

Bare Facts

Copyright 2004 Lake Edun Foundation, Inc.

Official Publication of the Lake Edun Foundation, Inc.

March 1, 2004

Box 1982; Topeka, KS 66601 • Voice Mail: 785-478-BARN • e-mail: benude@lakeedun.com • Website: www.lakeedun.com
38° 58' 7" North; 95° 47' 56" West

Legislative Report

Shortly after we mailed out our February issue of Bare Facts, we learned a bill had been introduced into the Kansas Legislature that could have had serious consequences for all Naturists and Nudists.

HB 2779 would have classified simple nudity as a "sexually violent" crime requiring registration as a sex criminal. From the language, it appeared it would apply to back-yard skinny dippers and youthful streakers.

We immediately contacted our members, friends and supporters by email and asked them to contact their representative about this bill. Then we began preparing to testify before the House committee at its scheduled hearing.

Happily, we had an immediate and dramatic impact. Within a week, and prior to the hearing, this deeply flawed law was removed from the agenda and, hopefully will die the quiet death it deserves.

Thank you to all who contacted their representatives. If you are not receiving periodic email updates, please send an email to the address on the mast-head and include your full name.

From The Mail Bag

Dear Lake Edun,

Thanks for the news about the new laws they want to pass. Its really bad how our rights are slowly being taken away.

I hope to see you all this year and spend some wonderful times at Lake Edun this coming summer. I have not forgotten you and thank you again for keeping me informed and in mind.
- Thanks again, Ronnie

Dear Lake Edun,

Thank you for keeping everyone posted. I like to think the response from the public got this legislation shelved... sadly, the 'religious reich' will undoubtedly be back "Eternal vigilance is the price of Liberty".

On a personal note: A friend of mine, Shelley, passed away, of health problems her spirit could not withstand any longer...last summer was able to bring her out to Edun twice, and she loved it! A 'bright spirit', passionate environmentalist, dedicated pacifist and 'old hippie', gay and proud of it, she is sorely missed by all who knew and loved her...she especially liked the care taken of the environment at our 'special place'.

- Michael

Dear All,

I just wanted to say hi and tell you that things are going better for us. Hannah is getting Fat and Sassy and Aleah is getting ready for her ASVAB Test on the 2nd. Everyone is busy in their own little worlds but we are keeping up with them. Robert and I Hope you all are alright and things are going good for you too.
- Love, Kimmie

Locate, Educate, Activate and VOTE!!!

Adapted from an article by Scootch Pankonin, NAC Gov't Affairs

Election day in November gives Naturists an annual opportunity to "live life on purpose" – a phrase a pal of mine uses to explain his year-round political involvement, his meager contributions to sympathetic candidates and his place in the front of the line at the polls on election day.

Why such optimism, while others appear to be so jaded about the political process? Because my pal can trot out plenty of evidence that just "being there" in the political process has worked magic for the folks he cares about.

He's poor by most standards and so are the people he represents in a small trade association that depends mostly for its political strength on volunteerism and good will. The votes he can muster in an election year in his sparsely populated western state number county-by-county in the dozens, not by hundreds or thousands.

But he's always there, always part of the process, always available when a friendly legislator needs a little constituent citizen reinforcement.

What's his secret? He leads by example...he's a "steady kinda guy." He disciplines himself to locate, educate and activate like-minded voters. And he mobilizes those voters as needed, – a technique Naturists have used successfully in many states including Kansas and Missouri, as elected officials moved against family-oriented nude recreation.

You have several months ahead of you to learn about the candidates, educate your fellow Naturists about what you've learned, and make sure they get to the polls. You should also insure the candidates get to know you so you can contact them after they are elected.

Elections are an opportunity to put a "face" on the Naturist movement. Let these candidates know the votes of dozens, if not hundreds, of Naturists in your community are there for the getting. Insure they know you and appreciate your assistance. This familiarity will pay dividends after election day.

DON'T FORGET

Activities designated HN are sponsored by Heartland Naturists

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

Apr 3; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Apr 10; Sat; 10-12; Board of Directors Meeting

Apr 10; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Apr 11; Sun; 12-3; Family Easter Egg Hunt

Apr 16; Fri; 8-10; HN Swim

Apr 17-18; Sat/Sun; Tax Freedom Campout

Suggestions For A Stronger Family

From the beginning of the nudist movement in the United States, it has prided itself on being family friendly. Various studies show the positive benefits children derive from growing up in a nudist or naturist family. There are numerous testimonies by adults about the benefits social nudity had in their lives. Naturism promotes greater acceptance of ourselves and others in all our human diversity in an atmosphere of mutual openness and trust.

