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Our Mission

The Samara Foundation of Vermont is a charitable foundation whose mission is to support and strengthen Vermont's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered communities today and build an endowment for tomorrow.

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Naked Curiosity: Cuts of All Kinds



**dennis
scott-bush**

What do some pregnant couples looking at a sonogram have in common with gay men watching HBO's prison drama, *Oz*?

They're hoping to spot a penis.

A teeny weenie made an appearance on Christy and Rachel's hi-tech womb window. They were hoping for a healthy baby, not necessarily one with a particular type of genitalia. But, now, their bun in the oven has had its gender identified.

So, among their long list of imminent responsibilities, these two wonderful women have the task of deter-

My concern was that the boy's foreskin would make him appear different from the majority of lads in the locker room. Would he be happy with his turtleneck when most everyone else was otherwise attired?

Martin figured that, with more and more new parents skipping the snipping, the boy would be less unique than I assumed. And that blending in shouldn't be the goal.

Whether it's having an uncircumcised penis, same-sex parents or any number of other special characteristics, we each have things that set us apart. So, all we need to do is join hands and sing a happy

ciless and he was scarred.

Emotionally, yes, and also across the middle of his penis where he tried to cut it off, in a fit of depression. It didn't matter that, as his tormentors got older, they wished they had what he had. By then, he already associated his big dick with big pain.

When he was growing up, nobody took him aside and talked about surviving the teasing. The gay brethren he came in contact with in romantic and sexual situations, as he got older, were no better. When he told the story of his scar — and you couldn't help but ask — the response was usually disbelief rather than sympathy. What adult male would think having an extra-large penis would be a problem?

How often do we make light of a struggle that someone may be having just because we don't see it as an issue?

As long as our differences are derided, we need to do what we can to prepare our progeny for the cruelty that awaits them and teach them to embrace the diversity in others, as well.

Merely by taking part in the lives of our nieces and nephews, Martin and I have been able to influence the way they perceive gay people. And they share that perception with others, even when they may not be aware of it. I'll never forget the first time a few of the kids on Martin's side of the family introduced me to their friends as Uncle Dennis. In that moment, they made it clear that, regardless of my sexual orientation, I was valued and loved. I was a part of the family. A simple, yet powerful statement that cut right to the heart of the matter. Some kids have gay uncles. Some have uncircumcised penises and same-sex parents. We all have things that set us apart.

Share your stories.

Pass along the wisdom you've gained from knowing what it's like to be different.

Uncle Dennis says so.▼

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Would he be happy with his turtleneck when most everyone else was otherwise attired?

mining the fate of their soon-to-be-born son's foreskin. Since they don't have penises of their own and, in an effort to be good parents, the expectant moms did research.

Everyone has an opinion. And when they asked for Martin's and my thoughts on the topic, Rachel and Christy got an earful of surprising reflections.

In the interest of full disclosure, I should state that both Martin and I are circumcised. Aesthetically and sexually, I find uncut penises appealing on other men while Martin does not. So, my suggestion that they opt for a little prepuce paring and Martin's support, instead, of the not-trimmed choice were seemingly at odds with our own preferences.

song, right? Not so fast.

In my junior year of college, I had a fling with a man who was exceedingly well endowed. And he hated it. I know, that's hard to swallow (so was he), but he was truly embarrassed anytime someone commented on it or made a joke about it.

Not only was he much larger than most men, he had also reached puberty a lot sooner than his friends and classmates. He told me about the brutal teasing he encountered when it was time to take a communal shower after gym class.

At that age, the fact that he was jumbo hung and hairy, too, was cause for ridicule because he was different.

The taunting was mer-

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