

Bare Facts

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38° 58' 7" North; 95° 47' 56" West

President's Corner

By: Ernie Cooper

It is hard for me to believe that another summer is coming to a close. Soon the leaves will be turning and the weather cooling down. We still have time to enjoy what is left of our Kansas summer at the lake!

I hope that all of you have decided to purchase tickets for upcoming one-act plays. They look like they will be wonderful and wonderfully done! Tickets are only \$15!

If you have friends who have expressed interest in naturism, but are a little on the shy side, invite them to the plays. Our director believes that if we can show good attendance at this event, we should be able to continue the performances year after year.

I have seen mention of our plays on the INA website. If you live in the Topeka area you may have seen the articles in the paper about the plays. This is a wonderful way to end our summer.

We will be having our end of year membership party at Dave's again this year. This is always popular as Dave makes his hot tub available for our use! The food is always good and the company? Outstanding! Be sure to make plans to be there!

Since the court's decision this past July, many ideas have been floated to make our special place visibly more agricultural. I hope that during the several get togethers that are still scheduled the members of the board will hear yet other ideas on how to accomplish this goal.

One important item we must consider with all of these ideas is the amount of time individuals will be able to donate to accomplish these tasks. It is heartening to see and read the supportive comments of so many about our difficulties.

Now is the time for us to put some rubber on the road and follow through with our expressed support for Lake Edun! During the board meetings in September and October these ideas will be discussed and a direction suggested for the Lake Edun Foundation to follow.

It is our sincere desire to make new friends and insure our ability to continue our long standing friendship with property owners around Lake Edun. Plans should be ready for discussion and a vote at the membership meeting at Dave's the end of October. If you can not be at the meeting, but have comments you would like us to consider, please e-mail us at bornnude@aol.com, so we will have them to consider.

I Hope to see you all, naturally, soon!

Items We Need

- Tops for trash cans
- Wheel Barrow
- Chipper/shredder we can use about once a month

No Sex, No Violence ... Only Nudity

Rehearsal have begun for our first-ever one act play competition. With four semi-finalists competing for a \$500 first prize, it should be an interesting run. Performances will be Friday, Sept. 24; Friday, Sept. 30; and Saturday, Oct. 1 in the Black Box Theater of the Topeka Performing Arts Center beginning at 8pm. All tickets are only \$15.

Get a group together and make it a fun evening at the theater. Encourage skeptical friends to see these plays for themselves. They address issues of body acceptance; each in a different manner. Taken together, they present a well-rounded picture. This is just one more way the Lake Edun Foundation is working to get the message for body acceptance out to a broad audience.

Use the order form on the last page of this issue of Bare Facts to order your tickets. Don't be disappointed if we sell out.

Road Warriors Make Progress

Our work day originally scheduled for August 13 was postponed because of rain until the 20th. We notified everyone by email but only a few hardy souls made it. After 2-3 hours, we made it past the largest trees bordering the parking lot and began to see easier progress.

When complete, this will provide access to the West side of Lake Edun. It will permit us to get cars and trucks there to make improvements and tend crops. It will also allow us to place a port-a-potty on the west side of the lake.

As promised, the Lovely Ladies of Lake Edun provided a delicious spaghetti dinner for workers. On balance, it was a productive day with good friends at our special place.

If you missed this rescheduled event, be sure we have your email address. Be assured we will not abuse it and we never give email addresses out. We seldom send more than one email per week and usually it is far fewer than that.

DON'T FORGET

Activities designated HN are sponsored by Heartland Naturists

Sept 3; Sat; Closed for private party

Sept 4; Sun; Battle of Dagorhir

Sept 5; Mon; Labor Day

Sept 10; Sat; 10-12; Board of Directors

Sept 16; Fri; 8-10; HN Swim

Sept 17; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Sept 24; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Oct 1; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Oct 8; Sat; 5-7; Board of Directors

Oct 8; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Oct 15; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Oct 21; Fri; 8-10; HN Swim

Oct 22; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Oct 29; Sat; 6:30; Halloween Party; Annual Meeting
follows Halloween Party

From The Mail Bag

Dear Lake Edun,

Thanks for the emails. I really look forward to your email. I love our special place Robyn and I are kinda in a \$\$\$\$ jam or we would visit more. I really want everyone to meet Robyn. On Sept. 24 we are getting married. I know you all will love her as I do. Take care and please keep those email coming. Your friends forever.