A number of years ago hundreds of children were asked if they could have just one thing that would bring them the greatest happiness, what would it be? The most frequently given answer was more time with their parents. This really expresses something about love. Love is both expressed and strengthened when a family does things together. It gives the opportunity to create traditions and positive memories. What better memories could there be than those made on the shore and in the waters of Lake Edun. Parents and children happily playing with each other, couples enjoying time relaxing together, friends chatting and sharing a meal make for simple, but beautiful memories.

However, we at Lake Edun realize life goes on beyond the beckoning grounds of our special place. With this in mind, the following suggestions for strengthening family ties made by therapist John Rosemond are offered in the hope that 2004 will see closer bonding and love in all families.

- Eat evening meals in your home with every family member present, at least four times a week. Turn off the TV and eat an unhurried meal. Relax, eat and talk.

- Go on occasional “dates” with each of your children. No children? Go out as a couple. This is about relationship and memory, not the final tab.
- Make a significant reduction in TV, video game, and computer time. These isolate us from one another. Take a walk, or do some other activity together.
- Schedule an hour every week as family time. Play a game, plan a vacation, resolve a family issue, etc.
- Teach your children domestic skills, such as how to do laundry, cook, do simple repairs around the house.
- Create and maintain a family vegetable/flower garden. Help them learn how to bring bounty from the earth.
- Only adults who take good care of themselves can take good care of children. Arrange to have someone watch the kids and get away for an evening.
- Encourage the use of good manners by practicing one each month. Good manners demonstrates respect for others and begins in one’s family.
- Take a historical/educational vacation. Visit Washington D.C., the Grand Canyon, Cape Canaveral, etc.
- Introduce your children to different cultural experiences. Attend a play, symphony, ballet, or museum.
- Visit the public library as a family. Teach the children about how the library is organized and what it offers. Many libraries host children’s programs on Saturday mornings, a great alternative to cartoons.
- Create a new family tradition. Perhaps doing something special as a family during the holidays.
- Become involved as a family in work with a charity. The United Way, Red Cross, or your church can offer suggestions. Learning to give is always healthy.

Lake Edun Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 1982
Topeka, KS 66601-1982
(785) 478-BARN

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	_____
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			_____

Journeys In Life: First Time Experience

When my husband shared with me this idea of naturism I really hoped his curiosity would be satisfied, and then he would drop it and move on. This was one of those ideas that would be adopted, not dropped. I'm not one to follow blindly all the time (just sometimes!). This was an idea that I really struggled with.

I was raised in a conservative home. My parents believed modesty meant covering up. My sister in particular was very conscious about keeping covered. She would not even unbutton the top button of a shirt when she was a teenager. I opted more for comfort. And because I never ran around my parents' home naked, I sure didn't feel comfortable being naked in front of my husband. I didn't raise my children to run around naked either.

My husband helped me see how important it was to him that I feel comfortable naked around him. It was much harder to let myself be natural in my children's view, especially my boys. Since my forties, I have chosen comfort over style when it comes to clothing. Loose fitting has become more predominant in my wardrobe. I like my clothes and I feel comfortable in them. But, these days I am not worried about getting dressed so quickly after a shower. I don't mind running upstairs in the buff to take care of something before I get dressed. Frankly, I enjoy sleeping nude now. The only discomfort I feel is if it's a cold night and then my shoulders get cold which will wake me up. Sometimes I throw on a nightgown at those times.

Social nudity is one I'm not confident in yet. When my husband brought me to Lake Edun I didn't think I would participate, – just be a spectator. The setting was delightful. The water looked inviting and I sure didn't bring a swimsuit! So why did I undress and join him in the water? I think it was because we were alone. I didn't feel threatened. On subsequent visits I met some others and they treated me well. They made me feel comfortable. Never once did anyone run their eyes up and down my body while conversing with me. Their eyes were on my face. That gave me a tremendous sense of security.

