

Bare Facts

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38° 58' 7" North; 95° 47' 56" West

President's Corner

By: Ernie Cooper

I am sitting at my computer, looking out at the front yard. Our Iris are blooming now, the tulips are just past. The Cherry trees and Redbuds have already put on their spring splendor as well. It is the end of April! Memorial Day weekend is just around the corner!

I have already made several trips to our special place and had several wonderful hours with friends. Several successful workdays have also been completed. When you return to the lake this year, we hope that the efforts of many to improve the lake will make your visit more pleasant. Sand has been added to the beaches, several berms have been constructed across the trails to help keep the water in check, and trees have been removed from the dam, etc.

This is a good time and place to remind everyone that North Beach, just south of the barn, has been designated a quiet beach. During last summer, the board of directors received several comments concerning the possibility of designating one of the beaches to be a no radio, no boom box area. After some discussion, we chose North Beach since no one camps there, it is surrounded by trees to deaden the noise from elsewhere, and it is the smaller of the two beaches. Signs should soon be up to remind all of us of this change.

We announced in the newsletter last month that the plays are moving forward. Enough funding has been secured to make the event happen. Exact dates are not set, but it looks like all of the preparations should be in place for a late summer production. I hope Eduners and friends will get a taste for the productions during "Return to Edun" when we plan to do a read through of at least one if not all of the plays. We will also be receiving a grant from TNS to help with costs of this project.

The grant from TNS brings to mind just how positive our support from that organization has been over the course of time. During a recent board meeting, Alan reminded us that Lee Baxandall, the founder of TNS, has been to our area in the past. The society has been one of our strong supporters as we have worked through our legal situation. I would remind members and friends of Lake Edun that when you renew your membership to TNS through Lake Edun, we receive part of your subscription back to our own account. It is a nice way to support two causes at once.

I hope to meet you at the Lake....soon!

Combination Changes

It's time to change our lock again. Members will find the combination to the new lock enclosed with this issue of Bare Facts.

Remember: If you are the last to leave, be sure to lock the gate on your way out.

Open Houses Planned

Our open houses are an important part of our outreach effort. All of us have friends and acquaintances who are curious about Lake Edun and the freedom we enjoy. Don't keep our special place a secret. Extend an invitation! And remember, it is impossible to predict who may be interested in learning more about Naturism.

As in past years, our open houses are clothed, except for an isolated area. So, if your friends are reluctant to join us for fear of seeing someone *naked*, not to worry, it is easy to avoid.

Open houses are scheduled for May 21, June 4, July 9, and August 6. Bring your friends, co-workers and acquaintances so they can learn why you are so happy on Monday morning after spending a weekend at our special place.

Enjoy Work Days

Perhaps it sounds strange: How does one enjoy working. Really, it is not as difficult as it might seem. Most of us have jobs that keep us indoors during the day, so it is a complete change to get out-of-doors and do something with our hands for a place we love.

Our last scheduled work day is Saturday, May 14. So far, we have made good progress getting our special place ready for the summer season. With a few helping hands, we will be able to make the final arrangements.

If you are interested in helping, show up. If you have a special talent, be sure to make that known. We have a particular need for someone who is handy with some electrical work.

If you are unable to join us on the 14th but want to assist in some way, let us know. We can accommodate your schedule. We have placed an ad for our summer caretakers and have received some excellent applicants. Look forward to another wonderful summer!

DON'T FORGET

Activities designated HN are sponsored by Heartland Naturists

May 6-7; Fri-Sat; Private Party

May 7; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

May 14; Sat; 10-12; Board of Directors

May 14; Sat; 12-4; Work Day

May 14; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

May 20; Fri; 8-10; HN Swim

May 21; Sat; 12-3; Open House

May 21; Sat; 8-10; Last Sauna

May 28-30; Memorial Day Weekend

June 1; Mulberry season begins

June 4; Sat; 12-3; Open House

June 11; Sat; 10-12; Board of Directors

June 17; Fri; 8-10; HN Swim

July 4-10; Nude Recreation Week

July 15-17; Return to Edun

Non-Sexual Nudity

Many of us have internet e-mail groups with whom we share conversations. One of my lists shared the following message. I thought my friend Marty had a good response.

The thread started out with a comment from a man who accused naturists of a “big lie” with regard to nudity vs. sexuality. He pointed to our oft quoted line that goes something like this, “social nudity is non-sexual” as being untrue since we are all sexual beings by our nature. He further observed that in his opinion no 45-year-old man at a naturist gathering viewing all of the nudity about him could avoid having sexual thoughts.

Marty wrote the following in response to the query:

I am tempted to point out that your insistence that this is true reflects more on your character than on the character of naturists in general. Maybe it’s true YOU can’t help but think sexual thoughts in a naturist environment, but that doesn’t automatically generalize to everyone.

