



Australia: Conference Advances Movement

The recent Sixth International Symposium on Genital Integrity, held from December 7-9 at the University of Sydney in Sydney, Australia, represents in my opinion the maturing of the movement for genital integrity for all human beings. We are reaching out to new geographical constituencies, such as South Korean activists DaiSik Kim, Myung-Geol Pang, and Sae Chul Kim, who each received the Human Rights Award at the symposium and who delivered a spellbinding address entitled, "The Short and Bizarre History of South Korean Circumcision". Their work to combat the startling ascendance of circumcision in that country has gained substantial media attention in Korea and elsewhere around the world. (continued page 2)

New York: Lawsuit Initiated

In the spring of 2000, William Stowell, a high school senior from Virginia, arrived in Washington, DC to participate with others at the Doctors Opposing Circumcision booth at the American Medical Students Association meetings. Lacking a hotel reservation, he spent the first night sleeping in his car. The following day he spoke with scores of medical students, providing them with factual information detailing the harm of male circumcision. Several months later he initiated a lawsuit as reported below at the Newsweek website.. <http://www.msnbc.com/news/536231.asp>

Sex Life Not Good? Sue! Lawyer David Llewellyn Is the Johnnie Cochran of the circumcised

By Gersh Kuntzman
NEWSWEEK WEB EXCLUSIVE

Feb. 26 - William Stowell enjoys sex. But he doesn't enjoy it as much as he thinks he should. So he's doing what any red blooded American male would do when dissatisfied with his sex life: He's suing the hospital where he was born.

A couple of months ago, Stowell filed a civil suit claiming that Good Samaritan Hospital in West Islip, N.Y., permanently deprived him and (continued on page 4)

Sweden: The Situation on the Issue of Circumcision

By Stefan Ivarsson

I will begin this article with a short version of the Swedish situation and then I will continue to describe my efforts to improve the situation so far and finally a little bit on what I see in the future. But first I will introduce myself. I'm an attorney and I'm living in Malmö in the far south of Sweden. I have just recently discovered my feelings on this issue and hence my sudden appearance.

The Swedish situation

Now, the situation on the proposed law permitting circumcision is that the social committee of the Swedish parliament is going to address the issue and make up their mind before the preliminary submissions are due in March. Professor of international child health, Yngve Hofvander, is invited to present medical opinion regarding circumcision to them in early March. The importance of the social committee is very high as their opinion functions as a guide to their respective party members. This means that all successful lobbying has to be made towards the committees in the first instance. Secondly the proposed law is on for voting in parliament where the 349 members can say their piece in the fore coming debate. Obviously they will vote as their respective party representatives in the social committee has indicated. This is practical democracy for you. Before the issue became a discussion in the parliament it has been an issue within the medical community for several years. Legally the procedure of circumcision has never been challenged nor has it been specifically regulated. It is not legally defined as healthcare and as such it falls within the category of quackery. There is a law on quackery and any procedure or traditional health practice that is not healthcare. Officially circumcision falls under this law but my professional opinion is that circumcision only falls under the penal section of the law as aggravated assault. However, this remains to be tried and I aim to be a party to this becoming a reality.

My efforts
(continued on page 2)

Canada: Military Using Foreskins for Research

Here is a shocker from Canada. Albertan baby boys' foreskins are being used for war research. Interesting how this news arrives just after we have learned of several workable alternatives to foreskins for development of skin products for burn victims. Following are two articles on the subject. *Steven Svoboda*

Article in Toronto Sun,
Monday, February 19, 2001
<http://www.canoe.ca/TorontoNews/ts.ts-02-19-0014.html>

You should ask for that foreskin

By PAUL COWAN, SUN MEDIA
EDMONTON -- Military scientists using newborns' foreskins (continued page 4) for chemical warfare research and the doctors who supply the material should get permission from parents' first, says the president of the National Council on Ethics in Human Research.

One of the Medicine Hat doctors involved in providing the foreskins to the Defense Research Establishment at CFB Suffield said parents were only told about the fate of the flesh if they asked.