I know my husband would rather go without his clothes any time possible. He enjoys gardening in the buff as well as any other activities outside that he can do and still be screened from the street. I think if it were socially acceptable, he would never get dressed! I find for myself that I must justify being nude (taking a shower, swimming, etc.). I'm not looking for opportunities to be in the buff. I am just more inclined now when the opportunity presents itself. The biggest change for me is that it's okay. I don't get upset if my kids find me naked in the room. I don't mind being naked in the locker room at the fitness center. I'm not comfortable yet in mixed company at LEF events. Perhaps that will come in time.

Signed,

Just another traveler in life's journey

Many can identify with the "traveler's" experience. That's why we enjoy hearing stories other people have to tell of their rite of passage into social nudity. These stories remind us of our own "first time" with social nudity. Those not raised in a naturist family have to cross over the threshold from our past norms of appropriate dress to nudity with others. For our writer, as with most of us, struggle was involved.

I recently read another "first time" story. The writer, a single mom, had come upon a naturist web site and shared it with her teenage daughter. After some months of discussion with each other and members of the web site, they began experimenting with home nudity. This led to consideration of a winter vacation to someplace they could try social nudity. Their experience was very positive and they look forward to many more such trips. I don't know where they went, but I couldn't help but think of the visit my wife and I made to Haulover Beach a couple years ago. It was a beautiful sunny spring day with a brilliant blue sky. The sand was clean and the beach was not at all crowded. We spread our towels far from the lifeguard stand with other nearby couples scattered around. Then there was the ocean! It was magnificent! Beautiful aquamarine colored waves rolled to the shore. Air and water temperatures were perfect. The sandy bottom slopes downward at a gentle angle, allowing adults to stand while 30-40 yards out to sea. Catching waves or swimming parallel to the shore line was no problem as we lazily spent the morning in this naturist sanctuary. How could anyone once experiencing the freedom and sheer delight of Haulover Beach ever want to retreat to a swimsuit required beach ever again?

Later we drove up the Florida coast on our way to Orlando. We passed miles of beautiful beaches, and even made some stops to get in the water. Despite the beauty, it just wasn't the same. Wearing that darn swimsuit left me frustrated, just itching to take it off and fully enjoy the ocean. A few days later, at Playalinda Beach in the Canaveral National Seashore we were able to do just that. What a joyful relief!

Well, that's three winter time of our discontent warm weather naturist stories. I have to believe several of you have been to some warm naturist places this winter, or at some time in the past. Share your adventures with us as we wait out the winter until we can meet again at Lake Edun this summer. Send your good memories stories to the Lake Edun e-mail address for the April issue.

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

The Midwest Gardener – Soil Preparation

By Jer, The Garden Man

It was so exciting to see my first Robin of the season a couple of weeks ago!as I was eating breakfast and “downing” my 2nd cup of coffee. The Cardinal had an abundant measure of joy in his song that morning! This song bird Harbinger of Spring was clearly giving me a clue that soon it will be time to begin the ritual of tending the soil just as my parents and grandparents did, which will soon initiate new beginnings by the birthing of wonderful fruits from the good earth.

Now is the time to get a start on getting ahead of the crabgrass and other obnoxious weeds that will certainly invade your lawn. Obtain a fertilizer/crabgrass preventive at any good garden center. This can usually be applied from the first of March through mid-April before the seeds begin to germinate. Wait 4 months after application before sowing grass seed. Remember, you get what you pay for....so don't attempt to cut costs by sacrificing quality.

It is good to begin thinking about soil preparation in lawn and garden areas. If you don't have the advantage of composted materials we mentioned in the last article, we have to use commercial products. For years Gypsum has been used to soften clay and compacted soil. It helps to increase root growth and promotes strong and vigorous plants. Unfortunately, this process is short-lived and requires repeated applications. There is another alternative using a product called Structure. It is comprised of 100% natural ceramic granules that will loosen and aerate heavy soils in lawns and gardens, plus it is effective for a much longer period of time. Earth Right, a liquid concentrate, is also quite good promoting soil porosity needed for good root development. If the soil has a heavy acid concentration, you will need to add lime. There are also lime products enhanced with calcium and magnesium that are excellent.

I won't attempt to sell you on a particular brand of fertilizer, but will explain how manufacturers describe the contents of their various products. This is usually shown by three numbers on each bag. For example, 10-10-10 is the percentage of each nutrient, and is usually in this order: Nitrogen, Phosphate, and Potash.

