

# **ACORN**

1994 Issue No 1

**Editor**  
**David Acorn**

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## **Editorial**

The start of a new year for *Acorn* and with it a time for changes and upheavals. By the time this is through your letter box Tony will have taken up abode in Bergen in Norway in a new post as part of his job. He expects that it will be for at least four months. In the meantime I will deal with membership etc., but I will still send to him any letters for advice on circumcisions, and he will try to help through his normal contacts.

The distribution of the newsletters will be undertaken by Brian of the West Country. Any queries about distribution should be sent to me however, as too many names on the letters to the P.O. Box makes the GPO wonder whether we are in the distribution of mail trade ourselves.

On top of this we now have a computer expert member who will turn my efforts into a more acceptable form for a magazine. Not a glossy, mind you, with coloured pictures, but...well, you've got it in your hand, haven't you! I hope you like it. We've been trying to do this for quite some time with another member but have had compatibility problems with computers. Also, due to different formats, the content might not make the whole 16 pages. Don't worry, you get a full 16 pages of mine.

Brian has asked me to remind everyone, and tell new members, of which we have a few, of the meeting he has organised for the weekend March 26th and 27th in Bournemouth, the full cost of which is about £25, of which he would like an initial payment of £10 to book. There are 18 members at the moment going, and he hopes that we can have the hotel to ourselves so that there will be an atmosphere of privacy.

D.A.

## **Bare Ends**

The letter from R.H. of London in issue 8/93 interested me because it helps to provide some numerical evaluation of the extent of the practice of baring the glans, either by circumcision or retraction. He referred to naturist activities and to his experience of sighting both cut and retracted males, both of whom far outnumber the 'skin over' wearers.

I was recently in hospital for a longish time and shared a ward with male patients, most of whom had had abdominal operations necessitating dressing of their wounds. This gave me an opportunity to note their penile state since they were frequently left in a state of undress with curtains part open or unclosed. There were five near neighbours. Of these, one was in his late seventies, one was mid-sixties, two were around forty, and one was much younger, around the mid-twenties. The oldest had a very neatly circumcised penis, which was surprisingly well-developed for such an oldish person, showing no evidence of scar, but totally smooth and unwrinkled for the whole length. One of the

middle aged was also circumcised, but not so neatly. with wrinkling and a distinct scar. The other one in his forties and the mid-sixties both appeared to have retracted foreskins, both with well acclimatised dry skin on the glans. I did find it difficult to satisfy myself that they were, in fact, retracted and not cut, and I suspect that R.H. must have had the same difficulty, because the distinction becomes blurred after lengthy retraction as the loose skin shrinks slightly behind the corona. The youngest, who was with us for only a short time, also had a partly exposed glans, but whether from having had a partly removed skin or as a result of wearing it partly covered could not be judged. Lastly, myself, circumcised with a scar half an inch behind the corona.

I appreciate that the statistical norm for bared or covered glans is much more likely to show the latter in the majority, particularly so since the removal of foreskins routinely becomes rarer. However, the above experience does tie in with other observations made over past years when opportunity occurs in public loos. Whilst making observations directly is not very acceptable, we all know that there are wide variations in the way that males try to keep the penis from sight by 'backhand' screening, and that many make no attempt to be unnoticed. It is possible to gain sufficient checks to form some sort of proportioning.

Sufficiently more bared glans are to be seen this way. It is agreed that even the uncircumcised will frequently retract the foreskin to pee, making it more difficult to separate them from the 'permanently back' wearers, and frequently the act of retracting and re-covering can be seen. There are, however, those who remove an already uncovered glans from their fly, pee, and return it in an uncovered state before zipping. A minority of these can be seen to push the skin forward to clear the drops, then retract it again and leave it so on return. Circumcised individuals often push the remaining skin forwards towards the glans to remove drops, but are obviously without enough 'loose' to cover over. It is impossible to differentiate those with cut from those retracted foreskins, but relatively easier to identify the fully bared glans owners of both persuasions, and without doubt, around half of the males appear to have an uncovered glans before and during peeing.

I am sure that observations by medical people will be available and that these will show precisely what proportion of men are bared, and possibly identify the circumcised as a separate group, but I have not seen nor been able to find or use these for verification. Some years ago I saw a table summarising the trend between age groups of males and this suggested that, of those not circumcised, a very small percentage of children was born with no foreskin or only a rudimentary and inadequate skin. As males become older, the proportion with retracted foreskins increased to between 15% and 20% at age 20-30, up to 40% in the 40-50 age group, either due to natural shortening or to a conscious decision to retract. I would also consider that the older males born when circumcision was more common, tended to retract their foreskin

to match the state of their contemporaries who were circumcised at birth. This was so common as to be the norm at public schools.

The observations suggest that, although there are 'completely skin over' enthusiasts who offer their views in *Acorn*, there are still many of us left who, by choice or by design, find our bared state to be acceptable and most desirable, and who comprise a sizeable proportion of penis owners.

*K.J. – N. England*

## **Girls Peeing Positions**

Issue 8/93 contained a letter referring to the problems which women have in peeing without splashing themselves or their clothes in the process.

A lady well-known to me was with me in the car a few years ago when I just had to 'go to the loo'. We were on a fairly busy road at the time, but traffic was intermittent, so I felt that I might just finish before another car came along. My companion jumped out of the car as well and, whilst I was peeing, raised her skirt in front of her, pulled the crotch of her pants aside, and issued a strong, direct and accurate stream of urine into the grass in front of her. During this, a car passed, and it occurred to me that the occupants would have been amazed to see both a man and a woman peeing in the same position. Because her dress hung down behind her, she was modestly covered, and only someone who stood in front of her would have seen her bareness.

She explained to me that she had been brought up on a farm, and when younger, had worked with men in the fields. Without any way exposing themselves, the other workers had simply turned to the nearest hedge or cover and peed as the need arose. During harvest, other women worked alongside the men, and as they too needed to pee, would simply go to the hedge, raise skirts, and stand with knicker crotch pulled aside to pee. She, my friend, had learned to do this since early age. The effect was quite spectacular, since the stream was much stronger and forceful than a man's. On other occasions she repeated the event and, in other circumstances, showed me that she could equally well pee from a standing position into the toilet. This had, she explained, distinct advantages when she used ladies public toilets, which were often less than pristine.

The achievement requires some manipulation of the genitals so that the loose flaps of skin don't get in the way. But a simple holding of the sides apart and a slight pushing forward of the hips will ensure that no splashes or interruptions disturb the stream.

*K.J. – N. England*

## **Keeping It Back**

A friend has passed Issue 7 to me and referred to your request on Page 2 – Cavaliers considering circumcision.

For about two years I have become accustomed to 'wearing' my foreskin back, and have recently considered having it removed. I discussed this with my friend who was himself circumcised in later life. But my concern is not with the prospect of the operation, but my wife's reaction to this modification.

I was an only child, and my rather staid parents never referred to the retraction of my foreskin. Consequently, I had never pulled it back until I was around 12 or 13 and watched other boys doing it. In fact I found it so excruciatingly sensitive and uncomfortable to have the glans open to the atmosphere that it was repeated only at infrequent intervals, and only for a few moments.

I demonstrated to my wife shortly after we were married. She appeared shocked and was so reactive that I have never repeated it in her presence. In fact our sex was performed infrequently and always with the foreskin over the glans in the natural position.

During service in the forces I was able to retract the skin with some difficulty (only by squeezing the glans when the penis was not erect can the skin slide back), which satisfied the doctor at the time.

Sex with my wife ceased during the late forties, since when I have masturbated for relief. Two years ago I decided, after looking at a sex magazine showing all the males with 'open' penises, to try again to retract my foreskin, and having done so I forced myself to leave it 'back' whilst I was in the bath, although extremely uncomfortable at the time.

I regularly retracted it for short but increasingly longer periods and also before going to sleep. At last I was able to keep it retracted all night and was quite excited to find one morning that I could pee whilst retracted. I began to keep it back for longer and longer periods during the day, and gradually the naked glans felt natural and normal. It is even possible for me to masturbate almost to orgasm without covering the glans, but I find the sensation so intense that I have never so far reached the conclusion which occurs with the skin covering the glans. I experienced a particular sense of pride and achievement on the first occasion on which I used a public toilet whilst 'wearing' my foreskin back in the presence of other males. Because it is necessary to 'manipulate' the penis preparatory to allowing the skin to come back over the glans, I must retract myself in private or at home before emerging as a 'skinback'.

After my experience with my wife so many years ago, and her current refusal to discuss or listen to anything to do with sex, I have not told her that I now wear my foreskin back. Nor has she been sufficiently interested to notice, even though it is, and has been for the past 18 months, always

retracted. Whilst she is not interested nor participating in any sex with me, I am quite sure that any discussion on a circumcision operation would be met with a very strong reaction. And, of course, the possibility of having it done in a clandestine arrangement would require absence from home for a few days and inevitable questioning.

I don't suppose I actually need to have the operation. My foreskin, once retracted, stays back permanently and is now even more comfortable and 'free' than if drawn forward. My only justification for wishing to be circumcised is that I feel that I would be more masculine and complete (if that is the appropriate word) with a naturally and irrevocably uncovered glans, eliminating permanently any temptation in future to cover it again. I have a sense of freedom.

I have not given my name or address because I cannot risk my identity, nor the very personal disclosures being known to others. I hope my comments are of interest to you.

*Anon*

## **Do It Yourself**

I was born in the late thirties when it was the done thing to have one's son circumcised at birth. Unfortunately, my parents decided not to have me done, in the erroneous belief that, like my father, my foreskin would be short and retract of its own accord as I got older. I would look at my friends with envy when I saw their well-exposed knobs in the changing room showers, wishing I too were like them. In fact, I remember being in a distinct minority being uncut, and being derided for having a baggy flap of skin at the end of my cock. I tried keeping the skin back with the aid of rubber bands, and even pierced the skin with a needle to tie it back. The latter method sadly was never successful as it became too painful after a while, and the former method with rubber bands always risked strangulation by cutting off the blood supply.

This therefore was the situation all through my childhood. At 11, one of my school friends, who often came home to play with me, on one occasion told me how he had been shown how to get a 'funny feeling', and offered to demonstrate. He got out his penis which I can picture to this day: a large knob with a protruding rim and a superbly circumcised shaft. There was no trace of a scar and the inner skin was retracted, it seemed almost to his balls. The shaft was thus very smooth and with little skin mobility. I had of course often seen it in the showers, but never before so erect or close-to, nor ever touched so lovely a tool before.

Thus from the age of 12 it became my goal to have a penis like his. There was little I could do about it however. To add insult to injury, my first girlfriend was not too polite about my long foreskin, as she had apparently had a previous boyfriend who was cut, and thought that that was how men

should be. That romance didn't last too long, though I did lose my virginity with her. I remember how super-sensitive I was, and how quickly I came – to her annoyance. A second girlfriend was not so particular or experienced, but a third, a nurse, told me to “lose that awful foreskin” or her. I told her I couldn't possibly go to our old family G.P., so she said that she would do the job for me. I finally agreed, and after a lot of preparations we attacked the foreskin with a pair of sharp nail scissors. I was so excited by this time that I hardly felt the pain, and the 'op' was soon over. As I was frightened to have too much removed, she left enough when flaccid to cover the corona, but snipped a fair amount off the frenulum, leaving it just right. She was satisfied, and so was I at the time, but still envied the totally circumcised men I saw on the beach or in the changing rooms. I remember how terribly bare I felt and kept checking that my flies weren't undone. Some years went by and long after I had got married to a girl who was very pro-circumcision, I decided to rid myself of the surplus skin I still carried. This time I did the job alone and, like the first time, used scissors to remove the last remnants of skin. I was lucky again to find little bleeding, but without the use of stitches erections were painful, as there was now no loose skin on the shaft. I used surgical tape to hold the cuts together and they healed in 4-6 weeks, to leave a completely smooth shaft with eventually only a faint scar. Intercourse after each 'op' was an improvement on the uncut state. In particular, the second, full circumcision, allowed the most exquisite feelings in the vagina, and I am altogether happy in this state some 10 years hence.

I would be most interested in hearing from any other men who circumcised themselves as I would like to hear of their experiences.

*W.W. – Surrey*

## **Sticky Solution**

In an issue of *Forum* some years back now, I remember reading in the letters section a suggestion that the use of toothpaste as a sensation enhancer during masturbation had proved most beneficial.

The writer didn't state his circumcision status or the brand of toothpaste employed. Perhaps readers would care to experiment and report back on results? My own use of Crest – paste, not gel – is not especially beneficial, since I was circumcised as a child.

I am also interested in information concerning the use of the urethral meatus as a masturbation accessory. I am able to insert the tip of a little finger as far as the first knuckle which greatly encourages the flow of mucous and 'syrup'. A lifetime of practice has no doubt helped in this bonus activity.

Contacts welcome.

*P.U. – Edinburgh*

## **Anecdotes**

A sensuous lady called Peggy  
Was luscious, full-breasted and leggy.  
To her man she said, "Soap  
is your one only hope –  
you'll never get in if you're smeggy."

Retraction was started with dread,  
with hardly a glimpse of the head.  
Though his manner was slick,  
Peggy grabbed his limp prick.  
The laddie was hand-wanked instead!

What is the difference between an eating contest and phimosis?

One is a 'tuck-in' fight. The other...

Why are loose foreskins like bells?

They peel easily!

Why did a radical circumcision suit a miser?

It made him twice as tight!

Why does Father Christmas have a sore foreskin?

Because of being handled by Santa Claws!

*Anthony – N. Devon*

## **European Woman's View**

I am a Belgian woman married to an Englishman, and you may be interested in a view from Europe on your subject. Firstly, I think most Europeans look on the English desire for circumcision with amazement, and another sign of English eccentricity. The man who wrote and said that continental women admired his circumcised penis on a nudist beach had to be mistaken from my experience. It is much more likely that they couldn't take their eyes off it, but were too polite to ask if he'd had some awful accident!

From what I have seen of the operation, I come to the conclusion that it is bound up with three things:- superstition, myth and neurosis. For superstition, I am one of those who do not differentiate between superstition and religion,



and I cannot see how removing part of one's sexual organ can be related to the worship of God.

The myth includes virtually all those 'health' reasons given as an excuse for the operation. Cleanliness is no reason at all. People are only dirty by choice, and even the tightest foreskin can be cleaned with a little ingenuity. Those who give cleanliness as an excuse for having themselves circumcised are either of very low mentality, dirty themselves, or cannot think of a better excuse.

A further myth is the one that says that circumcision gives a woman more pleasure by prolonging intercourse. I am sure the operation lowers the intensity of feeling (and enjoyment) for a man, but nine times out of ten the cause for having a short duration is nervousness. I have had several uncircumcised lovers whose sensitivity was extremely high, but who could keep on going almost indefinitely because they did not suffer from nerves. From my experience, circumcised men are more likely to be nervous, and therefore of shorter duration.

In America circumcision is very widespread and goes to prove that they have a more neurotic society than we. You will find quite a lot of Americans who agree with this!

Which brings us to the real reason why so many Englishmen desire circumcision, and that is neurosis. It used to be looked on as a sort of exclusive social club, and those with foreskins were of low standing who could not join it unless they had the operation. What nonsense! How can having your foreskin cut off improve your social standing.

Happily this no longer applies in UK because later generations have conceded to common sense and decided to leave their foreskins alone like good Europeans. However, there are still a few neurotics around who feel they want to join this 'exclusive' club. The incidence will drop to zero as the circumcised generation dies off over the next ten years or so, after which there will be no fuel to feed this unfortunate neurosis.

*Anne-Marie Roberts – Bruges*

## **Anaesthetic**

It is indeed wonderful to read that in the snipped society of the USA the use of local anaesthetic cream has finally been acknowledged as humane in the practice of neonatal circumcision. The EMLA cream, containing 2.5% lignocaine and 2.5% prilocaine, is an Astra product available from Astra Pharmaceuticals of Watford. Paradoxically enough, in UK literature it is not recommended for infants, or for the application on mucous membranes and wounds. EMLA is applied thickly, and held under an occlusive impermeable dressing for 1 to 2 hours for maximum effect. Wiped off before surgery, this

should present a penis no different to the circumciser than one fully receptive to pain.

As injected anaesthetics distort tissues, and are discouraged for use on the infant penis, the cream is therefore an ideal alternative at very little cost (compared with that of circumcision). Ten 5 gram tubes with 25 occlusive dressings cost £19.50 in 1987. Perhaps infant male circumcision should be illegal without anaesthetic; even the ritual Jewish operation itself (Mohel malpractice indeed!).

Reading too, of the removal of the clitoral foreskin by a husband and boyfriend without anaesthetic, the EMLA cream would have removed any possibility of pain. It would have been more humane, though the legality would be in doubt. Female circumcision is prohibited by law in the U.K., though 'circumcision' is wrongly meant as clitoridectomy or infibulation (not just the removal of the prepuce, analogous to the male operation).

Circumcision may have an implication under the Sex Discrimination Act. Both sexes should have the freedom to have their glans permanently freed if they so desire for reasons of custom, cleanliness, sensitivity or sexuality. As for the infliction of the practice on infants, that is another matter, except as a surgical necessity, and with appropriate anaesthetic.

May I add a footnote to the controversial topic of circumcising the dead in Israel. The practice takes place in this country should a male baby be stillborn or die before the eighth day of life in the Orthodox Jewish Community. Quoting from the textbook for the training of mohelim, by Dr. Jacob Snowman:-

“Should a child die before it is circumcised, the foreskin should be amputated prior to burial. This is carried out with a cutting implement, usually at the cemetery. No blessings are to be said, but a name should be given to him.”

I wonder if the freshly severed foreskin is buried with its owner or disposed of separately lest it have a contaminating effect.

*Anthony – N. Devon*

## **Spike Milligan**

Here is a tiny excerpt from Spike Milligan's autobiography, sent by a member.

The foreword states that he was born in India in 1919, and this bit is during his much publicised war with Hitler, when he had a Jewish friend named Steve who he called 'The Yew'.

In the shower Steve noticed I'd been circumcised. "Why?" I didn't know. "To make it lighter?"

“You know, Milligan, if Jerry took you prisoner, that could have got you into a concentration camp.”

It was really something when your prick could get you sent to a concentration camp.

“Believe me, Spike,” says the Yew, “anyone that sends someone to a concentration camp is a prick.” Amen.

[Another name to put on the list.

D.A.]

## **Boyhood Games**

Reading the letter by Anon in 6/93 about his friend Ivor’s tight foreskin reminds me of some of my own boyhood experiences.

At one point in my career at boarding school I used to share a room with David. He had been circumcised neatly, with a particularly prominent glans rim. We used to indulge in mutual masturbation and as I had an exceedingly long foreskin at that time we used to do what, I’ve since found out from *Acorn*, is known as docking. I would retract my foreskin, we would put our glans tip to tip and I would then pull my foreskin right forward. It would not only cover my glans but it was so long that it reached almost all the way over his glans. As he had been circumcised as a baby this was a new sensation for him which we both enjoyed.

We were also friendly with George. He was the youngest of three brothers, and I had noticed in the showers that he was the only one of the three to be uncircumcised. One afternoon when we were on our own the subject turned to willies and we decided to get ours out. He got mine out first and promptly pulled my foreskin back remarking, “Oh, you can pull yours back OK!” I said, “Why, can’t you?” “If you hurried up you would find out!” I eventually got his disentangled from his underpants and out it popped. On inspection I found out that he had a long, thin, pale willy with a foreskin tapering to a narrow point. Naturally, I tried to pull his foreskin back – but no such luck. It would not even expose the tip of the glans, but the hole in the foreskin end was wide enough for him to pee. Our mutual inspections revealed that he suffered no discomfort, his foreskin was long enough for him to obtain a full erection without stretching, and, as I soon found out, he could masturbate easily and frequently by massaging the outer skin. At this point David appeared and joined in. So we had a ‘set’ – one circed, one retractable skin and one tight skin!

George and I used to meet frequently, and although I tried on many occasions to pull his skin back, it would never so much as show a millimetre of glans. He wasn’t keen on being circumcised as his condition caused him

no difficulties. He had no idea why he hadn't been done as a baby when both his brothers had been. It makes one wonder how many people are in a similar state with the reluctance to circumcise over the last 50 years or so.

*J.R. – Norfolk*

[There never seems to be two exactly the same – thank goodness. *D.A.*]

## **Female Circumcision**

I was particularly interested to read in 7/93 the letter from K.J.

Some thirty years ago I was involved with a young Jewess, Sadie, who had been circumcised. She was always ready to discuss the subject and give her views, which consisted essentially that many more women would benefit from being circumcised, that all male babies should be routinely circumcised at birth, and that no cavalier would ever be allowed to have full sex with her.

She discovered that at the time of her puberty she started to enjoy masturbation but found that her clitoris became sore and irritable when caressed, leaving her feeling frustrated as she approached climax, and the problem was becoming worse. She was unable to diagnose the problem herself and so after much thought she decided to raise the matter with her mother who recommended that she contacted the local mohel (Jewish circumciser), with whom they were friendly. Upon inspection he found that the hood of her clitoris was long and thick, and that secretions were collecting under the hood causing irritation to her small clitoris. He recommended that the hood should be divided to allow her to wash the area more easily. She agreed to have this done under local anaesthetic. The result was an immediate improvement together with an increase in the size of her clitoris. With the aid of a mirror she was now able to examine this area and found that the two flaps of the divided hood looked untidy and unattractive. She became concerned that this would probably repel any future partner. She returned again to the mohel to explain her problem who agreed that a full circumcision was the only answer. This was duly carried out, the area being sore for some days.

Again she found the improvement considerable; in particular when horse riding, which she enjoyed for a number of years. She found that when galloping she could bring herself to orgasm quite readily, and that there was one horse called Sam who seemed to sense that as her orgasm was approaching he was able to give an extra short burst of speed to make her orgasm that much more intense. Three or four climaxes during a riding session were not uncommon, and she found herself returning to the stables exhausted but well satisfied.

There is no doubt that her circumcision had considerably increased her libido, and that horse riding was her prime passion. Anything else was subsidiary. I often wonder if she still enjoys horse riding and if she was ever

able to settle with one partner. It is not always correct when one reads articles to the effect that men are more interested than women in sex!

*Bill – Surrey*

## **Get Stretching**

In my late teens my foreskin slipped back to cover half my glans (half-mast), where it remained when flaccid for a good many years. One day when taking a shower I noticed four boys who were pals opposite me. They must have been in their early twenties. What struck me were their long foreskins. They each had at least an inch overhang. I thought how nice they looked. I decided there and then to do something about mine. So I started stretching exercises. Ten years later I have a foreskin that not only covers my glans but have nearly an inch overhang. So all you who have short foreskins, get stretching. After all, foreskins were made to be stretched, and you're only putting them back to where nature intended them to be. The result is a silky sensitive glans and a foreskin full of nerve endings.

*H.J.M. – Glamorgan*

## **American Trial**

I've been sent this clipping from the *Daily Telegraph* of October 18th. 1993:-

A religious leader convicted of having sex with a young follower has won a new trial because a juror read out a Bible passage about circumcision during deliberations.

Circuit Judge Virginia Gay Broome, who threw out the conviction of Clarence 'Brother Bill' Williams, ruled that consulting a Bible during jury deliberations breaches the separation of church and state guaranteed by the US Constitution.

Williams headed a religious group, called The Way, for 18 years. A follower, now aged 20, told a Florida court that he began having sex with her when she was 14.

Williams' accuser had testified that he is circumcised. His wife said that he is not.

One woman said she quoted Genesis 17:10 to an undecided juror, "Every male among you shall be circumcised." They then voted to convict Williams.

## Wife's Feedback

I'm writing to give my views in response to your request for feedback from the wives of *Acorn* members. I prefer to remain anonymous so as to avoid embarrassment to my husband, although if he guesses who it's from so be it!

Firstly, I really can't understand it when women write in to say how strange or unnatural the circumcised organ looks. Any half-way attractive girl is far more likely to see a bare acorn right from the start, even if the guy's uncircumcised, since he'll usually be erect and stripped for action anyway. A roundhead looks very similar when erect, and it's only when the action is over and the organ reverts to droop-mode that the cavalier's flip-top goes back into place over his knob, whilst the roundhead's stays bare. So she'll be quite used to seeing a bare knob, and the fact that it's hanging down rather than standing upright makes little odds.

This is not to say that she won't find the thought of a highly sensitive surface being permanently exposed to the outside world makes her eyes water a trifle. Thinking about how I'd feel if my clit tip was denuded all the time – no thanks!

Before I talk about my husband though, a few words about myself. I was about eight when my dad walked out on my mum, leaving her alone to look after me and my younger brother. Mum had to take in dressmaking to make ends meet, while I was left to look after my brother, feeding him, bathing him and putting him to bed. I'd always been a keen onlooker when Mum used to bath him, particularly when she used to pull his skin back to wash his willy, although it made her embarrassed and she latterly left it for him to do himself. When I bathed him I was going to do the same, but the little rascal held his willy out for me and asked me to do it for him. I refused, but watched with curiosity as he pulled it back himself, waving his shiny little acorn at me to play me up. I pretended to scold him, but in fact found it highly entertaining and would look forward to bath night, although we were both so interested in uncapping his willy that more often than not no attempt was made to wash it.

This really set the scene for my experience with the male organ, since all my playmates, boyfriends, and eventually husband, had foreskins.

When I first married him, my husband was sexually relaxed and gave me full satisfaction. I had no complaints at all about his organ, considering his foreskin as a natural and desirable part of it. What I didn't know was that my husband had a bit of AC/DC about him, and I discovered that, at a summer school a couple of years ago, he had a fling with another guy. Besides his natural guilt afterwards, he developed a consuming interest in circumcision, presumably because the guy he'd gone with had been done, and he joined *Acorn* shortly after.

To me, circumcision was unknown territory. I knew nothing about it, but with the arrival of *Acorn* on the doormat every few weeks, my eyes were opened, and I realised that it was a matter of total absorption for some men. Eventually, after talking about it and discussing it for a few weeks, I agreed with some misgivings that he should go and have it done. All I knew about the subject was what I'd read in *Acorn* and, although some men had reservations, most seemed to think it was an improvement. I told him that, as long as he was sure that it wouldn't ruin our love life, he should go ahead, although I had absolutely no complaints about things the way they were.

Now for the verdict. Quite honestly, there was physically very little difference to our love-making once he'd got over a little soreness and over-sensitivity. The only points I would mention are minor ones, such as I noticed he wasn't so responsive to oral sex as before, and I did miss playing with his foreskin when getting him aroused. Cleanliness didn't come into it since he enjoys the same high standards I do.

The big difference though is his mental attitude. Before the subject came up he was happy and relaxed, but now he seems thoroughly twitched up. Although he has joined the ranks of the roundheads and got what he wanted, he is still totally obsessed by the subject of circumcision, and I do worry that he now finds the thought of other penises more attractive than what I've got. He's promised that his gay episode will be his last, but when the guy's mind is exclusively on cock I can't help wondering how long I've got before he takes off.

*Anon Wife*

### **'David' — The Uncut Jew**

The article in Issue 8/93 by an uncircumcised Muslim took me back to my grammar school days in the late 1940s. I was about 16 at the time and the ringleader of a clandestine homosexual coven of pupils. We used to gather daily in the secret hideaways and dens provided by every school premises and grounds to masturbate, fellate, copulate, fornicate, and any other sexual 'ate' which entered our randy minds.

'David', in a form two years behind me, and therefore that much younger, was known to be Jewish, a refugee from Nazi Germany. He was remarkably mature for his age and was the talk of the group for the enormity of his uncircumcised penis. Indeed, it was the incredible length of his foreskin which sticks so firmly in my mind. At that time most of us were all too young to be fully conversant with the niceties of circumcision as a religious rite and we didn't pay any particular attention to his uncut state. However, we soon learnt, without understanding the reason why, that he became easily upset when we mentioned his prepuce. What's more, it was very evident that he was much more attracted to those of us who were circumcised than those who were not. That suited me, and he and I enjoyed many good times together,

which continued beyond the time when I left school and well into my days as a rent boy while at University. I was discreet enough never to comment on the length of his foreskin, though he often used it to our mutual pleasure in the erotic process known as 'docking', during which he would envelop my circumcised glans.

Eventually we lost contact, only to meet up again years later in, of all things, the loo in a four-star hotel where we were both attending different functions. I hasten to add that I wasn't cottaging and it wasn't a sexual encounter. I couldn't help noticing, though, that he was now very emphatically circumcised. He told me that his parents had left him uncut for fear of Nazi anti-Semitism and that it had been many years before he had summoned up enough courage to be circumcised in Britain. He added that until he was circumcised he couldn't bring himself to have a sexual relationship with any Jewish girl, and that that was why all his early sexual experience had been homosexual – and very actively so until his mid-twenties. When he met someone who was later to become his wife it provided the incentive to get himself cut and, thereafter, his attitude to sexuality changed completely. He became an equally active heterosexual and, in marriage, had three sons and two daughters.

After this casual meeting, we kept in touch just once a year through what was, for him, the totally un-Jewish method of exchanging Christmas Cards, with a little note about our lives during the previous twelve months. Do you know, I never mentioned again my continuous enjoyment of the gay lifestyle! It was one of the few occasions when I felt too embarrassed to do so because he seemed so happy in his hetero world.

I sent my card as usual for Xmas 1993, but the envelope was returned via the GPO. Someone had written across it, "Deceased – Family moved away". I suspect we have reached the final 'Cut off' point.

*Ray*

## **Contact Corner**

Mature, uncut, British born engineer, California resident, occasional U.K. visitor, wishes to correspond with others sharing my fascination of all foreskin/circumcision subjects. Other interests include:- initiation rites, female circumcision, masturbation techniques, early experiences, bondage, fantasies and related topics.

Write to Brian Rogers, PO Box 3512, Redwood City, CA 94064, USA.



# **ACORN**

**1994 Issue No 2**

**Editor  
David Acorn**

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## **Editorial**

First of all, many thanks to those who have written in praise of the new format. I'm sure our new computer technician will be happy with the appreciation.

It will only be of use however, if we have the material to put into the newsletter, and the most popular of course are your own individual views, opinions and experiences. So I would like to exhort all those who have never contributed, to take a few minutes to put pen to paper. Everyone has something to say of interest to someone else, and you wouldn't belong to *Acorn* if you didn't feel deeply about one or other of the aspects. And of course we would be more than glad to hear from our new members as well.

*D.A.*

## **Mum's Dilemma**

When I related what follows to a close friend, she showed me her husband's issues of *Acorn* and suggested I write for your readers' views on my problem. Unfortunately my husband is a little older and quite unlikely to appreciate your publication if I took out a subscription, but I will be able to read any response in my friend's copy.

Following the advice in childcare books, I made no attempt to retract my baby son's foreskin. All appeared to be well until this summer when, as an active four-year-old I spotted him playing pissing games with his friends at the bottom of our garden. I smiled quietly to myself, but shortly afterwards I found him in great distress with his foreskin pulled back and trapped behind the rim of his penis helmet. I soon realised that I couldn't do anything to push it forward again, so bundled him into the car and rushed him to the nearby group surgery.