But Dr. Jan Storch, the president of the ethics council, said: "The guidelines are that, as a mark of respect, permission should be sought to use the tissue for research."

Contact info: If you wish to send a letter to the editor: editor@sunpub.com

Article in Edmonton Sun
<http://www.canoe.ca/EdmontonNews/es.es-02-19-0006.html>
Monday, February 19, 2001

Tissue consent an issue Ethics council says military should have parental approval to use foreskin

By PAUL COWAN, EDMONTON SUN
An Alberta-based military research team using newborns' foreskins for chemical warfare research and the doctors who (continued on page 4)

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Australia

(continued from page 1) based in large part on the award from NOCIRC. (In 1998, Dr. Margaret Somerville's receipt of her award at the Oxford Symposium generated a similar media buzz.)

Our movement is also receiving increasing media attention. This Symposium was covered by many media outlets around the world including ABC News, the Associated Press, CNN International, the Sydney Herald, the Melbourne Age, the Independent (South Africa), the Times of India, the Malaysia National News Agency. Keynote speaker Gregory J. Boyle of Australia's Bond University ably summarized the principal ethical, psychological and legal considerations and helped draw Australian media and popular attention to the symposium. Zenas Baer supplied a fascinating overview of the two equal protection cases relating to circumcision in which he has been involved as well as a legal overview.

We are branching out, reinforcing and expanding our alliance with the movement against female genital mutilation, which indeed has always been an integral part of the biennial symposia (as well as a small but important part of ARC's work). At this conference, valuable and mutually beneficial connections were formed with such anti-FGM activists as Juliana Nkrumah of the New South Wales FGM Program and Martha Teshome of Western Australia.

New faces were very welcome in Sydney. We are expanding our connections in other ways, bringing in brilliant, incisive new thinkers such as the impressively credentialed Professor Michael Katz ("The Urge to Circumcise Seems Constant, The Reasons for It Keep Changing") and Professor Leonard B. Glick, who provided an unforgettable historical perspective on Jewish circumcision. While everyone present joined Shane Peterson's sorrow over his own personal circumcision tragedy, we all

admired his unspeakable courage in sharing with us his saga of medical disaster followed by endless struggle and, ultimately, legal victory. Daniel Bollinger drew fascinating connections between circumcision and other forms of violence in the United States.

We are also reaching out to look at the connections between our cause and other issues present and past. Frederick Hodges delivered a typically superb review of historical revisionism in recent medical history, and Robert Darby provided an illuminating and original discussion of the rise of preventive circumcision from 1880-1930 in Australia. Seham abd el Salam wrote a paper delivered by Marilyn Milos which analyzed in detail common ground between activists against male and female genital cutting.

Closing keynote speaker John W. Travis delivered a passionate plea for a holistic vision of transforming the lives of children through a comprehensive program of inter-related life-honoring practices. The spirited discussion stirred up by John's presentation reaffirmed to me our vitality as a movement, our ability to disagree and yet merge head and heart in a collaborative dialectic. My talk, entitled "Comparative Legal Analysis of Body Mutilation Practices on Children," drew connections between and suggested lessons to be learned from such disparate child body modification practices as Chinese footbinding, infanticide in Nineteenth Century India, artificial cranial deformation of infants, male genital mutilation, and female genital mutilation.

The variety of the offerings was virtually limitless. George L. Williams suggested that Sigmund Freud may have suffered from circumcision-related post traumatic stress disorder. Duane Jorde contributed a heartening, at times moving collection of photographs of fathers "in rebellion" to promote a new wave of protective and nurturing fatherly instincts.

The session on "The Role of Women in Ending Genital Mutilation," conducted by all of us present with leadership provided by Jeannine Parvati Baker (who has also done the closing of EVERY symposium to date), Mary Conant, and Marilyn Milos, offered all of us an all too rare opportunity to let our hair down and explore together the feelings underlying our own connections with genital integrity issues. Many of us learned things about each other which we never knew despite years of working side by side. Truly an unforgettable part of

the Symposium.

Sydney is a breathtaking beautiful city, with water everywhere and a remarkably efficient multimodal public transportation system. Marilyn Milos probably outdid herself this year with her masterful organization of this event.