- Billy and Robyn

Dear Lake Edun,

You probably assumed this already, but we do not want a refund of our Return to Edun tickets. It will be considered a donation.

On another subject about which we have mixed blessings, we want to let you know that sadly, this will be our last year of membership at Lake Edun. I have accepted a job transfer to Miami, Florida. I will be relocating to Miami on September 20th and Marilyn will follow within two or three months of my relocation.

The main thing we'll miss about living in this area is the peaceful float on Lake Edun. We'll be coming back to visit the family from time to time. I don't know if we'll be able to sneak away from the family long enough for a float on the lake or not. I do know we'll miss Lake Edun and the friendly people we've met there. Unfortunately, lakes in Florida aren't that safe because of the possibility of alligators. We might do a little ocean floating, but that's it.

Lake Edun was our introduction to naturism so we'll always have very fond memories of Lake Edun. Even though we're under deadline to get all our belongings packed and ready for the movers, we hope to come out for a float one more time over Labor Day.

Hope to see you there!!

- Randy & Marilyn

Random Thoughts And Reflections

With weather cooling and winter coming on, it is time to once again think about saunas. We will begin our weekly saunas on September 17. These are a wonderful, relaxing way to spend an evening. If you have never joined us in the sauna, be sure not to miss them this winter.

With winter approaching, we turn our attention to those projects best done in the cooler months. We have lots of Cedar trees to cut and we must, once again, remove trees from the dam. If you can assist with these and other projects, you may want to join the Winter Warriors. We will not schedule work days; rather we will call them on short notice when it looks like the weather will cooperate.

Another end-of-season event is to take a load of aluminum to the recycler. If you have been saving your aluminum, please bring it with you on your next visit so we have a good load.

Its time to change the lock on our gate once again. Members will find a new combination enclosed which will take effect Tuesday, September 6.

There have been a lot of letters to the editor concerning our plays and our existence. Some have been positive; some

negative. Unfortunately, only one has been from an Eduners or friend. That was Dave Bitters. Thanks, Dave.

We think we have refunded Return to Edun money to all who requested it. If we missed you, somehow, please call or drop us a note to remind us.

It's A Small World

By John Schoenick

For quite some time now I have been promoting and talking about Lake Edun in the internet chat rooms I go to. I have talked about what a wonderful place it is and invited anyone to come to see for themselves.

I have had several ask more about us and send them looking on our website. I soon learned I need to tell them the one in Topeka, because there is a Lake Edun in Florida.

After some time of chatting, a nudist couple from upper Missouri said they would come for a visit. This is even though it is a six hour drive for them.

When they arrived in Topeka, I was working in Lawrence so I could not meet them right away. I gave them directions from where they were. After a few wrong turns and more phone calls, they arrived at our wonderful Lake Edun. I told them to let it be known they were my guests and I would be there shortly. By the time I arrived they had already found North beach and were enjoying the water.

After joining them in the water for awhile, I cooked steaks, corn on the cob, and potatoes on the grill. I do love to cook and eat at the lake. Sharing is the best part. They told me they really liked Lake Edun, and the steaks were great too!

As they left, they vowed to come back in August. Last Friday they came back. Not only did they come back, but they also brought the wife's sister who is real new to being a naturist, and had never been to a place like this before.

She was a regular trooper and blended right in. She seemed very comfortable being sans clothing. As we know it takes some ladies a while to become comfortable without clothes and a few trips to Lake Edun.

