

# Bare Facts

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38° 58' 7" North; 95° 47' 56" West

Thank You and Merry Christmas, Joanne and Bruce  
By Eileen

*(Editor's note: With apologies to Joanne and Bruce. Due to your humble editor's error, this was not included in last month's issue.)*

Nine of us met for a beautiful evening of candlelight and elegant dining with Joanne and Bruce in Kansas City on December 13! This was the celebration of the Lake Eden Christmas Party and the second time we have had the opportunity to share the beauty of this remarkable home, built in 1901.

Adding to the sense of stepping back to the early 1900's was the newly fallen snow that glistened and crunched as we walked up to the welcoming porch. I swore I could hear sleigh bells and horses in the distance. The large doors swung open with the welcome embrace of Joanne and Bruce and their willingness to take two Nebraskans through the three story home despite having done this at least three times already!

The house was decorated beautifully for the season and room after room offered more surprises. There are six fireplaces! The walls on the ground floor stand 24" thick tapering to 18" on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. The colors and décor blend from room to room from the most formal and elegant to the most relaxing and welcoming. Interesting and unique antiques are displayed throughout the home including a dental cabinet, a cradle, special desks, and many large and small pieces that invite closer inspection.

The second floor offered more opportunities to learn how homes were built during a different time. This was an evening to step back in time and allow your imagination to take over for awhile. It was also an evening to admire the amount of work and commitment that Joanne and Bruce have put into this endeavor.

The food and fellowship were well appreciated. It was an evening to enjoy one another, to learn more about each other. When it came time to close for the evening, even that was fun, just an opportunity to help in Joanne's incredible kitchen was awesome! As we walked to our car and through the snow I had to stop and turn around and look back at the elegance, the glowing lights, the flickering candles....I know I heard a horse and sleigh!!!

Thank you Joanne and Bruce.

## Items We Need

- Outdoor Volley Balls
- Plastic Buckets
- Wheel Barrow
- Variable speed, reversible drill
- 55 gal barrels with re-sealable lids
- Can crushers to attach to the recycling containers.
- Chipper/shredder we can use about once a month
- Digital camera
- Pitch Forks

## Silent Auction

By Cindi

Happy Feb everyone!

Just a few more weeks and we'll be enjoying "FUN IN THE SUN". It does seem like it's been a while since I've been "warm" and sunny.

For those of you who know me, you know that I have two "passions" in my life (besides Dennis). I try to work the two of them for each other's benefits when I can. For those of you who don't, LEF and Doorstep are said passions.

Friday the 23rd was Doorstep's 1st annual fund raiser, *Soupline*. This was the first year for this event and it went well. LEF helped. Along with the chili/soup feed there was a silent auction on baskets from everyone's church.

Three of us don't claim any church at Doorstep. I try to make my association with LEF known whenever I can, so at the last Board Meeting I suggested we become involved (Free publicity is always nice in my opinion). L.E.F. donated a "basket" for the silent auction. Actually it was a little playmate cooler with a couple of towels, a couple of LEF hats, some sunscreen for body and lips, a couple bottles of water, literature, and a one year family membership to LEF.

Our basket was one of the highest bided baskets there out of 32 baskets from various churches in the community. The lady who outbid me is a nice intelligent woman with a pretty neat husband. I look forward to seeing new faces this summer and wish to welcome the Williams with open arms. For anyone interested, donations are always welcomed at the barn or at Doorstep 10th & Buchanan.

