



firm a fact, you have to have two pretty good hunches that it's true. I find your assumption on the subject of genital piercing to be, if you'll forgive me, unfounded. The data, and there are some, show no change, and the reports from the field are inconclusive. "I'm quite in demand," says Elayne Angel, president of the Association of Professional Piercers. "I was in Philadelphia a few weeks ago, and I did 118 piercings on 87 clients in six days. I think 99 of them were genital piercings." All right, no one likes a show-off. Conversely, Abraham Morgentaler, medical director at Men's Health Boston, says that he doesn't see much genital piercing on his patients anymore. "I see men with their pants down all day long"—all right, no one likes a show-off. Perhaps the drop-off you've noticed at your local club or office is indicative of the downside of genital piercing. As Dr. Morgentaler explains, genital piercing, particularly through the sensitive urethra, doesn't always come without incident. "I will never forget the case of a man where the tissues ripped and he ended up with a big hole on the underside of his penis through which he urinated," he recalls. (Thank you, doctor, for that ripping yarn!) But the data are very clear that genital piercing has shown no significant change in recent years. "We've been studying this about 12 years or so," says Alden Roberts of the Texas Tech Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, "and it really hasn't gone down in our last few studies." Maybe you just hang around a bunch of freaks.

Got a sex question of your own? E-mail it to us at sex@esquire.com.

HOW CLOSE ARE WE TO HAVING INTERACTIVE COMPUTER SEX—NOT JUST TYPING, BUT MACHINES THAT LINK YOU TO SOMEONE ELSE AND MAKE IT FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ACTUALLY HAVING SEX?

We're still about 13 years away from any fully immersive sexual computer experience (though I hear *Puss in Boots* 3-D comes pretty close). According to Ian Pearson, futurist at Swiss future consultancy Futurizon, for such an ordeal you'd need to "get your fingers printed with some sort of printer technology that would...connect your nervous system directly to the computer." Also required would be what he calls the "active contact lens," which is "a full high-definition display that lives right on your eye's surface" and is already well under way. He says to expect all this in the high street around 2025. Then "in principle what would happen is you'd go to a clinic..." He lost me at "clinic."

As tempting as all that sounds, I advise you not to try to wait it out. The fully immersive cybersex industry has fallen on hard times of late. "I'm not confident that there's going to be anything amazing anytime in the near future," says Lux Alptarm, editor of *Fleshbot*. "I just don't know that anybody sees a strong enough market and really feels that the technological investment is worth it." It seems once people learned how to jerk off on Skype, science took a backseat.

I know bike riding can affect a man's sexual performance, but is my girlfriend's love of Soul-Cycle going to affect hers? Anything less than—and I have to check this—10,000 hours of

cycling a week shouldn't cause damage sufficient to invalidate the warranty. Spinning-style classes generally pass much of the time, as they say, "out of the saddle," though I can't imagine what they're doing up there. The only thing to watch out for, says gynecologist Hilda Hutcherson of Columbia University, is chafing, which results from "wearing tight, confining clothing and sweating and rubbing," which I thought was the whole appeal. Chafing can be prevented by wearing appropriate workout clothes and taking a weekly shower.

Why is no one piercing their genitals anymore? I didn't go to journalism school, but I know that in order to con-

RULE NO. 3/€ When faced with an assortment of chocolates, choose the quadrilaterals. Never the quadrilaterals.

...AND OTHER TOPICS



Should I comfort a crying stranger?

You can, but he might follow you home. Just don't leave any food out, or he'll never go away.



Is there a good way to talk to children?

Speak directly into the phone and I don't touch the bulletproof glass.



Should I ever send an Evite?

Send it to my assistant.



How drunk can I get at a work party?

No drunker than you get at work.



How do I get out of donating to a friend's fundraiser?

Tell him you admire the effort, but everyone knows one person can't make a difference.

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