The big surprise came when I was introducing them and, they started talking to Sally. Soon it dawned on all they were from the same area and had, in fact, lived within ¼ mile of each other. In fact, Sally had been best friends with the husband's sister. They of course, had lots of friends in common as well as knowing each others' relatives.

I am glad to have had a small part in this reunion of neighbors that had not seen each other since the early 60's. It is indeed a small world after all.

So to people that have enjoyed our special place here at Lake Edun, you need to let others know. You just might find out we will have more in common than you think.

Update on Spencer Tunick

Ok. It used to be in the news. In 2003 a report in Psychology Today had this to say about Spencer Tunick and his photos of masses of naked people.

Art can be a cruel mistress, requiring her disciples to perform brave feats in her service. For Spencer Tunick, the

muse has prepared an especially challenging task: convincing thousands of people to strip in public.

For 10 years, Tunick has been creating landscape art using the human body – more accurately, lots of human bodies. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers shed their clothes and arrange themselves in carefully orchestrated patterns.

Brooklyn based Tunick at first stages his works in New York City, recruiting volunteers through fliers and by word of mouth. More recently, he has moved on and scaled up. His Barcelona shoot last spring featured more than 5,000 Spaniards in the buff.

Why are so many so willing to bare it all? Perhaps it's just the love of art. But many of the participants interviewed in an upcoming HBO documentary about Tunick's work say that being part of a naked horde is a communitarian thrill.

"To lie nude on your back next to a stranger amongst 1,000 people is a new experience," Tunick himself says. "The fact that they together form something in a communal process gives people a new way to think about why they are shedding their clothing."

Sociologist Sandra Schroer of Western Michigan University, who wrote her master's thesis on nudism, agrees public nudity can be liberating. "It tends to equalize people whatever you feel self-conscious about, you look around and see that every single body has something wrong with it," she says.

The drive to doff may go deeper, suggests Stanford University psychology professor Phil Zimbardo, an expert on conformity. It can be an act of defiance against convention, validated by the purpose of creating beauty. "In this case, the artist encourages people to make a personal statement of their willingness to break a taboo," he says. "By doing so among a mass of others similarly inclined, there's no critical observer to act as authority. Personal shame is transformed into a socially valued act."

[If I understand professor Zimbardo correctly, there are a lot of people who would like to make an individual statement and break a taboo – provided they can do it in the company of a lot of other people?? Or am I just confusing this with mob psychology? Michael, just standing here nude, alone and wondering.]

The Nude Beach Scene, Haulover Style

A man squirts a puddle of suntan lotion, rubs his palms together and goes to work on the Rubenesque calves of the 50-something blond. Her face goes all dreamy as the suntanned hands of this 30-something Javier, Marco or Philippe knead that soft spot behind the knee.

The woman had dropped her suit when she dropped onto the towel at Miami's Haulover Beach. The masseuse's hands proceeded to unknot her naked gluteus. Her bare derriere is just one of hundreds similarly disrobed on the quarter-mile clothing-optional Florida sand.

A breeze catches the fragrance of coconut oil and conveys it to my nose. Time to drop the paperback and study the scenery. How often do you visit one of the few beaches that lets you shed all your threads? You've got the sunny blue sky, the gentle waves, the soft sand. But everyone

seems to be slathering lotion, grazing on chips under umbrellas, cut off from the world with headphones.

There are enough naughty bits on display to fill a newsstand of dirty magazines. But from the vantage point of my umbrella, I've reached an unexpected conclusion: Haulover Beach is boring. That suits Shirley Mason just fine. As a "beach ambassador," she and husband Richard have spent 14 years battling the notion that Haulover is a Sodom and Gomorrah of the sands.

Mason's a full-figured mother of 55 who stations herself under a canopy on the strand. Richard, 71, usually stands at her side dispensing cards describing Haulover etiquette. (Among the tips: It's rude to gawk.) The Masons are the chief cheerleaders of beach nudism and, like other ambassadors, wear turquoise safari helmets with orange bands to set themselves apart amid the crush of flesh.

