondary school that I remember catching my first, intriguing, glimpses of 'cut' lads in the showers – and afterwards taking every opportunity to see more of that mysterious difference. My impression is that roundheads were definitely in the minority: I can recall only about half a dozen amongst the 30 or so boys who made up my year-group in games.

Time went on, and – with one very good college friend who was radically cut, and who expressed extreme disdain for foreskins in general (“Nasty, smelly things”) – my admiration for the circumcised guy increased.

Now, in my early thirties, I find myself at last with the wherewithal to get the job done on myself. Joining *Acorn* has certainly helped me to clarify my thoughts about the Big Difference. For me, questions of hygiene and cleanliness are secondary. As far as I'm concerned it all comes down to appearance: I much prefer the look of a nicely circumcised dick – it seems neater and tidier. I also think there's something much more mature about the appearance of the cut organ: for me, somehow, foreskins are things that boys have: real men are roundheads. I think the enlarged glans, enjoyed by men circumcised in early life, is a real plus point, and I suppose there's a sense, too of the rite-of-passage involved in becoming circumcised – in becoming a member of that select group of men who have had their cocks cut.

All of which might lead you to believe that I'm about to become a fully-paid-up ex-foreskin possessor myself. I'm not and the nub of the problem is wanking. The one (the only?) advantage of a foreskin, it seems to me, is that wanking becomes a very straightforward operation. I realise that, for someone who's been cut all their life, a decent wank is probably just as simple: it's all just a question of what you're used to. But that, really is my point: if I lost my foreskin now I'd have to learn an entirely unfamiliar way of tossing myself off. Having experimented, I find I can in fact wank with a retracted foreskin, manipulating the shaft of the penis alone, with reduced stimulation of the glans, and produce an orgasm. But I tend to find – again purely from a personal point of view that the climax is less satisfactory – I get less sensation in these circumstances than with the foreskin forward. This poses rather a dilemma: I find the thought of circumcision and being circumcised extremely

stimulating – but, if I were to be done myself, I might well find myself in less of a position to enjoy the results than I'd been before. I suppose this is one argument in favour of circumcision at birth – or at least before adolescence – since, in my case, I'd at least have grown up fully used to the position. As it is, I don't know what the answer is...

M.E. – London

More Penis-state Disagreements

Further to my first letter on the subject of the reliability of the list of famous (issue 3/93) and the new lists in issue 4, I have the following comments to add:

David Hockney is circumcised as anyone who saw him undress and get into the shower in his film 'A Bigger Splash' will know. It seems unlikely, if President Kennedy was cut as an adult, that his two younger brothers are also cut. Were they, too, done as adults? Ringo Starr I have always understood to have been Jewish, so wouldn't have a foreskin: and Little Richard has recently become a Muslim, so must be cut now if he wasn't already so.

Putting in well-known Jews into the cut category is really rather pointless, and how on earth do people find out about the state of these celebs. when it is hardly a fact people reveal on chat shows, and male nudity is shunned amongst the famous. [According to the compiler the information is gained mostly from schoolmates, showers in sports and fitness centres, blow-ups of clips of films, nude magazines and gay relationships. – D.A.]

I recently visited the nudist beach at Studland in Dorset. It was a first for me as a naturist, and after initial trepidation I am now a convert and enthusiast. One thing I noticed as I walked the beach and dunes was that the ratio of circumcised was very much higher than one is lead to believe by this magazine, nationally. At least 3 to 1, I would say, and that was not falling for the always very obvious foreskin pulled back chaps. It was so in all generations except sadly amongst small children, which doesn't bode well for the future. It was particularly prevalent in the age group 18-30. Would I be right in suggesting this is so because naturists, being so body conscious, get themselves cut in adulthood. From the many foreskins pulled back, being a roundhead is obviously desirable with naturists. A young man lying near me in the dunes had clearly been recently cut, as there were the tell-tale nicks and bumps where the stitches had been tied. With all the sand about, I for one was glad I had had myself done, as I well remember that even with swimming trunks sand and foreskins don't get along – just as the Jews and the Arabs recognised all those thousands of years ago.

R.H. – London

Mother's Story

I grew up quite unaware of circumcision. As it was the family custom for all of us to walk round naked upstairs, I saw my father's and brothers' foreskinned penises from an early age, but never saw them retracted. As they matched the willies I saw in nude paintings and on nude statues, I had no reason to think that men could look otherwise.

By the time I was twenty I had experienced several penises, and learned that their foreskins could be pulled back (in some cases with difficulty), to reveal a sensitive, sticky and often smelly bud underneath. Intercourse had proved a disappointment too, because my partners always seemed to spurt within a few seconds of entering, leaving me frustrated.