But I’ll resist the temptation to say that and take a different approach.

Every now and then someone seems to feel the need to point out that humans are sexual beings and try to make the tautological point that everything they do is laced with sexuality to some degree or another. That would include being naturists.

Okay, fine, I’ll go along with that. Humans are sexual beings and everything they do is laced with sexuality to some degree. So what?

I’ll freely admit that when I see an attractive nude woman in a naturist environment, I’m quite capable of having a sexual reaction. But that’s not the point. You see, if I encounter the same attractive woman in a fully clothed environment, I get the same sexual reaction. The point is, in both the clothed environment and the nude environment, I have the sense and the character to not act on the feeling.

When we say a naturist environment is nonsexual, we mean no more sexual than a clothed environment. People with no naturist experiences think naturist environments are sex-crazed orgies. When we say they are nonsexual, we mean they are as nonsexual as any other clothed experience. In some ways perhaps even less sexual, because naturists aren’t dealing with the fascination of mystery that rabidly hiding bodies from one another creates.

Of course our sexuality doesn’t evaporate away just because we take our clothes off with one another and don’t have an orgy. But we don’t act on it any more than we would at, say, Sunday school. So how come you don’t make an issue about Sunday school being a sexual environment? Our sexuality doesn’t disappear there either. Your 45-year-old man is just as capable of seeing an attractive woman and having a reaction in Sunday school as at a nudist resort. Shall we now say we are lying to ourselves when we call Sunday schools a nonsexual environment?

We are not denying our sexuality or lying to ourselves because we say naturist environments are nonsexual. By

your standards, ALL environments are sexual, therefore there’s no point in singling out naturist environments.

How we act on our sexuality makes all the difference in the world as to whether an environment is sexual or non-sexual, not the inevitable and uncontrollable flashes of sexual reaction we all feel from time to time without warning. So your point is merely playing with semantics, and in a way that accomplishes no useful purpose except to confuse the issue.

Naturist environments are as nonsexual as any other environment where sex is not occurring or encouraged, and that’s what we mean when we call them nonsexual.

– Marty Michaels

In the News

Once again foreigners have come up with a solution to the problem of the repression of naturists. New South Wales, Australia now boasts the first political party founded to speak for the rights of naturists. Not a bad idea if you have a parliamentary style of government. Read on.

In New South Wales, there could be one hundred thousand people interested in naturism, yet the allocation of public recreational resources to them is limited to a few inaccessible and mostly small beaches.

The Naturist Lifestyle Party aims to bring naturism fully into the public eye, with view to getting an equitable allocation of public resources to those who support the naturist lifestyle.

We also hope that wider realization of the true extent of support for naturism will encourage others to look at the benefits the naturist lifestyle has to offer both them and their children.

Objectives of the Party

1. To protect the status of the existing beaches designated under the Local Governmental Act of 1993 as being beaches where nudity is permitted.
2. To protect the status of beaches where nudity is permitted by virtue of signage erected by councils.
3. To achieve a more equitable allocation of public recreational resources for the use of people interested in nudism.
4. To promote the rights of women not to wear covering for their breasts in public situations where men are not required to cover their chests.
5. To support a reasoned approach to government generally, being an approach that is based on facts and rational debate.

Items We Need

- Coozies
- Wheel Barrow
- Pitch Forks
- Chipper/shredder we can use about once a month
- Tops for trash cans
- Variable speed, reversible drill

Nudism Fosters Healthier Individuals, Society

By: David Manning

I was born nude. Nothing unusual here. In 1962, I was 8 years old, my parents took on the management of a nudist club in Colton, Ca. For the next 12 years this was my home. My family had been members of other clubs before that, so I have been a nudist all of my life.

In the late '70s, I spent an afternoon being interviewed by Dennis Craig Smith, who along with William Sparks wrote, *The Naked Child: Growing Up Without Shame/Social Nudity/Its Effect on Children*, a statistical study of adults who were brought up in a nudist environment.

This study, along with others, concludes that the idea of exposure to the naked human body during one's formative years is somehow detrimental to one's adult mental state is not only wrong, but that the opposite is true. These studies also point out that there is less drug abuse, fewer unwanted pregnancies and lower rates of sexually deviant behavior exhibited than that of the general population. Additionally, people who grew up in nudist environments are better educated, more tolerant of others and better adjusted to life in general.

With this information at hand, I am completely astounded that, in 2005, there are those whose ignorance of fact allows them to attack a private gathering of nudists under the guise of "protecting the children." (I have to assume we are talking about protecting them from sexual abuse, as opposed to getting caught in the crossfire of spontaneous gang violence).

The primary Bible thumper behind this attack, James Hartline, who brought this "potentially harmful" activity to light (and whose rather complicated background can be examined via a quick online search), has obviously never bothered to educate himself by reading these studies or the Bible he's waving in everybody's face.

