

The Advocate

18 June, 2016

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Crossword: p17

World News: p5

Burnaby Teen Gets Over Awkwardness And Becomes Champion for Younger Brother

My brother FayeZ has cerebral palsy. Back in the 90s when we were in our teens, he heard our mum yelling at me when she found my Penthouse magazines. He asked what they were, and could I get him some? I was surprised he was interested. But it got me thinking...

"I was surprised he was interested..."

FayeZ's arms are kind of different from most people's, so when I was giving him the magazines, I asked if he could reach himself to masturbate. (Yes - it was totally awkward! But who else was going to ask him about this stuff?) He said he could, but only if he was sitting up a certain way in bed. Then he asked if I would help him



FayeZ and Ahmed in 1997

sit up that way with a magazine, and get the hell out of his room....

When he moved into the group home, I told the staff there that FayeZ needs alone time, and that he needs the staff to help him buy him magazines and lube. Together we showed them how he needs to sit up in bed if he's going to reach himself. The staff come and go... (Continued on page 2)

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25 June, 2016

Weather: p3

Crossword: p15

World News: p6

New West College Student's Life Changed By Their Teacher's Choice of Guest Lecturer...

When Jackie was taking my Employment Prep class at the Community College, I had a hunch she was struggling with some gender stuff. At the time Jackie was wearing dresses but she told me this was what her parents insisted on. She said she wanted to wear baggy jeans, sports team jerseys, and baseball caps.

"I had a hunch she was struggling..."

We'd chat sometimes after class. I spent a lot of time just listening. Eventually she told me that she wished she was a boy, and she was sad it wasn't possible.

One guest lecturer that year was Mike - a trans man who came



Jackie, with Teacher Amy Tsu, 2009

to talk to us about the automotive industry. Before class, I told him about Jackie and asked if he'd be ok to talk about being trans, if it ever came up. He said yes.

Jackie was really into cars, so she stayed after class that day to chat with us and ask more questions. She told Mike that he was cool, and that she wished she could be a cool guy too. (Continued on page 2)

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12 March, 2016

Weather: p3

Crossword: p14

World News: p6

Vancouver Lawyer's Feminism Inspires her to Empower her Daughter to Explore.



Zora & Daughter Talisha in 2015

My daughter Talisha has Down Syndrome. We've always communicated openly about sex - as a feminist I believe we all have the right to know about our bodies, and that includes how we experience pleasure. When she was in her late teens, I took

her shopping at a women - run sexuality store to buy a sex toy.

I was so proud of her. She had lots of questions for the staff and she wasn't embarrassed to ask them. (Continued on page 2)

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4 May, 2016

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World News: p5

Coquitlam Outreach Worker's Web Search Changes Course of Client's Love Life Forever...

I'd been working with Jessica for three years. A bunch of guys had come in and out of her life in that time. Some were decent, but many were just taking advantage of her. They wanted sex, and she was more interested in finding friendship, company, and attention. They'd give her these things until they got what they wanted, then they'd disappear.

"Many were just taking advantage..."

We had a lot of talks about different kinds of relationships, and how to tell the ok guys from the users. One day she asked "Why do people even care about sex? I mean, it's kind of gross, but mostly just



Jessica in Millie's Office, 2014

really boring." It caught me off guard, and I reacted as if any one of my other girlfriends had said that. I asked her if she'd ever had an orgasm. She asked what that was. Well, I'd already opened a can of worms so I told her we could look online together for info about it. We found some youtube instructional videos about orgasm and masturbation by a sex educator named Betty Dodson.

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(Continued from page 1) Mike casually replied that when he was young he also had to wear dresses and do things his parents expected girls to do, and he didn't feel like



"Jackie was totally fascinated..."

it was right for him, so when he was older he transitioned from female to male.

Jackie was totally fascinated. It was pretty clear she'd never heard of this before. She asked Mike a million questions. They must have chatted for an hour after class.

That was five years ago. I ran into Jackie this morning on my way to college. Nowadays, he works at an auto repair shop, wears baggy jeans, sports team jerseys, ball caps, and is rocking a hipster goatee.

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(Continued from page 1) at the house, and sometimes the new ones don't know these things about Faye. So I always make sure to ask about it when I visit him.



Over the years I've learned to be more relaxed about discussing this stuff. I think it helps the staff

to relax and talk about it too.

This spring, Faye's arm changed a bit so he needed an adapted sex toy if he was still going to masturbate. The staff and I worked together to find an occupational therapist who was ok to help make one. That wouldn't have happened a few years ago. I would have felt too shy to discuss it.

I keep hoping Faye might get a girlfriend one day. He's told me it's something he wants. Until then, though, at least he can take care of business on his own. Like a lot of us do...

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"we found some instructional videos"

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you tell them they have to."

Most men still didn't stick around for too long, but at least Jessica was enjoying herself more while they were together, now that she had some expectations and was making them clear.

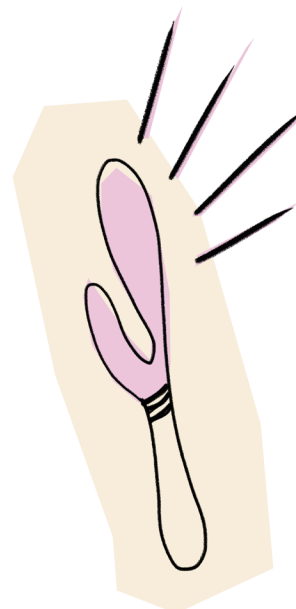
Now she's with Lucas, and it's lasted much longer. Jessica said she could tell he was different because he didn't rush her, and asked her questions about what felt good for her and what didn't. Last week she told me, "he's kind of annoying but at least he's got some skills..."

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Time passed and Jessica still had drama in her love life, but some things started changing. One day she said to me "I get it now. The sex thing - it can feel good. Most guys just don't know how to do that. Or they don't care. Unless

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In the end she chose a rabbit-style toy. She stayed in her bedroom for several hours after we got home, so I think it was a hit.



"I think it was a hit..."

Last year Talisha moved into her own supported living apartment, so we don't see each other every

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day any more like we used to.

Nowadays, she wants to keep more parts of her life private from me, and she doesn't really appreciate it if I butt in. Talisha is growing into being her own woman, not just her mom's daughter. It's tough sometimes, but I also think it's great that she's asserting her boundaries.

I'm glad we talked about this stuff when she was still a teen and was still living at home. She'd never admit it, but I think Talisha is grateful too. Today it would be more difficult for either of us to bring up the subject.