Fortunately the young lady practitioner was able to restore things to normal after a short struggle, but then warned me that the problem could recur and suggested circumcision as a permanent remedy. As she had a nurse on duty at the time and they do small ops, she offered to cut him there and then.

I declined because I thought he had been through enough trauma for one day, and I felt that I should discuss it with his father who is uncircumcised. Also I have mixed emotions about the subject myself. My first and subsequent two year's regular sexual experience had been with a roundhead boyfriend, but when this broke up I met my husband and settled for something entirely different. Both have merits, but I'd come to appreciate my husband's greater sensitivity, and thought my earlier boyfriend's penis seemed a 'cruder weapon' by comparison.

We decided to seek a second opinion from a specialist, which sadly confirmed the earlier diagnosis; our son has a tight foreskin about which nothing can be done, and he should be circumcised at puberty. Meanwhile, no attempt at retraction (not even to wash?) In the event, as a result of his experience, my son won't let me anywhere near his penis, and won't attempt retraction himself. He hasn't been told yet what is ultimately going to happen to him because I don't want him to fret about it for a long time beforehand.

I feel sorry my son is going to lose his foreskin – as if I've failed him in some way, and would welcome some advice.

1) What is the best age to cut him? It's harder to explain when he's young, but it will obviously be more painful and embarrassing when he is older. I also now have the discomforting knowledge that as time goes on he is going to be quite unhealthy under his foreskin without any retraction for cleaning.

2) He was quite upset by the original incident and the specialist's later inspection. Considering this, how do I best explain to him what is involved in the operation and that afterwards his skin will always be back, permanently exposing the tender end.

3) Is there a good way of reconciling him to the fact that after the operation he is going to feel discomfort and look so different from his Daddy and his friends who will probably tease him about it. I don't know if any of them have had it done but, from what I've read, I think it will be very unlikely.

It seems likely that some of your readers will have been confronted with this situation with their own sons, and I would particularly like to hear from the mothers involved, as we are the ones usually left to cope with all the problems that arise from this procedure.

*Mrs M.B. – Oxfordshire*

## **My Reply**

Thank you for your letter Mrs B., and for the trust you are putting in our views. I'm sure we will find a large response to your letter albeit a lot of conflicting views because, as you will have discovered from reading the magazine, we are not a consensus group but a forum, where everyone can express their own contrasting individual views and opinions. May I be the first to make comment, but please remember it's from a layman, not an expert in any field.

Firstly, your son would now appear to equate the sight and thought of his glans with pain, and this would undoubtedly be the first thing to overcome, for if this were allowed to carry on until puberty his sex life might be ruined forever. If he was my son, I would take him into the bath with me over a lengthy period and show him how I pull my foreskin back, wash my glans, and replace

my foreskin, all in a matter of fact way without any semblance of pain. After a few times I would talk to him about his foreskin and tell him that the pain is there because it doesn't retract easily like mine, but that this can be put right quite easily and painlessly by a doctor. You're lucky here inasmuch as your husband has a foreskin.

Secondly, both the G.P. and the specialist are not up with current thought on the subject. There have been newspaper articles published on the technique some doctors are using now of making a small slit going backwards from the front of the foreskin and sewing it together again transversely with a couple of stitches. In this way all that happens is that the hole in the front of the foreskin is made wider and a normal foreskin is attained without any loss whatsoever. As you appear not to be in favour of circumcision, a few inquiries might acquaint you of how you can obtain this almost painless method, which can be done at any time, and is over completely in three or four days.

Now to your specific questions. The best age to circumcise him is certainly not at the moment with the feelings he has. Many people advocate at the change from primary to secondary school at the beginning of the summer holiday when he will have got completely used to it by the time school starts, the prospect of the new school taking precedence in his mind. It isn't necessary to worry too much about being healthy under his foreskin. If you have trouble getting under there, so do any outside germs and bacteria, and urine is a cleanser anyway. We've had it on good authority in the past that the normal Spanish boy doesn't start retracting his foreskin until somewhere around the age of seventeen. I also know a man of nearly seventy who has a tight foreskin and has never had it retracted in his life. He says that he has never had any trouble with sex or any other part of life, is quite happy about it, but knows that he would have lost it if he had had to go into the forces. See also Group E of 'German Soldiers'. To allay your fears until something is done, I would keep an eye on his penis for any sign of inflammation and ask him to tell you if it hurts or itches badly at any time.

With his present frame of mind, I doubt whether it would be a good thing to mention the full facts of the circumcision operation at all. It might be best to wait until he has started school and hope that he would then have a chance to see boys who have been circumcised and know that it hasn't harmed them physically.

There, that's one man's opinion, culled from life and literature. Doubtless there will be more. Give your son a pat on the head from me, and all the best!

*David Acorn*

## German Soldiers

At the bottom of page 3 of the last issue, K.J. conjectured on the incidence of short foreskins. Whilst reading Bud Berkeley's *Foreskin*, I came across a survey of German army recruits on this subject, and I'm sure that Bud won't mind me reproducing it here.

"A 1960's survey of the penises of West German army recruits gives a clue to the natural distribution of foreskin types. The survey was conducted to determine which men were more likely to be found with smegma – those with tight foreskins or those with long loose ones. The survey categorised 3,000 men between the ages of 18 and 20 into 5 foreskin types:-

- A) No visible foreskin
- B) Short foreskin
- C) Long foreskin
- D) Tight foreskin
- E) Phimosed

Out of the 3,000; 258 (8%) young Germans were group A and of those 64 (2%) had been circumcised (probably because of childhood phimosis). Half of the 258 had such short foreskins that they had long since fallen behind the corona, and in the rest it was impossible to determine whether they had been circumcised or not. Group B included 1,258 men (42%). Group C had 1,236 men (41%). Group D had only 181 men (6%). Group E included only 82 (3%)."

Result of the survey? Smegma was found on 0% of group A, 12% of group B, 23% of group C, and 35% of group D. They couldn't get inside the foreskins of group E to ascertain any presence.

A little more information is that smegma never generally appears before puberty, and that all the popular perfumes are made from smegma – musk from the smegma of the musk-ox, civet from the civet cat and castor from the beaver. There are also many men and women who get sexually excited by the human smell. I've still never smelt it – what am I missing?

D.A.

## Cosmopolitan

Readers may be interested in the March issue of *Cosmopolitan* magazine which includes a five page article on male circumcision. It is, however, very anti.

Anon

## The Reply

As a fellow Muslim of Al-Sayyad Abdul-Razzaz Muhammad, which is a false name, I say to him, "How can you say that you are a Syed after being in the filthy state of possessing a foreskin? How dare you say such a thing! Have you not studied Fiqh? If you have, then you know what it says regarding circumcision, which is part of the Sunnah, and the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) left us the Holy Quran along with the Sunnah and Hadith as guidelines for all Muslims. No wonder you signed yourself by a false name, because you know that if your physical state was discovered it would be swiftly rectified, and also your son's as well. Also it doesn't say much for your parents in not informing your wife's parents. I have two daughters, and any Muslim who is not circumcised will not be allowed to marry any of my daughters. I have the courage of my convictions in signing my name and where I live. Islam is spreading fast here in Manchester, and the majority of our new Muslim brothers have already been circumcised, with the rest following in the future to be circumcised. I embraced Islam in 1965 at the age of eighteen, and my four children, two sons and two daughters were born Muslims. My sons will be 9 and 4 this year and will be circumcised this year Inshallah. So I say to you, my brother in Islam, go and take your son and get you both circumcised as quickly as possible, and do not listen or pay attention to what your non-Muslim friends say or do. I am Scottish."

*Yours Sincerely and Brother in Islam,  
Br. Yaha Ahmed. I.M. Lamont – Manchester  
previously of Glasgow and Dundee.*

[I thought for quite a long time before publishing this letter. *Acorn* is not here to be a platform for religious fundamentalism. In fact the consensus would appear to be that everyone does what they feel in their heart to be right for themselves. The reason that I did publish it is that I included the first letter purely as a circumcision subject about choice, not realising what it could stir up. Now I have realised and included this letter to satisfy the outraged, but I would rather not have any more letters regarding the religious aspect of the subject. D.A.]

## Discoveries

The first time that I learnt anything about circumcision was when I was about 7 years old, at a County Primary School, deep in the Cambridgeshire Fens. Virtually every pupil was either the child of a farmer or farm-worker. As regards religion, 61 of the pupils were C. of E. and 2 were Catholic.

I distinctly remember one afternoon a little girl approaching a group of 3 or 4 of us youngsters, desperate to share with us her latest 'secret'. Apparently, some little boy had just told her that he 'had to have part of his willy cut off'. I remember that we all listened dumbfounded; it must be nonsense; boys just

can't go around with 'bits of their willies cut off'. I personally dismissed it as a fairy tale, but always remained intrigued by the story.

Several years were then to pass before the subject was to come to mind again.

When I was about 12 years of age and attending the local grammar school in a nearby town, the school gymnasium was, at last, blessed with a purpose-built changing room and showers. When we took our first shower, I noticed that my best schoolmate had no tassel of skin at the end of his cock, but just an exposed purple 'helmet'. Being fascinated by this discovery, I was immediately obliged to investigate the state of the cocks of all the other classmates in the shower at the same time. I was amazed to find that several of the other boys had completely exposed 'helmets'. So, the story that I had heard several years previously had not been nonsense after all.

Being at a naturally curious age, I asked my school friend for an explanation of what had happened to his cock. The only reply that I received was that his younger brother's was the same, as was his father's, and that's how they were born in their family. This I thought, simply couldn't be true, there must be another explanation.

I paid no more attention to the subject until some time later when, in a religious knowledge lesson, the subject of circumcision was mentioned, and it was explained to us that all Jewish boys have their foreskins cut off when they are only a few days old. So, that's what the operation was called. But I knew that my friend wasn't Jewish; in fact no-one was at the grammar school. We were, as in my previous school, all C. of E. except for a few Catholic boys who made themselves apparent by not eating meat on a Friday, but would eat fish, (which was incomprehensible to me, for surely fish was meat!) I simply couldn't understand why quite a number of us non-Jewish boys had had their foreskins removed. Were they malformed? Did they have no hole in the end? Had they been injured in some way, necessitating the removal? Or were some boys really born that way? From that moment on I was fascinated with the subject, and was determined to find the answers.

As part of my investigation, I decided to make a private census on the state of my schoolmates' cocks. Each year, the school published a little booklet called 'The School List'. This almost obligatory publication (6d) was, at last, to be of some real use – as a secret data base. I started by annotating each boy's name in my form with a 'c' if he was circumcised, or an 'n' if not so. I soon had the page for my form completed, revealing that one-third of my form (all born in 1945) were circumcised. The weekly football afternoon for our year proved invaluable, for all the three forms in my year would shower together afterwards. More data to enter. The annual school long run was the most productive, allowing covert inspection of boys of all ages in the school during the shower at the end of the run. By the time that I left school (July 1962) I had collated information on about a quarter of the school's pupils.

One or two interesting facts emerged from my study. The grammar school which I attended was March Grammar School (now disbanded), which took in pupils from three fenland towns – March, Whittlesey and Chatteris. Allowing for the population disparity between the three towns, it was apparent that disproportionately more boys from March were circumcised than the boys from Whittlesey and Chatteris. I assumed that this was due to the whims of one of the general medical practises in March, which must have been particularly keen on converting boys to ‘roundheads’. The other odd fact was that I had to exclude two boys from my analysis, for I was uncertain whether they were uncircumcised or partly circumcised. This was because they seemed to have permanently retracted foreskins. In the years that have followed, and with my knowledge of the subject, I tend to favour the latter possibility. I suspect that their parents may not have been keen on them having their foreskins completely removed, and may have settled for a partial removal of any excess foreskin.

*R.J.L. – Cambs.*

### **Drum Tight and Fancy Free**

The Acorn boast, its loyal toast,  
“Drum tight and fancy free!”,  
It’s only when they’ve taken most  
That Roundheads really be.

The baby job with slackened hand,  
A seasoned sacrifice,  
Will leave a ragged remnant band,  
Appearance never nice.

Mohelim cut the favoured few,  
The blood shed their belief,  
So at a glance you see the Jew,  
The skin sags underneath.

Not for the weak, nor for the prude,  
It makes a gentile wince,  
The mohel’s list did oft include  
A neo-natal Prince.

The “Yankee Clipper” functions well,  
His skills at present hinge  
On Gomco and the Plastibell.  
Both leave a tidy fringe.



All circumcisions aren't the same,  
No matter who you are.  
Insistent parents take the blame –  
They wish upon a scar.

So if you want your conscience free,  
Just leave the babe intact.  
Let early years preputial be,  
In time he may react.

If amputation's reckoned right,  
He'll choose the style and see –  
A helmet bared to his delight,  
“Drum tight and fancy free!”

He'll lose the cover and the cheese,  
Not through a parent's voice.  
He'll have his manhood put at ease,  
And only done through choice.

Of much retraction will he know,  
Of urine shaken free.  
Now with the cut, good taste will show,  
“Drum tight and fancy free!”

*Anthony*

### **Reply To 'Yes And No'**

M.E. of London's contribution on page 7 of 8/93 has prompted me to reply. His letter very eloquently sets out the feelings that most of us roundheads have about the aesthetic qualities of circumcision. But I do think that he has his priorities a little mixed up when he worries so about how his wanking will be terminally affected if he were to become one of us.

Wanking to me, and to most men I feel sure, is of secondary importance to real penetrative sex. I enjoy a nice long wank the same as anybody else, but it is normally due to my partner not being available; or if she is, it may be the wrong time in her calendar. In which case she brings me off when I need relief.

I was cut four years ago as an adult and can safely say I have no regrets. The driving interest that led me down the road to circumcision was our enjoyment of real sex, and the prospect of thrusting with an unencumbered penis, coupled with the very slight desensitising of the glans which would allow longer and more controlled lovemaking.

The surgeon really read my mind when he gave me my radical circumcision. Now when I'm erect I have a really nice example of the classic cut cock with not a single wrinkle of loose skin to be seen down the length of the shaft. But to date the expected gain in size of the glans has not occurred. Probably I was done about 40 years too late – pity!

A pleasant pastime that we've adopted since I was remodelled is for me to stimulate my partner's pussy lips and clitoris with the glans of my erect penis until she orgasms. It's softer than a finger and quieter than a vibrator. In the days before circumcision I would have been in agony treating my only occasionally exposed glans in such a manner.

I would readily admit that stimulating the glans of the penis with the foreskin is the most enjoyable way of wanking, but I have found that a generous squeeze of KY jelly in your hand, and rubbing the entire length of the penis, including the glans, is **very** satisfying.

M.E. should retract his foreskin and give this method a try. It could well give him the impetus to join us roundheads.

*Anon*

## **Informed Consent**

I've just been listening to an item on Radio 4 *Woman's Hour*, dealing with children's agreement to surgery, and at what age they are capable of 'informed consent'.

Amongst the case studies was one of a 12-year-old boy who had been urged by his mother to agree to circumcision for medical reasons. It emerged that she had not disclosed all the details and he'd been previously very unhappy and unwilling to submit to it. Now, as a result of hospital counselling, he himself had decided to have it done. This was his response to being given the full option. All the pros and cons had been explained, and he alone had made the final decision, which he clearly understood was irreversible. In an interview, he said he was settled in his choice, mainly because he had been allowed to make it, not his mother. As he was heard to say, "It's not up to her any more, it's up to me!"

Many of us have been cut, not because it was necessary, but because our mothers favoured the idea. In turn, they may have been influenced by either grandma, aunts, sisters, midwives, nurses or female doctors. Their reasons were often superficial; "It looks nicer" (to them). Yet it's not their property they're altering! This aspect sometimes engenders more resentment than the circumcision itself. Often those done as babies have a traumatic moment of shock in later life when the truth dawns that they have been disfigured at someone else's whim. I perceive this factor is behind the frequent and welcome comments from R.B.W. How could they, who don't have a penis, decide to do this irreversible thing to us? Given the facts at a certain age, many of us

would still opt for circumcision. But it's nice to be asked about something which is one of your most intimate concerns.

Against this, of course, it's clear that circumcisions are best done, as in Jewish culture, at a few days old. The individual subjected to this has no choice, but it helps acceptance when everyone else in your 'tribe' has it done. Such traditions used to be respected by the medical establishment, outside the bounds of large religious groupings, and within the confines of families, for that too gives a sense of belonging.

I'd like to see doctors and hospitals revise their thinking and offer circumcision as a readily available option in the first year. Thereafter, all but emergency operations should be postponed until the child can make his own unpressured choice at ten or twelve years of age.

*H.L. – Yorkshire*

## **Skin Happy**

I've never really been able to understand what so many of you men have against your foreskins. To me, foreskins have always been an amusing, decorative and fun-generating part of a boy's body, which deserves love and affection rather than cutting off.

My brother Peter, who is a year younger than me, must have been at the front of the queue when foreskins were being dished out. As a kid he rejoiced in a fat sausage-like penis with the longest foreskin I've ever seen, amounting to nearly half the total length. Mum used to tease him in the bath, giving it a good tug and singing out, "Ding-dong, dinner's ready!"

As far as hygiene was concerned though, she had rather unconventional ideas about foreskins, and stated firmly that pulling a child's foreskin back was not necessary or desirable: it could cause damage to the delicate tissue. As a normal sensitive and intelligent lad, he himself would learn when it was time to start washing under it – that is, when he reached courting age. Nature certainly didn't demand it. Mum's only concession to hygiene was to strip his foreskin between thumb and forefinger a few times to eliminate any residue after getting it out for him to take a pee. He must have found this rather arousing, since even as a small boy he usually got a quite impressive stiffy on, much to my and Mum's amusement.

If Mum seriously thought that Peter would follow her example and never pull his foreskin back she was sadly mistaken. Although it was very long, it was also loose enough to be easily pulled back, as he delighted in demonstrating at the least encouragement. When I had some of the girls from class visit me, we took Peter down to the basement where he needed no encouragement to show off. He would pee into a paint tin, pinching his tip and inflating his

foreskin out to the size of an orange. He got a real kick out of the gasps of disbelief from the girls. It was all the more interesting since this performance always gave him a hard-on: and I can tell you that the girls never tired of this sort of entertainment. Afterwards he would pull his foreskin right back so that it formed a corrugated bunch of skin at the base, and would wag his liver-coloured knob at us, all wet and shiny, revelling in the shrieks of pretend horror from my little friends.

As one of our favourite punishments for him after such a display, we would pinion his arms and I would feed his snake-like foreskin through a hole in a timber partition and secure it there with a small plastic clothes peg applied to the tip where it emerged the other side. It was quite painful for him to make any attempt to move and gave us a terrific laugh. We left him for half an hour once and Mum found him.

After she'd finished falling about with laughter, she gave us a good wiggling, saying that, although it seemed funny enough, we wouldn't laugh if the clamping effect caused damage and Peter had to go through the unpleasant experience of being circumcised. One of the girls asked what she meant, and she gave off massaging the circulation back into the tip of his foreskin to explain what circumcision was, and showing on the bulge in the skin over his glans where the cut would be made. She explained that Peter had a knob beneath the skin which gets permanently uncovered in a circumcised boy, little knowing that we had been treated to a demonstration of it a short time before.

One of the girls told Mum that her brother had a 'peeled' penis like that, and Mum got slightly embarrassed, saying that although she thought that it was unnecessary and strongly disapproved, a lot of people preferred it that way, and the operation occasionally had to be carried out to relieve tightness.

I was reminded of these childhood experiences the other day when I saw a picture of a refugee Somali youth being fed by the U.N. He was totally naked and had a whopping foreskin that almost exactly matched my brother's at that age. It nipped in tight to a narrow tube of skin in front of the well-developed knob, and then gradually flared out to terminate in the usual wrinkled bud at the tip. I was rather surprised to see this as I thought that all Somalis were Muslims and would therefore be circumcised. Another point on which I'm curious: are blacks – or any other ethnic group – particularly privileged when it comes to foreskin length? I've met one black guy who had a very long foreskin, though not as long as my brother's. By the way, I should mention that my Mum is Ghanaian and that I and my brother are of mixed race.

*Ms Doreen Hastings – London, NW7*

## Empire and Sexuality

N.G. of Norwich sent me an excerpt of a book called *Empire and Sexuality – The British Experience* by Ronald Hyam. It throws a little light on the reasons for the popularity of circumcision in this country beginning in late Victorian times. The politicians were very anxious about the nation's health, two-thirds of recruits for the army at the time of the Boer War being virtual invalids. How could we keep an empire without a healthy and educated society? So was introduced subsidised school meals and compulsory school medical inspections, among other things.

Now read on!

One symbolic, and far from insignificant, new development in this process was the introduction of routine infant circumcision of boys among the upper and professional middle classes. We know less about this practice than we do about the rituals of some of the most obscure African peoples. Before another generation has elapsed, no one in Britain will even remember it ever happened or, if they do, will regard it as a quaint post-Victorian fad, on a par with antimacassars and aspidistras. The first and most difficult problem is to establish when it began. Circumcision was for centuries unthinkable to a Christian. "Christendom", wrote Richard Burton, "practically holds circumcision in horror", a point only underlined by the eccentric attempt of some millenarian false prophets to reintroduce it as 'the baptism of blood' in the 1820's. Christian iconography has always refused to be honest on this point. Michelangelo's David, for all his realism, is not circumcised as he should be. The infant Jesus, even when patently well past the eighth day, is never depicted as circumcised. In 1810, when Byron wanted to draw out the main differences between the "Turks and ourselves", he seized upon the fact that "we have a foreskin and they have none."

'Walter' (born early 1820's), with his insatiable curiosity about all aspects of sex, wrote two essays on the physiognomy of the penis. Both assume the presence of a foreskin. Circumcision is not even mentioned in them. His 'sample' was pretty good. His field observations were based on his recollections of exhibitionism and swimming bath scenes during his school-days, on what he saw of fellow participants in orgies, and during a great many voyeuristic episodes in brothels. He also gathered oral evidence from prostitutes, whom he found well-informed about their clients' genitals. Those who had been maidservants described their employers' sons' organs as well. He knew a good deal about the variable retraction of the foreskin in its natural adult state, so he may probably be accounted an accurate observer. The only two circumcised organs he ever saw belonged to Muslims, the first probably in Egypt about 1870 ("at once surprised, as I was for a moment, it occurred to me that he must be circumcised. Such a prick I'd never seen..."). Walter's evidence is supported by the entire corpus of mid-Victorian erotica. The first mention of circumcision in the genre appears to be in the 1880's; the first didactic reference circa 1907,

in the anonymous *Memoirs of a Voluptuary*, (the dating must be more or less right, because two of the villains are schoolboy characters called 'Elgar' and 'Benson' – in real life the authors of *Land of Hope and Glory*, 1902 – and the joke would fall flat unless it were topical). 'Elgar' is described as having 'an awfully funny cock', the skin being 'cut off like a Jew'. It was the first time the narrator had seen such a member. He was not impressed, although he discovered later, 'it was not confined to Jews and Muslims', and a number of modern medical men approved of it.

Discussions about the possible benefits of circumcision began about 1890. One of the most enthusiastic publicists was Dr Remondino, who considered that evolution might eventually remove the foreskin. Meanwhile, outright war must be waged on this 'debatable appendage'. He wrote:

"Circumcision is like a substantial and well-secured life annuity: ... parents cannot make a better saving investment for their little boys, as it ensures them better health, greater capacity for labour, longer life, less nervousness, sickness, loss of time, and less doctor bills, as well as it increases their chance of a euthanasian death."

The *British Medical Journal* reviewer welcomed Remondino's book as focusing attention on an important subject insufficiently ventilated hitherto. Not surprisingly, he found some of the arguments 'excessive and strained', but concluded that many of Remondino's views were of undoubted value. A more sophisticated advocate was the eminent surgeon, Sir Jonathan Hutchinson, who stressed that the operation 'must necessarily tend to cleanliness' and almost certainly help to reduce cancer. Some doctors thought it would reduce liability to hernia. On the other side, Herbert Snow denounced circumcision as barbarous and unnecessary. Army doctors now joined in the debate, perhaps decisively. Captain F.J.W. Porter in 1892 said he had performed a hundred circumcisions (using cocaine) in India on his last tour, and twenty-five in six months back in the station hospital in Colchester; in fact, he operated 'whenever there is a sore on the prepuce'. Dr R.E. Foott, a former army surgeon, recalled how frequently he had been appalled by the 'filth collected' under the prepuces of the uncircumcised, and how often soldiers had to be made to wash the smegmatic accumulation away before he could examine them properly. This unhygienic state, he believed, 'assisted the absorption of the syphilitic virus'. Doctors as a group were now rapidly becoming convinced of the benefits of circumcision. There was a lot of discussion as to how they could persuade mothers to accept the operation. By the mid-1890's, however, they were alarmed by the number of 'specialist operators' who were sending circulars to the parents who announced in *The Times* the birth of a son – circulars which laid much stress on a suggestion that this was an ideal moment for fathers to put themselves in good genital standing too. In 1899, a Hertfordshire 'country doctor' reported from Welwyn that 'of recent years most parents' in his private practise were asking for infant circumcision of boys.

The answer to the first problem therefore seems fairly definite: British circumcision began in the 1890's – at a time when a great deal of public interest was focused on the Empire. The debate was over by about 1903. By 1907 it was reported to be very common in children's hospitals; 874 operations were performed in 1906 at Great Ormond Street. At the Middlesex Hospital in 1906, 54 children and 12 adults were circumcised. In the main, however, it was an operation left to general practitioners.

The second question we have to consider is why it was adopted. Two motivating strands can readily be identified: Jewish and Indian-imperial. As far as Jewish influences are concerned, there was at this time a good deal of reluctant admiration for Jewish methods of child care. Time and time again, doctors testified to the low incidence of infant mortality among Jews, to the sturdiness of Jewish children, to their supposedly low rates of masturbation, and to the rarity of venereal disease and cancer of the penis. The report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Physical Deterioration (1904) accepted Jewish family life as an ideal to which the rest of the nation had to move if they were really to improve the health of British children. General Sir Frederick Maurice felt that "it does not follow that a stereotyped copying of the habits of the Jews would be desirable", but he accepted that the British evidently had much to learn from them. As far as Indian experience is concerned, it is clear that circumcision had long been used as a treatment in the Indian army, possibly well back into the 18th. century. Hot humid climates are not good for sensitive foreskins, any more than sandy ones are (as the Jews and Muslims of the Middle East had always known). There can be little doubt that British Indian medical authorities strongly favoured the introduction of infant circumcision in Britain as a procedure which would eliminate a tiresome cause of later trouble for future servants of Empire. Together, these Jewish and Imperial strands are a sufficient explanation for the adoption of circumcision by the British elite. (Sadly, however, the finesse of the Jewish mohel was not assimilated, and the crudity of the British form of circumcision had to be seen to be believed. This fact deprives the whole discussion of any elegiac quality it might otherwise have had.) It is not necessary to invoke its supposed properties as an anti-masturbation device; anyone who advocated it for that reason was indulging in pure quackery.

Lastly, we have to establish the significance of the late-Victorian adoption of circumcision. Symbolically, the anthropologist (to whom we have to turn for guidance) would regard circumcision as a change 'from a state of infantile filthiness to a state of clean maturity', of rebirth into 'masculinity and personality'. In some societies it serves as a public demonstration of loyalty to the group (since the father risks the future basis of his power as a man with descendants); it is a ritual of kinship unity, an act of obedience to ancestral custom and thus a legitimization of those in authority. But, most fundamentally and broadly, circumcision is the establishment of a strong male identity: an assertion of maleness, a conquest of feminine elements. Among the Merina of Madagascar, for example, it is sometimes called 'mahasoa' (making sweet

and clean); it is making a boy properly male, achieving a correct sexual differentiation, and perhaps even regarded as ensuring sexual potency. Viewed in the light of these anthropological insights, we can see how British circumcision was meant to contribute to the general improvement of the physical and self-confident manliness of the future custodians of the Empire. It was a dramatic reassertion of masculinity, in accordance with the lessons of practical experience of working in hot climates. Perhaps also it had an appeal as satisfying the symbolic requirements of ruling an empire of seventy million Muslims. It was widely adopted in the white dominions.

That British circumcision is to be seen primarily as an imperial phenomenon is, finally, demonstrated statistically by its differential adoption among the various social groups. It was chiefly characteristic of the upper and professional classes, pioneered by doctors and army officers. In the 1930's – there are unfortunately no earlier statistics – it seems to have been carried out on about two-thirds of boys in the leading public schools. At the highest level of the social scale the proportion may even have exceeded four-fifths, whereas in some 'deprived' working-class areas, rural and urban, it may never have got beyond one-tenth. Overall, by the 1930's, almost exactly one-third of the total British male population was being circumcised. A survey of soldiers, mostly National Servicemen, in 1953, found thirty-four percent of them to be circumcised (reflecting, of course, its incidence circa 1935). Its decline began as one of the casualties of war. In the national sample of 2,428 boys born on March 4th. 1946, only twenty-four percent were circumcised, but the class differential was still highly significant: 38.8 percent among professional and salaried groups, and 21.9 percent among manual and unskilled workers. By 1946 the whole business was under sentence of death, precipitately killed off by the end of the Indian Civil Service and by the economies of the N.H.S. Today, less than one percent are circumcised in infancy, and only in the main for religious reasons.

### **Another Name**

Another for the 'list' is Sean Bean, lately seen in *Lady Chatterley's Lover* on T.V. Sean has a foreskin.

N.G. – Norfolk

### **Explanation**

Issue 1/94 was the first to be formatted in the present style; however, in order to ease the production of copies of back numbers, we are now re-formatting earlier issues – hence any apparent discrepancy with last month's editorial for those now buying back numbers.



# ACORN

Issue  
N° 3 1994  
Editor  
David Acorn

## Editorial

Here we are again and lo! another format. Following the redesign of *Acorn* with Issue 1/94 a member, who is a professional designer, has given us a new logo for use on both magazine and stationery. He has worked with our computer typesetter to produce an even more professional looking magazine which will also allow a little extra content in each issue.

Please be assured that we don't intend to keep changing the appearance of the newsletter every few issues; but we felt this latest design was so good that it ought to be introduced at once. Guess what the A of the logo represents.

There are some outstanding orders for back-copies of the newsletter. Please bear with us awhile as we are doing our best to clear up the backlog, and they'll be along as soon as possible.

And now. Every year we lose foreskinned members. This year I rang a couple that I knew the numbers of, and asked the reason. The answers I got, also backed up at the Bournemouth meeting, were that there was a feeling that they were slagged and despised by the roundheads. With one notable

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## Correspondence

Please send

**Newsletter contributions and letters for forwarding**

clearly marked for DAVID ACORN

**Membership, fees, advice and personal matters**

clearly marked for TONY ACORN

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exception, the cavaliers extol their own virtues but never denigrate a circumcised penis or its owner. Whereas the circumcised are continually using words such as dirty, smelly, STD and AIDS prone, and cancer creators to describe foreskins and their owners (You were mentioned, Anthony, for your clever but very denigrating poetry). If all this were true, foreskinned men would be made outcasts by all women and circumcision would be totally universal whereas, religion excepted, the opposite is becoming the case.