Back in 1991 the Masons stuck a sign in the sand on north Miami Beach – "Beyond this point you may encounter nude sunbathers" – almost daring Dade County to object.

They reasoned there were 8,600 miles of coastline in Florida. Why deny nudists a measly quarter-mile of sand?

The Mason's contend nudity isn't about sex. "...that's not even close," Shirley Mason says. Richard credits the ambassadors for helping make Haulover a respite from body beautiful obsessions of South Beach. You can have flab and it's fab. "When you come to Haulover you can almost hear Peggy Lee singing, *Is That All There Is?*" He says.

Haulover used to be known as a hangout for drug dealers, gangs and sexual deviants before nudists adopted it.

Haulover is a hit. Before noon you can barely walk without stepping on someone's towel or blanket. Several thousand people blanket the beach, part of the estimated 1.3 million visitors a year. Outside the clothing-optional section, the sand is almost empty. As long as middle-aged couples desire somnolence in the sands and nudity without the naughtiness, Haulover appears secure.

After about eight hours of this over two days I felt like printing a T-shirt reading: "I went to the country's hottest nude beach and all I took was a lousy nap." - James Thorner, St. Petersburg Times

Here's an update on Haulover's economic impact on Miami: Using rough estimates of visitors from outside of Miami and using Convention & Visitors Bureau statistics, Richard Mason estimates Haulover has an estimated 800 million dollar annual economic impact on South Florida.

Richard says he usually cuts that in half and states a 400 million dollar impact. That means Haulover has an economic impact equal to the whole of card carrying nudism.

[Hmmm? I'm no Richard Mason and Lake Edun is no South Florida, but I wonder if it could be true? Nah. The generous folks of Topeka would prefer Florida to rake in all those tourist dollars. Ed.]

Naked gardener

Barbara Pollard, 53, Wiltshire, England

[Given the present unpleasantness, this interview with another naked gardener has particular timeliness. Check

their other web site, <http://www.nakedgardeners.com/> Ed.]

Interview by Lucy Siegle; Sunday June 26, 2005

Most jobs in the garden are easier when you're naked. Of course, you need to be a little bit hardy. You can't mind getting scratched, or the odd bruise from the wheelbarrow here and there. Nudity does not bother most people. If I present myself comfortably, without clothes, then I'm not going to trigger any negative responses.

Weeding is my therapy. It's amazing how you see the seasons go by when you're weeding. You see what's coming up, the activity of the soil, how hot or cold it is. You're aware of the birds and of the earth.

There was a certain amount of inevitability about me meeting my partner, Ian. I just happened to pitch up in his life at a certain time. I'm not sure if it was a good or bad time, but it was inevitable.

Our entire life is governed by the weather forecasts. How accurate are they? Dreadful. One forecaster, in particular, seems to forecast rain every day. He's nearly always wrong. When I do wear clothes, I dress for Ian.

I have no hesitation in saying that my wardrobe is put together to suit him. Being very fond of the decorative arts and enjoying the aesthetic in all ways, he prefers me to have a bit of make-up and jewellery on. Ideally he'd really like me to do the weeding in thigh-high boots laced up the back and the highest heels I could totter on, but we've had to compromise on that.

I'm only human. If there's a lot of things to be sorted out and I haven't enough time, I sometimes get stressed and wish I was somewhere else. Even close families have their problems. My mother, for example, has found it difficult coming to terms with us being naked gardeners. She doesn't think the body is very attractive in older people.

You would never dream of taking a plant out of the greenhouse and planting it straight in the garden. You let it acclimatize, bring it out for one, two or three days, taking time to adjust, then you can plant it. Well, a human's cellular structure isn't that different – instead of binging on sunlight, we should take the opportunity to get as much sun on our bodies as possible. I rarely burn. We make so many assumptions by virtue of how someone is dressed. And therefore some people use that to their advantage. When you go without clothes, you rely on deeper responses to judge whether you're comfortable with a person.