Here is one man quoting from Genesis, "They were nude but they were not ashamed." Furthermore, because God created it, Pope John Paul II said, "The human body can remain nude and uncovered and preserve its splendor and its beauty."

As far as protecting the children from a group, it would appear that the Catholic Church should be at the top of Escondido Councilwoman Mare Waldron's list, as well as every other group, both private and public, in which children are present. Groups are not the problem, pedophiles are the problem. These people do not do their damage in public. I can guarantee that no priest

has ever molested a child in front of the congregation.

Attacking any group is not the answer; growing healthier adults is. To that end, by all available data, it would appear that bringing the next few generation of children up in an open nudist environment (not necessarily a nudist club, but a healthy "see, I'm OK, you're OK, nothing mysterious there" atmosphere) is the best available option our society has.

North County Times, 4/4/2005

"People who grew up in nudist environments are better educated, more tolerant of others and better adjusted to life in general."

Apollo Beach

By: Lisa Emmerich, Orlando Sentinel

Here for the sun, not the skin Nude beachgoers reject sexual high jinks and guard against Peeping Toms

On a blustery Sunday, seven friends sit on lounge chairs propped up in the coarse sand, sipping from cans of beer. It could be a typical American scene – buddies sharing drinks and shooting the breeze – except they're all naked.

Crammed together behind a three-foot blue tarp to block the wind, they are not the centerfold-worthy women or weird men you might expect to find here. The regulars at this quiet nude beach look more like an average neighbor, the mail carrier or a nurse.

Indeed, the lanky 47-year-old woman baring her pierced belly button is a longtime nurse, though she won't say where. She met her boyfriend, now lying beside her, at the beach. ("The nice thing about it is you know what you're getting," he says with a wink.)

"We have a common network," said Tom Johnson, an insurance adjuster who sits with his legs splayed on a red lawn chair. "We talk to each other. Ask who is coming this weekend or not."

The story of Apollo Beach has more to do with coexistence than conflict, although some clothed visitors say they wish the nudists were farther down the beach.

In 2000, a sign was put up alerting clothed, or – in nudist parlance – "fabric-challenged" beach visitors: "You may encounter nude sunbathers." Only the occasional shell-collecting couple accidentally wanders past the sign with heads down.

This crowd is partial to Apollo. They say it's a community-like atmosphere where seedy outsiders are easy to spot, and gawking and pickup lines are rare.

Johnson visits at least three times a week for the freedom of sunbathing, swimming and relaxing sans clothes. He doesn't even wear sunscreen, although he does protect his balding head with a white ball cap.

"It's less of a sexual overtone here," said Johnson, popping open a beer. "It's more of a family environment. We watch out for predatory behavior. We look out for each other."

Tim Morgan, chief ranger at Canaveral National Seashore, which includes both Apollo and Playalinda beaches, said the beaches are basically safe.

Although crime is falling, many of the nudists at Apollo Beach say they would prefer to see more rangers on the beach. These friends have learned to recognize the shady people, said Billy Boodenburg, a 52-year-old construction worker and the nurse's boyfriend.

Most nudists at Apollo consider themselves normal, respectable people. Off the beach, they are typical parents and spouses, employees and friends. On the beach, they are more comfortable with themselves than most.

"You have to have a very good self-concept," Johnson said. "I would never consider going nude elsewhere. This is not intimidating. People have a problem with nudity and morality. This is not a sex orgy. Nudity is not a sexual thing. You respect other nude people."

Like typical regulars at a corner bar or neighborhood coffee shop, this circle of friends just wants a safe and familiar place to enjoy themselves – except they're naked.

[Your highly traveled editor has been to Plyalinda Beach which means I have almost been to Apollo Beach. The relevance you may ask?

For one thing, nudists are presented in a positive manner in a leading area newspaper. This is always good for naturism. Yet, it's also obvious there would be no story save for, notice the twice used tag line, "except they're naked."

The writer goes to painful lengths to document the normalcy of it all. She becomes downright "folksy" about the nudists she encounters, as if to say, "Why, they are just like us!" Yep, golly gosh, gee you're right Lisa.

Even those nudist consider themselves "normal, respectable people." Reassuring an anxious, possibly suspicious public, the authorities in the person of the chief ranger gives his blessing by saying, "the beaches are basically safe." Finally, the obligatory qualification that "This is not a sex orgy." is included.

I agree that there is a story to tell about social nudism. However, I'm tiring of this oft repeated formula story. In some ways it's almost like making the reader become a gawker at the naked people.

I applaud the writer's effort to be positive. I just wish her skills had been used to help the readers imagine themselves there as participants, rather than being there as removed observers. – Ed.]

See More of your Friends At Lake Edun

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