Looking at the breakdown of the German soldiers in the last newsletter, and knowing that teenagers are the least lovers of soap and water, less than one in five were found to have smegma traces. In years gone by, when the only washing facility at home was in the kitchen sink with all the family around, people weren't as hygienic as they are today with privacy in bathrooms, so maybe that is where the tale arose. But if someone gets himself circumcised for cleanliness reasons then it must be because he is dirty anyway. If you rely on your underpants to keep your cock clean, do you rely on your socks to keep your feet clean?

With regard to the STD-prone case, the survey in this issue regarding physical health asked all 8000 men whether they had been circumcised, specifically to find out if there was any relationship between foreskins and STDs, and none was found. A call to the AIDS helpline ascertained also that there was no difference between foreskins and circumcisions when it came to catching AIDS.

Jewish women are held up as an example of lack of cervical cancer with circumcised husbands, yet the Hindus also are very low and they're non-circumcised. Also with the overwhelming circumcisions in the USA, they too should have very little incidence of cervical cancer, but they haven't. There's a school of thought that it is now down to promiscuity, and not foreskins.

So, the foreskinned brigade would ask that these epithets are not applied to them, and that those who get adult circumcisions own up to having them because there is either something physically wrong with their penis or they just love the look and feel of a bare knob (see the first paragraph of 'Request from Cavaliers') – and there's certainly nothing wrong with that.

After I'd written this I received the following letter from Ray Hamble. I didn't know he felt so strongly on the issues, as he never mentioned them to me at Bournemouth.

*David Acorn*

## Concerns

**D**on't worry, I'm not about to resign my membership in high dudgeon or anything as dramatic as that, but two happenings in the group recently have given me cause for disquiet, and I'll be a lot happier when I've got them off my chest.

When Al-Sayyad Abdul-Razzaq Muhammad wrote in Issue 8/93 that as a Muslim he still possessed his foreskin, and went on to describe his reasons for being in that position, I admired his honesty and respected his freedom of choice. This, surely, is part of the right of anyone living in a democracy. There are few of us who can claim perfection in every aspect of our political, religious, moral or any other laid down code of behaviour.

It pained me therefore, to read I. M. Lamont's response in Issue 2/94 in which he made reference to "the filthy state of possessing a foreskin", and went on to express in most uncompromising language his own thoughts on the subject. I found it all the more distressing in that I have corresponded with Mr. Lamont on friendly terms for several years. As a non-Muslim I do not want, any more than you do, David, to interfere in the strongly held views of those who do adhere to that faith, but I believe very strongly, that *Acorn* members in general must avoid judgemental attitudes which denigrate the completely honourable right of any man to protect and respect the natural and un-mutilated state of the body with which he was born. Surely we must honour the principle of 'live and let live' regardless of personal feelings with regard to our own foreskin.

Many, perhaps most, *Acorn* members are pro-circumcision, but please let us show tolerance of, and indeed interest in, the views of those who favour retaining their prepuce. We may have a lot to learn to our advantage if we avoid bigotry.

The other issue which I found distasteful concerns only those of us who recently enjoyed the weekend get-together in Bournemouth. Let me say straight away that this in no way detracts from my sincere appreciation of the excellence of the arrangements on our behalf made by Brian and Ian.

We were invited to watch a video showing an African tribal ritual circumcision ceremony in all its gory detail. As a doctor I am not averse to the sight of blood and, sadly, have been witness to a great deal of suffering in my time. Nevertheless, I felt that the scenes of innumerable children of all ages being hauled, screaming and kicking in terrified protest, to have their foreskin tied to a length of string which was pulled as hard as possible by a man, stretched as far as possible across a log, and then violently chopped off with a large knife, was gratuitously 'sick' in the extreme. To watch the brutality once, or even twice, as an example of one of the more barbaric methods of removing the foreskin, may be an acceptable education. But to devote a whole film to it, to my mind, bordered on perversion.

[Others, myself included, had to stop looking. — D.A.]

I am more than happy with my circumcised state and welcome the opportunity to belong to a group whose members share a common interest, but we must not open our ranks to extremists or those whose interests border on the macabre, or we will head down a slippery slope towards something frightening, and of which I would prefer not to have any part.

*Ray Hamble*

## Replies to Mum's Dilemma

Mrs. M.B. of Oxfordshire should be congratulated on her courage for outlining so clearly her problem and dilemma; epitomising the reason for the existence of the *Acorn* magazine. I do hope, like you David, that there will be many comments.

Once a foreskin gives trouble, the problem invariably has to be resolved by circumcision, and that would appear to have been uppermost in the mind of the lady practitioner who recommended immediate radical action; the matter would have been dealt with then and there.

But having said that, I do agree that infant circumcision is not desirable. It is much more preferable to let each individual decide for himself. In addition to the treatment of the dorsal slit, which has already been suggested, there is also the possibility of stretching and partial circumcision to be considered.

I do not understand the specialist's recommendation to take no action until puberty. The present situation is unlikely to have improved by then, and if, in the meantime, recurring balanitis (inflammation under the foreskin) sets in, the situation could deteriorate with the necessity for immediate action which would be considerably more traumatic than dealing with the situation as at present. Youngsters by the age of 5-6 should be able to retract their foreskins, but with a youngster who is already perturbed about things the position is far from easy. I do hope Mrs. M.B. will keep *Acorn* posted with any developments.

*Bill – Surrey*

In reply to Mrs. B. I would tell her to forget circumcision at the moment. The same thing happened to our son at about the same age. We took him to our doctor, the old-fashioned type, who wrapped a cloth around the retracted foreskin and eased it forward. He then instructed us to push the foreskin forward beyond the tip and, with the thumb and first finger of each hand at the very tip, pull the skin very gently apart once every day for a month or so. In no time his foreskin became quite slack and mobile.

I have read many times since then that doctors years ago would advise this for tight foreskins. So, Mrs. B., don't give up yet, your son's foreskin is one of the most precious things he will ever have.

*H.J.M. – Mid-Glamorgan*

I read with interest Mrs. B's letter in Issue 2/94, and the reply from David Acorn. His advice is generally quite sound given that he is from the non-circumcision school. Allow me to offer some advice when seen from the viewpoint that circumcision certainly does no harm and may do some good.

Having decided not to circumcise your son at birth, you were quite correct in leaving his foreskin alone whilst he was still a baby. In many boys there are adhesions between the foreskin and the glans at birth which gradually break down during the first few years. If the foreskin is not fully retractable before the boy starts compulsory schooling then he should be seen by a doctor.

It is obvious from your letter that your son's foreskin was not adherent to the glans – however its opening was very small, and when he eventually retracted it a paraphimosis occurred. Had it not happened at 4 years old then he most likely would have suffered at puberty when the glans grows but the tip of the foreskin doesn't grow anything like as fast. I know several boys who developed this puberty phimosis and needed circumcision then.

As your GP and the specialist has said, your son will require a circumcision sooner or later, as it is the only way to prevent the paraphimosis recurring. David Acorn suggested that the tip of the foreskin could be cut and restitched in such a way as to make it wider. Whilst this operation might be possible, it will leave scar tissue at the end of the foreskin. This may not be visible, but it will definitely be much less elastic than the natural skin. If the opening is not widened enough then your son may experience tearing of the tip (with more scarring), or even another paraphimosis, during sexual activity. Opening the tip too wide also brings its own problems.

I firmly believe therefore, that the only proper course of action to totally prevent future problems is for your son to have a complete circumcision. This then brings us back to your question as to when to do it and how to explain it to him.

In many ways it would have been best to have circumcised him at the doctor's surgery when the paraphimosis occurred. Although he had gone through considerable trauma already, anything which removed the intense pain of the paraphimosis would probably have been acceptable to him. You could also have explained it later as having been necessary both to cure the immediate problem and to prevent it happening again whilst he was enjoying playing with his penis.

You said that the problem occurred last summer – ie, nearly a year ago. Your son might now be receptive to the suggestion that he should have something

done to prevent last year's painful problem ever happening again. If he agrees to the theory of getting something done, then you can tell him more about what will be done to him to fix the problem. Don't assume that a five-year-old cannot be prepared well to accept surgery. I know of a boy of that age, with a very tight foreskin, who was fully aware of exactly what was going to be done to him and fairly bounced into the surgery eager to have it done.

If your son really isn't prepared for circumcision now, then it is probably best to leave it until he is about 12 years old and moving between primary and secondary school. The circumcision can then be done at the start of the school holidays so that it is fully healed, and he has almost forgotten about it, by the time he makes new friends at the high school. Doing it at this age will also ensure that he doesn't pass into puberty with a phimotic foreskin to give him even more troubles. It is fairly easy to discuss the matter with a boy of this age as he is old enough to make rational judgements (see the article on Informed Consent in *Acorn* 2/94).

Whilst your son ought now to be regularly retracting his foreskin when bathing, and also whilst urinating, it is obvious that to do so will most probably lead to another paraphimosis. Fortunately, pre-pubescent boys generate very little smegma, and hence the cleanliness angle that you so rightly raise isn't likely to be a problem until his teens. David is however mistaken in suggesting that if you can't get inside a foreskin then neither can germs or bacteria. These organisms are very tiny and can pass through gaps that are invisible to the human eye – so they definitely can get under the tight foreskin. On the other hand, assuming that there are no other problems, it isn't until smegma is being produced regularly that there is anything much to attract bugs.

So, in summary, try getting your son interested in an immediate circumcision. If you don't have him circumcised now, make plans to have it done between primary and secondary school. Either way, keep a regular eye on his foreskin and penis to ensure that he isn't developing other problems.

If you would like a copy of a booklet about circumcision, written by a doctor, drop me a line via *Acorn* and I can send it either direct or via your friend. Good luck, and please do let *Acorn* know how you eventually proceed.

V.Q. – London

[So, Mrs. B., as I said we would, we have some conflicting ideas, but I must stress again that these are laymen's personal convictions and views, and whatever your decision it must be your own. — *David Acorn*]

## Hermaphrodites

A few years ago, a friend showed me a video film of individuals who had anomalous sexual organs. One was a man with a 14" penis, another a girl with enormously enlarged labia and a lady with excess body hair. The item which interested me most was a very attractive girl who possessed a normal female vulva, breasts, and a feminine voice, long blonde hair and very attractive manner and voice. Her 'aberration' was that she had a penis. This was normally masculine in shape and size, in fact slightly longer than average, with foreskin drawn forward, and in no way unusual. It was clear that this was not a so-called 'she-male' who relied on hormones, but a genuinely 'from birth' mix of sexual organs, a hermaphrodite. She actually stated that doctors had told her that she could inseminate herself.

A year or two afterwards, in a sex shop, I saw a magazine which depicted, in rather blurred form, another female with a penis and vulva. This year, whilst in Munich, I checked the magazines in the 'she-male' section of a shop, and saw three magazines devoted to this topic. For personal reasons I wasn't able to buy them at the time, but have every intention of so doing at the next opportunity.

The first magazine showed a woman aged around 35, naked, with an erect penis and fully female vulva, and through the subsequent pages displaying herself with other girls. The intriguing thing that I noticed in every page was that she had her foreskin totally retracted, and that it showed every sign of being 'happy' like that – suggesting that she wore it permanently retracted.

The next mag. portrayed three younger girls, around 18-25ish, all naked, all with penises which were variously erect or flaccid. All had dimensions which would compare with a male, all were shaved, all showed very feminine vulvas into which they were able to insert other objects. Again, each one had a fully retracted foreskin, and in close-up I was almost certain that one had been circumcised. I believe that this mag. was American, and knowing the US tendency to circumcise indiscriminately, it would be possible that the girl had actually been cut.

The final magazine had a caption on the front in English, "Is she a Freak?" This showed an attractive dark-haired girl arm in arm with a man, both early twenties, and she was wearing a slit skirt dress, looking very attractive. The next photo showed her holding the skirt open at the slit, her penis clearly visible, flaccid, and much larger than many males (certainly than mine!) hanging happily downwards, and also with retracted foreskin. Later pictures showed both having normal sexual contacts, holding each other's penis, she the larger, and always with the skin back.

I found this series of magazines fascinating, and am most anxious to discover more about this phenomenon. How frequently does this occur? (Remember Lady Colin Campbell, the feature writer and royalty recorder, who had a penis

until the age of 18, and was a 'boy' until her 'feminine physiology produced indisputable evidence that she was a female'.) Are descriptions or records of others with the anomalous organs available? Why did all these girls wear the foreskin always retracted. Is it perhaps more comfortable when worn in female underwear? What happens when they inevitably have an unanticipated erection? The girl in the video said that she 'peed standing up as a man' Do they all? If their female personality and persona encourage them to wear their foreskins back, is this an indication of an underlying leaning to the uncovered glans.

I do hope that my correspondence is not outside your range of acceptable contributions. I would welcome any discussion or comments on this.

Anon

## Bournemouth

Although I've been a member of *Acorn* for a few years, the recent meeting in Bournemouth was the first one I've attended since I subscribed. I seem to remember joining just after the last meeting (in Weston-super-Mare), reading about it in the first newsletters I was sent, and then looking out for news of the next one. It was a long time coming but it was well worth the wait.

The meeting was due to begin at around 3pm on the Saturday afternoon, but since I live so far away – Leeds – I couldn't get to the hotel until after 4. After a journey lasting more than eight hours and having had only a few biscuits to eat, I would have preferred a wash and a decent meal before doing anything else. But since I was already late I felt obliged to go straight to room 10 where the meeting was being held.

I felt like a gatecrasher when I opened the door to find a dozen pairs of eyes on me, so I mumbled who I was and then picked my way over the litter of bodies and poured myself into a space between a bed and a chest of drawers, hoping I wouldn't have to speak. Almost immediately David Acorn asked me how I first heard about the newsletter, so I was forced out of my silence from early on. The session was concerned with recruiting new subscribers and increasing *Acorn's* readership, and there were several constructive suggestions regarding advertising and presentation.

The evening meal wasn't taken in the hotel as planned (insufficient numbers, I think), so we drove to a pub restaurant instead. Afterwards we went on to I.W's home to further discussions aided by technical videos. I was struck by I.W's generosity in allowing his house to become *Acorn H.Q.* for the evening, especially since most must have been complete strangers to him. The videos included African ritual circumcisions, circumcision techniques, tattooing and piercing, and my personal highlight, Jo Menell's short film, *Dick*.



A final gathering was held for a couple of hours on Sunday morning, including a talk by Ray on the new operation to lengthen the penis and then, since by this time everyone had found their feet to some extent, we broke up into smaller groups to discuss shared interests or pore over the magazines and cuttings which had been brought along. Several new friendships were made over the weekend with addresses being swapped readily. The success of the meeting was abundantly evident to all those who attended, and its organisers, Brian and Ian, are to be thanked and congratulated for such a memorable weekend.

*G.L. - Leeds*

## Anxieties

This is the sequel to the account published in Issue 5/93 as 'Discovery Time'.

My circumcision improved my performance in the pissing up the wall games we all used to play in the outside toilets at primary school. Lots of other boys had lost their foreskins, but I never remember us using the word 'circumcised'. Those done were referred to as having been 'cut' and I was happy enough to be one of them, until later on when I became interested in girls.

At grammar school it was evident in the first communal showers and baths after rugby, that half my class were roundheads, so, with such equality, nobody was picked on about their status. The only thing that emerged when we discussed it was that none of our parents had told us about it. Those bold enough to ask had been stonewalled with answers like, "We don't talk about such things!"

In those days (early fifties), the sexual climate was very different to that of today. Babies seemed to come through the post, condoms were under the counter items for married couples only, the pill had yet to be invented and there were no four-letter words delivered in the media. We seemed to be bombarded with embarrassed vibes from home, school and church, conveying that sexual intercourse was sacred to marriage. The message was, you shouldn't do it with a girl unless you loved her, and if you did love her you wouldn't want to put her at risk of the terrible social disgrace of an illegitimate pregnancy (catch 22). On top of this you might well become infected with an awesome venereal disease and a court judgement to pay £1.50 for life! There were many shameful shotgun weddings and the couple's misdemeanour held up as an example of what to avoid. The background is best imagined by a true story of a girl friend of my wife. She, a bride to be, attended family planning clinic to be fitted with a diaphragm. After her correct size had been ascertained, the device was put on the clinic shelf and could only be claimed the day before the wedding. I sketch all this to make some sense of the attitudes of the era that shaped my upbringing.

So why had so many of us been circumcised? One boy in our class passed on the information from his elder brother that it was done to inhibit teenage sex. The idea being that a young, inexperienced girl would find it painful to take a large dry glans without a foreskin to help roll it 'in' as nature intended. For our part this would be painful too, as it would rub on our dry end and pull on our scars. As I was just beginning to be keenly interested in girls and dream of having sex with some I fancied, this information caused me some unease. Like most circumcised boys must do, I had from time to time tried to pull the fragment of remaining foreskin forward over the rim onto the glans, only to watch it snap back the moment I let go. This reinforced the realisation that you were cut for life and nothing could be done to reverse or disguise it. How terrible if it were going to make sex uncomfortable.

Some anxiety was dispelled when our school, in a moment of enlightenment, called in an outside psychologist to give us a series of sex education lectures. Looking back, this was quite ahead of its time! We were co-ed and the lessons were given to the usual mixed class. The lecturer dispelled the initial embarrassed giggling with just the right combination of good humour and honest information. He drew on the blackboard detailed chalk drawings of the male and female private parts, and when he came to the foreskin, diverted to explain circumcision. I remember he asked for a show of hands on who had been cut, and collectively half the class were brave enough to own up. He explained the religious, medical and hygienic reasons for the procedure and told us that most of us would have been done for the latter. This gave him an opportunity to make a point about hygiene for the others. He then concluded by telling the girls that they had an even chance of 'models' in the husband stakes, and it wouldn't make the slightest difference in sexual intercourse. Whilst it was good to think this would be so, I could never quite accept it. Surely a circumcised penis looks and feels very different for both partners?

As I went out with girls I often wondered if they speculated on the topic. Unlike today's generation, many would have seen or heard about it in their families. I knew that it was talked about in "women's circles", and they appeared to be the ones who arranged the op. and took charge of the aftercare. I heard women discussing it more than once in the whispered tones made famous by Les Dawson. One, I recollect on the bus, telling her friend that she'd just had her baby boy 'shortened'. From other details overheard it was clear what the euphemism meant! Did the girls I was dating ever give the matter any thought ... and what were their expectations concerning me? Since reading *Acorn* I have been pleased to learn that it was important to some. One delightful female correspondent, a nudist, informing us that her husband's circumcised penis was one of the things that attracted her to him. This leads us to wonder, if social conventions in clothes had developed to display men's genitals, would it have had any influence on the women's choice - "I saw his acorn and it was love at first sight!"?

I went out with one girl for about twelve months, and because of the sexual inhibitions described earlier, sexual intercourse seemed to be out of the question. But we did explore each other's body. On several occasions she played with my penis, but never attempted to pull my remnant of foreskin forward, or commented on my circumcision. When she finished our relationship for someone else, I wondered if it had anything to do with it, but will never know.

After this I went out with a variety of girls, and remember one in particular who I drove back to the nurses' home after a dance. The goodnight kiss in the car became passionate and we both followed our instincts and let our hands run into each other's underwear. I was just enjoying the feel of experienced feminine fingers exploring my helmet when, after only a few seconds, she groaned and whispered, "Awwwww, you've been cut!" This was an immediate turnoff, but did lead to an opportunity to ask about her preferences and why. She said that circumcised penises were limited in foreplay, and we both knew that was as far as we intended going.

Then I met the girl who became my wife. Early on I knew that this relationship was very special, and that stoked up anxieties as to how she would feel when she discovered my circumcision. I remember the moment when she first slipped her hand into my trousers, and my feelings of pleasure at her handling were tempered by wondering what comment she was about to make. There was none, and the suspense lasted through many more sessions until, one day, she casually mentioned the topic had cropped up for discussion among the girls at work when one had told them her new husband was cut. I mumbled some sort of apology for my own permanently skinned acorn, but she interrupted it with a big hug and kiss, and said she didn't mind at all.

Before we married, she bought a compendium advice book which covered everything from buying a house to having sex. The section on the latter was very explicit for the standards of the day. It explained what each partner could expect to find in the genitalia of the other. For women, it described a man's foreskin and how to pull it back. An asterisk on the paragraph directed the reader to a footnote explaining that many brides would find their partners were missing in this respect, because of childhood circumcision. It suggested that a dry glans might cause initial discomfort and recommended a lubricated condom until the woman adjusted to her partner's lack of foreskin. As I'd waited this long, I sure as hell didn't want the London Rubber Co. between us at the great moment, so I pretended not to have seen it. Fortunately she never mentioned the matter either.

Our honeymoon was a great success, and I remember the gratifying feeling of first sex. This moment made sense of my circumcision, as I discovered that female juices restore glans sensitivity like nothing else, and the freedom of a totally exposed glans without any foreskin moving over it felt like heaven. Of course I can only imagine the alternative, but unlike some roundheads, I've no great yen to try it. I'm fairly certain that I have grown a much larger glans

because it has developed free of any restricting foreskin, but cannot prove it. I just appreciate never having to pull back any skin before sex, and knowing there is nothing to slop about during the act. Cavalier friends assure me that I'm missing a great deal and so is my wife as she is denied the initial pleasure of peeling me. Fortunately she doesn't seem to mind, and during discussion, has been quite reassuring in her acceptance of my circumcision, though this seems to border on indifference for the most part. When friends have joked about it she has been very supportive. It really is no big deal to her and she is puzzled but tolerant of my interest. The best endorsement she gave me was expressing her willingness to have our two boys done as babies. Unfortunately, although she tried several times with hospital and two doctors, her requests were always refused. By the time we realised we could have paid and had them done privately, they were at an age when they would be aware of what was being done to them, and I had no wish to put them through such an ordeal.

Nevertheless, my fascination with the subject has never waned. First it was fed through *Forum* ... and now since their perplexing editorial decision to drop the topic, through *Acorn*. At least I have them to thank for this dedicated magazine, which is better than wading through pages of other uninteresting fetishes just to find the odd 'plum' of interest to me. Long may you continue.

Anon

## Request from Cavaliers

Following my request last year for information and experiences from roundheads who'd been cut in adulthood, the response was good, and I learned quite a lot from the various correspondents. All, I think, had been circumcised for cosmetic rather than medical reasons, so all were pleased with the result.

I would like to ask for information from cavaliers who are considering circumcision for whatever reason. This may provide more information from those in a similar position to me.

As my main reason for considering circumcision has been a tender and sore foreskin, it is the medical rather than cosmetic angle which concerns me. My GP, when confronted with the problem, was very much anti-circumcision and gave me some cream. I have also found recently that using a lubricating jelly during sex has improved the situation immensely – not only from the tenderness being improved, but the better sensation, probably caused by the foreskin (normally fairly loose) being kept totally back, and thus giving a much better direct stimulation to the knob.

Turning to another point. Although I wasn't able to attend the meeting in Bournemouth, I would be interested to know the split between roundheads and cavaliers among those who attended.

[10 roundheads and 3 cavaliers. — *D.A.*]

Lastly, a question for consideration. Why are cavaliers always so shy about retracting their foreskins when showering in public? I notice that most turn to the wall and somewhat furtively pull the skin back to wash, while many don't even bother! Is it shyness, or the fear of getting a hard-on if they touch their skin? I always retract my skin to wash it, then leave it retracted. I sometimes see other cavaliers do this, but not often.

*Anon*

[With regard to the last question. It wouldn't surprise me if the reason wasn't the worry of doing anything that could be defined as sexual in today's climate of opinion. After all, a man can't kiss and cuddle a little girl any more without the fear of a hand on his shoulder. A great, great pity. — *D.A.*]

## Female Circumcision

In ages past, female circumcision had only been a fringe or academic interest associated with races abroad. The extreme form is pharaonic circumcision (so-called because a Pharaoh in ancient Egypt had such a small penis that he ordered the vaginas of his women be made smaller so he could enjoy intercourse with them) where the clitoris is removed and the lips sewn together. With so many other races now in this country the number of known female circumcisions has risen greatly and led to an act of parliament forbidding it.

Everyone is pleased pharaonic circumcision has been banned, but there has been great worry about the description 'female circumcision', where a small cut is used to help expose the clitoris and increase sensitivity together with improved numbers of orgasms. Over a year or two, doctors in the media have claimed the situation wasn't clear. Early last autumn, the Law Society said there had been no reported cases under the new act, the medical profession needing only to change the description to 'hood removal' or whatever, and avoid 'circumcision', which equated with pharaonic removals.

There is an increasing interest, especially amongst the ladies, for hood removal or clitoral improvement, and I'm sure this will continue. An item in the *Daily Mail* of 26.11.93, where a Dr. Farroque Siddique was struck off for performing an illegal female circumcision, brings everything up-to-date, and underlines the need to keep the two types of description apart.

*R.C. – Sussex*

## Funny Old World

### An item from the *Bangkok Post* of 12.7.93.

“Beware. A gang of charlatans has been at work in our city boasting that they possess the ancient secret of penis enlargement,” said Dr Thongchai Termprasith to the press, after more than a hundred Thai men had reported to the city hospital with severe genital disorders, within the space of a few days.

“Those men are nothing more than quacks, and the results of their handiwork are woeful to behold. They charge 500 Baht and use a knitting needle to inject the member with their ‘magic potion’, which turns out to be a mixture of olive oil, chalk, kapok and other rubbish. I’ve even seen bits of the Bangkok telephone directory. Naturally, the penis swells up to the size of a loofah, which is when the money is handed over. But after a few days a most terrible thing happens. The men start to experience a dreadful burning after intercourse, and soon their manhood turns rotten and implodes. I myself have amputated more than 20 this week.”

One victim, who wished to remain anonymous, told the press, “Learn from my misfortunes. I am bereft. Last week I thought twelve centimetres was not enough to satisfy my wife. How will I pleasure her with no centimetres?”

“Be happy with the Natural One that God has given you,” the doctor told reporters, “and remember that a healthy maggot is better by far than a gangrenous king cobra.”

## Circumcision Incidence

In compiling the new Penguin book *Physical Health and Sexual Behaviour*, a massive survey of nearly 8,000 men (I don’t know how many women) took place. The final question enquired whether the respondent was circumcised. This question was included on the basis of evidence that the risk of acquisition of STD and HIV may be increased by the presence of the foreskin (Cameron et al., 1989; Aral and Holmes, 1990). Studies examining this variable may be confounded by differing and interrelated cultural and religious factors influencing both the practice of circumcision and sexual behaviour.

Overall, 21.9% of men reported that they had been circumcised, but there was a strong relationship with age. Only 12.5% of men aged 16-24 had been circumcised and this increased to 32.3% of men aged 45-59. This striking age relationship appears to reflect changing public health policy on circumcision between the 1930s (Gairdner, 1949) and the 1970s.

The data were examined by religious denominations on account of varying views on the practice of circumcision. Circumcision rates were markedly

higher in non-Christian religions, reflecting in particular the routine religious practice of circumcision among Jews and Muslims. Analysis by ethnic group shows white males to be the least likely to be circumcised.

In our data there was no relationship in bivariate analysis between circumcision and rates of attendance at an STD clinic.

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Base</b>	<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Base</b>
16-24	12.5	1874	White	20.9	7551
25-34	15.9	2111	Black	34.1	150
35-44	26.4	1956	Asian	35.3	165
45-59	32.3	2049	Other	51.5	107
		<b>Religion</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Base</b>	
		None	18.4	4120	
		Church of England	24.7	2011	
		Roman Catholic	18.6	678	
		Other Christian	22.1	863	
		Non-Christian	55.8	312	
		<b>All men</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>7990</b>	

*J.C. – London*

## Snippets

Following the story of the wife who cut her husband’s dick off, there have been two other small stories in the press recently, both German in origin I think. The first was about a man who was trying to wank with a vacuum cleaner, but the suction was so great that it tore his cock off. As in America it was sewn on again with the hope of no lasting effects, although I would think that it might be a little longer now. I hope that it was a great feeling at the time it was going from about six inches to nine.

The second was a case again of a girl cutting off her boyfriend’s cock. This time he didn’t have it sewn back on again, but auctioned it off for £40 and a bottle of schnapps. I suppose that after he’d spent and drunk the lot he committed suicide! I would.

The Japanese had the right way of brightening up boring journeys for women. They lined the roads with replicas of the male member. Until recent decades, there were thousands of stone and wood carvings along the byways of Japan, erected to remind people of the importance of sex. Why most

of them were pulled down is not known. Perhaps it had something to do with accidents caused by distracted drivers.

Staying in Japan, in the programme *Without Walls* on C.4 on March 1st., half an hour was devoted to a programme entitled *The Penis Unsheathed*. I presumed that this was going to be on circumcision, but neither circumcision nor foreskins were mentioned. The unsheathed actually seemed to mean erect, which I suppose was because the normal penis during erection has the glans unsheathing as the foreskin disappears to become the shaft skin. The programme was predominantly by women, most of whom felt cheated that the law didn't allow them to see pictures and films of men with hard-ons; although peculiarly no-one appears to take any notice of the fact that all the icons, vibrators, dildos etc. are all in an erect state and shown. To get back to Japan. A sequence was shown of an annual ceremony where about 6 men carried a huge erect plaster penis through a town and everyone went to church to worship at a shrine covered in erect penises. There might be more churchgoers in this country if something like that occurred here.

D.A.

## Contact Corner

**W**ill anyone, anywhere in the country, who has had an adult circumcision in the last two years, please write to me urgently with details of who circumcised you (name and address please), how much it cost, whether you were able to choose the sort of result you wanted, and how it turned out. I need this information to assist a 22 year-old friend to get a circumcision this summer.

Please send to V.Q. – London, via *Acorn*. All information will be treated with discretion. The ability to discuss the details with you would be much appreciated but is not essential.

**L**ondon based, mature man, about to be re-circumcised for aesthetic reasons, wishes to contact other members who have been circumcised or re-circumcised as adults.

Write to William at *Acorn*.

**I**n answer to several enquiries, there is no charge for the forwarding of letters, only a stamp is required.

D.A.



# ACORN

Issue  
Nº 4 1994  
Editor  
David Acorn

## Editorial

Our membership is beginning to grow apace now, mostly due to the efforts of a few of our members. Our good friend Tuppy Owens gives us plugs in her publications, for which we are grateful. A member has also placed us on a thing called The Computer Bulletin Board in America. This is a system whereby, via an index, you are able to 'talk' to anyone, or pick up information, through a computer, on your chosen subject. I'm not well up on such things, but I think that's the gist of it. There has been one enquiry so far from New York.

A member has asked if we could do an update on the penis survey, as we have had quite a few new members since it was done some two years ago. I'll try to find the time for this.

The summer has got to appear any moment now and as I'm writing I look wistfully out of the window and wonder if I'll get to a naturist beach this year. I know we have several naturist members, so the thought has come into my head that this could be a good way for those inclined to meet in a relaxed atmosphere. I know the weather is

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## Correspondence

Please send

**Newsletter contributions and letters for forwarding**

clearly marked for DAVID ACORN

**Membership, fees, advice and personal matters**

clearly marked for TONY ACORN

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the most important but inconstant part, but if anyone is interested just drop me a line, with some venues if possible.