We are Africans and Europeans, North Americans and Asians. We are young and we are young-at-heart. We are women and men, gay and straight, intact and not. We are united as champions of genital integrity. As the past millennium comes to its actual close and the new one is ready to go, it is heartening that we have two promising legal cases in progress (a posting on the Stowell and Price cases will be coming soon) and exciting that we can come together to collectively dream of a better future. What happier holidays could all of us who support genital integrity possibly have than living to see and help make our wish start to become true?

*Steven Svoboda,
Attorneys for the Rights of the Child*

Sweden: My efforts

(Continued from page 1) I began taking action around Christmas but the fight in Sweden has been going on for a couple of years. My first contribution was a letter to the Swedish minister of justice in which I asked the Department of Social Affairs to investigate on the new circumcision law. I have followed this up by informing my political contacts and producing a legal investigation in the form of an article. I have sent this to all the above-mentioned officials and the press. Furthermore I'm in contact with the different ombudsmen and other organizations, governmental or otherwise, who have sent their opinion on the law to the department of social affairs. I have informed them of the flaws in their legal reasoning where needed. I have established contact with the YMCA of Sweden and am currently working with them on this issue. I'm also working with Professor Yngve Hofvander, who attended the symposium in Australia.

I have written several e-mails enclosing a letter and my legal investigation to all of the members of the social committee and the chairmen of all the political parties. I have already been in contact with the Vice President of the Social Committee. I have also been in contact with the representatives of my own party.

I have of course tried to get the attention of the press and (continued page 3)

Review

As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who Was Raised As A Girl. By John Colapinto. New York: HarperCollins, 2000. 279 pages.

John Colapinto is the Rolling Stone reporter whose original article about David Reimer won him a National Magazine Award and, more importantly, a request from its subject to tell his story at book length. David is better known as "John/Joan," the boy who lost his penis in a circumcision as an infant and then was "reassigned" as a girl. Remarkably, the perfect control for this unintentional experiment was born along with David in the form of his twin brother, who in the wake of the disaster that struck David, was never circumcised. The supposed success of this endeavor was trumpeted by the famous and now notorious Dr. John Money as one of his premier achievements, by feminists as proof of the malleability of gender identification, and by psychologists as a demonstration of the importance of nurture over nature.

There was only one "slight" problem: "John/Joan" wouldn't stay Joan. He beat up boys as well as girls, sometimes, ironically enough, when protecting his twin brother. He ripped off the dresses his parents tried to get him to wear, and stubbornly insisted on only playing with male-oriented toys such as trucks and guns. Perhaps most remarkably, well before his parents finally told him the truth about his early life, he often urinated standing up. Contacted twenty-six years later, the twins' kindergarten teacher remembered the child vividly enough that she emphatically stated she had never seen a girl like her, before or since.

Eventually, David underwent further surgery and different hormonal treatments and returned to life as a male. His entire family suffered in different ways under the impact of his problems, with a number of suicide attempts by David and other family members, serious alcoholism, and equally grave dysfunction that nearly ripped the family apart.

Today David is happily married and although unable to father children of his own is ably stepfathering his wife's three children. Of course, the money he received on turning eighteen which had accumulated from his family's out-of-court settlement of his case can never give him back a normal childhood or even the ability to be a biological father.

The story of David Reimer inevitably becomes also the story of Dr. John Money.

Legal Article Published

The Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Policy has, after a long wait following its acceptance last summer, published the article by myself, Bob Van Howe, and James Dwyer in it's Winter 2000 issue.

The journal should be in your local law libraries by now or if not now, then very soon. Here is the citation (Vancouver style): Svoboda JS, Van Howe RS, Dwyer JG. Informed consent for neonatal circumcision: an ethical and legal conundrum. *J Cont Health Law Policy* 2000; 17(1): 61-133.

