



2. Human beings and their genitals

As a consequence of their comparatively lax approach, their sexual mañana, human beings only become aware of the significant role their genitalia are going to play in their lives when most animals have already done so and died.

From a young age it is assumed that each part of the body performs one function only. Thus, the genitalia are thought to be the conduit simply for leaking liquid waste into one's pants at jelly-and-ice-cream birthday parties or for irrigating bed mattresses. The penny drops partially (or perhaps we should say the penny 'subsides' to better convey the concept of a 'partial drop'?) in woodwork class in the lesson about male and female joints, providing the adolescent with a vague idea of what they should be knowingly sniggering about with their classmates. There is a chance that some connection will be made or further penny slippage occur when in one biology lesson there is mention of birds and bees 'shagging' each other and again when the pupil sights in a textbook some painful-looking diagrams of an unfortunate model's delicate bits split in half. Clues abound in biology textbooks. Why would there be so many names for the bits and pieces you tuck into your undergarments and terms associated with them (which, incidentally, sound like names of family cars (e.g. genitalia (Ford

Genitalia), pudenda (Fiat Pudenda) and menstrual (Mini Menstrual)) enquiring schoolchildren ask of themselves, if they have no function?



Of course, the connection may be scuppered by earlier conceptions. Children are accustomed to having bits of their bodies that they do not require removed, such as tonsils, the appendix and milk teeth. Thus, upon studying biology textbooks, they perceive the same fate awaiting bits of genitalia that similarly appear to be redundant. They see the potential in anatomy like epididymis, scrotal sac and vas deferens getting them a couple of days off school recovering from their removal and a few more 'mucking around' in pyjamas out of the sight of their mother who might comment otherwise, 'Oh, you're alright now, aren't you?' At which, the malingering child is compelled to feign a 'relapse'; to perform mock-anguish and the clutching of the fictional site of affliction.

When puberty connects up our plumbing, it is most likely by accident that we discover that the genitalia perform more than one function. At first it is unclear what the other function could be. But, the emerging adult will generally find themselves more interested in sitting or leaning on the family washing machine around the time of the spin cycle. Girls may also confuse an 'awakening' moment with feelings for a flatulent, wizened, so-called 'equine pissing machine' at the local pony club.

The 'bogging off' preoccupation is strongly rooted in the emerging adult male. As such, it is not very surprising that the freshly pubescent boy experiences not so much an awakening moment as a 'military reveille'. He will suddenly and unexpectedly experience erections through a process that bypasses any cerebral thought input. Thus, a generation of adolescent boys will suddenly find itself stranded, jacking up school desks at jaunty angles when the bell rings for the end of lesson. Whilst their prolonged presence and focus of attention at first gives the impression of academic alacrity in class, the newly armed schoolboys will be, in truth, concentrating all their efforts into affecting detumescence.

It is interesting to note that before puberty, before the male tackle is hook, line and sinker, boys experience the euphoria of the post-pubescent sexual climax in a very different way. They achieve it when scoring a goal in associated football, at the moment of impact as the ball lashes the net. At puberty, when mind control is partitioned between the brain and the groin, euphoria may be experienced further through sexual contact. But for professional associated footballers, the two sources of euphoria are difficult to differentiate, as observed when they display more passionate than platonic levels of affection during a goal celebration. However, there are cases where no such confusion arises in the football fraternity. At Tranmere Rovers, an associated football club celebrated for propping up the four divisions above it, a five-season study of centre forwards – the personnel most commonly responsible for the acquisition of goals – revealed that these players experienced euphoria through sexual contact only during times in between matches. (Note, interestingly, there are men in the game of associated football who reputedly attain orgasm, hence sexual gratification, without the participation of a partner. These are the adjudicators, the referees. Anecdotal evidence

comes from matches in the British Isles, where the observation is couched in melodic form by vocal elements in the crowd in the song/dirge, 'The referee's a wanker'.)

Fortunately, there are innate mechanisms which will bring the sexes together. Should a male and a female of the human species find themselves in an Adam and Eve situation (or in a film scenario like Brooke Shields found herself, next to a lagoon with a young bloke cast for his curly headed innocence), with no prior knowledge of the mechanics of limb entwinement, they could be expected to eventually figure things out (in fact, the story line in the Brooke Shields film, Blue Lagoon, depends on this hypothesis). It would dawn on them that the genitals are the best bits of the body for rubbing together, unless it turns a little nippy at night, in which case the hands are often a good choice.