*It is so basic. A human being is an innocent part of nature. Our civilization has distorted this universal quality that allows us to feel at home in our skin. Other animals have coats that they accept, but the human race has yet to come to terms with being nude.*

- Ruth Bernhard

## DON'T FORGET

Activities designated HN are sponsored by Heartland Naturists

- Feb 7; Sat; 8-10; Sauna
- Feb 14; Sat; 10-12; Board of Directors Meeting
- Feb 20; Fri; 8-10; HN Swim in Lenexa
- Feb 21; Sat; 8-10; Sauna
- Feb 28; Sat; 8-10; Sauna
- Mar 6; Sat; 8-10; Sauna
- Mar 13; Sat; 10-12; Board of Directors Meeting
- Mar 13; Sat; 8-10; Sauna
- Mar 19; Fri; 8-10; HN Swim in Lenexa
- Mar 20; Sat; Spring Equinox
- Mar 20; Sat; 8-10; Sauna
- Mar 27; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

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## Nude is Normal

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## Planting a “Family Garden Of Love”

Early February is usually spent dealing with shoveling snow, chipping ice off your car windows, avoiding the cold, or for some hardy souls, winter sports. Yet within all our hearts is the yearning for the sun’s return and with it bring the return of green to the land. The renewing of the cycle of life, and with it planting for fall harvest, in our impatience, seems far away. While we await all this, there is another kind of planting that has no need to wait for spring, but can be begun today. A planting whose harvest can be gleaned every day, which immeasurably enriches our lives.

Naturalists are correctly noted for their love of experiencing the beauty of nature freed from the artificial barrier of clothing. Quite rightly, the body is viewed as good in all it’s parts and functions with no need for shame and covering. What may not be realized is the importance naturalists attach to shedding the artificial barriers between people so that the heart may be more easily known. The following meditation is offered to further this end, starting in whatever “family” of which each Eduner is a part.

Spring is the time of year when everyone starts to get excited! We have all been suffering from cabin fever and are anticipating green grass, flowers, gardens growing and the birth of baby animals. April seems to be the time when spring really starts to get busy.

Please take the time to get involved in the “busy” of spring. One very easy way to do this is to plant a “**Family Garden of Love.**” First, you sit down with your family and plan your “**Garden.**” Decide what type of “**seeds**” should be planted in your family garden. You can set aside a special time of day to: play games with your family, plant a garden of real flowers, or for a walk together as a family, or just sit and talk over the day’s activities or problems. These are all wonderful seeds to plant in the family garden.

Next, your family has to prepare the “**garden.**” This involves sitting down together and scheduling the appropriate time to do these activities. Sometimes this part of the garden is the hardest to do because everyone is so busy with other activities, but is also one of the most important parts of the garden planning. Even though everyone has other activities, it is important to have designated family activities. The final and most important part of your family garden is to be sure to use lots of **FERTILIZER.** The best fertilizer to use for your family garden of love is love, understanding, togetherness, and compassion.

If your family works daily attending the garden of love and adds lots of love, understanding, togetherness, and compassion, then your family will have a garden of love that will bloom and last a lifetime. This is my favorite kind of garden. A **garden of love** that will last forever.

## From The Mail Bag

Hi friends at Lake Edun

Thanks for the birthday card. I am interested in Sat. sauna, please what time and what to bring.

Look forward to your response.

- Vince

## The Times They Are A Changing

Just the first in a series of reminders that our society sometimes makes “progress,” one step backwards at a time.

Breaking with its 121-year-old tradition, the Milwaukee Athletic Club is now requiring men to wear suits when they swim – and some longtime swimmers aren’t happy about it according to an Associated Press report.

Bob Schmidt, 56, figures he has been swimming nude at the downtown club since he was 6, and he greatly enjoys not having to tote a swimsuit with him. “This is not over yet,” Schmidt said. “What would happen if I just show up for a swim one day without a suit?”

Club president Bob Bellin said he can understand why the ban on nude swimming, starting Jan. 2, is a little controversial. “Change is difficult,” he said. “Some of our older members really enjoy this benefit. But we felt that, in an effort to appeal to younger members, we had to change with the times.” In a letter this month to club members, Bellin said a supply of swimsuits has been purchased and will be available at the sign-in desk.

In his letter to members, Bellin dutifully notes, “I realize that this ends a long-standing tradition at The Club.”

