

## Boys and the Hood - Page 4

August 2006

Paul Tinari is another of Stubbs' patients. An extreme example of circumcision as physical assault, his was performed in 1965, when he was eight years old, because of supposed masturbatory tendencies. He was held down by two priests at a Catholic residential school in Montreal, his nose and wrist broken in the struggle as his foreskin was crudely severed.

At the Coffee Mill, located in the same building as Stubbs' Yorkville practice, Tinari is oblivious to the Rosedale matrons who abandon their strudel and listen slack-jawed to his explicit opinions, delivered in a voice that rises in tandem with his passion. "The whole microbiology of the penis changes and therefore so do the bacteria that live there. Circumcision may be one of the reasons why the treatment of yeast infection in women is a multi-billion-dollar industry in North America. And there is a profit made in selling foreskins for biochemical analysis and in the manufacture of artificial skin." The lanky, red-haired engineer tends to lecture instead of converse, rapidly expounding on his "endless process of becoming," as well as his skills as an epidemiologist, "imagination engineer" and futurist. But his emotional rant is factual.

He was well into adulthood before he realized that erections are not supposed to hurt. Manual stretching of his skin was never an option because of the heavy scarring and skin loss, and so tomorrow, Stubbs will operate. Tinari, who now lives in Vancouver, was referred to the plastic surgeon by his B.C. urologist and psychiatrist, and the \$12,000 operation is being funded by British Columbia's health plan. He believes the government's generosity stems from a desire to avoid his launch of a lawsuit, "plus, they realized it was pay for this or pay for my psychological treatments for the rest of my life."

In simple terms, the operation involves slitting the skin of the scrotum horizontally in two places and threading the penis through. For three weeks, the organ lies comfortably in its temporary bed, snuggled like a pig in a blanket, and the scrotum skin grafts onto a designated area of the shaft. A second operation to separate the newly dressed penis leaves a movable "foreskin." Tinari's second surgery is successful. "Three days of pain and then lots of gentle walking exercise," he says. "I'm very pleased." The new foreskin behaves more or less like a real one. Since it is scrotal skin, it could eventually grow hair, but, Stubbs says matter-of-factly, that can be rectified with electrolysis.

Foreskin restoration is not a new invention; even the ancient Greeks employed various methods of stretching. But the Internet has created an energetic community. The National Organization of Restoring Men (NORM), NOCIRC, NOHARMM and the Circumcision Information and Resource Pages, among other sites, offer information and support on the topic (one that's not often discussed over beer and nachos) in anonymity. Visitors can read medical and academic papers and learn the pros and cons of each restoration method. While no stretching technique can restore the foreskin's erogenous tissue and nerves, men often report that the glans, now moist beneath its protective covering, reaches a new level of sensitivity. "It is like seeing in colour after a lifetime of black and white," says one man; another describes the sensation as analogous to drawing a finger lightly across the back of the hand, compared to drawing it lightly across the palm.

Steve Richards, a passionate 30-year-old journalist who manages NORM's Toronto chapter Web site, spent his adolescence on a NATO base where kids constantly teased him about what they called his Canadian turtleneck. "At swim class, they wanted to know what was wrong with it. So when I went to university I got circumcised. But two months later I regretted it. It looked nicer before, and now I had to change the way I masturbated; there was nothing to move. I'd had no clue what the foreskin really was. The doctor just did it with little explanation of consequences." He began taping in August of 2004. "I'll be done by the end of this year."



Page: 1 2 3 4 5



## Current Issue



Subscribe to Toronto Life Magazine

Give a Gift  
Renew Subscription  
Check Account Status  
Change of Address  
Subscription FAQ

## Contests

Taste of Toronto-Spring Edition

## TORONTO LIFE CityGuides

Arts & Entertainment Guide  
Bars & Clubs Guide  
Entertaining Guide  
Fashion & Beauty Guide  
Fitness & Wellness Guide  
Food Guide  
Getaways & Day Trips Guide  
Golf Guide  
Good Stuff Cheap Guide  
Home & Garden Guide  
Kids & Parents Guide  
Real Estate Guide  
Restaurants Guide  
Wine Guide

[Email](#) [Del.icio.us](#) [Digg](#) [Facebook](#)



**CUSTOMER SERVICE**

- [Subscribe to Toronto Life magazine](#)
- [Give a gift](#)
- [Enquire about subscriptions](#)
- [Renew subscription](#)
- [Check account status](#)
- [Change of address](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)

**QUICK LINKS**

- [Cheap eats](#)
- [Urban Decoder](#)
- [Chatto's Digest](#)
- [Find a restaurant](#)
- [Find events](#)
- [Where to get good stuff cheap](#)
- [Movies and nightlife](#)

**SEARCH FOR**

- [Restaurant reviews](#)
- [Recommended wines](#)
- [Something to do tonite](#)
- [Something to do this weekend](#)
- [A cultural event](#)
- [Marketplace classifieds](#)
- [Feature articles](#)

**NEWSLETTERS**

Stay on top of the best the city has to offer with Preview, our free weekly email newsletter.

- Preview**
- Toronto Life Cottager**

Your e-mail address

**SUBSCRIBE >>**



[subscribe](#) [newsletters](#) [privacy policy](#) [about us](#) [contact us](#) [masthead](#) [advertise](#)

**TORONTO LIFE**

© 2008. All Rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part strictly prohibited.  
Toronto Life is a registered trademark of Toronto Life Publishing Company Limited  
[Browser Support](#)

[New servers](#)