Then I met Steve, an American serviceman stationed over here. I was really keen on him and after our second date asked him home 'for coffee'. Of course I had an ulterior motive – and a stroke of good luck, as the rest of the family were abroad on holiday leaving the house to me.

As I'd hoped, we were soon laid out in a clinch on the settee and I felt his hand working into my panties, so took my cue to unzip him and explore inside his jockeys. At first, when I touched him, I thought the cheeky chappie had anticipated my plan and rolled his foreskin back in readiness, but as I searched further I found that there was no foreskin! Overall, his penis was no larger than others I'd encountered, but the big mushroom head certainly felt very different. It was sort of silky smooth with a very pronounced rim at the base and no connecting strap of skin in the groove underneath. Before I could investigate this, he was at the point where he was wanting to enter me and I was quite eager to let him.

What a fabulous sensation I received! – quite unlike anything I'd had before. I could distinctly feel the contour of his helmet inside me, and even more so when from time to time he pulled out and ran it up and down my crease. Best of all, he lasted ages, and I must have had three or four orgasms before he let go.

Afterwards I suggested we take a shower together, and during that I knelt down and gave him a 'blowjob'. This afforded me a close-up on this mysterious new penis and I saw evidence of scarring and stitching, making me realise he'd had some sort of operation. I was too shy and polite to mention it, and also I didn't want to spoil the mood of the moment which was quite thrilling. Whatever had happened to his willy seemed to be for the better!

A few days later I met cousin Carole. She's around my age and we've always been close and discussed some of our intimate sexual experiences, so I told her about my latest. As she is also a nurse, I thought she might be able to offer some information about what may have been done to Steve's knob. She giggled and then gave me chapter and verse on circumcision! How strange such information had bypassed me. I felt I'd led a sheltered life.

Fortunately I fell in love with Steve as well as what was left of his willy, and a couple of years later we were married, expecting our first child, and living in the U.S. Our son was born in the base hospital where circumcision seemed to be routine. Those of us with male babies were given consent forms but they seemed to be a formality. None in my group considered opting out, and those I asked had circumcised partners and thought it odd that I should question it. Accordingly, I followed the herd, and our babies were duly Plastibelled just before we were discharged.

The device fell off as advertised, leaving a lovely neat result reminiscent of his dad – what more could I ask? A few weeks later my mother flew out to see her new grandson and quite naturally wanted to bath him. I'll never forget the expression on her face when she removed his diaper. "What on earth has happened to his little winkle?" she asked. I told her about the Plastibell, whereupon she reprimanded me for agreeing to such a thing, and said that I'd ruined him for life and spoiled his future partner's fun too! It didn't go down too well when I told her about Steve being done and my preference for it thereby admitting my earlier promiscuity. In the end she had to agree to differ and the subject has remained off limits for discussion between us ever since.

Shortly after, Steve completed his service contract and joined an American computer firm who, following initial training, sent him to England as a technical troubleshooter, and we've been settled here these last three years.

Our second son was delivered in a city NHS hospital. It seemed best that he should be circumcised to match his brother, but when I requested it I was sharply rebuffed and told that it should never be done without medical need. Our paediatrician was no more helpful either, so we decided to have him done on our next visit to the States. In the event, this kept being postponed and I became anxious that my baby would reach an age when he would be more aware and find it painful.

I confided in cousin Carole again and, through her hospital contacts, she provided the name of a doctor who did home circumcisions privately at £150. Unfortunately when the appointment came around Steve was away on a course and I had to cope alone as assistant to the doctor. Perhaps it was just as well, because Steve is quite squeamish about such things! I enlisted the aid of a friend to come and mind my eldest child and answer the door or phone bells, then stood anxiously by as the doctor set out his stall on the kitchen table.

I confess to only half watching the procedure as I held my child. It was all terribly swift, but the event did give me two pangs of half regret. The first came as my baby screamed the moment he was cut and I knew the deed was done with no going back. Then afterwards, when the doctor had dressed the wound, left care instructions and departed, I cleared up and came across the discarded foreskin. As I picked it up I gazed sadly at it and reflected that I'd

just altered irreversibly the life experience of my son and any of his future partners.

All went well in the healing process, but he took longer to do so and settle down than his Plastibelled elder brother had. Unlike their father, both boys seem to have most of the frenum remaining, and both show a very small collar of skin behind the rim. Their acorns are fully exposed however, and neither collar will push forward at all.

I've gathered that, outside of the Jewish and Muslim communities, my sons are something of a rarity in Britain today, but as we may one day return to live in the U.S., I'm glad they're circ'd.

Their 'status' does seem to be spotted quickly by other women here. I've taken them to a mother and toddler group since last summer, where they were allowed to splash around naked in an inflatable paddling pool with the other kids. I felt proud when I saw how cute their penises looked compared with those on their contemporaries. Several mums passed favourable comment, some asking for details of how and why I'd had them done. Although I told them, I don't know if any of them have gone ahead on their own sons.