*David Acorn*

## **Mum's Dilemma — Another Reply**

The problem of paraphimosis and what to do about it was admirably posed by Mrs M.B. in her contribution to 2/94 and David Acorn made some useful points in response. The point about *Acorn* is that we try to present a range of advice, so here is some more, which I hope will be useful to Mrs M.B., her husband and, most importantly, her son.

First, I think that Mrs B. should put out of her mind any thought of having “failed her son in some way”. The shape of his foreskin, like the shape of his nose or the colour of his hair, are simply facts of life which neither she nor her husband could have influenced, whatever they might have done – and I guess that she is thankful that her son is free of far worse deformities.

Second, I would argue strongly that both the GP's and the specialist's advice should be accepted that the lad should be circumcised. David Acorn suggests the alternative dorsal slit operation, but I would advise against this. In such mobile tissue it is difficult to do accurately. If too short a cut is made, or if the cut heals in the wrong way, the situation would be worsened, since the already tight opening will be tightened further by scar tissue. I have seen an article recently advocating this operation, but I would not support this. At least two *Acorn* members have been in contact with us for help in dealing with the unsatisfactory outcome of a dorsal slit in childhood, when it was quite rare. So in my view there is much to be said for the traditional full-scale remedy of circumcision, tried and tested as it is over some three thousand years.

David gives the example of a man of nearly 70 with a tight foreskin who has never retracted it in his life. While I don't doubt that this is possible, the lad has already experienced the kind of problem that can arise and that he could easily encounter again – perhaps as the traumatic culmination of a nearly consummated love affair, with all the damage that could do to his sex life and conjugal prospects.

I do agree with David that the boy should have opportunities to see his father (or if this is a problem then with other reliable lads or men) with the helmets of their penises both bare and covered. This is the best way for him to understand that boys and men come in different shapes, and to have it explained to him that most men with a foreskin can have it either back or forward with no pain. But it is also essential that he should know that he has a problem, as he has already discovered, which can be put right easily when he is of the right age for it to be done. Meanwhile, however, he should leave his foreskin in the forward position.

David is right again to advise not to go into detail about circumcision at this stage, and certainly not with such phrases as “permanently exposing the tender end”. As with other aspects of sex education, the best advice seems to me to be to answer the questions as they arise and in the form they arise, rather than overloading him with information or raising worries that had not occurred to him. The time for full explanations is not until a few weeks before the operation is scheduled – long enough to accept that the time has come, without looking so far ahead that it becomes an unnecessary worry to him. At that stage he should be reminded of the paraphimosis problem, told about circumcision, and encouraged to accept it as the solution. Rather than emphasising that he may look ‘different’, tell him that he is unique, but that like a few other boys, he has a problem which needs correcting.

So what is the best age for him to be cut? Here I think that Mrs B. has already done the right thing by not going ahead now. The age of four is probably the worst possible age, since he is much too young to understand that circumcision is a minor operation only, or that it will heal but only after some days, or that he may look different from his friends, but that some other boys will look the same as him. Indeed it is probably still a problem for him to cope with even having his mother or his father out of sight for long. From the personal experience of myself, my own sons and various acquaintances, my advice would coincide with that of the specialist: wait until the early stages of puberty. By this age he will be old enough to have the operation simply explained to him, and will understand that it is the remedy for the painful and rather alarming condition of paraphimosis which he already knows about. He will know that cuts heal, although taking a little time to do so, and it will not take him long to get over the discomfort of the operation. He will probably also be used to being away from home (perhaps as a cub scout, or staying overnight with a friend, etc) and undressing among strangers. Give him something to look forward to, a week or two after the planned date.

There are two other advantages of this timing, one social and the other physiological. Socially, it may be possible to co-ordinate the timing with a change of school, so that not many of his acquaintances may ask about the change – and his real friends can be told in advance so that they can give him encouragement and sympathy rather than just curiosity after the event. Physiologically, at early puberty his penis will have grown somewhat, making it easier for a competent circumciser to do a good job, but there will still be an important stage of growth ahead, so that the penis can attain its optimum size and shape unconstrained by the foreskin.

I think this answers Mrs M.B.’s questions, but there are two other points which it is important to make. First, if this and the specialist’s advice is followed, to wait about eight years, the boy’s mother and father, and most importantly the boy himself, should know what to do if there is another episode of paraphimosis. Immediate first aid will prevent panic and solve the problem – at least until next time. When it happens, he should sit down calmly (on

a chair etc) with his thighs spread, and lean a little forward. Someone (he himself when he is a little older) should then cup one hand inside the other, making a gap between the index and middle fingers of both hands. The penis should be drawn through this gap as much as possible, then gripped by bringing the fingers together. The opposed thumbs should be used to apply very firm and steady pressure to his penis helmet. A couple of minutes should be enough to press much of the blood past the constricting foreskin and back into circulation. The four fingers around the penis shaft can then be used to ease the foreskin forward over the helmet. If this doesn't work first time, try applying the pressure longer and more firmly.

The final point is that if and when the right time comes for him to be circumcised, I would strongly recommend that it be done under local anaesthetic on a day-case basis. This avoids the unpleasant and possibly risky effects of full anaesthetic. Even more importantly, it should be done by an expert in this type of surgery, perhaps contacted through *Acorn* or The Initiation Society, and not entrusted without further enquiry to a GP or a junior houseman in a hospital, many of whom get their first experience of real surgery by relieving the expert of 'trivial' circumcisions.

*Tony Acorn*

## More on Mum's Dilemma

Whilst congratulating you on your stand against the intemperate and wounding views expressed by some of our (newly?) circumcision fanatics, I did find two of the letters in Issue 3/94 rather disturbing. The first was a well-written and seemingly authoritative letter from V.Q. strongly urging the lady whose son suffered an occasion of paraphimosis to get him circumcised. Since this advice, from a layman as you point out, runs totally counter to the official medical policy expressed by expert consultants on the subject in the *British Medical Journal* of January 1993, to the effect that phimosis and paraphimosis hardly ever require circumcision these days, I consider V.Q.'s enthusiasm misplaced and mischievous. It could easily cause the lady – and her son – a whole lot of grief afterwards.

Although some of our readers accept the contention that a human being should have the right of disposal of his (or her) bodily parts, there are some hard-liners still who won't be satisfied until routine infant circumcision is reintroduced in this country, and I think V.Q. might be one of them. It's all very fine to take this view if the child in question grows up like V.Q. and looks on the foreskin as a loathsome and detestable excrescence, but what if he grows up like me, R.B.W., bitterly resenting being deprived of his birthright, and hating his mother for her unfortunate mistake? Surely the answer is to let the boy make his own decision when he's old enough to do so. By that time the problem may have disappeared spontaneously anyway according to the experts.

The second letter also concerns infant circumcision, and this time I cite Anon's second instalment, 'Anxieties', where he details the attitudes of various girlfriends to his circumcised state. Although he implies that he is indifferent to his circumcised penis, he clearly exhibits a characteristic unease and misgiving about it, and cannot fail to have been distressed when the nurse he took out was so dismissive of his circumcised organ, telling him she preferred having a foreskin to play with. The other women in his life seem to have taken the typical feminine attitude of having no opinion. But, in the light of his experience, I found it sad that he should have tried so zealously to get his sons done after securing his wife's collusion, and I applaud the hospital authorities for refusing to circumcise their children for them.

Having said all that, David, I do not think either letter to be offensive enough to suppress, but frankly, a stronger contrary view needs to be put, to clear misinformation in the first instance and to express disquiet in the second.

*R.B.W. – Bedford*

PS. You mention cavaliers never denigrating a circumcised penis or its owner – with one notable exception. That exception couldn't have been me, could it? I most certainly hope so! Although I could never bring myself to attend one of these get togethers – in my weakened state I could not take the views of some of them – I'd be very interested to know if my views were discussed. I'd be delighted to hear that they cause a stir, because that's the intention!

[Yes, R.B. the exception was you. You'll be sorry to hear that, as far as I know, your views weren't discussed at the meeting.

You'll notice also that I've omitted a couple of your denigrating words, as what's sauce for the goose etc. I'm sure that your points have been put over quite effectively without them. — D.A.]

## **In Reply to Concerns**

I felt that I had to write to set the record straight regarding the concerns expressed by Ray, and hope that you feel able to publish my comments.

I feel that it is appropriate to offer my apologies to anybody distressed by the film clips that I showed in Bournemouth in March. It was not my intention to offend or upset anyone, especially as I am a 'new boy' to the group.

I discussed bringing the film to the event with a number of *Acorn* members; one having viewed the clips previously. At no time did anybody counsel me against showing it and nobody was required to watch.

The film clips shown were edited sequences from a much longer documentary, but as the group's interest is in circumcision, I showed only the circumcision ceremonies. We were therefore viewing the clips totally out of context to the rest of the film.

My interest in circumcision stems from being in the uncircumcised minority at two English boarding schools. When my mother explained about circumcision to me aged eight, I was fascinated and have been intrigued ever since. I never asked to be 'as the other boys' and have rarely regretted not being circumcised. I respect the feelings of others in what is a very sensitive issue.

If anybody would like to discuss this issue further, then please write to me via *Acorn* (remember your stamp). Again I am sorry for any concern that I may have inadvertently caused.

And now onto a different topic:-

## Hermaphrodites

I found the article by Anon on the above subject (3/94) very interesting. It always intrigued me how hermaphrodites would be treated by the medical profession with regard to circumcision. As the writer indicated, the attitude in the US is to cut first and ask questions afterwards.

Whilst felling the Berlin Wall in 1989, I picked up a German book entitled *Sexuelle Welt-Rekorde (Sexual World Records)* by Axel Garding. A section of the book is devoted to the above subject. Whilst the text is not very interesting, the photographs are very revealing. There are four photos of hermaphrodites, one a close-up of the genitalia. Three photos show what appear to be removed foreskins, one clitoris or penis is sheathed.

The three subjects who have no foreskins showing all look 'American' without there being definite proof. Two of the subjects appear to be very definitely circumcised. Close inspection with a magnifying glass reveals what appears to be circumcision scars behind the corona sulci. Both penises are flaccid so one cannot be 100% certain. In the third, clothing obscures a view of the shaft, so it is difficult to determine circumcision status. However the glans is most definitely bared.

The article has stimulated me to research this area further. By the time this reply appears in *Acorn*, I will have visited Amsterdam. An ideal place to conduct research! I shall report back on my return.

If anybody would like to discuss this issue further and in private, please write to me via *Acorn*.

J.C. – London

## Come Back Cavaliers

I was sorry to learn about the loss of cavalier members in 3/94, and especially as they feel hurt by comments from us on the other side of the experience. Here is one roundhead who values their contribution, because its only through their descriptions we can begin to imagine what life might have been like for us if we had not been cut. Many of my friends are uncircumcised and I don't regard them as unclean. May I point out their superiority in that they do have the option as long as they have a foreskin, but we don't! Of course, once they cross the divide there's no going back, which, I suspect, persuades a good many to hang on to what nature gave them. Please also bear in mind there have been several scornful comments (some from ladies) on the 'disfigurement' and 'mutilation' of circumcision, which can be just as disconcerting for us snipcocks if we, who didn't have the choice, take it to heart. Both sides of the argument must be members of *Acorn* because we are strangely imbued with a lifelong curiosity to understand how the other half gained (or kept), and cope with their status. Some of those intact are seeking information about changing it, and the rest of us enjoy an exchange to reinforce our prejudices. Full marks to our editor who, despite his foreskin, seems to be impeccably fair-minded in his effort to maintain a balance of material. We should all support him.

*H.L. – Yorks*

[Many thanks for your kind remarks, and I hope the point will be taken regarding 'mutilation', etc. — D.A.]

## Update Request

With my circumcision rate graphs for the U.K. and U.S.A. sadly out of date, I wonder if anyone could furnish figures for the mid/late 1980s and early 1990s. The comparison between two 'cultures' from this penile modification throughout the century is indeed fascinating, as is the development and techniques improving the safety and final appearance of the operation.

A recent *Acorn* figure of 20,000 U.K. circumcisions annually, represents about 5% (if the male birthrate remains at 100,000 per year). A lower birthrate would indicate a slight increase in the 5%, suggesting the halting of the continuing decline of decades. What of the introduction of 'preputial plasty', especially in the 4-5 age group?

The American situation must be of continuing decline, under the combined influences of INTACT, BUFF, and the withdrawal of the insurance cover for the routine circumcising of newborn males. Are the main instruments the Gomco clamp, the Mogen shield and the Plastibell, all of which produce haemostasis, unlike the Jewish split shield? Have any new techniques been employed, eg

laser circumcising, which is in constant use in Turkey and was even adopted for a 14 year-old haemophiliac immigrant to Israel?

Despite advances in instrumentation, I have encountered very sad insertions in the contact columns of American magazines, many instances indeed of botched circumcisions, headless cocks and bad jobs of cutting. Where miracles of surgery appear almost daily, it is absolutely reprehensible to find examples of partial or complete amputation of the glans. Perhaps it is time that an American – or even universal – standard be devised for non-religious circumcision, which would satisfy the needs of fashion, hygiene, family likeness, and so on, without the possible excess of mutilation. I list four pre-requisites:-

- 1) The technique should be simple, accurate, swift, virtually pain-free and guaranteeing absolute glans integrity.
- 2) Complete haemostasis is essential (from clamp, electro- or laser cautery).
- 3) The frenulum must remain intact, together with adjoining tissue (as is the case with Jewish circumcision).
- 4) Sufficient preputial remnants should remain around the entire glans to allow for future elective restoration by stretching etc. The effect of this 'circumshortening' with an element of possible reversibility would satisfy both parents, and indeed, the baby in due course.

I trust the benefits of my criteria would more than overcome the case for the radical, irreversible, sometimes unsightly clip-job.

*Anthony*

## Paint Jobs

Very few girls these days can expect to see or experience a circumcised penis, so the appeal for women to give their views is unlikely to bear much fruit, except possibly from older women. However, I can perhaps help out, because I was reared as a foster child in a family in which the other children were two boys, both roughly my age, one circumcised and the other intact. I consequently grew up with the problem since it was frequently a matter of discussion by the parents and a source of friction and comparison by the boys. At bath time, mother would often comment on the ragged appearance of the cut boy's organ, and worried in case it might cause trouble in later life. Apparently he had been referred to her GP, by the sister at school, for stretching to relieve slight tightness at the opening. But the doctor, who was known to be an insatiable circumciser, had insisted in having him done there and then, despite the mother's strong reluctance. Consequently, when the



second boy proved to have an identical problem, she referred him to a friend in nursing instead, who successfully stretched the skin, over a period of a week or two.

The two boys spent a lot of time arguing over whose cock was the best, and I was frequently brought in as referee. In fact I found both fascinating, but although I did not care for the ragged collar of red skin behind the cut boy's glans, I knew better than to say anything about it. The other bone of contention between them was size. Both boys used to get a rigid erection for my benefit, and every week I was enlisted to measure their vital dimension and record it. The elder boy had a quarter of an inch more than his brother, but this was cancelled out if the younger kept his foreskin forward, because it extended well beyond the glans, even with an erection.

One day when confronted with the two impressive erections which I was invited to admire, I suggested for a lark that I should get the water colours and do a paint job on them. Both thought this a great idea and I went to work with the sort of enthusiasm I'd never shown in art lessons! But this brings me on to the real point of my letter, which is sensitivity. Whereas the circumcised boy was barely aware of the touch of the brush over his bare glans, the uncircumcised lad found it almost impossible to tolerate any brushing over his glans after I had pulled his skin down, and I had to stick to the shaft. His knob certainly looked very different from his brother's, being much shinier and darker, and he got very skittish indeed if I touched it with my bare fingers.

This episode was recalled last summer when I took my new boyfriend Simon for a weekend in a cottage on the side of Cader Idris in Wales with Valerie, a girl at work and her husband, Ian. The weather was hot and after a good lunch we went into the garden with a bottle of wine to sunbathe. Since we were totally secluded, in a haze of contentment and sensuality, I suggested that we strip off and get an overall tan. This was enthusiastically welcomed by my boyfriend and Valerie, less so by her husband, possibly because he'd been very untidily circumcised with a bunch of wrinkled skin hanging down on one side, and felt a bit self-conscious about it. I noted with satisfaction the contrast with the sleek streamlined perfection of Simon's penis with its fully fashioned foreskin extending well beyond the lip.

After a couple of glasses of wine, when we'd got used to seeing each other's family jewels, the conversation turned a bit raunchy, and we each related our first sexual experience. Valerie surprised me by telling a particularly sexy story about how, at the age of fourteen, she had stripped for five boys of the same age in her garage and was caressed to orgasm by them before getting their penises out and making them come each in turn. The tale apparently had a rousing effect on the two guys present, because they both jacked up with monstrous erections! Ian's penis turned out to have a left-hand slew due to the uneven removal of the skin on one side, and was all knobby; whilst, although Simon's was perfectly symmetrical, it looked menacing with the moist purple glans glaring at us through the tautly stretched ring of foreskin.

Valerie burst into peals of laughter at the two weapons, saying that however impressive a man's stiffy might be, it could never be called beautiful. So I suggested the logical female solution – makeup! And with a lot of hilarity I applied lip gloss, pancake and eyeblush whilst getting Valerie to hold each instrument still whilst I was working on it. I had no trouble at all in brushing it over Ian's circumcised glans, he scarcely seemed to notice it. But when it was Simon's turn I had to tell Valerie to pull his skin back so I could do his knob, and his reaction strongly reminded me of my step-brother's all those years ago. He squirmed like mad at the powerful stimulus of the soft brush moving over his glans and could scarcely bare it.

Later Valerie told me she had problems with Ian's lack of sensitivity, since he was often unable to come at all during intercourse, leaving her sore and him deeply dissatisfied. She said how much he envied Simon his foreskin and said they both wished he hadn't been circumcised.

From my point of view it was evident from the two circumcised organs I have seen that the operations had been very badly done and looked rather unsightly in both cases. I felt some sympathy for Valerie and Ian, and the risk of that alone would be enough to put me off circumcision for any child (or partner) of mine. The lack of sensitivity in comparison with a normal penis was very marked and just went to confirm this view. From my experience, the idea that circumcision has no effect on sensitivity is wrong, and the conflicting idea that lack of sensitivity, in an organ supposed to be sensitive, is an asset, does not measure up to reality.

*Angela Soames – Hatfield*

## On Call

**I**t's good to know that BUPA support those seeking information on circumcision with three helplines in their telephone directory of advice on a wide range of health concerns titled, 'BUPA Medcall'. For those interested, these are:-

0839 100 037 explains the how and why of circumcising babies.

0839 100 118 talks about circumcision for boys including a short detail of one method.

0839 100 462 discusses circumcision for men.

All accept that some of their members want or need this operation and are mildly encouraging. No doubt the revenue from these calls helps offset the bills they have to pick up from those who proceed. The recordings are changed from time to time and have often been done by female voices, which adds a more interesting dimension.

A year or so ago, S.A.S. (Surgical Advisory Service) advertised an information number on their circumcision. Unfortunately it only ran for a month or two before it was discontinued. It took the form of a question and answer dialogue between an anxious male being pressed by his fiancée to undergo circumcision, and now seeking reassurance from a female nurse at the clinic. She explained the clinical details and result he could expect, and placed quite a bit of emphasis on the aesthetic improvements and how many women prefer the penis to be circumcised. Someone in touch might persuade them to restore it – the recording that is!

0891 172 325 is a circumcision advice line run by The Regents Park Clinic and is much more ambivalent.

*H.L. – Yorks*

### **Simpler Snip**

**D**uring my grammar school years I noticed a few in the ranks of the circumcised whose foreskins looked to be just rolled back behind the rim of the glans and not cut short like mine. I became friendly with one of them and we made comparisons. He showed me that his foreskin would roll forward if pushed fairly hard, but recoiled back behind the rim as soon as he let go. The only scarring was not on the foreskin as such, but just below the cleft on the underside of the glans. Here his frenulum appeared to have been cut away and the lower end of it stitched into the shaft below the groove. (He was very embarrassed about this small scar and considered it had spoiled his penis.) I speculate that this was a simpler technique which could be performed at home by the midwife or doctor. Does it also indicate that the purpose of the frenulum is to act as a retaining strap facilitating quick and easy re-hooding after retraction? If removed in infancy, the skin could probably be forced much further down the shaft and left to reshape in rolled form there as its natural place. Presumably by the time the child was old enough to realise what had been done, and through curiosity try to push it forward, it would be too late. Comments from others please.

*H.L. – Yorks.*

### **Ancient Sexist Quote — The Difference**

**A** penis is like an extension, it's like your hand or your arm, it goes outward from you. You are testing things, you probe. Men when they urinate have this arc, they project outward, and they have to learn how to do it. Adulthood is learning how to aim, to focus, to make an arc of transcendence. Women merely water the ground they stand on.

## The Squatter's Paradise

Some of the practices/customs detailed below, namely those of male-bonding and nude fishing, pertain only to Rahbi's fishing village, and not elsewhere in Malaya. Remote and difficult of access, it had become proudly insular and retained many of its own pagan customs unknown to the rest of the country despite the incursion of Islam. One had to be a part of this little fishing village society in order to know its practices, and Rahbi was its most representative product. Other villages in the country, where Islam had already taken a stronghold, are much more puritan.

In the village, all the men customarily pee in a squatting position – no different from their womenfolk, and can partly be explained by the fact that many of the houses, especially seaside ones, are constructed of flimsy wood, thatched with palm leaves, and built on stilts. Such houses cannot accommodate heavy furniture, so most of the living is spent either sitting cross-legged or squatting on the matted floor. Also, the Malay sarong, being loose, is a most suitable apparel for squatting. The sarong has no fly and is quite difficult for a man to pee in from a standing position. The sarong should properly be worn without underpants. Only in the squatting posture, with the hem of the sarong drawn back over the knees and thighs, entirely exposing the cock and balls, could a pee be taken freely and comfortably.

To distinguish themselves from their womenfolk, who are naturally shy and seek solitude at their ablutions, a code of macho bravado had evolved among the men. Knees were held wide open so that cocks hung prominently out while squatting. If a man felt the call of nature while in the company of his male friends or relatives, woe to him who seeks a dark secluded corner or turns his back for privacy. He would at once be ridiculed, reprimanded for being a sissy, and ostracised. Word would soon be flying around the village that so-and-so was afraid to show his cock because he didn't have one.

A man was expected to expose his cock and balls to the view of everyone, and pee. Then, even though his cock was a small one, no rude word would be uttered or criticism expressed. He was accepted as one of the pack. Cocks, in this fishing community, were a common possession, shared by all.

The fisherman, when in remote waters, often worked in the nude, a condition made favourable by the hot climate and local superstition. There was a belief that exposing your testicles (a symbol of fertility) to the fishes would ensure a good catch. Men with the biggest and longest scrotums had the honour of casting the first net into the sea. So this was a male bonding society, and male communal nudity was very much a way of life.

Despite being Muslims, the stringent 'mores' of the city Muslims had fortunately failed to affect their innocent, primitive and beautiful way of life. After all, Islamic Law was mainly concerned with governing relationships between men and women, not between men and men.

Having been brought up in this peeing habit from young, shyness was never an issue. One got familiar with every cock in the village. If two or more men were peeing at the same time, they had to squat facing each other, not side by side. Only so would they grow into a community of naked fishermen, sharing together their bodies, their labour, and their fruits of toil. That such tight male-bonding sometimes overlapped into homosexuality or bisexuality was quietly accepted as part of life, and looked upon with some indulgence.

Rahbi was the perfect example of this upbringing, completely unembarrassed by his body. Displaying his cock to other males was a sign of good friendship, and if sex followed, it was a bonus. There were no hang-ups.

I well remember the following incident. All over the Far East, where the variety of cuisine is magnificent, there are eating stalls by the roadside where people either sit on low stools or squat to eat.

Late one night, Rahbi and I were the last customers at such a stall. Besides us two there were three other men at the stall, gulping down their last morsels. We had been drinking heavily earlier on and all of a sudden Rahbi urgently felt the call of nature. There was no time to look for a secluded spot, and the stall would soon move off anyway, so he decided to relieve himself there and then. Instead of turning his back to the vendor and the three men, Rahbi, perhaps prompted by his male bonding instinct, faced them squarely, drew back his sarong, and exposing his cock directly to their view, proceeded to pee.

The country being multi-racial, with a large percentage of ethnics, it was no surprise that the vendor and the others were all ethnic non-Malays and thus non-Muslims, which implied that they were all probably very much foreskinned men. Oriental men, unless Muslims, do not circumcise, for cosmetic, sexual or other non-religious reasons as the English or Americans often do, only rarely for medical reasons. However, there is a far greater amount of foreskin retraction (worn permanently), or even naturally short foreskins among Far Eastern men, than Europeans, who usually wear their prepuces full length.

But I digress. The four presumably foreskinned men, suddenly treated to the sight of Rahbi's enormous circumcised black glans, were all overcome by excitement and curiosity, and, forsaking decorum, gathered around him, squatting in a semi-circle for a close intimate scrutiny. A swift exchange of giggles and ribald jokes followed.

As Rahbi was finishing, one of the men stretched out his hand and gripped Rahbi's giant black glans tightly around the corona, saying he had never seen a Malay's "cut cock" before, adding tactlessly that it looked like a bull's penis. He felt all around the corona and sulcus for traces of any retracted foreskin but found none, and realised that this was what circumcision meant – the removal of the entire hood. He also expressed surprise, when massaging the glans, to find it so completely desensitised.

The other three men followed suit, gripping and rubbing, in search of his foreskin. Not stopping there, they squeezed his tiny balls, stroked his perineum, and even fingered his anus, to all of which, squatting throughout, he uttered not a single word of protest.

After they had done, Rahbi's cock resembled a fireman's spent giant rubber hose. Though not an orgasm, the teasing had made his loins heave in rhythmic spasms, and short spurts of pee continued shooting out. Though not fully erect, his glans had engorged, looking like a sheep's heart, and his almost non-existent shaft had elongated a tiny fraction, pushing the glans from between his thighs.

I had often wondered how he managed to carry this massive cock head between his thighs without damaging it, and he admitted that certain sitting positions, knees crossed etc. were uncomfortable for him. However, it was the size of his glans that made the squatting posture more comfortable to pee from. When standing in trousers to pee, he would often dig inside his fly only to find his cock stuck between his thighs and obstructed by his stomach paunch. With much difficulty, he would he would have to grip it by the corona, tug hard at it a few times before it would even peep halfway out of his fly. Then he had to aim carefully, lest, due to lack of penile shaft, his pee would dribble and trail down his trousers instead.

That his own physiological condition favoured the squat-to-pee posture, and that his village male-bonding custom demanded it, was fortunate coincidence indeed.

The indelicate matter of defecation necessitates a passing mention. Religious custom forbids the use of toilet paper by Malay Muslims. Soap and water must always be employed. In public places it can be very inconvenient.

The more luxurious places, hotels, restaurants etc., usually have a bidet in the toilet cubicle for the use of Muslim guests, but the cheaper, common public places simply supply a tub of water with bucket and ladle. In the latter case, the person squats with buttocks slightly raised, like a frog, and ladles water into the crevice of the parted 'cheeks'. It was a habit requiring much practice.

After my symbolic circumcision, which will be published shortly, I was given a long list of instructions pertaining to sexual habits and bodily cleanliness. The primary requisites, that of keeping my foreskin permanently retracted and shaving my pubic and armpit hair, I've observed to this day. The local Imam was equally adamant on the non-use of toilet paper, arguing that the anus, being such an important orifice, could only be properly cleaned with soap and water. In my own home, with proper toilet facilities, I could manage to do it, but living abroad renders it difficult, and London's measly bed-sits, with communal toilets make it impossible, so I've had to regrettably forgo the habit.

There were also rules regarding self-abuse. Masturbation, though not encouraged, was permissible in moderation (it was regarded as a useful pre-marriage outlet and a necessary evil). However, there were ways of masturbating less offensive to Allah. Again, water should be at hand to wash away this somewhat shameful deed, so it is usually done in the bathroom. The Malay Muslim first strips completely, to enable himself to wash from head to toe immediately after the act. He then turns his back to Mecca reciting some Koran phrases, and calling upon Allah to forgive him this human weakness. Regulation demands that his masturbatory posture be as punitive and uncomfortable as possible, and for this reason, all Imams prescribe the squatting position. So, squatting down, he is finally free to take his cock in hand.

Even at this point there were restrictions. Semen, the seed of future generations, and therefore sacred, should not be spilled on the ground and wantonly wasted. It should be re-absorbed into the body by either of two methods. He should either ejaculate into a cup and then drink it, or, if he found this difficult or impossible (due to the fact that most men find their own semen distasteful after orgasm when the libido has subsided), he may rub his semen all over his body to signify that it has been re-absorbed, prior to washing off. The second method, according to Rahbi, was the most commonly used.

However, masturbation being such a personal matter, it was doubtful whether all devotees followed the instructions to the letter, though I'm sure most of them tried.

Before closing, a mention should be made of the Australian Aborigines. It is well known that the men practice ritual sub incision, the cutting open of the entire urethral passage on the underside of the penis, from the meatus to the scrotum, which renders the penis entirely useless as an instrument of peeing. Thereafter, they squat and let their pee trickle down along their scrotums which must always be wet and salty.

The famous British fashion designer, Hardy Amies, revealed in an interview on health, that he squats on the toilet to defecate, a habit learnt during a holiday in Indonesia, which method removes all impurities from the bowels.

*H.C. – London*

## The Male Multiple Orgasm

It was once thought that a man automatically ejaculated once he reached orgasm. Unless a man couldn't produce semen because of genetic or surgical reasons, doctors felt it was an automatic response. But now scientists in America believe some men are capable of multiple non-ejaculatory orgasms in the same way as women. In laboratory tests, non-ejaculatory orgasms, ie spasms of ultimate sexual pleasure that registered in the prostate, pelvic and anal muscles, were recorded in 12% of the 282 men taking part in the trial. However, no research exists as yet in the UK to back up these claims. Sex therapist Sue Pallenberg of the London Institute of Human Sexuality said, "I have heard of this being reported and researched in America, but I must say I have never met a multi-orgasmic man."

## Gym Class Upset — Daily Mirror 3/2/94.

Hunky Dave Hart has been banned from an aerobic class – because he's too well developed. The 'Linford Christie' bulge in his skin-tight exercise outfit puts the women off their stroke. And now he's been told to cover it up or face the chop.

The manager of the leisure centre at Bognor Regis said yesterday, "I've had a lot of complaints from my lady customers that it is indecent. This is a family centre and I can't let anyone offend other customers."

But photographer Dave, 35, said, "What am I supposed to do – trim it off a bit?"



# ACORN

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David Acorn

## Editorial

This edition has an accent on women who nowadays are becoming more and more outspoken on sexual matters and preferences. I know that quite a few members take a great interest in the female views. From the material that we get it is obvious that, in general, American women are in favour of circumcision and British women in favour of foreskins. I would imagine that this shows, like all other things in life, that people are happy with the familiar. In fact, I think if a survey had been conducted in 1930, both American and British women may have had reversed preferences.