The first number refers to nitrogen, which promotes vigorous plant growth and green color, and is a building block for protein. The second number refers to phosphate which hastens plant maturity. This also stimulates healthy root formation. Potash is the third number. Potash is essential for photosynthesis. This helps build winter hardiness and disease resistance. Hopefully this will help you have a better idea of the purpose of the particular fertilizer you will be selecting for a specific season. A late spring application is usually good for weed and feed emphasis, with an insect control applied afterwards up until late summer. Your lawn will really benefit from the fall fertilization and soil preparation of aeration and/or verticutting.

Vegetable plants grow best in a fertile, well-drained, soil of loamy texture, well supplied with organic matter. Unfortunately, many gardens do not contain such soils. Course, sandy soils dry out rapidly and are difficult to maintain at a high level of fertility. Clay soils are hard to work and often remain

wet until late in the spring. Clay soils tend to form a hard crust after a heavy rain and become compacted depriving the plant's root system of essential oxygen required for growth. Such soil must be modified for successful gardening.

To have desirable soil for gardening, the following considerations have to be taken into account: water drainage, moisture condition at the time of working, erosion, texture and structure, fertility, and pH (acidity or alkalinity).

To ensure good water drainage the surface should be graded so that excess water will be removed promptly in a controlled manner. This will prevent erosion. Leveling will eliminate pockets and low spots where water tends to stand. Adding organic matter to clay soils will also improve drainage and aeration. A good option for dealing with poor drainage is to grow vegetables in raised beds or planting on ridges. Of course, during drought conditions, raised beds are more difficult to keep properly watered.

A mistake to avoid is working the soil while it is too wet. The soil should not be tilled or spaded until it is sufficiently dry to crumble when worked. Experienced gardeners often use the “squeeze” test to determine if the soil is ready. Turn over with a spade a slice of soil about 6 inches deep. Pick up a handful of soil and squeeze it. If the soil remains in a tight ball when pressure is released, wait several days for more drying to take place. Soils high in clay content are easily damaged if worked when wet.

Soil texture and structure can be modified by using soil conditioners. These act to improve aeration, drainage, moisture-holding capacity and workability of the soil. Common conditioners include compost, peat moss, sawdust, wood chips, composted animal manures, green manure crops, coarse sand, and perlite. These additions eventually produce a desirable loamy-type soil. Adding fine sand to clay will be detrimental to the soil structure.

Condition the soil by applying 3 to 4 inches of organic matter and if available, 1 to 2 inches of course sand uniformly over the surface of the garden. Till or spade the material thoroughly into the top 8 to 10 inches of soil.

Adding uncomposted organic materials will require adding nitrogen fertilizer. The nitrogen provides extra nutrition for microbes decomposing the added organic matter. This prevents a temporary nitrogen deficiency in the vegetable plants. Add 2 lbs. of a complete fertilizer, such as 5-10-5, 8-8-8, 12-12-12 or similar analysis per 100 sq. ft. If there is yellowing of the lower foliage and garden plants lack vigor in early summer, apply additional nitrogen fertilizer.

Soil pH is determined with a soil test which can be done with a test kit, or the local Cooperative Extension office can be contacted for information on getting soil pH tested. Most vegetables grow best under slightly acid conditions with a pH of 6.0 to 6.8. Lime is added to lower acidity while sulphur will lower alkalinity.

With all of this in mind, lets get started creating our own garden spot with nothing to fear except plant diseases and insect infestations.

Dodging Another Bullet

By Dave Bitters

As Garrison Keillor might say in his Lake Wobegone monologue, it's been a long, hard winter. As least February started out that way. (Remember?)

An 8" snowfall early in the month revealed a fault in my telephone line, so during the first week or so of the month the connection was scratchy and intermittent. As a result, I had difficulty downloading my e-mail, connecting to the Internet.

On Saturday, Feb. 14 I managed to establish a connection long enough to collect the 100 or so e-mails (mostly SPAM) that had accumulated.

One was from Naturist Action Committee (NAC) chair Bob Morton. It alerted me to House Bill 2779, which had been introduced into the Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice on Feb. 10. Among other things, this bill proposed to change the status of offenders convicted of K.S.A. 21-3508, the statute having to do with "lewd and lascivious behavior."

When I called Bob he expressed concern that I hadn't contacted him earlier. I explained the problem with my phone connection, and we proceeded to have a half-hour discussion on the topic at hand.