“There are a number of reasons for moving in this direction, but one of the most important was the negative reaction to ‘naked’ swim from any prospective members. As we struggle to attract new members, this seemed to be a modest compromise to modernize our image.” (It can be interjected that a total ban goes beyond compromise and looks a lot like capitulation. A real compromise would have been to set aside nude swim times for those wanting to partake in this time honored tradition at the club. This would have given a choice, and an opportunity for the “moderns” to discover the joy of a simple nude swim.)

Bellin ended his letter with an invitation: “We invite you to mourn the passing of the ‘suitless swim’ on New Year’s Day and have one last skinny dip.”

## The Midwest Gardener

*By Jer, The Garden Man*

Soil in the Midwest area is basically composed of three types: **loam, sandy, and clay.** **Loam** is generally found along river bottoms and near wooded areas, rich in humus, silt, and fertile organic matter; and is the most preferred for gardening and farming. (I have often heard my mom mention plowing these areas with mules when she was a girl on the farm and how abundant the crops would grow! This was always prime land for farmers!)

Sandy soil is very loose, with air pockets that allow for well-drained conditions. However, the natural fertility is generally low and must be supplemented with organic material to produce good plants.

Perhaps the most challenging soil type for novice and master gardener alike is the notorious clay soil! One of the major problems of clay soil is the fact that it is made up of very fine particles that tends to be “heavy” or compact, allowing for poor drainage. My earliest experience in gardening as a kid was with this very same soil. An elderly German woman next door could literally grow **ANYTHING** in this soil! She taught me early to work grass

clippings and a bit of sand into the soil to help “break-down” the heaviness, thus producing wonderful flowers and shrubs. Also, commercial fertilizer was a premium during those days, so a trip to the barnyard to gather manure was the only economically feasible alternative!

All successful gardeners, whether vegetable or flower grower, have properly prepared the soil for the ultimate growing conditions. The finest soils have been carefully cultivated by hoe, plow or spading fork, working in organic materials previously grown in the same area of soil, or adding composted materials. Composted materials are generally made up of grass clippings, chopped up leaves, egg shells, sawdust, coffee grounds, wood ashes, and manure if available. The compost has been “aged” and is literally become “black gold” that is rich in nutrients for the plants.

If time and space does not allow for composting, then commercial soil treatments are available at most garden centers. There is a multiplicity of products that can be purchased to enhance your gardening efforts. All kinds of fertilizers, liquid and granular are available. Soil treatments such as lime, phosphorus, and structure to help balance the Ph and drainage of the soil. This can become quite complicated to get the correct balance of acid or alkaline soil without taking an actual soil test.

You can take soil samples to the University of Missouri Extension Center or Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service of your county or purchase a kit at your local garden center.

## Art In The News

Columnists in the Salt Lake Tribune report that Courtney Moffett, who won second place in the annual Reflections art contest at Jordan High School, was invited last week to the district awards ceremony, where all the winning entries from eight high schools were to be presented. Or so she was told.

The theme of the parent-teacher-student-association-sponsored Reflections contest this year was “I am really happy when . . .” Moffett’s entry, “At One With Nature,” featured a Hawaiian woman sitting nude on a river bank, placing a flower in her hair. The perspective painted was from behind and to the side, showing the woman’s breast and her buttocks – way too much skin for contest officials.

Moffett arrived at Eastmont Middle School only to discover that her painting was not on display. She further discovered her painting was also excluded from the program in which each piece of art was shown on a large screen with a picture of the creator.

An addendum to the above report is that The Florida Nativist Association has advised Courtney Moffett to contact the ACLU to seek their support. She has agreed to do this.

There was a similar incident over a student’s sculpture at a Ft. Lauderdale High School several years ago.

The ACLU filed a law suit and the sculpture was shown at the facility where the others were shown, in a special showing.

Fight Back!

### Lake Edun Foundation, Inc.

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### Membership Application Change of Address Form

*Please Print*

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

All information provided is strictly confidential. If you are joining as a couple, include names for both people. If, you are a couple not living together, you may make a copy of this form for the other member of the couple. (NB: a couple is defined as one male and one female.) A \$50.00 membership discount is offered to those willing to assist with upkeep a minimum of 10 hours per year. One

subscription to our newsletter *Bare Facts* is included with membership. Some may wish to receive *Bare Facts* without becoming a member. A subscription only is available for \$20.00. New members will receive a Waiver and Release which must be completed before membership is finalized. Visitation restrictions apply to Associate Membership.