Gardens don't respect the fact that it's 5.30pm or a Sunday. Plants require your attention all the time. It's hard work, but it's fascinating. How can anyone ever get bored when they have a garden? Nothing can prepare you for your first naturist experience. We'd been in our relationship for a while before Ian suggested we go down to Studland beach where there's a naturist zone. I haven't found it as easy to take my clothes off as Ian has. I was terrifically self-conscious. But when I realized that people weren't looking at any imperfections, I began to enjoy it.

Picking a favorite plant is like having to pick your favorite child. It's impossible. Nature's been kind me. I feel sad if other people have a problem with me being naked or going out in leather. Some women seem to think it's not sisterly.

But I'm not trying to show off my good fortune. I'm just trying to keep my old man happy.

Case For Legal Public Nudity

Editorial - *The Missouri Miner* May 1st, 2003

By Chip

Article removed at the request of the author

Get off Your (Bare) Asses

By Dave Bitters

Here's a recent example of the sort of thing we naturists face in the political arena.

The lead article in the Pitch Weekly of August 25 – 31 is titled, "The Big Coverup." It details the efforts of Sen. Matt Bartle of Lees Summit, MO to protect the fine citizens of Missouri from the scourge of naked cabaret dancing, sometimes known as stripteasing. Pitch reporter David Martin opined that "Bartle has made a fetish of regulating forms of sexually oriented commerce."

It seems that as of August 29 it will be illegal in Missouri to "knowingly and intentionally appear nude or depict, perform, or simulate specified sexual activities in a sexually oriented business; or to knowingly or intentionally appear semi-nude unless the person is an employee who remains a specified distance away from the patrons and behind a railing." [Partial summary of SB32.] Nude means what you think, using the usual legal jargon about "human male or female genitals, pubic area, vulva, anus, anal cleft or anal cleavage, ... female breast with less than a fully opaque covering of any part of the nipple..." etc.

Clearly, Bartle is disturbed that some performer's "naughty bits" might be on public display for the entertainment of others. This law appears to target only "adult entertainment" establishments. Whether nudist parks can be (mis)interpreted to fall under the ambit of "sexually oriented businesses" isn't clear. But that's beside the point.

The thing that's disturbing is the way the law came into being. The word that comes to mind is *stealth*. The Naturist Action Committee spends enormous effort during the legislative season to track and defeat bills that might be viewed (however remotely) as inconsistent with the naturist agenda. I was unaware that this bill was pending during the 2005 legislative session. So was NAC Chair Bob Morton. Why we missed it is a mystery, but miss it we did.

This shows how clever and devious adherents of the religious agenda can be. Martin wrote "Lawmakers, [a lawsuit] argues, violated the Missouri Constitution by attaching the restrictions to a bill targeting drunken drivers."

Martin also noted "[Bartle] cited alleged evidence of the harmful effects (falling property values, rising crime) these [sexually oriented] businesses have on their communities.

"Bartle's claims have gone mostly unchallenged," Martin continued. "The Pitch asked him for proof of adult businesses' negative 'secondary effects.' Bartle's office responded by providing a link to a Web site run by a resource of the Alliance Defense Fund, a conservative Christian advocacy group."

Oddly, the resource calls attention to research that refutes Bartle's claim. "The only published, peer-reviewed study of secondary effects examined the presence of adult dance clubs in Charlotte, North Carolina. The study found that areas surrounding adult business actually reported less crime than areas in a control group."

Sound familiar? The same arguments about crime and pro-

perty values have been leveled against Lake Edun. Evidence in support of these claims is weak, but that doesn't stop opponents from using them. Worse, those in positions of governmental authority seem uninterested in this truth.

Noted Martin, "One of the authors of the [North Carolina] study, Dan Linz, a communications professor at the University of California in Santa Barbara, was not surprised to learn that the insights learned from Charlotte were being ignored by conservative politicians. 'The local legislators never read this stuff.'"