To enable me to collate the requested update of the penis survey and to make it complete, I would ask all those who haven't returned a questionnaire to please do so. There is a questionnaire enclosed with this edition to those from whom I haven't received one. It only takes a few minutes to complete, can be signed anonymous if wished, and costs only a second class stamp.

In *Acorn*, everyone is interested in everyone else and their views, just like you are as you read this, and

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Please send

**Newsletter contributions and letters for forwarding**

clearly marked for DAVID ACORN

**Membership, fees, advice and personal matters**

clearly marked for TONY ACORN

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*Acorn* can only stay alive by contributions from all members. So I would ask the recently joined members especially, if they would take a little time to write in a letter beginning, "I joined *Acorn* because...", or "Circumcision (or foreskins) are of absorbing interest to me because...". We would all be most interested to hear from you, and of course, again you can be anonymous if you wish.

*David Acorn*

## Experiencing the Difference

I thought my experiences may be of interest to your readers. I'm a female in my thirties, still happily married to a roundhead after twelve years, but I do have a secret cavalier lover these last five. He lives many miles away and we meet for sex on an occasional basis when my work takes me near his home. I have two boys aged 9 and 11. The older one is circumcised. The younger one still has his foreskin.

Both men in my life have penises pretty much the same average size, slack or firm, (measured against my hand). This is surprising considering my husband is taller by six inches or so and is of broad athletic build, whereas my other man is finer boned and slim. Hubby, circumcised as a toddler, has a large chubby glans and very little skin left behind the glans even when flaccid. With an erection this skin is completely absorbed in the shaft and the rim of his knob is very pronounced, which feels particularly good when he's inside me. In the groove down the underside there is just a faint scar where his frenulum was snipped away, and this ends in small lumpy stitch marks about half an inch below the tip edge. He loves me to bring him off by hand, but it often takes a long time, and my fingers start to ache. In intercourse he definitely lasts a lot longer, but his technique is more aggressive, and when he thrusts hard I can get a pain as he pushes against the end of my vagina. The contours of his bell end can be felt quite distinctly in certain positions.

Lover boy is a total contrast. His weapon is much more delicate and sensitive – in fact I've had to relearn all my handling technique as I really hurt him the first time in bed. I'd never pulled back a man's skin before, and in my eagerness yanked it down far too far and hard. This made him yelp, halted the proceedings and started my re-education. His frenulum is short and tight and his foreskin is long and overhangs the end quite a bit, even when erect. Because of this it forms a piled-up bunch when drawn back to the base of his glans, and this shields the rim. It also won't stay back without being held there, and moves backwards and forwards over the knob during sex. Masturbating him is easy, and intercourse is altogether a more gentle affair. During sex, the situation with him is reversed, so that I am the one who can hurt if I grip or squeeze too hard with my vaginal muscles. Once I nearly split his frenulum by using the woman on top position! He prefers to keep his glans moist and doesn't care for me to finger it due to acute sensitivity. Mention of the very word 'circumcision' makes him shudder.

Immediately after our marriage I went out with my husband to work overseas in a developing country and I soon became unintentionally pregnant. Our first boy was born in an old colonial hospital where I gathered circumcision was routine for all males. They just told me that my son would be “cut on Thursday” along with the others. Being young, inexperienced, and married to a man who was, I accepted this and had no thoughts to object. Afterwards I often wondered if anyone ever did.

It was a very different story back in England when our second son was born. As nothing concerning circumcision had transpired or been mentioned by the time our discharge was imminent, I asked for him to be done, and ran into an unexpected storm of reaction as to how absurd and barbaric it was. This led to my feeling confused, and I never had the courage to pursue the matter, even when the younger son asked questions and went through a phase of wanting to be like his brother. The elder son also quizzed me quite a bit when he discovered he was not like other boys, and I've never been able to offer him an adequate explanation. I fell into the trap of saying it was better for him “to be like his Dad”, but this brings the immediate question of why not the younger one as well?

I write all this, not because I think that one penis type is better than the other, but I do think that it makes them very, very different... and I wouldn't wish to choose between them. Variety is the spice of life and as a woman I'm delighted that I've had the best of both worlds. I would like to see all women have that option, and think that that could arise by allowing all those who wished to have their sons circumcised, to do so as a matter of routine. Many would be pleased to do it, but lots would opt out, so pushing the circumcised numbers up far more than they are now. Women of the world, let's lobby for it and return to the days when housewives had a choice!

*Jill*

## **Religion and Acorn**

I may have given the wrong impression with my remarks about religion in 2/94. Circumcision and religion are far too closely related not to be a part of our forum. What I objected to was the intolerance that religions seem to bring out in human beings. It's generally said that the more we know about other cultures and their customs the more tolerant we are of them. The next letter brings out most of these points.

*D.A.*

## Fiqh

Yes, I know you stated that you would rather not have letters regarding the religious aspect of circumcision, so if you do not want to put in this contribution I shall quite understand and won't be offended in any way.

I would however like to know just what is in 'Fiqh'. I have a few books on Islam and also a number of Muslim friends. I have discussed circumcision with a selected few of them, but have never heard 'Fiqh' mentioned by them, or seen it mentioned in the books.

The piece by Y.A.I.M.L. in 2/94 prompts me to ask, "Why is possessing a foreskin a filthy state?" As this is how God/Allah designed and created the male form, it seems rather like saying that he made a mistake in so doing, and, to a religious person, would be something of an insult, if not blasphemous.

As far as having the courage of his convictions, well, it doesn't take much courage if you are doing what everyone else does. World history is full of stories of persecution of those who dare to question and challenge long-established beliefs, customs and practices. No wonder that those who behave like thinking people, as God/Allah created us, instead of like robots by toeing the party line, have to be wary.

However, perhaps Y.A.I.L.M. would kindly tell us exactly what 'Fiqh' says regarding circumcision, and then we can judge for ourselves.

*E.S. – Greater Manchester*

## Another re Religion

I was born into a progressive reform Jewish family, and circumcision was one of those subjects which was always being discussed. In general, reform Jews question the necessity of circumcising in this day and age. Arguments tend to stress that it's an archaic rite which has no place in this day and age, and is both cruel and unnecessary. That being said, most reform Jews conform to the custom, albeit reluctantly. However, according to the minutes of a circumcision seminar in the US a couple of years back, there are a number of Jewish families there (and now increasingly in this country) who have given up circumcision altogether, and you can find areas in the States where nearly all the gentiles are circumcised and only the reformed Jews have foreskins. Just imagine! This of course is considered by the more orthodox as an outrage. But then, a lot of them don't consider the reform movement to be real Jews at all.

I remember when my brother was circumcised, I and mum waited in the next room, and when she heard him screaming (it does hurt, despite what the apologists say) she burst into tears and vowed that no son of hers would go through the ordeal ever again. She was as good as her word, and when my

second brother came along the protesting in-laws were firmly told there would be no further circumcisions in our family. And so, Junior was equipped with that unfamiliar sprig of skin which most Jews view with horror, envy, or in the case of the women, a lot of curiosity. Certainly at first Mum and I couldn't take our eyes off it in the bath.

One of the things which really worry the Jewish community in UK these days is the number of Jews of both sexes who marry out of the faith and who then find it convenient to forget their heritage, neglecting the ordinances of kashrus (diet) and bris milah (circumcision). As a consequence, observing Jews tend to restrict their social contacts to within the Jewish community, especially if they have children coming up to marriageable age. My parents, who were active in local politics, tended to mix with all and sundry and allowed me and my brothers to play with local children irrespective of class or creed.

It is a fact that, up to puberty at least, girls tend to be more interested in sexual matters than boys, and are more likely to initiate sexual activities. This was certainly the case with me – I have always had a very powerful sex drive, and still do. In fact my marriage broke down precisely because of disappointment with my husband's indifferent sexual response, and lack of consideration for my sexual demands. But at the age of ten my sexual curiosity was insatiable, and I was forever wheedling my young boyfriends to allow me to explore their willies, or else took matters into my own hands by putting my hands inside their trousers. Quite a lot of them found my attentions unacceptable and I used to feel really put down when a boy refused my request to let me examine his penis. But quite a few others were flattered by my attentions and were only too happy to oblige.

Having been brought up since infancy with circumcision being frequently discussed in family circles, and hearing Mother making excuses for allowing Junior to keep his foreskin (as much for her own benefit as anyone else's; she admitted to me later that she suffered agonies of guilt about not observing the Law, despite her strong contrary convictions), my first goal in sexual exploration was to carry out a foreskin survey. I had a burning desire to know if a boy I became acquainted with had a foreskin or not, and if at first he refused my request for a demonstration, I'd resort to spying on him whilst he was taking a pee to find out his penile status.

To a Jewish girl – and we were still observant, despite our progressive views – there is something deliciously forbidden and naughty about foreskins, and I became an absolute glutton in my desire to look and touch. I knew what they looked like because of Junior, but he was only a baby and his offering was too tiny to be of interest. Some of my young boyfriends though, were on the point of puberty and sported organs of quite impressive dimensions. A few of course were circumcised, but since this was the norm for us they lacked the attraction of the forbidden, and I lost interest in a boy as soon as I saw a bare acorn. But if he had a nice long foreskin, that was another story altogether!

My interest in the foreskinned penis extended to all possible permutations of feel and function. I found the tip of a long foreskin incredibly soft and elastic, and enjoyed pulling it forward as far as it would stretch to watch it snap back in position again when I let go. What turned me on most though, was to get a boy all stiff and excited and then stretch his foreskin back so as to see his raw-looking knob before pushing it forward again. This was particularly rewarding if his foreskin was tight and caused the lad a sexual jolt as the restricted opening was forced over the swollen knob. I was also fascinated to see how a loose foreskin tip straightened out and swelled slightly as a jet of urine was expelled.

When I finally reached adulthood I had a pretty good knowledge of the subject, and three of my first four sexual partners were uncircumcised. Finally though, the call of five thousand years of history proved irresistible, and I married a reformed Jew like myself and he conformed to the Jewish covenant, having been circumcised as ordained. Now that I am divorced I am currently living with a non-Jew who is uncircumcised, but have no plans to marry him – I still hanker to marry within the faith. The one thing that gives me cause for hesitation though, is the same dilemma that faced my mum. If I eventually have a boy-child, should I have him circumcised? My experience tells me that it's unnecessary, but the call of religion is hard to resist.

*Sarah Newman*

## American Female Preference

Compuserve is an American computer information service. The following is taken from a Human Sexuality Conference on Compuserve.

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

Answer:- You're lucky. Research suggests that women prefer circumcised penises. So concluded researchers at the University of Iowa after surveying 269 women who had recently delivered healthy boys. Fully 89% of the infants were circumcised. Previous studies have shown that mothers more than fathers usually determine whether or not to have their sons circumcised.

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

Says primary author and principal investigator Associate Professor Marvel Williamson of the University of Iowa College of Nursing, "Female cultural

preferences for penile circumcision in sexual partners widely influence American mothers' decision on infant male circumcision."

Preferred for Sexual Activity:- The researchers believe that their study "clearly supports the hypothesis that American women prefer circumcision for sexual reasons."

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

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

71% prefer a circumcised penis for sexual intercourse.

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

75% prefer to manually stimulate a circumcised penis.

83% prefer a penis to be circumcised for fellatio.

92% believe a circumcised penis stays cleaner.

90% say a circumcised penis looks sexier.

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

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

55% say a circumcised penis smells more pleasant.

## Visit to America

A couple of years ago, when *Forum* still printed material on circumcision, I remember being surprised at the number of letters in support of it, when most of my friends were either against it or couldn't care less, knowing nothing about it. One got the impression that most of the men readers would prefer to be circumcised, presumably because they thought women would prefer them that way. I cannot believe that this is really the case.

I recently returned from America where I and my two young sons were the guests of an American family, and was extremely unimpressed by what I saw of the operation, never having seen a circumcised penis up to then. Although the family were aware of the anti-circumcision movement in California and more or less accepted their arguments, long-standing custom and GP pressure decreed that all males in the family should be circumcised.

I had no idea what to expect and was curious when I first saw the family's son undressed. His penis had a raw and traumatised look about it with a

ragged flap of red skin on one side, and a tight, sore-looking area of stretched tissue on the other. I thanked my lucky stars that the whole practice had become discredited in the UK and that both my boys had perfect little penises with nice long foreskins.

But what I found particularly interesting was the contrasting attitudes of my two American hosts to my sons' foreskins. Unbelievably, neither of them had ever seen a normal penis complete with foreskin before, and the husband made it quite clear that he didn't want to, seeming uncomfortable at the sight. It was as though he preferred to think that the circumcised state was the normal one, and he didn't like being confronted with the fact that he and his son were deficient in a part of their anatomy. The wife on the other hand reckoned that my boys' foreskins were "real cute" once she'd discovered that they merely harboured a little moisture and not the evil-smelling residue she'd been led to expect. She compared my boys' penises favourably with her own son and made it quite clear that no more males in her family would be circumcised.

*Christine Halford – Herts*

## **Tried All Ways**

**I**n a way I am, I suppose, unusual inasmuch as I have enjoyed all three conditions – uncircumcised, partial circumcision and complete circumcision.

I am 50 years old and have been married for 25 years. I first became conscious of my foreskin when I was about 5 or 6 years old, when I forced it back to expose the glans. As I got older the foreskin became loose, but it would never go back on its own, even when I became erect.

I was quite young when I found out that my penis was different from my cousins' – even then I was aware that their penises were nicer to look at.

When I was about 20, a girlfriend whose brothers were all circumcised was amazed when she saw my foreskin. As far as she was concerned she was very pro-circumcision, making the point that the penis was neater to look at.

I tried for years to get a doctor to perform the operation, but it was impossible to get it done. I used to work away from home a lot both here and in the UK. In every town and city that I went to I would try for a doctor to do it for me.

When I got married I found that when I used condoms my foreskin would come forward over my glans and tear the condom. During oral sex, my wife would keep the foreskin covering the glans, which wasn't very pleasurable. I also came very quick when having intercourse or masturbating.



Then I inflicted a 'rash' on my foreskin, and kept the 'rash' going in spite of creams, etc. prescribed by the doctor. Eventually I was sent to hospital where they only cut off half of my foreskin – which did not make any difference.

After about 2 years I had a full circumcision by a Harley St. surgeon. It took only about 45 minutes and I am really delighted with the results. My wife also likes the look of my circumcised penis, both when it is soft but more so when erect. As far as I'm concerned I would like to summarise as follows:-

1. Uncircumcised:-

Foreskin generally a nuisance, always the need to wash. I found it necessary to wash my glans (for most of the time) twice a day. Sex in general, the foreskin got in the way. Be it oral, normal sex or masturbation I feel that the foreskin got in the way.

2. Partial Circumcision:-

Not much of a difference – oral sex did improve but everything else was much the same except for appearance. In my case my glans was partially covered when soft, and unlike before, what was left of the foreskin would roll back when I became erect.

3. Full Circumcision:-

As far as I'm concerned it is a must for every man. In my case there was a huge increase in pleasure in all aspects of my sex life. I can keep up intercourse for 10 to 15 minutes even after a long session of oral sex and foreplay. My wife has enjoyed sex much more since I had the full circumcision. I have had to learn new ways of masturbating – as I can keep going for a long while without coming. My wife has learned new ways to do it for me, and in all cases the pleasure is more intense.

When I attended the Harley St. clinic I didn't know that it was possible to have a 'radical' circumcision. Had I known about it I think I should have had it done.

*E.D. – Ireland*

## Smells

I am not a member of *Acorn* so I don't know how much right I've got to send you this. A friend of mine is a member and I peek at every opportunity at his copies of your newsletter, unbeknown to him, so I'm not giving my name as I don't want him to know I'm that sneaky. Anyway, if you don't publish it, you don't, but it is a subject I know a good bit about.

The subject of smells seems to be rubbing a lot of people up the wrong way lately. Now, I'm a bit of an old queen and I've had my fair share of 'feasting',

so I've come across a good deal in the way of smells, but no one else seems to have got to the root of it.

I've seen a good bit of smegma in my time and although it is paste-like in substance, in fact it hasn't got more than a bland smell, which I don't mind.

The big smell is actually stale body-heated cum, caused mostly by circumstances and not because of dirtiness. Like this for instance. You go to bed at night and indulge in some sort of sex, either a wank or anything else, especially with a condom when cum gets all over your cock, and drop off to sleep without washing your cock. If the room, the bed, or yourself get rather hot during the night, in the morning your cock smells a quite distinct smell. If you oversleep and have to rush to get to work and don't wash it then, by the time you get round to it, it really smells. Now here's the rub. As soon as you put hot water and soap to it then, the smell's – oh, it's bloody awful. And what's more, the washing doesn't take the smell away. It must get into the pores and wrinkles as you shrink.

In my experience, those with foreskins come off much worse with this, but it still happens with the circumcised. I was cut as a baby and always have a bunched up collar of skin behind the glans when I'm soft, and it's happened to me. I've also had faint whiffs from radically cut cocks. Talking to a bi friend about it, he told me that women suffer from it after non-condom sex, but they seem to have a self-cleansing system built in (I wouldn't know anything about that!).

I haven't read all your newsletters, which I really enjoy by the way, but I've never seen this mentioned before. Does everyone know it but too embarrassed to say it?

*Anon*

### **Letter from American Forum**

**A**lthough I was never embarrassed by the appearance of my cock, I often fantasised about what it would be like to be circumcised. Every time I jacked off I thought about circumcision. I would fold my foreskin back and hold it that way while looking at my cock. It wasn't much, but for a minute or two I was 'circumcised'. Finally, when I was 27 I got up the courage and had a real circumcision.

The thing that surprised me most about it was the increase in sensation. My shaft felt tighter and harder when erect, and even my balls felt more sensitive. I was so excited about having a circumcised cock that my sexual pleasure was greatly increased. It may sound weird to you, but for a long time, whenever I was making love to my wife, all I could think about was my newly circumcised cock. I would close my eyes and picture the way it looked slamming in and out

of her pussy and mouth. Knowing that my penis was circumcised suddenly became about the best thing about sex for me. Even my orgasms were more intense than ever before.

Needless to say, my wife has also benefited from my operation. She was apprehensive about it at first, but now is ecstatic with the results. She loves the look and feel of my circumcised cock and she has commented on more than one occasion that it's as though she has an entirely new penis with which to pleasure herself. In addition, she also reaps the benefit of a husband who has rediscovered his enthusiasm for sex.

*O.R. – Los Angeles*

[I really am pleased for this fellow. It must be great to have a fantasy come true and live up to itself. — D.A.]

## Young Fun

I was a girl of the swinging sixties. Every Saturday night we used to descend on the local dancehall, dance away until 11pm and then round the evening off being 'planked' or touched up on the rec close by.

During the week I and my girlfriends used to compare notes when we met up at the club and I can tell you the talk was pretty steamy! In those days a minority of the boys we met were circumcised (although a lot more than there are nowadays) and circumcision often formed the subject of our conversations. It was – and still is – a matter of deep curiosity to most girls, and we all formed our own ideas and preferences about it. The first priority for me on leaving the dance and heading for the rec was to find out if my new friend was 'peeled' or not, and this curiosity was often considered shockingly 'forward' by the boys when they found their todger being whipped out and examined without so much as a by-your-leave. A lot of our group were nurses from the RUH who declared circumcision was no longer considered desirable and was not practised nowadays, and this expert knowledge coloured our views on it. As far as I was concerned, once it went stiff there was no difference looking at it, but when handling it you had to be careful not to be rough with an unpeeled one after the skin was pulled back. Having said that, my view was then – and still is today – that a foreskin can be a hell of a lot of fun, since it offers so much more variety in what you can do with it. I find the undivided attention of a guy as he watches you concentrate on peeling his hampton, and the gasp as you ease the tight ring of his foreskin over the sensitive tip, very flattering, and it still turns me on more than any other sexual activity. Although I also enjoy handling a guy with a bare acorn, it does look a bit pale and dry compared to the deep threatening purple of the mysterious hidden gland, and the excitement of peeling it bit by bit is missing, although once the game of 'sink the sausage' is under way it is difficult to choose between them.

For preference I like a bloke to have a foreskin long enough to keep his knob covered, stiff or floppy, with a bit to spare until it's time to peel him.

I'd always been aware of circumcision since it was so widely practised among my generation of course, although I had no brothers of my own to satisfy my curiosity on. As a pushy ten year old though, I was able to get some of the boys in our group to produce their winkles for inspection, and the reluctant ones were given plenty of encouragement. One particular boy who was uncircumcised pretended not to want to and I got a real kick out of provoking his erection by getting the others to pinion his arms while I tickled him until he was helpless, pulled his willy out and uncovered his tip. (I suppose it's this sort of thing which helps form a girl's preferences in later life because, as stated, I always thereafter found it very arousing to pull a foreskin back). The others watched in fascination as his penis swelled and lengthened into an erection, and another girl who was watching, took a piece of Mars bar out of her mouth and smeared the chocolate all over the boy's bare knob, then pulled his foreskin back over it. The boy was rather worried and there were still traces of it three days later when he showed me it in answer to my enquiry. All it needed though was a quick wipe with a flannel, but personal hygiene was not given too much thought in those days.

The loos in the dancehall were totally inadequate and there was always a queue of desperate girls outside with their legs crossed wetting themselves for a pee. I always went knickerless, so it was easy for me to nip outside, find a suitable spot, and take a standing widdle without anyone noticing, but it has to be said that, unlike the lady reported in your recent edition, I frequently wet my leg and filled a shoe despite frantic manoeuvring with the fingers to try and avoid it. I never let it worry me though – I soon dried off in the heated atmosphere of the dancehall, and a quick puff with the atomiser ensured that all remained fresh.

There was a report recently that American women, sorely graunched at male dominance in general, and at being unable to achieve sexual equality, and equal convenience in the serious matter of peeing standing up in particular, are now able to buy a gadget coyly named "La funelle". This is just what it sounds like, a small(ish) funnel made of plastic which is shaped to enable it to be slipped up the knicker leg and into the vulva, where it is held in place by the inner lips over the urethra. The woman is then free to pee with the same confidence, accuracy and inconspicuousness as a man, with the associated pride and achievement in the performance of a job well done.

I realise that some people might find my revelations surprising, coming from a woman, since we are supposed to maintain a facade of decorum at all times. But you should be aware that times are changing! Everyone now knows that women have strong sexual instincts, often stronger than men's. Women are publishing their own sex magazines, and books on women's sexual fantasies are now best-sellers. Women behave far worse than men nowadays at male strip shows and a total lack of inhibition becomes ever more evident.

So it should come as no surprise that the fair sex is now no longer too shy to discuss taboo matters like their preference in penile fashion and indelicate facts about ladies taking a leak – everyone knows they do it, so why shouldn't they talk about it?

But to return to the original subject, I do enjoy reading the letters about foreskins and circumcision, and I'm sure if the *Acorn* publication was available over the counter you'd find a lot of women buying it. How about making it more available generally?

*Dawn Mitchell – London*

## **The Organ**

In recent issues of her publication *The Organ*, Tuppy Owens has given us mentions under the heading 'Body Shape and Genital Concerns' as below:-

"*Acorn* has become a smarter little publication. Members met for a weekend at the end of March for a get-together, taking over an entire hotel in Bournemouth. Their newsletter doesn't say what they got up to, but the newsletter articles are about retraction of foreskins, women pissing standing up, and cock shape.

"*Acorn* continues to be a lively discourse, including letters on women's peeing positions. It's beautiful to observe men valuing their cocks and bits, the way women are just learning to love their pussies – good on you guys."

We owe you many thanks, Tuppy. Are we really as exotic and erotic as you make us sound?

*D.A.*

## **Fiction**

I would like to suggest an idea which I have been mulling over for some time. It is on the fiction side, so it would be a break with the traditions of *Acorn*. But I have been wondering whether you would be interested if I wrote stories based on a circumcision clinic. The idea is that there would be one story per issue based on a patient visiting the clinic. The only thing that I should warn is that, since I am in favour of circumcision, very few patients would emerge from the clinic with their foreskins intact.

I also thought it would be possible for other *Acorn* readers to become involved if they wished. This could happen in two different ways. Any member who wanted to could suggest a scenario himself, or a problem which a patient attending the clinic might have. I would then write up the suggestion into a story. Secondly, any member who wanted to could take over as a locum

doctor for an issue, submitting their own story which I would be pleased to edit for you. If of course they were anti circumcision they could cause chaos by sending all the patients away as not being in need of treatment! Seriously though, it would be a way of getting others involved in the scheme.

*I.G. – London*

[Many thanks I.G., I think it's a great idea, and the pilot episode you sent is produced below. For anyone interested, the length should be about two A4 pages. — D.A.]

## The Clinic

### 1. The Beginning

Dr. Bishop walked over to the examination couch where his patient was lying waiting for his check-up. The Doctor had circumcised Wayne three months before and this was a final look to make sure that healing was complete.

Wayne had had a typical case of phimosis. He had come into the surgery one evening, very embarrassed, and, with a red face and much hesitation, explained that it hurt when he made love. An examination had quickly revealed an elephant trunk foreskin extending well beyond the tip of his penis, and too tight to be withdrawn. The only remedy was circumcision, and the Doctor had no hesitation in recommending the operation. He had long ago realised that the local hospital waiting list for this sort of operation was indefinite, and over the last couple of years had been doing such minor surgery himself. So it was, that late one afternoon, Wayne had returned to the surgery and the Doctor had removed his foreskin swiftly and efficiently.

Now the Doctor examined his handiwork. He picked up Wayne's penis and gently rotated it, looking all round the circumcision line. Although a three-month check was not really necessary and he rarely found any cause for concern, nevertheless, he preferred still to carry it out. When he had last seen Wayne two months ago the remnants of the inner foreskin were still very puffed, and the circumcision scar very red looking. Now the whole thing had settled down and he was pleased with the result. The glans was well exposed and, whilst still leaving the frenulum in place, he had trimmed the skin sufficiently so that there was little bunching underneath.

"Well, Wayne, have there been any problems?"

"None, Doctor, it all seems fine now."

"How's the sensitivity now?" Wayne had commented the last time how sensitive his glans was now that it was uncovered for the first time.

“That’s OK as well. I still notice it a bit, but it’s not painful like it was at first.” The Doctor brushed his finger gently across Wayne’s glans. The boy shivered. But two months before he had almost hit the roof when the Doctor had done the same thing. Obviously the glans was now used to its permanently exposed state.

“And what about intercourse?”

Wayne went very red. “There’s no problem there now. No pain at all.”

“The skin doesn’t feel too tight? There’s no pull?” Even though he knew how elastic the penile skin was, it was always Dr. Bishop’s fear that the skin of the circumcised penis would not stretch enough.

“No, it’s much better than before. I’m really grateful for you doing the operation and sorting it out.”

“Good. Everything seems fine. If you would like to get dressed now, you can disappear.”

Wayne pulled on his jeans. “Can I ask you something, Doctor?”

“Of course.”

“Well, it’s my sister’s boyfriend. He knew I’d had the operation and we were talking about it. He hasn’t been circumcised and he’s got a long foreskin, but he says he prefers the look of a circumcised... penis. He wonders whether you’d do the operation for him.”

“Is he a patient of mine?”

“I don’t think so.”

“Well, I can’t really help then. Firstly, it wouldn’t be right to treat another doctor’s patient; and secondly, the medical profession doesn’t believe in circumcision except for medical reasons.”

“He’d be willing to pay if that’s the trouble.”

“That’s not really the problem, although the NHS doesn’t cover routine circumcision. Just today, for instance, I turned down the request of one of my patients who wanted his baby boy circumcised.”

“Does that mean if I got married and we had a baby, you wouldn’t circumcise him?”

“I’m afraid not, unless there was a medical reason.”

“But I think that’s really unfair, that he might have to go through what I’ve gone through. Anyway, you told me I’d be much better off circumcised, so you must think it’s a good thing.”

“That’s true. But I have to take into account the balance of medical opinion.”

“Why? It’s people that count. If you think men are better off being circumcised, and they want it done, why can’t you just do it without worrying about other doctors? I bet they don’t worry about you.”

Dr. Bishop looked thoughtfully at Wayne. The young man’s argument was appealing. It was true that he was in favour of neo-natal circumcision, influenced partly by the fact that he himself had had to be circumcised at the age of sixteen, and partly because he knew from personal experience the benefits that circumcision brought. But he had bowed to current medical opinion and had always refused to undertake circumcisions unless there was a definite medical indication. But Wayne was right. The patient should come first. It was the baby boys who were disadvantaged through not being circumcised, not the other doctors. If he was really concerned about his patients, he would follow his own conscience and inclinations, not those of other doctors.

He looked up to find Wayne standing there looking rather confused.

“Sorry, Doctor, no offence meant.”

“No, Wayne, you are quite right. Look. Ask your friend to come and see me and I will see what I can do.”

“Really? Thanks, Doctor. He’ll be really pleased.”

Wayne left, and Dr. Bishop sat thinking. If he was going to be true to his new resolution he ought to be willing to circumcise anyone who asked. More than that, he ought perhaps to be telling people about the benefits of being cut. He ought really to start a circumcision clinic which catered for males of all ages, from babes in arms to full-grown men.

He picked up the phone and dialled.

“Mr. Morgan? This is Dr. Bishop. I’ve been thinking about your request and I’ve changed my mind. If you would like to bring your baby boy into the surgery I would be happy to do a circumcision. What about tomorrow afternoon, about 3 o’clock?... Good, I’ll see you and your son then.”

He put the phone down and smiled. His new work had begun.

*I.G. – London*

## Information Wanted

A member has asked if anyone can supply the name of a doctor in the Birmingham area who does private circumcisions, and an idea of the cost.



# ACORN

Issue  
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Editor  
David Acorn

## Editorial

**F**irst may I thank all those who returned the questionnaires that were sent to them. There are only about ten left outstanding and we would love to have a complete set.

I've been asked by several members if we can have an ongoing annual meeting, so Brian has been putting his organising cap on and come up with a tentative date of November 5th – 6th weekend. All the previous ones have been in the south, so we think it would be a good idea to have it in the northern hemisphere this time. Sheffield has turned out to be the favourite. Would those who would like to attend, please let me know, with telephone numbers if possible, so that planning can go ahead.

*David Acorn*

## More Circumcisers

**T**hese names have been submitted by Brian – Leeds; V.Q. – London; and David Acorn respectively. Prices were not originally quoted, so each has been telephoned and their prices, etc are given below. In each

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## Correspondence

Please send

**Newsletter contributions and letters for forwarding**

clearly marked for DAVID ACORN

**Membership, fees, advice and personal matters**

clearly marked for TONY ACORN

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

case it was stated that the surgeon will try to meet the patient's requests regarding tightness, etc.

Members are reminded that listing these names in no way implies a recommendation or endorsement by *Acorn* or its contributors, and they should act accordingly.

1. Mr R. Thomas, Yorkshire Clinic, 502 Ecclesall Road, Sheffield, S11 8PY  
Tel:- 0742-663501.

£485 inclusive of consultations. The Clinic is only registered for patients over 18. Local anaesthetic used.

2. Advertising on London's Melody Radio: The Tally Ho Clinic, 315 Ballards Lane, Finchley, London, N12 8LY. Tel:- 081-446 0101. Also at: Tally Ho Medical Centre, 139 Harley Street, London, W1N 1DJ.