From his preliminary comments, it sounded as if we had a serious potential problem on our hands. HB 2779 didn't have a by-name sponsor. Rather, the sponsor was the generic "Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice" itself. As we studied the matter further it became apparent that not only might we have an uphill fight to protect our rights and interests, but that we had to act fast. It developed that the bill was scheduled for committee hearing on Feb. 19. My response was an audible "Oh, God!"

Because of the bad phone connection it took me about 2 hours to download the text of the bill from the NAC web site. But I finally succeeded and read it as carefully as I could, given that (1) it was vague and poorly written and (2) it made references to existing statutes of which I didn't have a copy.

The more I pondered the text, the more Orwellian it seemed. Among its pearls was one that proposed requiring individuals convicted of adultery to register as sex offenders under some circumstances. It also made an obtuse reference to an "institution of higher education" meaning "...any post-secondary school under the supervision of the Kansas board of regents."

The section that really caught my attention, though, was: "(a) Offender means: (5) any person convicted of any of the following criminal sexual conduct if one of the parties involved is less than 18 years of age: (E) lewd and lascivious behavior as defined by K.S.A. 21-3508, and amendments thereto..."

The bill also contained the following: "(c) Sexually violent crime means: (12) lewd and lascivious behavior as defined by K.S.A. 21-3508, and amendments thereto. ..."

The gist of the bill was that it proposed making lewd and lascivious behavior a sex crime for which one had to register as an offender upon conviction. (It seemed to me that this

development was only a matter of time, given the current enthusiasm applying the so-called "scarlet letter" laws to an ever-broadening category of offenses, "to protect the public.")

Nominally Kansas has no law against public nudity per se. K.S.A. 21-3508 defines lewd and lascivious behavior in part as "publicly exposing a sex organ or exposing a sex organ in the presence of a person who is not the spouse of the offender and who has not consented thereto, with intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desires of the offender or another." On the surface it appears that the subordinate clause dealing with "intent to arouse or gratify" provides Naturists a loophole. But try telling that to the Johnson County District Attorney, who chose to prosecute *State v. Wyatt* in September 2000. Or try telling that to Johnson County judge James Franklin Davis, who acted both as judge and jury in the case. Or try telling that to the officer who issued the citation in the first place.

The case involved a Naturist who stripped down in an isolated section of the Arboretum, a park in southern Johnson County, for some nude jogging. He had the park to himself, but made the mistake of emerging into the parking lot undressed – just as the "offended" cop appeared while making her rounds.

I testified for the defense in *Wyatt*. The assistant prosecutor grilled me for fifteen minutes or so about "Why don't you go around naked in Olathe?" and "Why aren't you naked right now?" This line of questioning had nothing to do with lewd behavior (as articulated in the subordinate clause) and everything to do with merely being nude. I waited in vain for the defense attorney to object to the irrelevance of the questioning.

The cross-examination of the defendant centered on the location of the Arboretum – Was it isolated? (Yes.) Was it near a school? (Yes, it was near a high school but line of sight to the school was blocked by a dense stand of trees.) The arresting officer admitted that the defendant wasn't doing anything sexual.

Judge Davis listened to the proceedings with bemusement. The defense summed up the proceedings by stating (correctly) that the prosecution had failed to prove its case. But the judge said, in so many words, "That's okay, but I'm going to find the defendant guilty anyway." He just didn't want anybody running around naked in Johnson County.

Most states have some sort of statute prohibiting "indecent exposure." Many are even more ambiguous than K.S.A. 21-3508. States such as California and Florida, where nude recreation is more or less an established part of the recreational scene, have case law clarifying "nude is not lewd." (California has *People v. Smith*; Florida has *State v. A Naked Person*.) Kansas has no such case law. Based on my experience with the Wyatt case, I have to conclude, absent any defining/limiting case law, prosecutors have broad discretion in deciding when K.S.A. 21-3508 applies.

This observation is borne out by several incidents reported in the press in recent years. I recall a couple of instances where males pulled up to hamburger stand pickup windows nude,

causing much ink to flow in the newspapers. A couple of years ago some students streaked through a restaurant in Lawrence late one night. The Lawrence police chief was reported as suggesting that he was considering prosecuting for lewd and lascivious behavior.