World-renowned as a premier expert on gender reassignment, the man is both remarkably unstable and breathtakingly unethical. Throwing tantrums at the slightest provocation, manipulating David's naïve parents into keeping their child under his care, fabricating data for publication including outright lies about David's progress, disclosing intimate details of his clients' lives in published books without obtaining prior permission, forcing David and his brother to view pornography and mime sex acts with each other behind closed doors while not telling their parents what he was doing, and blaming everyone but himself for problems that were created by no one but himself. Given Money's reputation, his claims of the success of David's sex reassignment were widely reproduced and quickly accepted as gospel by most serious researchers. Motivated by the quest for truth rather than any personal animus, Dr. Milton Diamond did dare to confront and eventually debunk Money's frauds.

The human touches to this story are poignant: David's confrontation with his circumciser. After resuming life as a male, David's awkward claim to be the "cousin" of his twin brother when he met a friend who knew him as a girl. The touching wedding vows he and his wife created for each other.

Ultimately, the story of David Reimer is the story of how credulous we can be toward authority, and how we owe it to ourselves and our society to retain a healthy skepticism no matter how trustworthy those in power may seem. And, of course, it is also the story of how we carry our own inherent nature deep inside us and how we cannot be flipped from male to female and back again as if we were so many light switches. — *J. Steven Svoboda*

Sweden

(continued from page 1) so far they have been positive and are currently doing their research. The first newspaper article is about to be released in the end of February. Speaking of articles, Professor Hofvander got an article published in the medical journal "Läkartidningen" and this at a time when I had just posted my opinion to all the Swedish medical associations. Perfect timing! By the way, the YMCA has put the word out through their press secretary and I'm on their media list for talk shows etc. Hopefully I will get the chance to give a few legal pointers on the air.

I have also made a few long term contacts, for example with an Organization named Nordic Committee of Human Rights (Home page: www.nkkr.org/english), who are interested in some kind of co-operation. I have also made contact with the Humanist organization of Sweden and am invited to speak at their meeting in Stockholm at the end of March.

The future

We will know the severity of the situation as soon as the preliminaries for the law are released in March. Until then we don't really know what the government wants the final proposal to entail. I will keep trying to spread awareness of this issue as it is not publicly well known that this proposal is in the works. I will also work to spread knowledge and get some kind of debate going in time for next years parliamentary election.

On the field of legal action I am currently investigating and preparing for a law suit against the Swedish government on violating Human Rights in relation to circumcision. I am also working together with attorney J. Steven Svoboda on a joint project regarding the Human Rights issue.

I will keep you informed on the development and hope to meet you at the conference in Washington, DC. —

Can you help us?

Attorneys for the Rights of the Child is a non profit organization of volunteers who receive no compensation for their services. Your donations enable us to continue to work on behalf of all children.

Please send us your tax exempt donation to: Attorneys for the Rights of the Child, 2961 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley, California 94705.

New York

(continued from page 4) future bedmates of "the pleasure of natural, normal sexual intercourse" thanks to an "excruciating" 10-minute procedure it conducted on him moments after birth.

You may have heard of this procedure. It's called circumcision.

Now, a lot of lawsuits come across my desk, but this one caught my eye (among other organs). I mean, here was a circumcised guy complaining that he was unable to satisfy his female partners because he lacked his foreskin.

Well, I lack foreskin, too. And, come to think of it, I've always secretly suspected that my sexual partners were just being nice when they told me I was the "greatest" "lover" they ever "had." Could this circumcision thing be the excuse I've sought for years?

In a word, yes! "I'm being deprived of my birthright," Stowell told me. "Studies show that I would be enjoying it more and my partners would be enjoying it more. Every time I have sex, that's in the back of my head." (Thanks a lot, William; now it's in the backs of the heads of all my circumcised readers.)

Stowell is just a test case for a new niche of personal-injury caselaw being carved out by Atlanta lawyer David Llewellyn, who has become to the anti-circumcision camp what Johnnie Cochran is for celebrities accused of horrendous, made-for-TV crimes. More than a decade since the first "wrongful circumcision" case, Llewellyn has been increasingly successful at winning settlements (\$65,000 in a 1995 case, for example) and blocking unwanted circumcisions.

In the current case, Llewellyn will argue that Stowell's mother, Linda, was handed a consent form while she was still under the influence of post-caesarean painkillers. Linda Stowell told me that, as an Italian Catholic, she never would've agreed to having her son circumcised. It must have been the Demerol speaking.