Initial consultation £50. Operation and follow-up consultations (at 5 days and 1 month) £300 inclusive (£200 for boys under 7). Local anaesthetic.

3. Advertised in the Sunday Times under 'Health and Beauty' – appropriate for some: Harley St. Specialist. Tel:- 071-580 5139

£415 all inclusive. Anaesthetic is a Local Block (lasts 5 hours), except on children under 11 where a General is used (at extra cost).

## Replies

Quoted above is another address for the list of those who will do private circumcisions. I feel that this clinic has been organised to suit the ever increasing number of Moslems and probable converts in the Sheffield area. It would be ideal if Tony opened up his little black book and shared with us all the names and addresses of all the doctors who are willing to carry out circumcisions, for the benefit of non-circumcised members who would like to be done, but to date may wish to ask, but not through a third party.

With regard to the membership, may I suggest that we put adverts, suitably worded, in magazines in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and anywhere else we already have foreign members. This will give us a broader membership range and possibly create a greater interest. As we have about a hundred members, the income should be able to cover the small cost of such adverts. As a point of interest, *Forum* has a number of foreign issues and it would seem to be sensible to make use of them.

Reply to Jill. Having been in both states myself, I can understand her dilemma as far as dealing with the two styles of penises. But by now she will have learnt that practice makes perfect. For the fact that she has nearly damaged lover boy in the woman-on-top position, it is possible she needs a lubricant to make it easier for both of them. As far as number two son is

concerned, I personally would have him circumcised, as at home he does feel the odd man out, and speaking from my own experience, he will thank you for it in years to come.

Reply to Sarah Newman. With regard to the Bris of her first brother, I would suggest it depends on the skill of the mohel as to whether it hurts or not; but I was present at the Brit Milah of my three nephews and can assure her that they did not let out so much as a whimper at the actual cut, although they were upset at having been woken up and having their legs held apart by their uncle. Afterwards they were given their feed and went back to sleep as any normal baby. Of course, the ideal method is that practised by the American Mohel, Joel Shoulson. [Described in *Acorn* issue 1/91 — *Ed.*] He has got it down to a fine art. He has designed a comfortable restraining frame that holds the baby firmly but with no discomfort, and using a spray-on anaesthetic immediately after the cut. He has modified his own shield so it acts as a haemostat as well as shielding the glans. His expertise is in great demand and he even teaches non-Jewish doctors how to circumcise by his method. The style of the Jewish circumcision is not dictated by the Torah, but has been evolved through the centuries. The Rabbinical courts say this and that about how it should be done, and what is and what is not acceptable. Today, the Mohelim say that if the Mohel uses a shield he will remove both the foreskin and the mucous membrane in one cut, avoiding the need to tear the inner membrane as was done in the old way.

It is a puzzle why the Plastibell is not accepted by the Mohelim, as it does as good a job, and is aesthetically acceptable, giving a straight scar around the shaft at about one inch behind the glans.

*Brian – Leeds*

## Neonatal Sadness

Sometimes when I read *Acorn* I feel very sad. I don't mind reading about how much damage a man inflicts to his own penis. As far as I'm concerned, if he wants to, a man can have the whole thing amputated. It is his decision and I am totally indifferent to it.

What does upset me however, is reading what these people do to their sons. Instead of being thankful that they have a healthy normal child, they cannot wait to have him surgically mutilated.

*Why?* Are they afraid that if they leave him intact he may well decide to keep his foreskin when he is old enough to make up his own mind?

What are they going to tell their sons when they ask what has happened to them? Presumably they can cope if the child is not satisfied with their answer. Presumably they can also cope if their son ends up hating them for what they have done to him. Never mind, they might have lost their son's respect and

trust, but at least he will not be burdened with a foreskin, so it's probably worth it to them.

What about the medical profession's involvement in this, our so-called caring profession? How can anyone amputate a healthy part of a person's anatomy? It is against the law to amputate any other part of the body. Why should the foreskin not be protected in the same way?

As far as I'm concerned, childhood circumcision should be recognised for what it is – legalised sexual abuse by the child's parent and the medical profession. It can have the same mental effect and should carry the same legal penalties.

*D.S. – Staffs*

[This member wrote me an accompanying letter, excerpts of which I hope he doesn't mind me publishing.

"I wrote to Jim Biggelow, the author of the book on non-surgical foreskin restoration. He put me in touch with a doctor in the UK who is trying to mount a campaign to educate his colleagues to the dangers and adverse effects of circumcision. He is circumcised himself and at present he is restoring his foreskin by the Biggelow method.

Unfortunately my penis is damaged beyond repair. I cannot use the non-surgical method as my scar tissue is so bad. Luckily I don't get so many erections these days, but the constant nagging pain, I must admit, I could live without.

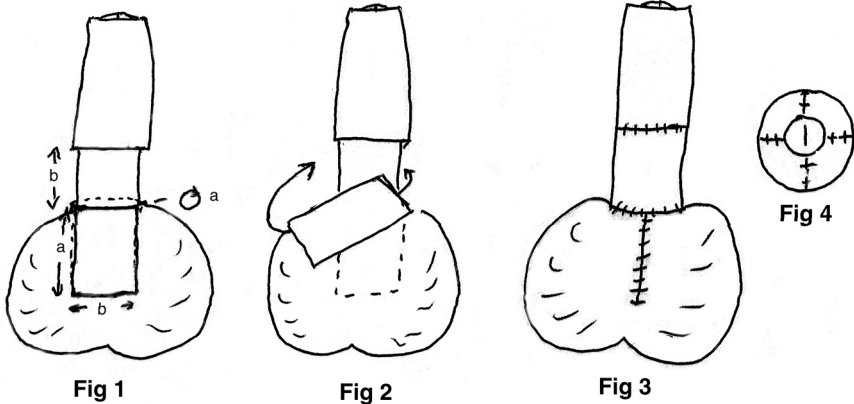
I don't think that I will be renewing my subscription next year as I find some of the pro-circumcision articles distressing, particularly those involving children.

You could however, in Contact Corner, ask for anyone who has had or is thinking of having a surgical restoration, to contact me through you. Kind Regards, *D.S.*"

I'm truly sorry to hear of your distress, *D.S.*, and understand how you (and *R.B.W.*) feel about your unwanted circumcision. In all operations there are a tiny minority that are badly done, but that is no consolation to one of the recipients. Publishing all sides of the subject is the lifeblood of this newsletter so I'm afraid that I can't help in relieving your distress. What I can do is write about surgical foreskin restoration and a method of doing it. — *D.A.*]

## Restoration

First, with the penis flaccid, the shaft skin is cut all round the circumference at the base. The shaft skin is then moved up the shaft until the required length of a foreskin is formed at the tip, as in Fig 1. Measurements are then taken of the length of the circumferential cut (a), and the distance now between the two edges of the cut (b). The resultant rectangle is then marked on the scrotum, measurement (a) going down the scrotum and measurement (b) going across, as in Fig 1. The full thickness of scrotal skin is then cut out to the dimensions, care being taken to preserve the blood supply to the skin. This flap is then turned 90 degrees (Fig 2) and wrapped around the denuded part of the penis shaft, where all the edges are sewn together. The scrotum also is sewn up (Fig 3). Next, three or four small transverse incisions are made to the tip of the foreskin and sutured longitudinally to narrow the foreskin (Fig 4).



I've seen a picture of a penis taken 6 weeks after the operation and it looks a perfectly normal foreskin. I would imagine that if the original circumcision retained most of the inner foreskin, ie. the scar well down the shaft, then the inner foreskin might easily return to its task of mucously moistening. Two questions might be asked. Does the scrotal skin on the shaft move around as mine does with changes of temperature and stages of sexual excitement? Does the bottom half of the shaft stay covered in scrotal hair? What is certain is that there's plenty of scope for revisions. My scrotal skin when stretched measures about 6" square. Double this for the two layers and you have over 70 square inches. What a long foreskin you can have!

D.A.

## The Clinic

### 2. A Question of Length

Dr. Bishop looked down at his appointment book. The next patient in his clinic was Paul, here for a preliminary discussion about circumcision. In a way, the Doctor reflected, this was the person who had started it all. His friend Wayne, whom the Doctor had circumcised some months before, had asked the Doctor to see Paul. Initially he had refused, and then changed his mind. And so the clinic had been set up.

So, what was the problem? The Doctor chatted for a few minutes and tried to put the patient at his ease.

“And how can I help you this evening?” he eventually asked. Paul noticeably took a deep breath.

“I would like you to circumcise me”, he said. The Doctor knew what an effort that statement had taken, but now it had been said the barrier had been crossed.

“Would you like to tell me why you’d like to be circumcised?”

“My foreskin’s too long.”

Dr. Bishop resisted the temptation of asking how long was too long. Such judgements were subjective, and what was important was that Paul was dissatisfied.

“Why is your foreskin too long?”

“It looks awful. All my mates laugh at me and take the mickey. They say I don’t need a Durex, that I could just tie a knot in it. Things like that.”

“It seems a bit much to lose your foreskin because your friends don’t like it. What do you think about it?”

“I just know that if I’m circumcised they would have nothing to mock me for.”

“Perhaps if you were circumcised they would mock you for that.”

“No they wouldn’t! They tried that with Wayne and he soon turned round and told them he was a real man and they were just jealous.”

“Do you think that you’ll be more of a man if you’re circumcised?”

“Well, your cock looks much better, and Wayne says sex is terrific now.” Paul blushed at his boldness.

“Wayne had a particular problem with his foreskin which made sex difficult. Do you have any problems with sex?”

“Well, the skin doesn’t always stay back. There’s so much of it that it seems to cover the top.”

“I think it’s time that we actually had a look. Could you slip off your shoes, trousers and underpants and climb onto the couch, please.”

Paul quickly undressed and Dr. Bishop crossed over to him. The Doctor was quite used to patients having a slightly distorted view of their bodies, but as he looked down at Paul he had to admit that he did have an exceptionally long foreskin. It extended fully an inch and a half beyond the end of the glans, and even then the part which tapered off continued for another half inch. He picked up the penis to examine it. The entrance to the foreskin was quite wide and the foreskin itself looked perfectly healthy. The Doctor was also relieved to find that it was spotlessly clean. He pulled back the foreskin to examine the glans. There was a considerable bunching of skin behind the rim. He could tell that, even with an erection, there would be just too much for the shaft to absorb. The glans was quite normal. Paul winced as the Doctor’s fingers touched it. The Doctor released the penis. Immediately the foreskin came forward again and covered the glans. It was obvious that, when flaccid, there was no way of keeping it back except by holding it.

“Does the head uncover itself when you have an erection?”

“Not unless I skin it back.”

“And does the foreskin stay back once you have pulled it back?”

“Sometimes, but usually it comes forward. And as soon as I get inside, it does.”

By this stage, Dr. Bishop was convinced that there was a medical case for circumcision. In his opinion, a bared glans was essential to the enjoyment of intercourse. Paul was not getting the full sensation if his foreskin constantly got in the way. The Doctor was also worried that, with that length of foreskin, the semen would get caught, and might be a hindrance in due course to Paul being able to impregnate his partner.

But the Doctor also recognised that a full circumcision was not strictly necessary.

“I think that your foreskin is too long and, if you wish, I am quite prepared to circumcise you.”

Paul looked relieved and smiled. “Yes please!” he said quickly.

“There is an alternative. I could give you a partial circumcision. If I cut off the skin at the end of the glans you would still be covered most of the time, but it would peel back and stay back when you were excited.”

“What’s the point of that?”

“Well – if it’s the length of your foreskin that worries you, then it would be shortened, but in a sense you would still be uncircumcised. Your glans would still be protected.”

“But I don’t want to be uncircumcised. Wayne says it’s great to be free of all that skin, and it looks a hell of a lot better when the top’s uncovered.”

Dr. Bishop smiled. Wayne was one hell of a salesman for circumcision. Perhaps he should employ him to advertise the clinic!

The Doctor’s conscience was clear. He had explained the alternatives to his patient and the patient had chosen.

“Very well, young man. A full circumcision it is. If you would like to get dressed we will make an appointment for the operation.”

*I.G. – London*

## Answer to Smells

**I**n reply to Anon on smells, there is a solution to his problem. What he does wrong is to wash with hot water and soap. It is essential to rinse the penis in **cold** water thoroughly first, and then hot water and soap, then there is no smell or taste left.

I have a long foreskin which is very sensitive and I keep it forward habitually. In fact, even after I had regular sex with my (then) girlfriend I did not retract my foreskin, not even for fellatio. I had no teaching from my parents and was never taught sexual hygiene. I must have been in my late twenties when an infection took me to a urologist. He yanked my foreskin back, and that was the first time. The disgusting stink was indescribable. I was prescribed an ointment containing silver, and a cleaning solution of Cetamimum. This solution is also useful to remove greasy or other clinging remains from the glans. It is inexpensively readily available from chemists, and I do use it occasionally in a morning cleaning session.

My foreskin loses a lot of its sensitivity once it is pulled back, so I prefer our foreplay with it unretracted. It is inevitable that sexual hygiene is more lengthy and more frequently required than with a circumcised penis. However, if one retracts the foreskin before peeing, or after peeing is finished, to make sure that no droplets are trapped in the foreskin, washing is needed at the most only twice a day. If I expect to have oral sex, I do feel uncomfortable if I have not washed before, although whenever I check with my wife she assures me that there is no taste.

*J.T.D. – London*



## Contrary to What Others Think

As the 'Anon' in 'Anxieties' referred to by R.B.W. in *Acorn* 4/94, I thought I'd respond. Firstly, I'm not, as he has concluded, indifferent to my circumcised state, but rather pleased with it in fact. I've read most of his missives over the years and, unlike him, appreciate those who cut me did so with every good intention and, who knows, I may even have been spared the problems they foresaw. He really should forgive his mother who clearly thought she had done for him what was best. Sadly it sounds like the incompetence of the surgery which ought to be the focus of his wrath. Despite that, it may gratify him to ponder that there are curious and dissatisfied women out there who would appreciate the experience and novelty of his services.

He refers to the 'official' policy of experts in the BMA which of course seems to underpin all anti-circumcision articles which appear in the media. I have a feeling that within the BMA there is also a considerable block of dissenting silence. Those who, through treating the misfortunes of many who should have been better circumcised, have formed a positive view of its value. It would be good if they came out of the woodwork, but I expect they would be howled down by R.B.W. and his kind. He may care to ponder that his anguish at being circumcised without his consent is equalled in others who would gladly have given theirs. The argument will continue, but the anti's are currently in the ascendancy and we pro's feel a sense of denial for ourselves and our children every bit as strongly as R.B.W. does from the days when the pendulum was across the other side of its swing.

Anon

## Young Matron

I notice from some back numbers of *Acorn* which have been passed to me that there is very little said from the orthodox medical point of view on circumcision, and, although all opinions are of interest, current paediatric thinking should be given an airing even though some of your members may not agree with it.

I was born at the beginning of the fifties and was brought up to look upon circumcision as a 'good thing'. Both my older brothers were done and so was my father. Mother considered that all males should be circumcised as a matter of course to promote cleanliness, and I naturally had no reason to disagree. When I left school I went to nursing college, and eventually took up paediatrics. One of the first things I learnt was that circumcision should no longer be performed on infants except in special cases, and then very rarely. Although this change in attitude from the 'circumcision is a good thing' view had been in place for several years, I was warned that I would meet entrenched opposition to current practice from parents and old-fashioned GPs who were

set in their ways, and it would be years before universal uncircumcision was fully accepted, although the reactionaries' hands would be forced to some extent by it not being available on the NHS.

After a number of years I got fed up with the low pay and poor conditions prevalent in those days, and was happy to take up a post as 'matron' at a prep boarding school which catered mainly for the sons of expatriate workers, covering the age range from 7 to 13. It immediately became clear that the modern attitude of not circumcising was being observed since very few of the boys were circumcised when they arrived, although quite a few lost their foreskins before they left, as I shall explain.

As matron I was left in sole charge of bath night (twice a week), and it was my task to be present and prevent horseplay and 'unacceptable behaviour'. I was also given the embarrassing job of checking out every boy's 'bits and pieces' to ensure that there were no problems, by which was meant that penile hygiene was observed. The school doctor also told me to check very carefully for tight foreskins or balanitis, and to refer both to him immediately.

As a relatively young woman of 27, I found the prospect of checking a thirteen year old's foreskin rather flustering to put it mildly, despite my medical training. But my instructions to be diligent in this matter were absolutely clear, and I had no option. The check was done monthly on a bath night. There was no problem with the little ones who looked on me as a mother figure, but it was a different matter with the bigger ones who tended to treat the occasion as a chance to show off or demonstrate their sexual development by deliberately provoking an erection, and as an unmarried woman I found the sight of near-adult penises in a state of sexual tension quite disturbing at first, though I soon found that the right attitude was to treat it as a joke. I was very careful though, to make the older boys do any foreskin manipulation themselves unless there was an obvious problem. Some of them used to play me up by letting me catch them wanking, and in fact, some would quite blatantly pull their penises in front of me, but I just ignored it.

Naturally enough, there were a small number of boys, usually the younger ones, who tended to have tight foreskins and, following instructions, I referred these to the school MO. I was very disturbed to find that, after a perfunctory notification to the parents, these boys were promptly circumcised, usually by the school doctor himself – and the parents were presented with a large bill. According to my training, circumcision was supposed to be the last resort and certainly not justified by a condition which was causing no problems, and which would usually correct itself automatically with the passage of time.

The problem was made infinitely worse by the attitude of the boys themselves who, in this school, tended to tease boys who had been circumcised, unmercifully. Any boy who had been 'bimmed', as they called it, was subjected to 'tortures' such as towel flicking down a line of boys in the baths, and were taunted with the name of 'verps' – unless they were big and strong enough to

fight back. I made it clear that such behaviour was unacceptable and did my best to protect them, but you can't be everywhere at once. So the prospect facing a boy who got referred was not a happy one, and those with possible foreskin problems went in fear and trembling. I well remember one cheerful extrovert little boy who I referred in the early days because he had trouble uncovering his glans, who came back after circumcision as a tearful, cowed and thoroughly intimidated lad, his confidence destroyed to such an extent that he started wetting the bed. I did my best to comfort him, but eventually his parents had to take him away.

I did hesitantly once suggest to the doctor, that a boy with minimal foreskin tightness did not need circumcising, but was icily told that he was not interested in my views. So I very soon started being a lot more discriminating in whom I referred, so as to avoid what I knew to be a lot of unnecessary circumcisions being carried out. Some boys clearly had only minor difficulties which could safely be ignored, but I remember one worried 7-year-old with an unretractable foreskin who came to me in tears begging me not to refer him. "I don't want to be bimmed, Miss", he said. So I decided to help him myself, and by careful stretching I managed to enlarge the stricture enough for him eventually to retract. Unfortunately the doctor somehow got to hear about it and I was summarily dismissed for 'disregarding instructions'. When a few months later I heard that the doctor concerned was dragged before the Medical Council and severely admonished – and then sacked by the school – for unnecessarily circumcising a boy, whose parents were horrified at not being adequately consulted, my surprise was tinged with relief. The case made the national papers and some of your more mature members will probably remember it.

I am pleased to say that such high-handed action by a medical practitioner is very much rarer these days, although a distinguished paediatric consultant complained recently that far too many little boys are still being referred by old-fashioned GPs and, to the shame of the specialists concerned, are being circumcised unnecessarily.

*Ms P.H. – Middx.*

## Cap d'Agde

I have just returned from a short holiday at the enormous naturist complex at Cap d'Agde in the south of France, and I thought that a few observations might be of interest. For those of us who are in favour of circumcision the news is not good. Ignoring the ethnic/religious ones, only 1%, or at the most 2%, of boys had been done. Of these, the great majority were Germans, and the method of preference, Islamic, with the scarline well down the shaft. Perhaps they are going to immigrant Muslim doctors. It would be ironic indeed if the Germans became the last practitioners of infant circumcision in Europe. This said, it was clear that most had been medically indicated, eg. youngest

of three brothers cut, eldest of two brothers done, circumcised father with uncircumcised sons – and vice versa. Adult circumcisions were also rare, being easily outnumbered by the cavalier with his foreskin rolled back. Three recently-carried-out adult circumcisions were sighted, all neatly done with the scar close to the glans. Although of no interest personally, there was a fair amount of piercing to be seen. Most commonly through the frenulum or foreskin tip, but one man had a gold pin with a ball at each end going horizontally through his glans. Must have hurt like hell! I saw no circumcised man who was pierced, so it seems to be a foreskin oriented thing.

*J.W. – France*

## Aborigine Sub-Incisions

I must correct H.C. – London (The Squatters' Paradise 4/94) on his assumption about the extent and effects of Aborigine sub-incisions. Firstly, such eye-witness evidence as there is, reports that cuts right to the level of the scrotum are exceptional, and that these are only achieved after several repeated sub-incisions. About an inch of sub-incision would appear to have been obligatory in those tribes that practised it.

As to the effect of such mutilations, I can confirm (from my own experience), that the mandatory short sub-incision does indeed mess up the jets (both of urine and semen), but with the shaft uncut one can still use the urinal (or the local vegetation) standing up without wetting one's feet or trousers. I have also discovered that an extension to halfway along the shaft (when flaccid and hanging free) actually improves the jets, such that I can now use a normal toilet standing up to urinate, and the first one or two spurts of semen regularly land over five feet away from me.

Even with a three-inch sub-incision, internal delivery of semen to one's partner is no problem as there are another three inches of shaft for penetration.

*P.D. – Dublin*

## Masai Circumcision

The Masai people live in Kenya and northern Tanzania. The Masai-Mara national park, a major tourist attraction, is named after them. The Masai are the cow-men of the African savannah; they live and count their wealth by the number of cattle they own. The tribe is organised socially by age sets: boys become warriors (*morans*) following circumcision, and morans become elders when they have circumcised children. Originally, the interval between major circumcision and transition ceremonies was about fourteen years, but in recent times the initiation ceremonies are more individualised. The

warriors search out good grazing and water, protect their families and cattle from wild animals and, until prevented by British colonial power, ranged far and wide along the Great Rift Valley and onto the high ground beside it, raiding the Kikuyu and other neighbouring tribes for cattle and captives. The Masai are usually tall, athletic, and finely featured, not heavily built, round-headed and thick-lipped like the Bantu. They live largely on milk, and blood drawn from a cow's jugular vein without killing it. A Masai homestead (*manyatta*) is a group of low huts made of bent branches daubed with mud and dried cowdung, surrounded by a thorn fence, with separate huts for the father, each wife and her young children, and for the morans. The Oldorobo people in the 19th. century were mainly forest dwellers and lived by hunting, collecting honey and, as blacksmiths, making spears, swords and knives to trade with the Masai and other neighbouring tribes, for whom they also act as expert circumcisers.

To the Masai *layonis*, young boys, the word *emorata* sounds like sweet erotic music loaded with promises of heroic deeds. It means the end of low-status boyhood and the entrance into the world of the *morans*. From being hard-working dogsbodies who enjoy little respect, they rise to the top of society. They become the young, strong, courageous protectors and providers of their people, and the handsome, virile heroes of the young women. In short, they become everything that every young man, wherever he lives, longs to be. The English poet, Wordsworth asked, "Who is the happy warrior, he who every man in arms would like to be?" The answer is, he is the Masai moran.

When you meet Masai *layonis*, you see that they do their work as instructed, but otherwise they are like young boys everywhere, full of life and carefree laughter. Then one day when the elders decide to repair the *olpiron*, a firestick which is the sign that a new round of circumcisions is coming up, the young boys embark on a mental metamorphosis. The boys are presented to the *laibon*, the witchdoctor, who gives his permission to start the *ngipataa*, the ceremony preparatory to the day of circumcision. Ceremonies vary among clans, but common to all is the feature that the boys are shaved of hair on all parts of their bodies, and that all jewellery and other objects they have fastened to their bodies are removed. Thus they are made naked, ready for the rebirth into the adult world. They are then daubed in patterns of white chalk, red ochre and black charcoal, and spend the night dancing and celebrating. The next day, an ox, goat or sheep from each boy's family is slaughtered and everybody feasts. In preparation for the feast, honey has been collected and beer has been brewed. This is consumed in great quantities by the elders and the Oldorobo circumciser, all of whom frequently become intoxicated to the point of unconsciousness.

This account is of the circumcision of a young boy named Samuel. His Masai name, given him at birth by his father, was Parasayip. His full Masai name was therefore Parasayip Ole Koyoti, Ole meaning 'son of' in Masai. Masai children get a new, most often biblical name, when they start school.

I first met Samuel outside his father's manyatta while he was home from school during the Christmas holidays. It was on December 10th, two days before the Kenyan Independence Day. Samuel was a slim athlete of 14, and fairly fluent in English. After the holidays he would go back to school. He was aiming in top grades in order to get a scholarship for further studies to become a veterinarian.

But before resuming school he was to be circumcised. Not that he wanted to become a moran, he told me; he just wanted to be a man, because only then would he be respected by the Masai.

As I talked to him I remembered how another Masai, Tepilit Ole Saitoti, recalled his father's admonitory speech before he was circumcised: "Tepilit, circumcision means a sharp knife cutting into the skin of the most sensitive part of the body. You must not budge; don't move a muscle or even blink. The slightest movement on your part will mean you are a coward, incompetent and unworthy to be a Masai man. Ours has always been a proud family and we will not tolerate unnecessary embarrassment, so you had better be ready. Imagine yourself alone being uncircumcised like the water youth (white man). I hear they are not circumcised. Such a thing is not known in Masailand."

After a pause he continued: "The pain you will feel is symbolic, it has a deeper meaning. Circumcision means a break between childhood and adulthood. For the first time you will be considered a grown-up, complete man. You will be expected to give, and not just to receive, to protect your family and not just be protected. And your wise judgement will for the first time be taken into consideration. If you are ready for all these responsibilities, tell us now. Entering into manhood is a heavy load on your shoulders and especially a burden on your mind."

Undoubtedly Samuel had received the same admonition from his father. And he had certainly been told by the morans that the operation would be dreadfully painful, but that it would not be unbearable. Or as the Masai say, typical of their cattle culture, "Only blood will flow, not milk." And they would have asked him if he was a *orkirkenyi*, one who has had intercourse with a circumcised woman. And if Samuel had admitted such an experience, his father, mother and circumciser would have taken a cow from him as punishment.

Samuel's ordeal started at noon in the hut of his mother. First, Samuel's father's first wife had her hair wetted with milk and was clean shaved. Then she did the same to Samuel's biological mother, who was his father's second wife. Finally she shaved Samuel's head. Then all three had their heads painted with red ochre.

The first wife then took the young boy through the gate of the manyatta and together they caught three grasshoppers which were put into a mini calabash which was sealed with cow dung. After the circumcision, the grasshoppers would be released into the calf pen where they would be trampled to death.

This was to symbolise that the young man's cattle pastures would never be hit by locust swarms or famine.

Samuel was now dressed in a black goatskin toga and sent out to collect an olive sapling to be his firestick, a stick used to make fire and also symbolising the links between generations. When he returned, his metamorphosis was striking. He no longer smiled or talked; he was alone in the crowd of his people. And they did not communicate with him either, except for occasionally derogatory or abusive words, like "You coward, you stupid boy." This was their way of encouraging him, of strengthening his resolve and thus preparing for the coming ordeal.

Very early next morning, a good hour before sunrise, Samuel left the manyatta in company with other to-be-circumcised boys. They went to the river where Samuel chilled his genitals with the intention of easing some of the pain of the forthcoming operation. This completed, they hurried back to the manyatta where the preparations were in full swing. In the middle of the manyatta, among the fifty odd cattle which were just awakening, a half circle of olive saplings had been prepared. Inside the circle stood the circumciser and an elder of his father's age. As Samuel entered the manyatta he grasped an ox-hide and threw it down like a rug into the half circle. For a moment he stood still, as if in a trance, while ice cold water was poured over his head from a very special pot. This pot was the one that contained his placenta and had been kept just outside the gate of his family's manyatta all these years. Samuel then threw himself down on the hide and the elder supported him from behind. Immediately the circumciser went to work. He spread the boy's legs, wetted his penis with milk, and then sprayed it with a white powder. With quick, professional hands, he cut a semicircular slit at the base of the foreskin and threaded the penis head through it; then he removed all but the ventral 'seam' of the foreskin. This *ndeletia* – a good inch-long flap of skin – was left to chase evil spirits out of a woman's vagina during intercourse, and to protect him against venereal diseases. Supposedly, it also gives women added pleasure, and so makes them prefer the morans to uncircumcised males.

During the surgery, which took less than two minutes, Samuel did not utter a sound, twitch a muscle or make the slightest grimace which could reveal pain or weakness. From his appearance you would have sworn that he had been properly anaesthetised. As he was escorted into his mother's hut afterwards, he was complemented for his bravery by all the onlookers, and his mother was repeatedly told what a good son she'd raised.

The circumcision ceremony is not just an ordeal for the one being circumcised. Judging from their reaction, it is also an intense emotional experience for the other young men; something like a religious revival meeting. Some of the young morans became very excited and a few threw themselves on the ground as if having epileptic fits, with their bodies shaking in muscular spasms and froth appearing round their mouths. During the ceremony they drank a soup made from the bark of the kiloriti bush, which is said to have

an invigorating effect. Our guide, who grew up with the Masai, had enjoyed it several times during his youth, but could not recall any special effect.

Samuel did not bleed during the operation. The circumciser explained that Samuel had eaten some special red berries the day before the operation which, together with the powder used during surgery, effectively prevented bleeding. However, when the powder was tested under proper medical conditions, it proved to have no anti-bleeding effect. Thus, it appears most likely, that both the lack of bleeding during the surgery, and the fits of the onlookers, are caused by something similar to self-hypnosis. Furthermore, danger, fear and cold are known to constrict the blood vessels of the genitals through sympathetic nerve stimulation.

After the circumcision, Samuel's mother treated his penis with warm milk, fresh cow's urine and mildewed dung. A strong young ox was bled and Samuel was offered the fresh blood to drink in order to regain his strength. Two days later we met him out walking with other newly circumcised boys, *mbarnotis*. And of course we asked him the obvious question.

"Was it painful?"

"Yes", he replied.

"But you did not show any pain?"

For a moment Samuel looked at us with his dark brown afro-asian eyes.

"No. I didn't." And after a pause, "You don't."

One would fear that the lack of cleanliness during the operation would inevitably lead to infection. However, only in rare cases do infections occur, the reason being these boys' natural resistance, together with the use of fresh urine, which is almost sterile, and of mildewed dung which may contain anti-microbial substances.

(To be concluded)

*Tony Acorn*

## Status

To add to the lists of famous states – Doug Savant in the film *Masquerade* – circumcised.

*R.H. – London*



# ACORN

Issue  
N<sup>o</sup> 7 1994  
Editor  
David Acorn

## Editorial

The writer of the letter entitled 'Book' asked me some time ago if there was any information on how men who resent their cut state have come to terms with it, and wondered whether a support group might be of any help. If there are any more like R.B.W., D.S. and G. himself, perhaps you could let me know and we could see what we could instigate.