Membership Fees:	Single	Couple	Amount
Lake Edun Foundation Membership	250.00	300.00	_____
Associate Member (Over 125 miles away) - deduct	(100.00)	(100.00)	_____
Working Membership (Discount)	(50.00)	(50.00)	_____
Student Membership (full-time student)	150.00	200.00	_____
Separate Mailing Address for members		12.00	_____
<i>Lake Edun Exposed</i> – Video		35.00	_____
<i>Return to Edun Documentary</i> – Video		35.00	_____
Naturist Society Membership		50.00	_____
Subscription to <i>Bare Facts</i> only		20.00	_____
Tax Deductible Donation - Legal Defense Fund			_____

**Total Enclosed** - Check, Money Order, or Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my  Visa;  MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note: There is a \$30 charge for any checks returned unpaid for any reason.

# What Of Lake Edun?

*By Michael*

Some two years ago I stumbled on Lake Edun in a list of naturist resorts from TNS, The Naturist Society. I was pleased and shocked at the same time! A nudist place in conservative Kansas seemed, well just out of place! And it was in all places Topeka! The state capitol! I was new to naturism at the time and looking for a place that would be close by I could visit and hopefully get my wife to visit with me. It took three visits to the parking lot before I came in to visit the first time. During that visit I met Webb and John who were busy about the barn. Webb was open and a delight to talk to. I resolved that my wife and I had to come and try it out!

We did just that on July 4<sup>th</sup> of this past year. I wrote earlier of how my wife had said she would go with me but not take her clothes off. And how after I had undressed and entered the lake I turned to find her doing the same thing! Later that month during a family discussion at home she noted to my children who are still with us, that to remain dressed would have made her immodest in such a setting. "I never thought I would do such a thing," she said, "but it seemed so natural to do!" Thus, our naturist adventure has begun.

The next week I paid for a one year membership in the Lake Edun Foundation. I had the opportunity to come to the lake many times over the course of the summer sometimes with my wife and other times without. When I was doing business close by and the day was ending I would come by and enjoy the air and water for an hour or so before dressing heading home. Lake Edun was and is a wonderful place to let some stress go.

During the course of time I came to hear of and gain some understanding of the legal battles that Lake Edun has and is enduring. Since I am by birth a New Englander I come ready equipped from my mothers womb with a sense of independence and, well, a certain level of rebelliousness! (Vermont was not one of the original thirteen states; it was fourteen since we in Vermont were not sure this thing was worth the effort at first!) So the issues surrounding our special place were of interest to me. I thought I might take this space and give a couple of ideas that have been running around in my head since before Thanksgiving concerning the care and keeping of our special place.

Many who oppose us in the community wish only the best for the community. They are responding from false assumptions and beliefs about what it means to be socially nude. Change comes after much struggle and trial. When the world in which we currently live only shows people nude or partially dressed when sex is involved, or for the sake of advertising, are we then surprised that when they learn of Lake Edun they assume the worst?

In recent years there has been an increase not only in the publication of pornography, but also of the number of "juice bars," and "gentleman's clubs." Such commercialized exploitation of nudity for sexual purposes engenders fear and suspicion from our friends and neighbors, leading to their mistaken linkage of naturists and Lake Edun with these enterprises. Countering these misconceptions is no easy task

which has to be approached both on a community and individual level. However, never underestimate your influence. We have the opportunity to demonstrate that these fears and judgments are false among those we know. By renewing our memberships, and inviting our friends to join us at Lake Edun, they are enabled to experience the truth that the human body is not inherently evil, and sex is not the automatic result of removing clothes!