In other words, it's not beyond the realm of possibility that Naturists could be prosecuted under K.S.A. 21-3508 for skinny-dipping at their favorite lake or hiking nude on their favorite trail, however remote. (This says nothing of the horrors to which they might be subjected should they appear nude in an openly *public* place. (So much for Body Acceptance in Kansas.)

Monday, Feb. 16 was Presidents' Day, so I had the day off. I contacted Rep. Terrie Huntington (my state representative) and spoke with her by phone for perhaps 45 minutes about HB 2779. I explained my involvement with NAC, spoke about Naturist activities in California (with which I'm reasonably familiar), reviewed the Wyatt case and voiced my concerns about the bill. I suggested that it appeared to have more to do with some interest group's political agenda than with good public policy.

While it isn't clear that Rep. Huntington has had Naturist experiences herself, she seemed to know a good deal about the protocols at nude beaches in Europe. Also, she's a member of the Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice. So I believe this conversation did some good.

I wasn't keen to take half a day off from work to go to Topeka and testify against a bill dealing with criminal sexual conduct. But I was even less enthusiastic about the possibility of having Naturists put at risk due to some egregious legislation. So I agreed to put together a position paper and see if I could arrange for a half day of leave.

Meanwhile, Bob Morton had issued an urgent "NAC Alert," which was immediately circulated to Lake Edun and Prairie Haven members. It explained the stakes and urged Kansas Naturists to contact their representatives, and to attend the hearing on Feb. 19 if possible.

Naturists from all over the state must have sprung into action in response. Tuesday morning (Feb. 17) I got a crash project dumped in my lap that appeared to make it impossible for me to testify on Thursday. I placed an urgent call to Bob Morton Tuesday afternoon to explain the situation. He calmly replied, "Tell me your problem, then I'll tell you the solution." It developed that as a result of our swift collective actions, HB 2779 was pulled from the calendar for Thursday's hearing. Apparently the Right Honorables sensed a firestorm brewing and decided that they didn't need the attention.

It's possible HB 2779 still could rise like a Phoenix from the ashes. But Bob assessed the likelihood of this as low.

We'll keep you posted if there are any new developments concerning this legislation. Meanwhile, let me extend a hearty "Thank You" to all who contacted their representatives and voiced their views. It *did* make a difference.

This shows the truth of the old saying, "Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom." Or, as a former editor of an alternative Kansas City newspaper once explained to me, "Everybody's civil liberties are in jeopardy when the legislature is in session."

Tell 'em You're A Naturist!

With spring going to be upon us in the not too distant future, returning to Lake Edun for fun in the sun is almost upon us. Naturally, we want to renew friendships and experience more good times together. While this is so, there is also the opportunity to bring friends who have never experienced the clothing free freedom we enjoy so much. There are special Open House days just for this purpose, but any day will do. After all, being nude is great and the more friends to spend time with, the better!

The CyberNude web site offers a number of suggestions for introducing others to naturism. It is likely that the approach you use to tell somebody you are a naturist will have a big impact on how they respond. The following list takes it's inspiration from CyberNude. Some may work better than others, depending on the people involved. Good luck!

- Be casual when talking about naturism. Treat it as something enjoyable and beneficial to you, not as a cause everyone has to join in. Allow the other person's curiosity to guide the flow of the conversation. Don't think you have to convince them the first time the subject is raised.
- Appeal to shared interests such as concern for the environment, body acceptance, or getting closer to nature, etc.
- Be ready to answer questions and dispel misconceptions.
- Go slow. You know being at Lake Edun is safe and everyone is accepted, but others don't know this. Suggest they try being nude at home or sleeping nude rather than pressuring them to visit Lake Edun too quickly.
- Let them know that on Open House days, they can visit, talk with members, all without any demand to immediately undress.
- Sometimes there is strength in numbers. Inviting a group to make a visit may increase their comfort level. Those more receptive may influence others with them to give it a try.
- Use comments others casually make as lead-ins to broaching the subject of naturism. Examples would include a reference to skinny-dipping; discussions of getting a tan; even a person's reference to being dissatisfied with their body could allow a ready opening.

There are a lot of positive ways we can promote naturism and Lake Edun within the circle of friends and acquaintances we have. At the very least, they can know the facts and hopefully become tolerant of the lifestyle we enjoy. Whether they ever visit Lake Edun or not, it's likely some among them will be able to speak up on our behalf to correct misconceptions heard from others. You never know just how far a good word might travel.