But Llewellyn wants his pound of flesh. He's hoping that the Stowell case goes to trial so he can use it as a pulpit to spread the anti-circumcision gospel. For a circumcised guy like me, talking to Llewellyn for even a few minutes was a remorseful trip through a sex life that might have been.

For one thing, Llewellyn cites evidence that circumcision—which he claims causes such pain in the infant that "heartbeat and cortisol levels [rise] to levels consistent with torture"—makes kids

more susceptible to pain later in life.

And, naturally, he has studies that indicate that uncircumcised men enjoy sex more than circumcised men do—and, more importantly, more than I do.

But his most compelling evidence ("evidence" because it appeared in the very fancy British Journal of Urology, "compelling" because it directly relates to me) is the argument that women enjoy sex less when they're having it with a circumcised male.

Foreskinologist Kristen O'Hara's study of 139 women—all of whom had partaken of penises of both varieties—revealed that women were twice as likely to have an orgasm, half as likely to experience pain during sex and nearly twice as likely to enjoy the experience with an uncircumcised man.

Oh, and by the way, the study also showed that circumcised men were more likely to prematurely ejaculate. (If you're circumcised, O'Hara's study is like getting a "Dear John" letter from a girlfriend doing a semester abroad in Spain. Ouch.)

I could get very graphic here — O'Hara certainly does, which I like in a scientific paper — but the upshot is that there's a lot of physics, hydraulics, plate tectonics and basic animal biology that results in women's greater enjoyment of sex with unaltered men.

She even cites the great Jewish philosopher Moses Maimonides, who wrote in the 12th century that "circumcision weakens the faculty of sexual excitement and diminishes the pleasure"—a worthy goal, Maimonides wrote, lest everyone would be having sex all the time.

"Clearly," O'Hara concluded, "the anatomically complete penis offers a more rewarding experience for the female partner."

She even has a just-released book called "Sex As Nature Intended It" that is sure to do two things: 1) bring a great deal of attention to circumcision and, 2) make me feel worse than I already do.

Meanwhile, Stowell said he's had trouble explaining his lawsuit to his circumcised Air Force buddies. "They think that as long as they can have an orgasm, they're fine," he said. "But there's more to sex than that." There is? Now he tells me.

Gersh Kuntzman is also a columnist for The New York Post and the author of "HAIR! Mankind's Historic Quest to End Baldness" (Random House, March 2001). His e-mail address is gershny@yahoo.com.

Canada

(continued from page 1) supply the raw material should have the parents' consent first, the president of the National Council on Ethics in Human Research told The Edmonton Sun.

One of the Medicine Hat doctors involved in providing the foreskins to the Defense Research Establishment at CFB Suffield said parents were only told about the fate of the flesh if they asked.

But Dr. Jan Storch, the president of the ethics council, said that isn't good enough.

"About 10 years ago excess tissue was regarded as something that was quite useable for research purposes without asking consent," she said.

"But the climate has changed and now the guidelines are that, as a mark of respect, permission should be sought to use the tissue for research.

"I would think any university researcher applying to one of the granting authorities who did not follow the guidelines would be refused funding."

The head of the chemical and biological warfare defence section at Suffield, Dr. Cam Boulet, said the project had been passed by both the ethics committee at the base and the Medicine Hat hospital about 10 years ago.

"The hospital is responsible for supplying the tissue, but in view of what you have told me, we will be revisiting the arrangement," he told The Sun.

"Until now I haven't been aware of a concern, but it is our policy to be as open as possible about our work."

The Suffield scientists use cell scrapings from foreskins supplied by the hospital to grow cell cultures.

The cultures are then used to test antidotes to various chemical weapons.

Boulet estimated around 50 to 100 foreskins were used every year for the research over the last decade.

Storch, director of the school of nursing at Victoria University in B.C., said it appeared the project had been approved before the guidelines on human tissue use and the need for express consent from donors were clarified.

"This one appears to have slipped by so far but perhaps someone should look at it again in the light of current ethical thinking," she said.