I recently read an article found on [www.Christian-oneness.org](http://www.Christian-oneness.org) written by a lay minister, Mr. Ian B. Johnson concerning clothing and nakedness in the Bible. I thought his arguments quite in line with naturist beliefs. He states in his work that, "I am not a practicing nudist and am not publishing these articles to promote nudism. Rather, I am publishing them to promote unity and to lead to a clearer understanding of our salvation in Christ, and of the basis for true Christian morality and ethics."

What was most important about his article was the reason for initially undertaking a study of nakedness and the Bible. Again quoting from his article, "It should be noted particularly, from the outset, that, while my interest in this subject resulted from a local political controversy and my study has led me to the conclusion that Christianity and carefully-practiced nudism may be compatible..." and the political controversy he is referring to is LAKE EDUN! Mr. Johnson lives in the Topeka area! The Christians he is talking to are those who live in Topeka, Kansas and the surrounding area!

We are having an impact. Surely there are more Mr. Johnsons in the area! We are demonstrating that nudism, naturism, clotheslessness or however you want to refer to our naked state at Lake Edun is good, wholesome and edifying. When we, through fear of legal repercussion, do not renew our membership, do not bring friends to the lake, or otherwise stop our association with each other, we undermine the positive steps we have made to this point. We need to continue to show the neighbors and county commissioners that we are a growing, thriving concern that wishes the best for the community and the state. Growth is a good deterrent.

Lake Eduners have over the course of time always been open and friendly to those who are visiting for the first time. Had this not been so, I know my wife and I would not have returned for another visit. Had we, during our first visit felt threatened or seen behavior that was lewd or indecent we would not have returned a second time. It was the example shown by those at the lake on our first visit that taught us the value of Lake Edun. Are others looking as we were?

Yes, Lake Edun is alive and well! We need more to come and enjoy the blue Kansas sky and summer sun. We need more to spread the word of the goodness found at Lake Edun. We need to show county and state officials a healthy growing community of naturists, vibrant in their stance and belief. We need to be willing to allow those who are timid or fearful to come visit with us, and see for themselves the freedom that learning to be ones self can bring.

# Moving the Culture Toward Body Acceptance

By Dave Bitters

In February 2000, some neighbors of Lake Edun petitioned the state legislature to enact a law declaring nudist parks public nuisances.

The hearing on House Bill 2726 took place on Feb. 10. Webb Garlinghouse represented Lake Edun in opposing the bill. Mike Jan, his wife Susan and I represented the Naturist Society, giving additional testimony in opposition to the bill. The Lake Edun Foundation sells copies of a videotape of the hearing.

Recently I spent a couple of evenings reviewing the video, in an effort to understand the viewpoints of both the proponents and opponents of HB 2726, as well as those of some of the legislators who reviewed it.

Three individuals spoke in favor of the bill. One was concerned with zoning. The Lake Edun property is zoned as agricultural land, but he regarded it as a commercial enterprise. The gist of his argument was that the state should require nudist parks to operate in areas zoned for commercial use, and that the state should come up with standards (presumably of conduct) for their operation.

Another proponent was concerned with public safety. It was clear that, in a vague sort of way, she was uncomfortable with the presence of a nudist facility in her neighborhood. (She stated that at the time she'd moved there, she'd heard "rumors" of its presence.) But her remarks mainly centered on an incident that occurred in 1996, in which she said someone who'd left the Lake Edun parking lot unclothed had stalked her daughter. (The stalking, if true, would be inappropriate and inexcusable. Just being unclothed is another matter. The former involves intentional interaction with another person; the latter doesn't.)

The third proponent objected the commotion caused by the presence of Lake Edun: the traffic entering and exiting the parking lot (particularly on the Return to Edun weekend), the occasional noise and the naked bodies she said she sometimes could see in the vicinity of the barn. She said she had 11 grandchildren and didn't find it appropriate for them to see such things.

The issue of appropriateness resurfaced during the question period. Rep Donald Dahl (R-Hillsboro) asked me, "Do you think there's such a thing as common decency?" I replied that the term "decency" needed definition. "I would ask you first for your definition of decency. Naturists believe that they are, for the most part, quite decent." I continued that, "...if your definition of decency means the wearing of clothes, then you and I will differ."

