



DUE TO CIRCUMCISIONS BEYOND OUR CONTROL♦♦♦

***New men’s group chases to the cut,
courageously exploring the trauma nobody talks about***

by David Bris

You might say they’re “foreskin” America to take another look at an ancient practice that millions take for granted. Whatever you say about them, know that they are Smegma Pi, a loosely-organized but closely knit men’s-rights “fraternity” who wants to bring a halt to the circumcision of infant males. And they mean business.

“There’s been such outrage in recent years over female genital mutilation in Third World Countries,” says Mark Limburger, the acting president of Smegma Pi. “But from a worldwide perspective, those are relatively isolated incidents. Nobody says a word about a much more widespread practice that takes place every single day in what is supposed to be the most civilized and advanced nation in the world. I’m talking about the ritual genital mutilation of male infants. Circumcision, as it is so euphemistically called, is the single most prevalent cause of male gender identity crisis. It is nothing less than an assault on the very essence of our maleness. It’s a permanent wound on the psyche as well as the body of every male who is subjected to it.”

But how could this act, which normally takes place too early in a boy’s life to leave any lasting memories, be the cause of such grief?

“There’s no such thing as ‘too early’ when you’re talking about a sentient being,” Limburger replies firmly. “The body remembers; every cell of the body remembers. The psyche remembers. This point has been

made clear by psychotherapists all over the country; it’s come up again and again in regression sessions. Look, we’re talking about a trauma here, and the trauma is pervasive; it colors everything a man does and everything he is.

“But worst of all, it robs him of a precious part of his sexuality. Studies have shown that men with foreskins enjoy sex much more than mutilated men. Circumcision numbs a man; it’s like giving him a permanent surgical condom. That alone is reason enough for all men to get up in arms about this institutionalized brutality.”

What about religious traditions that require circumcision of infant males?

“Some of these same traditions forbid the eating of pork too, and I don’t see Oscar Mayer’s shareholders losing any sleep. People of all faiths are scarfing down ham and bacon like nobody’s business. The point is, even religious traditions are culturally-based and arbitrary. I don’t think we should use religion as an excuse to keep slashing away at our males. We should leave our infant boys intact, and then if they choose circumcision when they grow older — say, as a religious requirement, or part of an initiation rite, or just to please some fastidious woman — it will be their choice.”

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(Circumcision, continued from previous page)

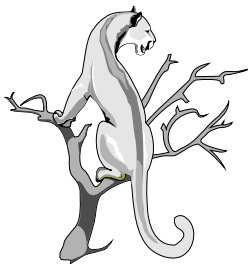
But isn't hygiene a problem for foreskin-intact men?

"Nah," says Limburger. "That's the oldest lie in the world, and again it's based solely on cultural bias. Listen, it's about time American women learned to really accept men for who they are, smells and all. If American women can't learn to do that, well, all I can say is that Third World and European nations are teeming with gals who aren't so picky. Of course with some of these foreign women there's the question of cultural differences, but once you train them to shave their legs and underarms they make perfectly acceptable partners."

At present there isn't much a circumcised man can do to reverse the mutilation, though ongoing research by Dr. Mendon Rahdz of RestoreSkin® Laboratories has yielded some promising results with skin grafts. But true foreskin restoration is still years away. Meanwhile, says Limburger, widespread education can contain the practice of male genital mutilation in this country. And for those millions of men for whom it is already too late, Smegma Pi has these suggestions to start you on the path of healing:

- Most importantly, find a good therapist to help you deal with the trauma you suffered. Know that therapy will probably be a lifelong undertaking, but it is the only way to truly restore the integrity of your sense of maleness.
- Drumming always helps. As you drum, give yourself permission to grieve freely for that lost part of you.
- Hold a symbolic reverse circumcision. Sit in a Circle with your closest male friends and a Talking Stick. As the Talking Stick is passed around the Circle, each participant will cover it with something...a balloon, a sock, a sausage casing or anything else to represent the lost part.
- Go to a quiet place and close your eyes. Visualize your foreskin; hold an inner dialogue with it; bless it and ask its forgiveness. Be with your feelings.
- Practice all-around forgiveness. Forgive yourself (after all, it wasn't your fault); then forgive the healthcare practitioner, rabbi or other agent who performed the mutilation. They were only doing what they thought was right — and remember, more than likely they, too were mutilated men.
- Most of all, remember that, foreskin or not, you are still a man. Reclaim and honor your maleness.

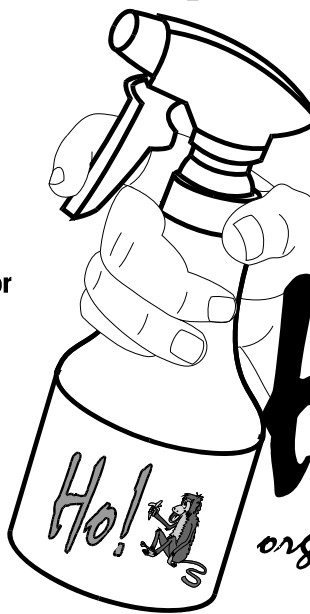
Being in touch with your inner beast doesn't mean you have to smell like him.



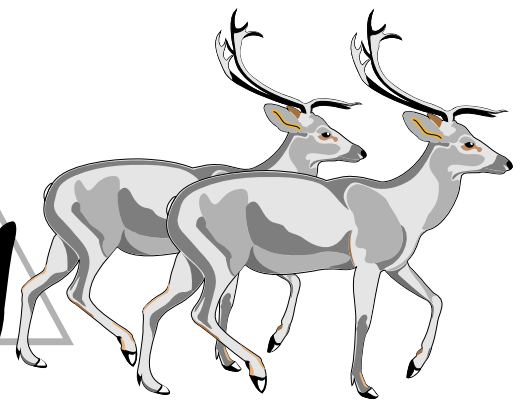
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-Robert Blah
Men's Movement Leader

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