There is still time for anyone interested to book a place at the meeting on Nov. 7th.

*David Acorn*

## Book

I've been impressed with the new newsletter layout and am pleased that *Acorn* still offers a fine forum for all views.

I feel for D.S. and hope that he does decide to renew his subscription.

I would welcome information as to where in the U.K. one might obtain a copy of Jim Bigelow's book, and perhaps details might be published in *Acorn*.

*G. - Birmingham*

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## Correspondence

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**Newsletter contributions and letters for forwarding**

clearly marked for DAVID ACORN

**Membership, fees, advice and personal matters**

clearly marked for TONY ACORN

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## A Loving Cut

I am nineteen years old and a keen nudist. I met my current boyfriend two years ago at my local club. I was at once attracted to him because he had such a nice body and was extremely well-endowed. When we started getting intimate on our third or fourth meeting, I discovered that, although his penis was really big, some eight inches long and another inch or so of foreskin, his foreskin was in fact tight, and it was terribly difficult to pull it back over the glans in order to have sex. When I did manage to pull it right back, at some considerable pain to him, I found it would not return to its normal position covering the glans. He did manage to fuck me again with some pain to himself but I didn't enjoy it too much either.

After we had uncoupled, I suggested he see a doctor with a view to having something done about it, probably circumcision, but he would not agree. I felt there was no way I could enjoy having sex with him the way he was; even the thought of oral sex did not attract me. On the other hand, his cock was so big and thick that the very thought of what it would be like to have all of it inside me if he could overcome his foreskin problem made me feel wet between the legs. So I did something about it. I went through my back copies of *H. & E.* (there are always articles on circumcision) and found the answer. It said that circumcision does not have to be total. Instead of cutting away the whole of the loose foreskin, one could cut the frenulum, and this would loosen the foreskin, making it easy to pull back and expose the glans.

I showed this to Alan who did not seem too keen, but when I told him that if he loved me, and wanted to have normal sex with me, he would have to do something about it, he dithered, and when I said that I would cut it for him he finally agreed. As it was such an important thing to do I felt we should record it on video, so I asked my friend Jenny if she would film it for us. She is a fellow nudist and quite used to the sight of men's cocks, and she agreed.

So next evening they both came round to my flat. We stripped off and had a few drinks to gain dutch courage, then went into the bathroom where Alan sat at the end of the bath with his legs apart. I knelt between them, while Jenny set up the camera on a tripod. When she started the camera I took Alan's cock in my left hand and pulled his foreskin back as far as it would go. This left his frenulum fully exposed, all pink and tight. I cut it with a very sharp pair of nail scissors, as near to the glans as I could. This produced a cry of pain from Alan and a surprising amount of blood which splashed all over my body. It took four more sessions before I had removed Alan's frenulum entirely, but when it was finished the result was startling. The foreskin was now loose, and when pulled back, revealed his knob in all its glory. It looked really beautiful. I kissed it on sight it was so gorgeous.

However, there was another problem. The foreskin was now so loose it would not stay back. We overcame this with the aid of a penis ring we saw advertised

in a porn magazine. This fitted over the shaft of the penis and the foreskin was pulled back over it, leaving the knob exposed. The rings came in a pack of six because as time went on the foreskin was stretched both lengthwise and in diameter, and the next size up had to be used.

Alan was now wearing a ring all the time, and when he had an erection the skin of his cock was really stretched. We were able to fuck like this. The experience of feeling Alan's knob penetrating my vaginal tube was something I had not felt before. As his knob slid into my vagina I had the most beautiful sensation, one I had never had before, and as his knob pushed the whole length of my vaginal tube I had my first orgasm. Then as the ring with its covering of foreskin touched my clitoris I went berserk. Oral sex was just as stimulating.

I am still considering whether to have Alan fully circumcised. Physically, the circumcised knob is better, the feel of it inside you, whatever orifice you take it in, gives me much more sexual pleasure than the normal cock with foreskin. However, as Alan has this quite enormous foreskin he is able to pull and hold it right back, and have sex like that.

Visually, the circumcised prick can be very beautiful. I love looking at Alan's knob; it makes me horny, it turns me on, something that never happened when he was suffering from a tight foreskin. On the other hand, Alan says his knob is not nearly as sensitive as it used to be before I partially circumcised him. In those days, he says, a girl would only have to pull his foreskin back and touch his knob, for him to spunk. Now when I wank him I can 'handle' him for twenty minutes or more before he shoots his load. I think I will leave things as they are. After all, I seem to have the best of both worlds.

*Amanda Carrington*

## Penile Let-Down

I am a recent *Acorn* subscriber. Being rather fascinated by that strange phenomenon, the human penis, I find it very interesting.

The subject given most coverage is circumcision, which is indeed interesting. As one who has been, I must say that I rather envy those who have a bit extra to play with, or for their companions to play with. My girl friend (who is also very enthusiastic about penises) says she prefers them circumcised, but actually she hasn't had any experience with the other kind. So I keep suggesting she should get some. (Ulterior motive: maybe she'd be able to arrange for me to have a close look too. But anyway, she'd be able to describe it to me in detail. Having her enthuse to me about another cock is the biggest turn-on I know.)

Anyway, there is at least one other penile subject which must command great interest: **impotence**. Yes, depressing I know – not exactly a turn-on. However,

it is said that there are quite a lot of sufferers, and you are ideally placed to conduct an exchange of views and experience about how to combat it.

Speaking personally, I am not a complete lost cause. With the girlfriend's help a reasonable erection usually develops in due course. However it often does not persist very long, especially when inside her. No doubt, in common with other sufferers, I have concentrated over the years on foreplay, which is very enjoyable for both of us. But although she is considerate about it, I know she would like a solid finishing, and so would I, and they don't come very often.

It's curious that additional sexual excitement, for example watching a good video, or hearing my girlfriend enthusing over another sexual experience, while making me feel very nice and turned-on, actually makes me go softer rather than harder. I can come alright, and have a very intense orgasm, but with a soft cock. Rather disappointing.

Considering how one can strengthen other parts of the body by therapy or exercise, it's odd that you can't seem to be able to do anything about the cock. Or maybe you can?

Obviously, psychology comes into it: would, for instance, hypnotism help, do you think? I know all about those 'avoid the genital caressing' type of cures that are advocated: no good for me unfortunately.

If there isn't a simple physical therapy, do you know of any clinics with a reputation for success? Any suggestion would be gratefully received.

*Tom – N. Yorks*

[I tried to start a dialogue on this subject a couple of years ago, but there was no response to it. Maybe it's one of those rare subjects among us where it's hard to admit it. But if anyone can help, please let us know. – D.A.]

## The Clinic

### 3. On the Operating Table

Paul, dressed in surgical gown, climbed onto the operating table and lay down. A few minutes before, he had signed his consent to a circumcision being performed on him. Now he waited nervously for Dr. Bishop to begin.

The Doctor knew that all patients were nervous at this stage. He himself was not without nerves, although these were strictly under control. He pushed the gown up to expose Paul's genitals and covered his legs with a blanket.

"First, I am going to clean the area with a mild antiseptic." Quickly he wiped the penis and the general surrounding area, drawing back the foreskin to

ensure that it also was free from dirt and excretions. Then he placed a cloth with a circular hole in it over Paul's midriff, and drew Paul's penis through so that Paul's body was completely covered except for the part to receive his attention.

"I am going to freeze the penis with a local anaesthetic. You will feel the needle going into the skin but it won't be too painful."

The Doctor was aware of Paul tensing as he drew back the foreskin and injected four shots of anaesthetic into the penis at the base of the glans, two at either side of the frenum and two on either side near the front.

"We'll just wait a couple of minutes for the anaesthetic to take effect, and in the meantime I will just mark where the operation will be performed." Dr. Bishop often thought that this was the most crucial part of his job. The marks which he made now would guide his scalpel. Wrongly placed, too much or too little skin would be removed. His aim was to leave the glans fully exposed, with no surplus skin whatsoever to roll up behind the glans rim. The Doctor liked to leave some inner foreskin in place stretched down the shaft. This had two advantages. It meant that some of the sensitive foreskin was retained, and also meant that the circumcisional scar was clearly visible on the shaft, which, he thought, gave a pleasing aesthetic effect. The mark traced round the underpart of the penis up to the frenulum, which the Doctor intended to leave intact. Then he completed the marking process on the inner foreskin. Now he was ready to cut. First he tested the local anaesthetic. It had taken – Paul could feel none of the sharp pricks which the Doctor applied to his penis and foreskin.

Once he had started, the Doctor worked carefully and concentratedly, but as quickly as possible. He inserted forceps into the opening of the foreskin and held the foreskin tautly. He cut down the dorsal line, first through both layers of the foreskin until he reached the mark on the inner foreskin, then through the outer layer alone. He then made the lateral cuts, first on the left side, through the outer, then the inner layer of foreskin, tying the bleeding points as he went. By now half the foreskin had been cut away, and he put it into a specimen dish before putting together the inner and outer layers of skin and suturing them together. A similar process on the right side and the job was done. He cleaned the wound and applied an inner and then an outer dressing. He looked at Paul and smiled.

"All over – you are now circumcised just as you wished."

The Doctor looked back at the specimen dish and the discarded foreskin. He was always amazed at how voluminous the separated prepuce appeared. But in Paul's case it was almost unbelievable. If he had stretched it out and measured it, he reckoned that each piece would have been over 5 inches in length.

Forty minutes later, having in the meantime circumcised a 14 year-old with phimosis, Dr. Bishop went into the recovery room where Paul was recuperating. He checked the dressings to make sure there had been no bleeding, but they were unmarked.

“How are you feeling?”

Paul smiled. “I’m OK, although everything is still numb down there.”

“It will take another two or three hours for the anaesthetic to start to wear off. After that you may start to feel some discomfort – not too much I hope. But I’ll give you a prescription for some painkillers. Take two every four hours, but only if you need them.”

The Doctor sat down on a chair. “You can get dressed and go now, but first I’ll just run through some instructions. They’re all printed on the leaflet that I’ll give you, but if I explain them it will give you a chance to ask questions.

“First, leave the dressing on for 48 hours, then remove it. The outer dressing will just unwind. The inner one may best be soaked off in the bath. I’m afraid that when the penis is uncovered it will look a bit battered and bruised, and the skin will be puffy in places. Don’t worry – it will all settle down in due course. You don’t need any other dressing on the wound. Leave it open to the air and it will help it to heal. The stitches which I have put in are soluble and will gradually dissolve over the next week to ten days. Don’t pull any loose ends – they will gradually come away of their own accord, and if any remain I’ll remove them when I see you in a fortnight.

“As you probably know, everyone has erections during the course of their sleep. These may be quite painful and wake you up. This is because the skin will be tight and will be pulling against the stitches. Don’t worry – the stitches won’t give way. Just wait for the erection to go, or help it on its way by applying a cool flannel or splashing with cold water.

“Right – I think that’s everything. Any questions?”

“Er – what about making love?”

“Sorry,” apologised Dr. Bishop. “I shouldn’t have forgotten the most important item. I’m afraid that intercourse is completely forbidden at least until I see you again. We have to make sure that the wound is completely and properly healed. Normally that takes about three weeks, and then when you start making love again, you need to be fairly gentle. Having sex puts quite a lot of strain on the skin of the penis, and you don’t want to cause any damage. I’m sorry if that seems a very long time – it’s part of the price you have to pay. Anything else?”

“What about sport?”

“Try to avoid any contact sport, just in case. Otherwise, you can start exercising after a week, but make sure that you wear a good support, and it

might also make sense to protect your penis with some padding or something similar to keep it still, relative to your body. Then, you should be OK... Is that it?"

"I think so."

"Right then. You can get dressed and go home." The Doctor shook Paul's hand and then took his leave. Paul got off the bed, took off the gown and looked down at his bandaged groin. He felt elated. There, under the dressings lay his foreskinless penis. He looked forward eagerly to the dressings being off, the stitches being out and to everything being properly healed. But for the moment it was enough – he was circumcised at last.

[Next month's episode; 'The Men in Her Life' will be based on ideas sent in by a member. I am very happy to receive ideas for future episodes, or problems you would like the doctor to handle in the clinic. Or you could even write a whole episode yourself. Please write to me via David Acorn.]

I.G. – London

## Piercing

### (Extract of a letter in *Piercing World*)

At my first school medical at the age of five, my foreskin was deemed to be too tight, and a danger to myself and others. Over the next few months I underwent a number of traumatic and painful attempts to stretch it. These having failed, my foreskin was slit and all was well for a few months. However, I began to have further problems and so, having escaped the knife at birth, I was circumcised around six years of age. This didn't pose any problems until I changed school at the age of ten. There, I was the only one without a foreskin, and how I wished that I had one. Despite this, it didn't really cause me any problems throughout my teens and twenties, and my girlfriends certainly never complained. However, the subject of circumcision was one that was of great interest to me, and I always read anything that came my way on the subject.

About four or five years ago, I was having a session with my acupuncturist when she remarked on the neatness of my scar. She then went on to tell me that she had read how circumcised penises could be re-sensitised by putting a little ring in the rim. I knew immediately that this was something I had to do. At that time there was nothing to be found anywhere on piercing, so it wasn't until eighteen months later that I came across *Body Art* magazine. I decided that many of the piercings would, for me, inhibit rather than enhance sexual

pleasure. I settled on a frenulum piercing. Through a gay friend of mine I found a doctor who was used to piercing. I was nervous but excited also. He inspected me and again commented on the neatness of my scar. He was pleased to find that most of the frenulum had been left, and then very quickly and skilfully pierced me, using a hollow needle. I had no anaesthetic and felt only a few moments of firm pressure – no worse than an injection. A few moments later I was the proud owner of a frenulum ring. It healed completely within four weeks and I have never had a problem since. I thoroughly recommend using Australian Tea-tree oil as an antiseptic with healing properties, and a course of zinc tablets to promote healing. Other than that, just don't fiddle with it.

I usually wear a small 10mm gold ring in it, but I do change to a steel barbell if I know I am having to remove it for any reason, such as holidaying with other people. I and my girlfriend find the piercing attractive and practical, and an added enjoyment during sex. I don't think I would contemplate any more piercings other than perhaps a second frenulum. I feel most of the other piercings would be unattractive – less is more in my book. I think some of the multiples are rather overwhelming. I like to enhance my body's appearance rather than subdue it – but each to his own!

*David – Australia*

## Attitude to Circumcision

If our membership is around a hundred, there must be many who have yet to make their 'maiden contribution'. Let me assure them that their experiences and opinions on circumcision (or avoiding it!) are of great interest to us all. "How was it for you?" is the life blood of *Acorn*. Please, if this means you, remember you don't need any literary skills and you can write with absolute anonymity. Whether you're pro or anti circumcision, putting your innermost feelings about this topic on paper can be a very therapeutic experience. Even R.B.W. declared so!

Perhaps some need a starting line, 'I first found out about circumcision when...' has proved a good prompt, and according to our surveys seems to have found favour with readers. Long may it continue, but let me suggest another scenario which might even draw response from partners:-

'My girlfriend/fiancée discovered my circumcision...' (when she asked? / embarked on foreplay? / during first intercourse? / well into our relationship? / never mentioned it?)

How did she react? What exactly did she say? Was she delighted or disappointed? Did it influence her decision to (or not to) circumcise your sons?



I've written my own story of female response (Issue 3/94) and would dearly love to hear how others fared. Women vary enormously in their reaction, interest and preference. Some are well-informed through their mothers having explained why their brothers have been circumcised. Others, incredibly, may reach the marriage bed without any knowledge of the subject whatsoever!

In all sexual encounters, there comes a moment when the fact that you have been circumcised cannot be concealed. This poses the point; is it best to make a disclosure beforehand? Unfortunately there never seems a right moment to say, "By the way, I'm circumcised. I hope you don't mind!" On the other hand, to make no comment can cause some apprehension, anticipating a surprised or unwelcome remark from a partner when she makes the inevitable discovery. This may be uttered at some inappropriate point in the activity (usually early foreplay in my experience). If nothing at all is said, then you know it's likely to crop up in conversation at some time afterwards. Eventually you can expect a casual, "Incidentally, I couldn't help noticing...", or more directly, "When/why were you circumcised?" This may initiate a welcome exchange of opinions on the matter, but these are academic, because the situation between both partners is unalterable.

However reconciled a 'circumcisee' becomes to his state, there is always that degree of curiosity – wondering what it would have been like to have been left 'entire'. Unlike the cavalier, the option can never be available to him.

Please ladies, if you encounter a trimmed male, keep any adverse reaction, remark or disappointment to yourself. At the same time, don't leave your obvious, and maybe intrigued, observation unsaid, either. We like our women to show an interest, but choose your moment carefully and express your surprise or feelings in a good way if you can.

Understandably, most of us men welcome a chance to explain what befell us and how we feel about it – hence the success of *Acorn*.

The most considerate thing a woman can do for a circumcised partner is to share his acceptance of something he cannot alter, and she confirms this every time she chooses to make love with him. Both know that there are thousands of uncircumcised men out there she could have, but she has chosen him, and that is a comfort and consolation. If her feelings can expand to enthusiasm for his circumcision then that is a sheer delight!

As one of the 'no choice, circumcised', it would be good to hear from *Acorn* readers of both sexes on how they handled the 'moment of discovery'.

*Anon*

[Here is someone who has felt deeply and traumatically about his state and doesn't mind expressing it. What strikes me is that, because as a boy I equated circumcision with the rich, and foreskins as belonging only to the poor and

wretched, I grew up with exactly the same feelings but from the opposite status. The problems must come more from the head than the genitals! – D.A.]

## Reversing an Unkind Cut

**(Item by Dr James Le Fanu In *The Daily Telegraph* 13.9.94)**

After Greenpeace's famous Save the Whale campaign, Andrew Gordon and Jack Collins, surgeons at Oxford's Radcliffe hospital, are trying to persuade colleagues and the public to 'save the foreskin'.

They say that three out of four circumcisions performed in Britain cannot be justified on medical grounds. Their campaign will undoubtedly be boosted by the publicity generated by the latest fad to reach these shores from California – uncircumcising.

The principle is not dis-similar to the practice of some African tribes, of applying weights to the ear lobes to elongate them. The penile skin over the shaft is stretched downwards and a ball bearing attached to the end with surgical tape.

Within ten days, some degree of elasticity is induced, though it may take several years before the foreskin is cosmetically and anatomically restored.

This may all sound a bit bizarre, but this week's *British Medical Journal* contains a powerful defence of the joys of uncircumcising which is very convincing. The writer compares the function of the foreskin to that of the eyelid, protecting and moistening the delicate, sensitive tissue underneath. With the loss of the foreskin, he says, the vulnerable tip of the penis (the glans) "is always uncomfortable throughout childhood when rubbed by clothing". With time it becomes coarser, which in turn reduces the intensity of sexual pleasure.

He describes the benefits of uncircumcising: "The glans becomes softer and steadily more sensitive... after about ten weeks my wife and I both noticed intercourse became much easier and almost frictionless."

This account of the penalties of losing the foreskin should make doctors much more cautious about recommending circumcision, even when the foreskin is very tight – a condition known as phimosis, which may be associated with infection.

According to Gordon and Collins, such infections should be treated with antibiotics because, by the age of five, the problem cures itself; by then almost 90% of foreskins can be fully pulled back. Even if they cannot, Mr G.A. McKinley of Edinburgh's Royal Hospital for Sick Children advises that the surgeon's knife should be avoided in favour of instilling a powerful local anaesthetic under the foreskin, and then slowly separating it from the underlying glans.

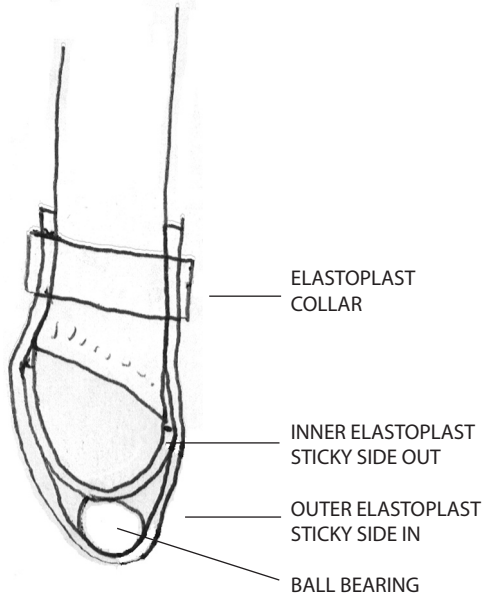
He has treated 39 boys in this way and in only 7 was it not possible to achieve full and painless retraction. "Circumcision is all too frequently performed without good reason: it is rarely required," he says.

Bill of Kingston, who sent this article says, "I do not understand how it is possible to attach a ball bearing to the end with surgical tape. Any enlightenment would be appreciated."

Here is a drawing of how it is done. For ease of clarity I've shown a slight growth of foreskin over the glans. The tape over the end is doubled sticky to sticky to ensure the ball isn't lost and so that the tape doesn't stick to the glans itself, which would defeat the object.

I've always thought that phimosis was due to the constriction of the foreskin at the tip, but several medical articles I've read talk (like this one) about the adherence of the

foreskin to the glans. This must be to the whole surface of the glans, as mine adhered to the rim of the glans up to the age of twelve, with retraction, and no ill effects at all. Has anyone any more information?



D.A.

## Foreskin Bank

I was interested in the article 'Question of Length' (Clinic 2). The young man wanted to be circumcised because he said his foreskin was too long. As someone who admires the beauty of a long foreskin and the pleasure it gives (having an inch overhang myself), it seems a terrible waste to cut it off and throw it in the bin. I can imagine what those guys feel who lost theirs when they were infants, and would give anything to possess one like this young man's. Perhaps one day in the future there will be a foreskin bank for transplants.

This would make everyone happy, so that the ones which aren't wanted could be given to those who do want them.

*H.J.M. – Mid-Glam.*

## **It Should Have Been Done Years Ago**

I was circumcised somewhat late in life, which appears to be rather unusual. To start at the beginning. When I was a boy of 12 or so, my foreskin was one of those long pointed jobs and quite tight. At school we used to experiment with our friends' penises, and they used to try to get my foreskin back, but all that could be achieved was to show about a quarter of an inch diameter hole, as well as being painful.

This continued for some years, and about every three or four weeks the end of my penis would feel hot and irritate. I learned how to cure this, by squeezing the foreskin tightly at the end when I had a pee, so that it blew up to about the size of a large plum. Releasing the pressure suddenly made the water force out the smegma underneath.

When I went into the army I was examined, but nothing was said about it until one day when the doctor caught hold of it and tried to move it back. That made me jump, and after further chat, he said that it must be circumcised. Well, of course, being the services, that's as far as it went. I didn't press the matter and that's how things stayed for many years. But just after that brush with the doctor, I tried hard to force it back until one day I succeeded. I had a shock, as the glans was covered in plates of smegma. After washing it off I expected a struggle to return my foreskin to its usual position, but it went back fairly easily.

Now that is more or less the history of my troublesome foreskin. Over the years I became a naturist, and also as a Christian I had an interest in the Jewish people. So now I started to keep my foreskin permanently back. This was quite satisfactory for some time, but then I thought that I should be circumcised. That was easier said than done, as the doctor would not refer me to a hospital, saying it was not necessary. I then tried a synagogue, but they would only do it upon a conversion to their faith, so that was out. I was on the point of having it done privately when I had a stroke of luck. From not being able to retract my foreskin, now it would not come forward, and began to feel tight around the head of my penis.

So back to the doctor again, and after he had tried manipulation a couple of times with no lasting effect, I suggested circumcision again. All he said was, "Oh well, if you want." I had an appointment at the hospital and the surgeon examined it (there wasn't much to examine, it had shrivelled up so), said that it was phimosis and would have to be circumcised.

Five weeks after that I went to the day surgery for the op., and I have nothing but praise for the way that it was carried out at the West Middlesex Hospital. Every bit of foreskin was removed, the shaft is nice and smooth, and no scars. The head of the penis is much more sensitive, and when I move now and the penis rubs on my leg or trousers it is like heaven.

Perhaps the diameter of the glans is a little larger just around the rim, but there is no significant difference in size. The great improvement is in sensitivity, the appearance, and a general sense of freedom. I don't mind anyone having a look now. Like someone wrote in *Acorn*, I used to turn to the wall in the shower or changing room, but now I show it all to the world.

To those mums who are considering having their sons circumcised I would say, go to it. But in my opinion I would think that about 12 or 13 years of age is the right time, when it can be explained to them and they will understand. After all, it only seems right that they should be consulted on the future appearance and performance of so important a member of their body.

*R.R. – Middx.*

## Size

Hopefully, some *Acorn* readers share my interest in cock size and enlargement methods. Having recently filled in the questionnaire I look forward to a few published statistics on the subject.

On a semi-regular basis I have used vacuum developers for about ten years. It is clear to me that an increase in erect length has occurred which is permanent – about three-quarters of an inch. There have been no drawbacks and only once did I create a small blood blister on my shaft, which soon healed. I have always applied vacuum gently, only after 15 minutes increasing the suction to maximum. I presently use a high quality model with strong suction, sold as 'Handsome Up'.

The increase in size under vacuum is mostly girth, a homemade collar giving an indication of size. Length increases rather less; I'm probably near my own limit. On removing the developer some increase in size is retained until the erection is lost. Repeated use has given me nice hard erections, certainly not spongy or flabby in any way.

Masturbation or intercourse after a session with the developer is very good, with intense sensations in my circumcised glans. Erection can of course be regained with the developer, although getting erect again is not usually difficult. Perhaps this is another benefit.

There has been a lot of adverse comment on the effectiveness of developers in *Forum* and elsewhere. Contacts are welcome to write and discuss.

*P. – Hants.*

## Masai Circumcision (Conclusion)

### Another Masai Ordeal

During the recovery from circumcision, while the cut is healing, the young man may be exposed to ordeals of another kind however.

David Read narrates such a situation in his book on Masai life in earlier times, *Waters of the Sanjan*; while lying in his bed recovering from circumcision, the young man was visited by a married woman to whom he had once, as a layoni, made improper suggestions. The woman sat down on his bed, removed her skirt and began to caress him. All the while she spoke softly to him, telling him how much she had often wanted him but had been too frightened to take him as he was still uncircumcised. It was different now, she whispered; now that he was a moran no one could stop them making love. She moved her hand down to his pubic area and when he started to have an erection, she lay down at his side and purred that he should move closer.

“I cannot,” he panted, “and you know it!”

“We do not have to do it all until you are properly recovered,” she said, “but there is nothing to stop us caressing each other.”

With that, the young man’s erection split open the wounds and he began to bleed. Then the woman rose and said:

“You have paid for your insult as custom requires, and I shall hurt you no more. I have truly been fond of you, and now that you are a moran and my husband’s *olpirion* (of his age group) you will be welcome in my house and we can be *asanjas* (lovers).”

Of course, I don’t know if this happened to Samuel. But it might have.

Circumcision was once followed by a period when the mbarnotis prepared themselves for moranhood. Wandering around in small groups armed only with sticks and bows and arrows, they had to fend for themselves. They were to keep out of sight of the other Masai and were not allowed to join the morans. However, at night, they could visit the manyatta for shelter and food. A major occupation during this period was to adorn their halo-like headdresses with as many of the most colourful birds as possible. For this purpose they tipped their arrows with a ball of beeswax or resin, so that when they hit a bird it would be stunned without damage to feathers or skin. Now this period is often omitted and the boys are usually given a fully adorned headdress once the circumcision is over.

Whilst circumcision of the young men is a voluntary act where the youth can show how brave he is, the circumcision of the women is not. *Nditos* (uncircumcised girls) are circumcised once they become pregnant or before their ninth menstruation. They are allowed to kick and scream as long as they do not kick the knife. Usually they are held by women. During the operation

the clitoris and parts of the labia are removed, and the vagina is enlarged. The women's wounds are treated in the same way as the men's, and infection is said to be rare.

### **The Masai Circumcision Operation**

The Masai operation is quite distinctive, although very similar to the way that boys are circumcised in the Samburu, Kikuyu, and other tribes for whom the Olorobo act as circumcisers. An early description of the Masai operation is given in German by Merker (1904, p62-3). He comments that because the operation is very painful it is done at dawn, the coolest time of the day, and to reduce their sensitivity to pain, the boys soak themselves with cold water. The Dorobo operator uses a two-edged pointed knife about the length of a finger. During the operation the boy sits on a cowhide on the ground with his legs spread. Shifting from German into Latin for his description of the operating technique, Merker writes, "the outer skin of the penis is retracted and the internal surface is cut around with the knife directly behind the glans. The glans then lies in an elongated covering into which a cut is made from above; through this the glans is pushed. The skin which then hangs down long from under the glans is half removed and the remainder grows together within 14 days and, when healed, looks like a uvula (Bryk translates this as a small grape)." Younger boys sometimes try to appear circumcised by daubing their glans with the juice of a Euphorbia plant called *oljugi*, which makes the glans swell and prevents the prepuce slipping forward.

Bagge's 1904 account of the Masai operation differs in minor details: "the prepuce is retracted and the operator scarifies each side of the frenulum with the point of his knife, by means of which a certain amount of play is allowed. Inserting his finger between the upper surface of the glans and the prepuce, he makes a transverse incision immediately below a previously placed mark indicating the level of the corona glandis. Through this opening he protrudes the glans penis, and by means of a thorn, so pierces the skin of the prepuce that it is unable to return to its former position. Then, if this part of the prepuce appears to be too long, he cuts off a small portion from it and throws it down. When the operation is over, the circumciser washes the blood from the penis with a mixture of milk and water".

Photographs of Sambru and Masai youths, and early ones of Kikuyu warriors, show a sometimes quite large roll of foreskin hanging in the 'tassel' position, and often this displaced foreskin appears not to have been shortened at the tip. Koenig (1956, p88) describes it as "a lower, shovel-like projection...which, so it is said, increases the sexual lust in both the man and the woman". In his book, *The Kilimanjaro Expedition*, H.H. Johnson describes the result as "a soft round swelling lying under the glans, and giving the penis the appearance of having a double end: among the Masai it is enormous, and is openly displayed".

The description by Bryk (1934, p65) of the Masai and Kikuyu is that they are "only half circumcised, the lower part of the foreskin not being cut away at all, but hanging atrophied for the rest of the owner's life. The Kikuyu have two members, say neighbouring tribes. This hanging foreskin at first constitutes something of a hindrance during the sexual act. I was told that as a result of it the Kikuyu could not enter at all at first. Only after his wife has given birth is complete coition possible. His foreskin hanging down behind the glans is said to be especially arousing to the woman, whose centres of sensation have been shifted as a result of the extirpation of the clitoris".

The operation can be termed a 'simple buttonhole method' of circumcision. When it consists only of the one transverse slit, it has the advantages that it can be done quickly, and with very little bloodshed. (This seems a more plausible explanation than the red berries or white powder for the absence of bleeding when Samuel was circumcised.) It exposes the glans fully, and is usually quick to heal, since the inner and outer cut surfaces of the foreskin are held together by the glans. It is especially suitable for the older lads on whom it is performed, since an erection will tighten the alignment of the two skin surfaces, rather than pulling them apart. Most of these advantages are retained if the frenulum area is cut first. If the tip is left untrimmed, the displaced foreskin remains a tube which, in principle, could, after healing, be drawn back over the glans. If the tip is trimmed, the displaced foreskin may form a pouch and pose a problem of hygiene.