Dahl didn't buy this, though. He pressed, "Why are you not naked in front of us right now?" and asked if I would consider it appropriate to walk down the main street of Topeka naked. I replied I'd given considerable thought to this, and answers to these questions are cultural relatives.

Indeed, I still haven't come up with a better explanation. In nudist cultures or (even more so) among some of the "primitive" peoples of the Amazon and Africa, the

kind of defense we had to mount in February 2000 would have seemed unnecessary, perhaps even ridiculous.

For the purpose of discussion I'll define a *body acceptance culture* (more or less operationally) as one in which casual nudity is no big deal. In a body acceptance culture the sight of the "naughty bits" that so fascinated Rep. Dahl would have no more cultural significance than, say, arms or legs. (Even so, walking down the main street of Topeka completely unclothed might remain as rare as appearing in, say, one's bathing suit or pajamas. In our current culture bathing suits and pajamas might turn a few heads, but they wouldn't invite the intervention of law enforcement. In a body acceptance culture, neither would simple nudity.)

Likewise, a body acceptance culture wouldn't necessarily equate nudity with sexual activity (or misconduct). In a body acceptance culture the kind of stalking incident that so concerned one of the proponents of HB 2726 would have been much less likely. For one thing, males would unlearn (or not learn in the first place) the sexual cues our larger culture often conditions them to associate with nakedness. Also, females would less likely be startled or frightened by the sight of nude males. Accordingly, they would be less likely to panic (unless the male involved were engaging in harassing or predatory conduct).

Interestingly, in a body acceptance culture there probably wouldn't be a need for places such as Lake Edun. If the culture accepted all swimming holes (and pools) as clothing-optional, Webb's property would be nothing more than another swimming hole (albeit a nice one). The proximate neighbors wouldn't have to fret about the commotion in a large parking lot because there wouldn't need to be a large parking lot to accommodate a sanctuary (hidden from public view) for naturist activities. Indeed, in a body acceptance culture the proximate neighbors probably wouldn't give casual nudity a second thought.

Our culture (which mainly isn't a body acceptance culture) forces us to have set-asides such as Lake Edun for those who want to enjoy social and recreational nudity. But such set-asides, almost by definition, involve an alternate land use. Most nudist parks (that I know about, anyway) are located in isolated places and on land zoned for alternate (or agricultural) use. They constitute walled or hidden ghettos that isolate their users from the "nice" people (or the curiosity seekers) of mainstream society. Had it been enacted, the half-baked idea of one HB 2726 proponent to force nudist parks into areas zoned for commercial use would have created a Catch-22 situation, probably resulting in their being classified as "adult" businesses and thus forced out of business.

The Naturist Society's Lee Baxandall once observed body acceptance is a very difficult thing to find in the US. Having been involved in some legislative and legal battles concerning social nudity (not all successful), I can vouch for this statement. Particularly, the idea of nudity in public places such as nude beaches (even reasonably isolated

ones) remains a hard sell in the Midwest. The idea that one can be unclothed for reasons other than sex or cleanliness is something many people don't understand – because they haven't experienced other possibilities. Nor will they have the opportunity, as long as places such as Lake Edun are threatened and there remains a dearth of nude beaches. (Those who have tried to gain entrance to an AANR-affiliated parks in Kansas know the rules they impose act as barriers to entry – particularly for unaccompanied males).

Let's postulate body acceptance is a good thing. The question is how to create an environment conducive to its spread, given the roadblocks government, our culture and even some proprietary nudist parks put in the way? It's sort of a chicken-and-egg problem: Many don't approve of nudity in public places because they have no experience of it. But they haven't experienced nudity in public places because they've had no places where they can do so. With few easily accessible, hassle-free venues where one can participate in recreational/social nudity, how can people discover its delights (and in the process achieve greater body acceptance)? Conversely, since most in our culture haven't had opportunities to participate in nude recreation, how can we expect broad public support for it?