Medicine Hat is 600 km south of Edmonton.

Contact info: If you wish to send a letter to the editor: letters@edm.sunpub.com

Washington: Genital Integrity Week

NOCIRC of North Carolina, NOCIRC of Santa Cruz, and ARC, in conjunction with the other members of the Medicaid Task Force of the International Coalition for Genital Integrity (ICGI) (of which both NOCIRC chapters and ARC are members) have been collecting data from all state Medicaid agencies that currently fund routine infant circumcision. Data gathered so far shows that tax dollars fund over 25% of all infant circumcisions in the United States, accounting for tens of millions of wasted dollars annually. This data will be put into a report detailing the government funding of medically contraindicated genital cutting of male children.

The full report will be distributed by volunteers to each member of Congress during Genital Integrity Awareness Week, April 1- April 7, 2001. Rio Cruz of NOCIRC-Santa Cruz and Amber Craig of NOCIRC-North Carolina will also present the findings in a talk entitled "Stopping Wasteful Tax Funding for Circumcision" to be delivered on April 1, 2001 at the forum "Genital Integrity: A New Awareness." (As many of you know, NOCIRC organized this forum to take place in the District of Columbia prior to the legislative effort alluded to above.)

To volunteer to participate in the legislative effort by presenting the findings to your local Congresspeople and other legislators, to learn more about the Medicaid project, and to read a final copy of the Medicaid Report after its release April 2, 2001, please visit www.icgi.org.

For additional information contact Amber Craig. Telephone: 919-960-9276, e-mail: amberc@attglobal.net

Monday, January 15, 2001,
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Father fights to stop son's circumcision

Man's ex-wife plans procedure for 3-year-old boy on recommendation of doctor

By CARRI GEER THEVENOT, REVIEW-JOURNAL

The father of a 3-year-old Las Vegas boy is seeking a court order to prevent his ex-wife from having the boy circumcised.

"It's my son. It's highly emotional, and I truly believe in my heart - I have a clear mind that he doesn't need this procedure," said the boy's father, Henry Corvera.

Corvera, a native of Bolivia who lives in St. Louis, said his ex-wife, Laura Latimer, told him several months ago that the boy's doctor had recommended circumcision.

Latimer wanted to go ahead with the procedure, but Corvera objected. He said he decided to go to court after she refused to discuss the issue further.

"I believe she thinks she's doing the right thing, but I believe it's not medically necessary," Corvera said.

He talked about the matter at length last week after a closed-door hearing in Family Court Judge Bob Lueck's courtroom.

Latimer, who has primary physical custody of the couple's son, declined to be interviewed for this story. Latimer and Corvera have joint legal custody of the boy.

In a letter written in mid-November to both parties' attorneys, Lueck indicated he would order the circumcision. But after last week's hearing, the judge said he wanted to review more records before making a final decision.

Lueck's November letter was based on an independent examination performed by Dr. Sheldon Freedman, a Las Vegas urologist.

Freedman concluded that the child had a medical condition that would be best treated with circumcision, which involves the removal of all or part of the foreskin of a penis.

"I am very well aware of the controversy regarding circumcision, and I openly acknowledge that the foreskin does have function both in protection, lubrication and sensation," the urologist wrote in a letter to the judge. "In this case, however, the foreskin has a true medical disease, and in my opinion, this is best treated with circumcision."

Corvera questions those findings. He said he has medical experts of his own who have concluded that his son's penis is normal and needs no corrective surgery.

"You don't mutilate a body part just because,"



6th. ISGI, Sydney, Australia, December, 2001 Photo by Jeff Borg

Corvera said

He requested an evidentiary hearing - at which experts on both sides of the case could testify and face cross-examination - but Lueck denied the request.

Corvera said he and Latimer were married in 1992 in Rhode Island. Their son was born in August 1997 in Las Vegas, and they opted against circumcision.

"There was an argument at the time, but I imposed my view," Corvera said.

Corvera, 37, is not circumcised and said the procedure is not a common practice in his homeland "or, for that matter, in most of the world."

Statistics show that about 61 percent of male infants in the United States were circumcised in 1999.