Sue

And The Opposite View

I was very depressed when my husband died a few years ago and was sure that I'd never enjoy another relationship. I don't suppose I would, either, if it hadn't been for my friend Beryl who works in the same typing pool. She's a big outspoken blonde lady and in her forties like me, but has an earthy sense of humour and always has a string of men friends on the go. Last summer she got me to join her at a holiday camp, and the highlight was when we went to the male stripper show. I've never been to anything like it before and was rather nervous, but Beryl said it was terrific fun and I'd really enjoy it. I wasn't so sure, but anyway, after sinking several lager and limes, I felt ready for anything, but it still came as a shock to see this well-built young fellow cavorting about as he stripped to a tiny well-filled jockstrap with sequins all over it.

I was shocked, to put it mildly, when the ladies all round me, quite a lot of them my age or older, started shouting "Gerremoff" and chanting, "We want winkle". I never thought for a moment that he really would, but the lights all went out except for a spotlight while he pranced about, hooking his thumbs through his G-string, before finally taking it off with a flourish and shaking his great fat willy at us. The ladies all screamed their approval, but some of the comments were quite awful. There's no doubt that British womanhood is in a class of its own at a do like this. Some of them were standing on their chairs, and a couple of the younger girls at the front took their knickers off

and threw them at him. What a scream though! Beryl was one of the worst, making rude remarks about cucumbers and bananas, but then bellowed out, "Look at the foreskin on him, Doris. Makes you realise what you were missing with your old man, doesn't it?"

I should have been shocked, but as Beryl said, I knew he'd made a pass at some of the women in the office, and they all had a laugh about it. What shook me though, was that he'd been successful enough for the girls to find out that he'd been circumcised. Anyway, by now I was feeling in the mood, and couldn't have cared less about my husband's little games. I thought about what Beryl had said, and told her I'd never seen a foreskin on a grown man before. She hooted with laughter and shouted, "Never seen a foreskin? You haven't lived till you've peeled a man's banana for him! Never mind, you never know your luck." She was dead right, because a little while later, the male stripper, still nude with his willy wagging about all over the place, was now at the next table doing unspeakable things like dangling it in one lady's liebfraumilch, and then coming up behind another and flopping it over her shoulder. We were all screaming with joy at such rude behaviour.

Then he came to our table and stood over Beryl, slowly swinging his huge organ in front of her face, and grinning lecherously at us. I had a feeling Beryl was going to do something awful and I wasn't disappointed! She suddenly leaned forward, grabbing his balls in her left hand to keep him still, whilst with her right she pulled the skin on his penis right back to expose his big red policeman's helmet. The guy's smile didn't waver, but as the spotlight hastily moved away, he hissed through his teeth, "Leave it out you silly cow! You'll get me arrested."

Afterwards I was talking to Beryl and asked her about foreskins, since I'd only seen them on small boys, and had no experience otherwise. I was ever so curious because I'd remembered overhearing two girls talking in the loo, and one of them was saying how much she enjoyed making her boyfriend tremble by pulling his skin down. Beryl was rather impatient though, and said it was time I found out for myself.

A short time ago she introduced me to a nice man, several years my junior, but we seemed to hit it off. The next day she asked me if I'd found out all I wanted to know about foreskins yet! I hadn't then, but very soon did. In comparison with my husband who'd been very tightly clipped, my new man seems to have a tremendous amount of surplus movable skin covering his whole penis. When it's forward, and all sleek and smooth, I think it looks very nice. I prefer not to have the knob on show all the time, and I find it is a pleasure to handle. As far as performance is concerned, I've heard people say that the foreskin serves no useful purpose in this day and age. I can't really agree. All that movable skin is tailor-made for a fellow (or his girlfriend) to move up and down, and giving a wank is so much more rewarding. I'm sure that's the real reason for men having foreskins. Whereas my circumcised husband disliked manual sex, my new man says he started wanking as far

back as he can remember, and he really gets off on it. His aunty once told his mum that he ought to be circumcised to stop him masturbating. Nowadays wanking is not considered harmful, so perhaps that's why they've stopped circumcising little boys.

Doris – Kent

Treat Yourself To An Unusual Present

Circumcision Videos and Videos On Acorn Related Topics, Together with Books, Articles and Other Interesting Material — Now Available.

Books include the newly published 'Foreskin – A Closer Look' by Bud Berkeley. This book, which is always fascinating, explains how circumcision has been carried out for many reasons over the centuries in various parts of the world, and also explores some medical and aesthetic considerations/ observations etc.....A veritable goldmine.

You will not regret your decision!!