Interestingly, there's broader public support for social/recreational nudity than the casual observer may realize. In 2000 the Naturist Education Foundation commissioned the Roper organization to conduct a survey, asking the following questions: (1) Do you believe that people who enjoy nude sunbathing should be able to do so without interference from officials as long as they do so at a beach that is accepted for that purpose? (Of 1010 people surveyed, 80% said yes, 17% said no.) (2) Local and state governments now set aside public land for special types of recreation such as snow-mobiling, surfing and hunting. Do you think special and secluded areas should be set aside for people who enjoy nude sunbathing? (48% said yes, 48% said no.) (3) Have you, personally, ever gone "skinny dipping" or nude sunbathing in a mixed group of men and women at a beach, at a pool, or somewhere else? (25% said yes, 73% said no.)

Because of the leading statements/qualifying clauses, the percentage of favorable responses to the first two questions may be artificially high. Still, the data do not support a strong cultural bias against social/recreational nudity. Most interesting is the 25% favorable responses to question 3. Based on the 2000 Census's population estimate of 186 million voting age citizens, this means that about 46.5 million have experienced some form of mixed-company social nude recreation. More, the trend appears to be upward (albeit slowly). In a similar poll conducted in 1983, 15% answered "yes" to question 3.

Sociologists and anthropologists understand that cultures change slowly over time. The Roper poll numbers suggest a slow transition to body acceptance in our culture. It's possible that in a generation or so the current attitudes about public nudity may be regarded as quaint. Certainly the Internet will be one catalyst for this trend, provided it doesn't completely fall under the control of government regulation (censorship) or commercial interests.

Another small indicator of the slow but (probably) inevitable progress toward greater body acceptance comes from a couple of recently released motion pictures. "Something's Gotta Give," featuring Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton, includes brief nude scenes both of Keton (frontal) and Nicholson (rear) and is about a romantic affair involving an older couple. "Calendar Girls," featuring Helen Mirren and Julie Walters, is a semi-fictitious comedy/drama about the middle-aged English women who posed nude for a calendar to raise money for a leukemia project.

What makes these films interesting is that they involve middle-aged people and nudity, thus play to the audience most likely to find public nudity objectionable. These films both have a PG-13 rating, possibly due to the ages of the actors involved. (There is speculation that with younger actors the films would have been rated R.)

You may have been unable to convince your friends and/or significant others to visit Lake Edun. It's possible that you find it difficult even to discuss the topic with them. But you still can do your bit to move the culture toward greater body acceptance (and make Lake Edun's continued survival more certain) by seeing these films and recommending them to others. Only the most prudish would find them other than enjoyable (even if a bit ditzy) and they do place nudity in the context of body acceptance. Besides, once your friends see them you'll find it easier discuss your Lake Edun experiences.

## **Observations About Appropriate Behavior**

*By Cinni*

As a fairly new member to LEF and on the board, I've had the opportunity recently to read the rules regarding acceptable behavior. I've had time to think about changes, and an approach to such things once they go before the board.

One of the things that has come before the board is the behavior of a few of our members. The best way I can think of to approach this matter and refresh everyone's memory on our behavior is through the Bare Facts. How often do we hear of women being sexually aggressive? I personally don't hear about it often, but it stills exists. Just as men being aggressive towards women still happens.

I am all about fun. I believe life is too short to be serious and stressed all the time. However; a line needs to be drawn and some people need to be reminded that LE is for healthy family activities and not a private dating service. I've not seen anything that will scar me or others when I've been there, but vulgar behavior and language are not needed for any adult to communicate in life.

While I have driven trucks and been on a few boats, I am not a trucker or a sailor. However, I generally try to be respectful. I must confess, I have not always lived up to my own standards. A fellow Eduner reminded me of my "mouth" one day, and I appreciated the reminder.

Hopefully so will everyone else with this reminder. Language and behavior make an impression that can be hard to change. Let's make 2004 great. We have some fun stuff planned for the upcoming year and I hope to see everyone at some point.