"That procedure is culturally accepted here," Corvera said. "It's tradition."

Circumcisions in this country have dropped significantly since the 1960s as research has raised questions about the procedure's medical benefits.

"It is such a strange subject," Corvera said. "Nobody talks about it."

Corvera has studied the issue extensively and has accumulated a file full of related information.

He also has conversed with Jim Price, the father of a 3-year-old New Jersey boy who is fighting a similar battle with his estranged wife. Price has appeared on Howard Stern's radio talk show and urged Corvera to take his story to the press.

Corvera said he fears his child will suffer psychological damage from being circumcised at this age.

And because of the boy's age, Corvera said, he should be given general anesthesia. Corvera said

surgery and anesthesia carry risks of physical injury or death.

In addition, Corvera said he has acquired information indicating circumcision diminishes a man's sexual pleasure. He said most American men don't discuss this possibility.

"Because they've been clipped, they don't know the difference," he said.

Corvera said both he and Latimer moved to St. Louis after the birth of their son, but they separated six months later, and Latimer returned to Las Vegas.

The couple were divorced in 1998, and Corvera said they never fought over custody.

"I thought she would be a good mother, and I won't take the child away from her by any means," he said.

Corvera said he flies to Las Vegas once a month to spend three days with his son. He also pays \$775 a month for child support, \$240 a month to his son's private preschool, and half of the boy's medical expenses.

"Nobody can accuse me of being a deadbeat father," Corvera said.

He estimated he has spent about \$12,000 on legal fees to fight his ex-wife's plans to circumcise their son and that he would spend another \$30,000 if Lueck allows an evidentiary hearing.

"I'm not crazy. I'm not happy about spending that kind of money, but he's my son," Corvera said.

He also vowed to sue any doctor who performs a circumcision on the boy and said he will encourage his son to do the same when he becomes an adult.

"I'm going to get in debt, but my son will know I fought for him," Corvera said.



ARC Board Meeting & brainstorming Session, 6th ISGI, Sydney, 12-8-00

Recent Events



6th ISGI, Sydney, December 8, 2000



J. Steven Svoboda, presentation in Santa Fe, New Mexico, September 26, 2000.

Message from the Director

It's been an exciting time. At the end of 2000, we hit the Fifth Jamaica Gender Transition Movement Leaders' Conference and then went to Sydney for the 6th International Symposium on Genital Integrity. Coming up at the end of March we have a trip to Washington, DC for the NOCIRC-organized conference entitled "Genital Integrity: A New Awareness." There will be an ARC board meeting/brainstorming session on March 31 at lunchtime and along with many others, we will be lobbying on April 2 and 3 as well as performing research at the Library of Congress. Amber Craig and Rio Cruz will also present the findings of the Medicaid Project on which we have been very active and there are many other great speakers scheduled so it will be an exciting event.



Chris Fletcher, M.D., presentation in Santa Fe, New Mexico, September 26, 2000.



Steven Svoboda, Gary Harryman, Tina Kimmel and Steve Scott, 6th ISGI, Sydney, 12-7-00.

Later that month are some meetings in California with supporters of the intactivist movement and of ARC. Some fundraising possibilities are being explored. Other pending projects include an application to address the International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research in Berlin in June and a panel application for the American Public Health Association meeting in Atlanta in October. A campaign has also been launched at the United Nations in Geneva in combination with Stefan Ivarsson, ARC's newest board member, and the two of us hope to be on site in Geneva the first half of August. On top of that, there has been all the activity by David Llewellyn in the legal cases of Matthew Price, William Stowell, and Benjamin Corvera. Lots of media has been focused on activists and things really seem to be continuing to transform and grow and develop. Hold onto your hats; more excitement is coming!
- J. Steven Svoboda



Jamaica Conference, November 22, 2000.



l to r: J. Neville Turner, Gregory Boyle and J. Steven Svoboda, 3 co-authors of Journal of Law and Medicine article, Sydney, 6th ISGI, 12-8-00.

l to r: Paula Brinkley, M.D., Yngve Hofvander, Mrs. Hofvander, Steven Svoboda.