Send for further details with large S.A.E. included to:-

Barry Griffiths
582A, Lordship Lane
Wood Green
London
N22 5BY

Male Acorn Members' Meeting 1994

There will be a get-together in Bournemouth at the end of March 1994. We have exclusive use of a hotel for the night of Saturday, March 26th., when *Acorn* related topics can be discussed without the worry of 'flapping ears' and/or 'odd looks'. What would you like to discuss?

So far the following people are going to be there: myself, P.H. of Milton Keynes, V.Q. of London, B.G. of London, I.W. of Wimborne, J.B.T. of Westcliffe-on-Sea, and David Acorn.

For more details write to me, Brian of the West Country, care of *Acorn*. All definite bookings will require a £10 deposit towards the hotel bill, which members will be expected to settle themselves. B & B is £15.50, so with an evening meal the bill should be less than £25.

Brian

Contact Corner

New member, partly circumcised at 24, fully done at 44, would like to correspond with other members on the subject particularly with women.

R.W. – Surrey

Christmas Message

The leaves have all gone, the nights are drawing in, and it's time to wish all *Acorn* readers a Happy Christmas – across the spectrum – in order of priority though.

To those lucky bastards with foreskins, who write in to crow about them, my message is – I should be so lucky! Any inference that they should go boil their heads is pure sour grapes and really, I rejoice in their good fortune.

To those who, like me, detest the whole concept of circumcision and deplore the wrong that was done them – buy Jim Bigelow's book, 'The Joy of Uncircumcising'. The message is one of sympathy, but expressing anger helps.

To those roundheads who couldn't care less either way I ask, really? No curiosity about what you're missing? Totally happy that others should carve bits off you without permission? Are you then a sexually aware person? Good luck to you anyway. You're probably better off than those who eat their hearts out.

Now we come to the 'Wannabees'. If you've got a functioning foreskin and think you'd like to be a roundhead, first disconnect your prejudices, put your mind into gear, and think again. If you still want to be circumcised, save a few bob, find the right circumciser (courtesy of *Acorn*), and Bob's your uncle – problem solved. But spare a thought for those who didn't have the choice.

For those of you who've had the chop and want a bit more off, the same applies. I suppose some people will never be satisfied!

Finally, those who crow about having their unfortunate children done and prescribe universal mutilation for all kids in general – my message is – go find a millstone and do what the good book says.

It now remains to thank David for doing a fine job, with a few comments, as I think that feedback is essential.

Firstly, my regret that the ladies didn't take up the invitation from 'Anon' to write in with their views on circumcision. I do find the continual expression of opinion as incontrovertible fact, and the dreary narratives and 'personal experiences' ending in the all-too predictable outcome, by men of both persuasions, deadily in the extreme.

As others have said, the ladies seem to take a more objective view, and I for one find their contributions entertaining, whichever cause they support. Hope they don't give up altogether.

A slight whinge, but worth mentioning. Having decided to drop sagas, we then get page after page, in issue after issue, devoted to.....wanking! Although it's more difficult for the preputially deprived, most people learn spontaneously as they hit puberty, and then give it up when they discover girls. I'm sure our learned contributor could find a more inspiring subject.

So that's it – a good year, but let us guard against tedious introspection. I enjoyed the newspaper cuttings you published, and outsiders' views are always refreshing. Anyone interested in attending a circumcision seminar in California next spring? I can get the details from my contacts over there if necessary. A report on that should provide at least one side of the divide with a lot of satisfaction.

Congratulations to Anthony the Devonian on his verse. The present Poet Laureate is a dreadful dud so they tell me. Anthony should stick his name down.

So a Happy Christmas to David, Tony and all. May your aspirations be fulfilled if at all possible, and your next year be a happy one. I'm just happy to be alive after my heart condition was caught in the nick of time – and if my remarks are a bit caustic, it's not without reason.

R.B.W. – Bedford

Whew!! Follow that. Well, first of all, many thanks for the kind remarks – and that applies to all who send in appreciation of my efforts. As I've said before, I thought at the beginning that the whole concept would die out after two years or so, and here we are, still going strong, into our seventh.

I'd better now answer the few criticisms. Firstly, the questionnaires weren't put out just for idle curiosity. Notice has been taken of the favourite subjects of the majority. One of those happens to be 'masturbation techniques', so I thought that Dr. Ray's thesis would be enjoyed. Exactly the same answer can be given for the "I first found out about foreskins or circumcision" type contributions. As for the expressions of opinion as being incontrovertible, doesn't nearly everyone feel that their opinions are the definitive? I might say here that all new or prospective new members get sent the questionnaire so that we can keep abreast of things and add to our statistics.

That leaves me nothing more but to thank all those who've contributed in the past year, and offer you all the compliments of the Season from Tony and myself and to add that, although I've still got several contributions to

publish (don't worry if you are waiting to see yours), we always need more. So don't belittle yourself, put your thoughts down on paper.

A Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year

David Acorn