This account is based mainly on the fascinating recent book by Steen and Riddervold, but also draws on the following sources:

Bagge, S. (1904) 'The Circumcision Ceremony among the Naivasha Masai', *Journal of the Anthropological Institute*, 167-9.

Bryk, Felix (1934), *Circumcision in Man and Woman: its history, psychology and ethnology* (New York: American Ethnological Press). Also published as *Sex and Circumcision: a study of phallic worship and mutilation in men and women* (Brandon House, 7311 Fulton Avenue, North Hollywood, California.) (1967, paperback).

Johnson, H.H., *The Kilimanjaro Expedition*.

Merker ,M. (1904), *Die Masai* (Berlin).

Read, David, *Waters of the Sanjan*.

Steen, Johan B. & Esben Riddervold (1993), *The Masai People* (Oslo: Riddervold Photo AS).

Tony Acorn



# ACORN

Issue  
 N° 8 1994  
 Editor  
 David Acorn

## Editorial

As none of the members who were at the meeting in Sheffield have volunteered to do a write-up of the meeting, it looks as if it falls to me to do the honours.

All the previous meetings have been held in the south so it was thought to be a good idea to hold this one in the north to allow those living in and around a chance to get there cheaply and quickly. Therefore we were extremely disappointed that only one member appeared from north of London. Also, apart from two, all had been to previous meetings. Nevertheless it was good to renew old acquaintances and make new ones.

Many Acorn topics were discussed, but the main concern with all was the future of the group. It was felt that there was a need for particular interest groups, particular advice groups, organised advertising (the only proper ads up to now have been paid for privately by Brian and myself, for which we had no mandate), and financial accountability. The correct way to do all these things appeared to be within the framework of a formal and democratic code of conduct. To

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## Correspondence

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

this end a draft Constitution was devised, which would be sent to all members with No 1/95 so that comments could be made, with an inaugural AGM to ratify it to be held probably at Croydon around Easter sometime. A steering committee consisting of myself, Brian of the West Country, Dean of S.Wales and Vernon of London was voted in to prepare this. In the meantime, Dean was asked to become the *pro tem* treasurer to set up a banking system to take care of next year's early subscriptions.

I know all this sounds very technical and cold, and that we have built ourselves up in a confidentially respected atmosphere of warm brotherly feelings (at least I have – and think most others have too) even though there are opposing viewpoints, but I see no reason why there should be any change. I will, as ever, try to keep a fully balanced newsletter, and will fight to keep it so if a bunch of zealots, one way or the other, were to try to take over in the future.

You will find a membership renewal form inside for 1995. Please make cheques and P.O.s payable to THE ACORN SOCIETY, the new full name.

David Acorn

## Double Trouble; Royal Revelations & Words

### Double Trouble?

A most fascinating, almost unknown fact emerged in a book by Dr Vernon Coleman. Apparently one in every five million males is born with a second penis!! From such an amazing statistic, there must be five or six examples of that phenomenon in the United Kingdom. Perhaps an infant born with two penes would have one excised with expediency for the sake of conformity – as was the case with a friend's sixth finger. What is absolutely fantastic is the possibility of a man having one circumcised penis whilst the other remained intact!

If I remember right, Felix Bryk's paperback *Sex and Circumcision* illustrated a phallic wand with two limbs, which I found most curious at the time. It must have been fashioned in mimicry of that rare phenomenon, and the tip on one side gave the appearance of the underside of a circumcised penis.

Biphallicism would be an obvious source of conjecture. With the intact and circumcised combination (fore'n'away) there would be a prepuce for foreplay and masturbation, and a dry glans for fellatio, with a choice of either for intercourse! Should the individual have been born Jewish, would both have been circumcised according to the Dinim of Milah?

### Royal Revelations

So Prince Charles' full frontal photograph appeared in the foreign press! I found it ironic that the initial publishing was in a German newspaper,

*Bild*, for a readership where the lack of a foreskin is still frowned upon. When it is considered that the circumcised condition led to concentration camp gas chambers during W.W.2, the sudden revelation of the mohel's art becomes even more outstanding – a real newsflash.

Later the same photograph appeared in *Paris Match*, but was not included in the U.K. edition. (A Di-version, perhaps!!)

A much earlier Prince came into my conversation when the abbreviation P.A. was questioned. Putting Prince Albert aside, I quipped:-

“It doesn't stand for pretty awful, but rather, pubic addition; it has a definite 'ring' to it!”

(With apologies to the late Prince Albert, also circumcised, but not in the Jewish fashion.)

### Words

Words never fail to stimulate! In Issue 7 Amanda's nail scissor trimming of her boyfriend's frenulum was described as a partial circumcision. There are many reluctant roundheads who would have jumped for joy at 'partial circumcision' without any foreskin loss.

Further in that issue was the delightful term 'circumcisee', never encountered before. What a novel gerund possibility!! Could 'circumciseeing' be hazarded as the operation, or perhaps a glimpse of the result!

May I wish all Acorn-minded seekers after truth a rewarding and happy New Year.

*Anthony*

[And many thanks for your apt card. — D.A.]

### Stan Acornson

My dad is an *Acorn* member and I get to read all the newsletters. He had himself circumcised three years ago and has been on at me to get done as well. He tried to have me done when I was a tiny kid 17 years ago, but my mum didn't like the idea, and anyway he never got past the nurse when he took me along for it once when my mum was away.

He's very insistent that it would be a good thing for me, but my mum says he doesn't know his arse from his elbow when it comes to sex, and I shouldn't listen to him. So for the time being I'm going to hang onto my foreskin although

I've read enough in *Acorn* to make me realise that a lot of people prefer circumcision, and I might go for it one day. What worries me though, is the letters from so many end-users (females) who disapprove. I do quite well as it is and I would hate to find my popularity affected by it!

There has been a lot of comment recently in the papers about young people having sex at an early age with lots of criticism from older people, but not a word from younger people themselves. There was a story a few months ago about a school open day on the Isle of Wight where parents wandering around went into the school kitchens by mistake and surprised about a dozen seniors watching a couple of girls being given oral sex up against the hot plates. They seemed dead surprised by it all, but it really isn't all that unusual from my experience.

About half the girls I grew up with had had full sex by the time they were 15, and quite a lot had it before then. The boys tended to be older but not much. One of the reasons is all the sexy films and videos you get to see. One of our lot used to show us his dad's porny videos when he was out, and they used to get you really turned on, including the girls. Although the girls (and some of the boys, including me) found it a bit shocking to start with, we soon got used to seeing scenes of bonking and oral sex done to both sexes, plus the occasional 'golden shower', and it was only natural to try it ourselves after. It was helped by drink being available from off-licences which helps get you in the mood. You can always get an older kid to buy it for you. When we had a few cans of strong lager we'd go down to the scout hut for sex sessions after drinking the booze on the corner outside the shop.

When I think back, I'm quite ashamed at some of the things we used to do when I was in my mid-teens, usually after a few beers. Grown-ups used to be really shocked by our language, and I suppose it is rather surprising if you're not used to it to hear young girls saying "fuck" and "cunt", although at the time we thought it a bit of a lark and enjoyed the reaction. The girls were just as bad as the boys when it came to bad behaviour, and while drinking the lager before retiring to the scout hut a group of about ten of us used to congregate round the corner, chatting, shouting and swearing. When we'd had a few, it was no big deal for us to take a leak against a wall in broad daylight, whilst the girls often took a pee in the telephone kiosk, and couldn't care less if anyone saw them. Disgusting when you think about it now I suppose!

Doing such things in public was rather OTT, but it all seemed innocent fun in those days, and I don't suppose it did us any harm. Needless to say, with all the sexual experimentation which included everything from wanking and bonking to oral sex (strangely, the girls enjoyed doing this more than the boys) you got to see a wide cross-section of male and female private parts. I don't remember any of the boys being circumcised though.

What I do remember is that one of our group had a very tight foreskin of the 'phimosis' type, and from what I've since read in *Acorn* should by rights have

been circumcised. He didn't know that though, and seemed quite happy as he was. It never stopped him wanking, and his girlfriend said he had a lot more staying power than most of us when it came to full sex, although he didn't get the same enjoyment we got from oral sex. You couldn't tell immediately from just looking at it that he had a tight foreskin. The first time I realised it was when he stood laughing at us in the call box entrance to show off to the girls and took a leak in front of us. I was amazed to see his penis swell up to the size of an orange as he did so, and a fine jet of pee issued from the tip to arc in a curve towards us. The girls were shrieking with laughter, and one of them went over and stood beside him, lifting her dress and loosing off a great splashing torrent in total contrast. Apparently his foreskin always swelled up if he peed really hard, and I suppose it washed out any dirt that may have gathered under his foreskin. He never complained of soreness or the bad smells you're supposed to get though. He's now married with a small kid and to my knowledge hasn't had any problems.

Although circumcision seems to be an important part of life for people who read *Acorn*, the kids in our group barely knew of its existence, and I don't remember any of the kids at school being done. Since I left school though, and started doing computer studies, I found one of the blokes on the course has been done and it's a matter of great curiosity, particularly to the girls. From what I can see he is cashing in on this and getting quite a lot of success, but how much of it is due to personal attraction and how much to curiosity, I wouldn't like to say.

What I like about *Acorn* is the tremendous arguments you get in favour of circumcision on the one hand and foreskins on the other. I think that the women's comments are very amusing too. I'd like to see a little more comment on the other guy's point of view instead of always repeating statements giving their own attitude without acknowledging or commenting on others who think differently. My pet hate? Long-winded geography/history lessons about primitive tribes etc. I'd much rather concentrate on the likes and dislikes of people like me, and advice as to circumcise or not to circumcise – so I've got something to base a decision on.

*Stan*

## Book Request

In 7/94, I was interested to read, at the end, of a book I would like to read:- Bryk, Felix (1934). Would it be possible to offer this in xeroxed form?

*R.F.W.*

[Maybe Tony or Anthony could oblige. — D.A.]

## Circumcisers

Members who are seeking a circumciser for their infant sons may like to contact The Initiation Society, which is an orthodox Jewish organisation for Mohelim (ritual circumcisers). The Society can provide names of qualified mohelim in any part of the country.

It should be noted that, although most mohelim will perform circumcisions not only for Jews but also for Moslems and anyone else who requests it, some may choose not to circumcise non-Jews.

Although highly trained and skilled in circumcising baby boys, many mohelims are not medically qualified and hence are unable to perform circumcisions for adults or for boys over 1 year old. In any list obtained from The Initiation Society only those marked as Dr. are medically qualified.

Fees are a matter for individual mohelim and should be discussed directly with them when making arrangements. To obtain details of local mohelim, write to:-

Mr Alex Minn,  
Secretary,  
The Initiation Society,  
15, Sunny Hill Court,  
Sunningfields Crescent,  
LONDON, NW4 4RB

or telephone him on 0181-203 1352 (Not on Friday nights or Saturday please.)

*V.Q. - London*

## NORM(UK)

I have recently received the latest copy of *Acorn* and would like to refer to your editorial comments about men who resent their cut state forming a support group.

You may be interested to know that a group is now in existence. The first meeting of NORM(UK), which stands for National Organisation of Restoring Men, took place in London on 19/11/94. Fifteen men attended the meeting including myself and G. of Birmingham. The media are starting to take an active interest in the group and we hope for some good publicity before long.

You may also be interested in a new stretching device called a P.U.D. (Penile Uncircumcising Device) which at the moment can only be obtained from the U.S.

If anyone would like to become a member of NORM, would they please phone 01279 429771.

I was interested to hear, David, that you equated circumcision with wealth, and foreskins with poverty. I equated circumcision with dirty people. Everyone went on about circumcision being for hygiene, so I assumed that people who were circumcised were not to be trusted to keep themselves clean. Strangely enough, most of the people I have come across who have been circumcised also seem to be the least particular with their appearance and personal hygiene.

*D.S. – Staffs*

[I'm sure that many members would be interested in hearing about the meetings. Would it be possible for you to act as our official representative? With regard to your last paragraph, it always amazes me on the things that stick in small boys' minds, and I can see why you have the loathing for your circumcision. I can't really say that I've found any evidence to support your last sentence though. — *D.A.*]

## Sensitivity

I am responding belatedly to an editorial in 1/93 in which David reported on an experiment in keeping his foreskin retracted for a few days, and noted; "After a few minutes I didn't know whether my foreskin was retracted or not". This astonished me as one who was circumcised over 40 years ago and can still feel the difference in being so today. Done aged 8 (unnecessarily!), and having experienced the comfort and protection of a foreskin for those formative years, I can remember the acute sensitivity of the moist glans in those early explorations in the days prior to circumcision. It was comparable to touching an eyeball, and there was no way I would have walked around comfortably with my foreskin retracted. Not long afterwards I was cut and didn't have any choice! The really acute sensations quickly subsided as the glans adjusted to permanent dryness, but never to a level of comfort afforded by my foreskin. Also it still feels as though my foreskin is retracted – it definitely ends (without the roll) at the sulcus – something I can sense without looking or touching. It still feels slightly stretched as it had to do to allow passage over the glans. Presumably because the cut edge has left nerve endings there, nearer the surface.

I feel certain this matter is not, as David suggests, "more in the mind", because the degree of sensation is dependent on my underwear. Tight jockeys hold everything in one place and boxers let it all flop about. Consequently the latter are a bit too stimulating for regular wear. I confided this to a circumcised friend and he finds them the same, whereas a number of my uncircumcised friends seem to prefer the freedom of boxers. (Scope for another *Acorn* survey here?) A few years ago we were friendly with a couple with whom we exchanged good natured joky banter on the merits of circumcision, he being 'entire'. I

sensed his wife wasn't sure about it because she told us her earlier 'long-standing' boyfriend was cut as a baby. On one occasion her husband agreed to experiment by keeping his foreskin retracted for a whole day. At our next meeting his wife laughed and said he'd called the whole thing off by lunchtime because he couldn't endure walking about in such discomfort!

*H.L. – Yorks*

[One only feels as one finds! There are many types and ages of foreskins, and I would imagine a young, tight, or damp one would have these consequences. Mine happens to be short (the tip is never covered), loose and dryish; plus of course having been aided by a lot of wonderful wear and tear. So I take your point. — *D.A.*]

### **An Open Letter to 'G' and 'No Choice, Circumcised'**

**S**o, you came to adolescence and found that all cocks were not the same. A similar thing happened to me. If you've read "Ian's Tail" (4/93) you will know that I was circumcised at the suggestion of a midwife and that my Mother agreed to the suggestion in a manner that could not be considered as 'informed consent'. When I made the discovery that my foreskin had been cut off with the agreement of a parent I couldn't believe it. I was hurt, mystified, perplexed, call it what you will, and for some time, thoughts about it were constantly in my mind. I mourned the loss of my foreskin. Like all boys I had to handle my cock several times a day to take a leak. Every time I did so there, before me, was my mutilated cock (for those that have not read Ian's Tail, my circumcision was badly done, later surgery correcting the deformity). Matters were not helped by not being able to talk about what I perceived as my problem. It wasn't that I couldn't talk, it was more a question of who would listen without shutting me up in their embarrassment.

As I became older I found that I was bi-sexual. I was a sexually active teenager and seldom lacked a partner when I wanted one. I realised that, even though I'd lost my foreskin, the remainder of my equipment worked splendidly, so it couldn't all be bad!

At 21 years of age I found a regular partner and, one evening, in the course of a jolly romp, I mentioned my disgust at the appearance of my cock, and my regret at not having a foreskin. My partner was not embarrassed. Quietly and gently I was encouraged to talk, and when I had talked myself out, asked to listen. I was told that sex was a part of life, a good part, an important part, an enjoyable part, and that it was doubtful that a few inches of skin would change it very much. I was complimented on other skills and abilities that I possessed. I was understood, valued, perhaps even cherished. I was appreciated for the man that I am, not the man I might have been.



It's some years since I settled down and accepted that I am a roundhead. I know that the only cock that is going to give me the satisfaction of an erection, the joy of ejaculation, and the thrill of orgasm, is the one between my legs. Would I consider stretching or plastic surgery to re-cover my knob? No. My foreskin went into the trashcan years ago. It may be possible to cover my knob, but the skin that did so would not be a foreskin. Life is sweet, challenging, rewarding, and I'm not going to spend time regretting the consequence of a decision in which I had no part.

*Ian*

## **Jill's Feelings**

I am a 67 year old woman, married for 40 years, and have experienced many strangers' cocks. My husband is a very keen wife-watcher and loves to see me with another man, giving me lots of encouragement to do this, which I don't really need as I love to do it with anybody of any age.

I experienced my first cock when I was 16 so I have had 51 years of different types of cocks. From the beginning I wouldn't like to estimate the times I have had full sexual intercourse with a stranger.

from 16-20 I had a great number  
from 20-26 I had a fair number  
from 26-50 I had a great number  
from 50-67 I had a fair number

At 67 I still have two lovers, one once a month and the other about twice a week (plus hubby twice a week), so I'm still very active with my sex life. I make the point, not to boast, but to let you realise that I am a woman of experience with regards to men's cocks.

My preference always has been for a cock that has a foreskin. The very first hard erect cock that I saw at 16 gave me a pleasant surprise. I was pleased to play with it, rubbing it up and down. Then I allowed him to slide it into me and enjoyed the super sensation. Maybe I am biased because that first cock was one that had a foreskin.

However, the first time that I went out with a boy who was circumcised, I took it out of his trousers and was shocked at how ugly it looked to me with just a bare knob. I can play so much easier with a cock that has a foreskin, sliding it up and down the full length with the damp knob sliding in and out. When I get a circumcised cock in my hand I feel lost to know what to do, and normally just fondle it, unless I use some oil to make it slippery. So when handling a man's cock my preference is most definitely for a cock with a foreskin, and am always disappointed when a man slips off his underpants and out pops a circumcised cock. I never did refuse it however – just disappointed.

Before a cock slides into me, I like to rub the knob up and down the length of my fanny. This gets it nice and wet and I find this action very, very stimulating. At my age I can still have a strong orgasm simply by rubbing in this way. At this stage it doesn't matter to me whether the cock is circumcised or has a foreskin, as I am only using the tip of the knob.

Now let's get the hard cock inside my hole. If it is circumcised I reckon I feel the difference in sensation. My vagina grips the knob and there is nothing to slide back on the cock, it is just a solid pole. Don't get me wrong – a circumcised cock inside me still feels great, but I feel I am missing some of the extra excitement that a foreskinned cock can give me. It is more like using a plastic vibrator – great fun but no movement on the surface of the cock.

When I am about to receive a cock with a foreskin I always make sure that the foreskin is covering the knob and not pushed back. I try to let it slip in with the foreskin still over the knob, and then not grip the cock with my muscles until I have the full length in my hole.

When either type of cock is being thrust in and out during sex, it feels good and similar, but with the cock with a foreskin, at the end of the inward stroke, I can grip the foreskin, feel the knob sliding out of the foreskin, and the knob then penetrates deeper into me. This is the extra sensation I love, and miss on a circumcised cock. A circumcised cock will still penetrate me deeply but this extra feeling is missing. This again has nothing to do with length of cock, which I don't think makes any difference to good sex. It is nice sometimes to have a young, solid, long cock inside me, but it can also hurt if too rough. I am more concerned to have a very hard cock inside me than worry about its size.

I have played games, being blindfolded before a man undressed, and I can tell 100% when a cock slides into me whether it is circumcised or not. I can also tell hubby's cock out of a selection when blindfolded. A woman's hole is a very sensitive piece of equipment.

*Jill*

## What To Put On It

I have noticed that a number of members who were circumcised at birth or as a child and are dissatisfied with their state complain about a dry glans and lack of sensitivity in it. May I suggest that they get themselves some skin cream containing vitamin E, or even the vitamin E capsules, and massage this into the whole of their penis, paying special attention to the glans, on a regular basis. They will find it has the effect of making the membrane far more sensitive and soft. They can do this before going to bed or get their partner to do it for them as foreplay. But whatever, it certainly does make a difference.

Perhaps Ray Hamble would like to comment from a medical point of view.

On the subject of famous circumcisions, the item below will I am sure be of interest to those purists who say they know who is and isn't cut amongst famous persons. I culled it from the magazine *New Moon*, which is a Jewish magazine that supports Norwood, which is a charity for Jewish children. It covers a wide range of topics allied to Jewish life for Orthodox to Reform Judaism, from Hetero to Gay Judaism – even lonely hearts.

The article is interesting because it is from Marlon Brando's latest autobiography, *Songs My Mother Taught Me*. His comments on meditation and pain control are interesting.

*B.H. – Leeds*

## Circumcision Decision

The more I have meditated, the more I have been able to control not only stress in my life, but pain. If I have a headache or stub my toe, I'm often able to locate the pain with my mind and will it away. So confident am I of this ability that when I decided a few years ago to be circumcised, I asked the doctor to do it without a painkiller. I assured him that I could eliminate the pain using mind control during the operation. He was sceptical, but said it would be an interesting medical experience, and he scheduled the operation. But when I arrived at the hospital, what seemed like its entire medical staff was waiting to witness the event. The prospect of seeing a movie star circumcised without anaesthesia must have been a hot topic of discussion in the doctors' lounge. I didn't welcome the presence of uninvited guests, and since I go by instinct, I went home.

Later a different doctor agreed to do the operation without painkillers, but he became frightened and an anaesthetist was waiting for me when I kept my appointment. He said that because of medical ethics, he couldn't circumcise me without using a painkiller. Disappointed and angry, but tired of the delays, I let the anaesthetist give me a shot in my back.

Nevertheless, I still wanted to show the doctors what I could do, and I told them to take my blood pressure. I had already meditated, brought my blood pressure down more than twenty points, and even put myself into one of those moments of satori that I rarely achieve. To this day, I'm sure that if they hadn't given me the shot, I would have felt no pain.

*Marlon Brando*

## Stitch

I am 41 now, but one night, many years ago, I was about 17 and inexperienced in sex matters. I was making love to my girlfriend in the front room of her parents' house. It was in the late sixties and I think we had the Moody Blues on. Anyway, I think I must have entered her too soon, and I guess she must have been quite dry, because I tore my foreskin. I don't know the technical name for the bit that I tore; I have a friend who calls it a 'stitch', which I think is quite descriptive. It's the piece that seems to attach the prepuce to the glans. I'd say that the tear was about 1 cm deep, resulting in a 2 cm long wound. Obviously there was blood everywhere, but it seemed to heal up pretty quickly, and has left an almost invisible white line of scar tissue.

Since then I've read and heard the odd thing about foreskins. I know that some men have difficulty pulling the foreskin back over the head of their penis; I've heard the arguments about circumcision repeatedly. But it's only recently that I've realised that the incident above was probably a lucky break. Even before that night I had no problem pulling my foreskin back, but since then I've been able to pull it back a further 2 cm. When erect, I can pull my foreskin fully back; there is no tension in my 'stitch', and my penis looks circumcised. When flaccid, the foreskin covers the head so there is no loss of sensitivity.

C. F.

The following is an item from *The Independent* of November 15th. A member sent me the story in a Birmingham newspaper when it occurred, but there were no details of why the boy died. Two things come to my mind. Doesn't the law grind along slowly. This doctor could have been a psychopath. Secondly, as in a recent case, you can get thrown into prison for being afraid to be a witness, but just get a wiggling for killing a little boy. But then, I must remember it's not my job here to criticise our legal system. — D.A.

## G.P Suspended over Circumcision Death

A doctor who gave a nine-year-old boy a massive overdose of drugs, including heroin, for a circumcision operation – after which the child died – was found guilty of serious professional misconduct yesterday.

The drugs injected by Dr Mahbulul Alam were “wholly inappropriate”, the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee was told. The committee ordered the doctor to be suspended from the medical register for eight months, beginning in 28 days, pending any appeal.

Dr Alam injected Raju Miah with more than three times the recommended amount of diamorphine – heroin – and excess amounts of the tranquilliser Stemetil. Raju was the last of four boys aged between 7 and 10 circumcised

by Dr Alam in July 1991. The other three boys recovered consciousness, but Raju remained unconscious and died in hospital on August 7th. 1991 from respiratory failure due to narcotic poisoning.

Earlier this year, at Stafford Crown Court, Dr Alam, of Handsworth Road, Birmingham, admitted manslaughter. He was given a 12-month jail sentence, suspended for a year, and ordered to pay £3000 costs.

And now a cutting sent by a member from Wales, found in the letters page of the current edition of *Health and Efficiency*.

## And More On

I should not wish my name or town to be quoted, as I am writing about circumcision – a subject which seems to interest many readers.

I had myself circumcised at the age of 60. It cost £200 and was worth every penny. It was a ‘walk-away’ operation. The organ was bandaged up for a week; then I had a bath and removed the bandage; it was bruised black and blue, not a pretty sight. In another week the bruising had gone, and after another week the stitching had gone.

I would say it was ‘uncomfortable’ rather than ‘painful’, but I was determined to end a condition of discomfort and misery lasting so long. The uncleanliness was the worst part of being uncircumcised. Owing to our English prudery, I was left to discover for myself at the age of 10 how necessary it is to wash there. I wonder how many men wash sufficiently to remain clean. In some conditions it must be impossible to wash.

Female cervical cancer **may** be due to male partners being unclean through not being circumcised. I think all male babies should be circumcised at birth as a routine matter. If all American babies are circumcised at birth, it would be interesting to compare the incidence of cervical cancer there with the incidence here or in, for example, Catholic countries.

A picture of an uncircumcised man in your magazine fills me with horror, how could anyone be so primitive.

R.T.

[There’s none so righteous as the newly converted. I’m sorry he never learnt to wash himself in 50 years. His ears and bum must be terrible. — D.A.]

## Young Tricks

This little story may be of interest to our readers. It concerns myself, a friend, and his brother. At the time we were 16 and the brother 15. We all attended a school in the middle of London, but at the time had our sportsground at what was then the outskirts of town. In midweek we all journeyed to the ground, and also on Saturdays if there was something special on – a football match or sports day. Midweek, everyone travelled from the school to the ground by train, but made our own way there on Saturdays.

Now, this is a somewhat comic story of masturbation, the way it happened, and one could say the outcome of the action. We could not put our plan into action travelling to the ground as the carriages were too crowded, but on the return journey was when it all happened. The drill was for the three of us to go to the back of the train, get a vacant carriage, and keep it for ourselves. As soon as the carriage was clear of the platform, it was quickly to undo our flies, and out with our already standing cocks, then to masturbating ourselves or one another. We were soon able to be able to time the length of our action before 'coming' to occur between stations. We had to be on the alert that the train did not pull up in front of a signal box.

My two friends were Jewish, so they were circumcised, but I was not, so we both found each other's penis very exciting. At our age our penises were then of adult size, but the brother a year younger was still just short of being full grown, although still a very useful tool. We were returning to London, my friend and I sitting with our backs to the direction of travel, with his brother opposite; all three busy with our penises, by this time quite erect. On the next line a fast train was slowly overtaking ours. The implications of this didn't register with us for a second. Suddenly we saw a lady of about 30 peering in the window at us. Quickly she was joined by a second girl. As their train went by, we two passed out of their view, but his brother was still in their line of vision and he still continued with what he was doing. By the look on the ladies' faces they seemed to have enjoyed it also.

Just a little story of long ago which I thought might be of interest. I wonder if any other members have little memories of this nature. They would be good to read.

*R. R. – Middx.*

## Further Name for Famous States

The Spanish film star Xavier Bardem – circumcised. (Films – Jamon Jamon and Golden Balls).

*R.H. – London*

## No Balls

### An open letter to Tom, N. Yorks, Issue 7/94.

I must be completely opposite to you. Firstly, I wake up nine out of ten mornings with a hard on. If my wife touches me in bed I get hard. If I think of sex or see sexy films I get hard. I wish I could exchange 20% of my overpotence for some of your impotence.

Have you ever thought about having a prince albert fitted to the end of your knob. It's a stainless steel ring that goes in through the urethra and comes out on the underside (frenulum). The piercing is small, doesn't even bleed, and only takes a few minutes to do. It's very suitable for circumcised men and almost guarantees you'll wake up with an erection every morning after you have it fitted. Plus it will add extra excitement keeping you harder when you push it up against the end of the vagina deep inside your girl.

I also envy you with a circumcised penis. Mine still has its full foreskin on, which I would like to lose (but haven't had the balls to make an appointment for a circumcision to be done on me yet).

I would be more than willing to tell you or your girlfriend about a penis with a foreskin. Perhaps you could tell me about a circumcised one, like, when you have intercourse, does your shaft skin slide in and out as you move? This I think will be the main difference because, at the moment, when I slide my penis right into my wife, my shaft skin stays still in her fanny entrance, and my knob with the inner and outer foreskin slides up and down inside her, unless I move more than two or three inches.

Also, is the scar line very wide; does it have feeling in it or has the scar almost disappeared? Also, does it not hurt a circumcised penis when you pull your shaft skin back? Can you masturbate without lubrication? These are some of the things I would like to know about a cock without a foreskin. Feel free to ask any questions you want about an uncircumcised penis.

*John – Worcs.*

[P.S. to Tom – The frenulum (or frenum) is the small strip of skin on the underside of your knob. You've also got one under your tongue, but that doesn't have all the beautiful nerve endings like your cock one. See 'Stitch'. — D.A.]

## Circumcision and Masturbation

In March 1994, *HIM* magazine, in which my medical advice column had appeared for many years, ceased publication and I was transferred back to *Zipper* magazine – a title to which I had contributed yonks and yonks ago. *Zipper* carries more erotic male nude photos than *HIM* used to do and I get the impression from the agony letters I receive nowadays that it has an older readership, many of whom are solo masturbators using the pictures as ‘wanking fodder’.

Emerging from this correspondence is a clear distinction between the masturbation techniques of those who are circumcised and those who are not. Not surprisingly, those without a foreskin tend to apply direct friction to their glans, using their fingers or clenched hand, whilst those who are uncut seem more inclined to grip their penile shaft and rely upon the mobility of their foreskin, thrust to and fro over the glans, to produce the required sensations. Also, as anticipated, circumcised guys are more disposed towards the use of lubrication than the uncircumcised.

Thoughts around these differences lead me to seek the views of *Acorn* readers. Would those who are cut and those who are uncut care to comment, anonymously if they so wish, on their own techniques in order that a more comprehensive picture may be built up of specific differences in masturbatory behaviour and experience? I hesitate to compile a formal questionnaire because I’m sure to leave out a crucial question simply because I’m not exactly sure what to ask. However I’ll be more than happy to collate the information generated and, of course, I’ll reply personally to all those whose name and address accompanies their comments. The more wide-ranging the replies the more information will be gleaned. Indeed, perhaps ‘masturbation techniques’ is itself an inadequate question. In a nutshell, what are the differences in all forms of sexual arousal between the cut and the uncut, whether it be wanking, wet dreams or whatever?

*Ray Hamble*

## Happy Christmas

It now only remains for me and the publishing team to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a genitally perfect New Year.

*D.A.*