
Growing Pains

After I unzipped my pants to go to the bathroom, I removed my penis from behind the zipper, and it broke off in my hand.

I was not worried because I'd heard that young men's penises sometimes come off during adolescence as their organs grow larger. The only thing was that I didn't know what I should do with it.

I certainly didn't want to throw it haphazardly in the garbage can. I considered flushing it down the toilet, but I was afraid that it would clog up the drain, and then what would I do? Not having any other ideas, I wrapped my penis in toilet paper and stuffed it in the pocket of my blue jeans.

Later, as I hung around with my friends after school, I put my hand in my pocket and felt my penis. Forgetting what it was, I pulled it out. It was still wrapped in toilet paper, but now the end was poking out.

"What's that?" my friend Steven asked.

"Nothing," I said, embarrassed.

I tried to hide my penis behind my back, but Steven kept poking his head around to see. I tried to hide it inside my jean-jacket, but Steven wouldn't give in until he knew what I was hiding. Once he found out, he thought it was hilarious.

"It's a dick!" he shouted through his laughter. My other friends, who hadn't seemed so curious before, all snickered at me.

"It's nothing," I said. "Don't worry about it."

I rewrapped my penis in toilet paper and threw it in one of the lidded garbage cans outside of my school where I didn't think anyone would see it.

I put my arms around my friends as we walked home. Friends might tease you, but they'd always be there for you when you were going through difficult times.

- Teege Braun