In the early 1990's NAC produced a video entitled "Baring the Threat." It consisted mainly of a talk given at a Naturist Society gathering by Skipp Porteous, a First Amendment activist and onetime evangelical preacher. Porteous described in detail the stealth strategies of the religious right (described by former Christian Coalition head Ralph Reed as "flying under the radar").

The tactic Bartle employed is wholly consistent with the procedures Porteous described. (Some conservative members of the Kansas Board of Education used similar tactics to get elected – revealing their real agenda only after taking office.) I doubt Bartle's bill would have survived the legislative process if it had a full public airing and debate.

The recent assault on the Return to Edun festival followed an eerily similar pattern – a cease and desist order having been issued without warning just a few days before it was to take place. It's tempting to speculate that those behind the cease and desist order took coaching from the Alliance Defense Fund.

Those who push the culturally conservative agenda almost *have* to operate in the shadows. This is because by and large people are pretty tolerant of the rights of others, so long as those don't affect their own. For instance, I doubt that more than ten percent of Kansans have experienced nude recreation in a public setting. But most probably would say, "it isn't for me but if you enjoy it, that's fine." Without a reason to oppose a ban on this activity, though, they might be inclined to sit on the sidelines; to not take a position one way or the other. It's just not their issue. They might find reason to be counted, however, when the issue is cast as involving individual liberty.

Then, too, there's the matter of education. People are less inclined to support activities with which they're unfamiliar. The more commonplace and "apple-pie normal" they perceive nude recreation to be, the more likely they'll be to support it (even if they aren't themselves interested in participating).

In the long run, the only way to ensure the survival of the Lake Edun idea is to win in the court of public opinion. As long as the public views naturism as a bit strange (therefore deserving of the tired puns with which we're altogether too familiar), it won't be accepted.

It takes vigilance, hard work and a bit of stepping out of one's comfort zone to protect our rights. Bob Morton is a

Article removed at the request of the author

bright, cool, calm, even-tempered fellow with an unusual ability to think clearly on his feet. But one thing that really sets him off is the person who says, "Well, I really do enjoy nude recreation. But I can't speak up about it. You see, I have this *responsible position*." I don't have a particularly "responsible position." However, I do have a wife who'd just as soon I'd forget the whole thing. But as I see it, one has to be true to oneself too.

You may not feel comfortable writing letters to the editor. But there are subtler but no less effective things you *can* do. Write letters to your state legislators and (particularly) to your county commissioners. (Better yet, get to know them. They'll be less likely to vote against the interests of those they know. But don't be *too* aggressive; this can backfire.) When newspapers or television stations say things that seem over the top, send them e-mails asking why. (Recently the Fox affiliate television station in Kansas City spent ten minutes on a story about some guy who allegedly "exposed himself" at a shopping mall. They gave the story more coverage than if he'd murdered someone. Why all the finger wagging? What's their angle? Ratings? They should explain.)

Like Garbo, most naturists "just want to be left alone." Paradoxically this head-in-the-sand approach probably is the most likely way to ensure we won't be. Think about it. Then think about the title of this article and *just do it*.

Well, the joke was on me – sort of. Chip didn't really mean it and I bit on it right down to the last paragraph. But the reasoning and research appear valid to those of us in the faith – too bad Chip made a "joke editorial" topic of it.

Chip's out of school for the summer – hope he tries skinny dipping and maybe finds for himself that what he wrote is largely true – he may come back in the fall with an update and a retraction of that last paragraph.

- Dick Williams.

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, make a copy of this form for the other individual. (NB: a couple is defined as one male and one female.) Those willing to assist with upkeep a minimum of 10 hours per year may

deduct \$50. One subscription to our newsletter *Bare Facts* is included with membership. A subscription only to *Bare Facts* 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)	150.00	200.00	_____
Working Membership (Discount)	(50.00)	(50.00)	_____
Separate Mailing Address for members		12.00	_____
No Sex, No Violence, Only Nudity; An Evening of One-Act Plays			
____ Sat, Sept 24; ____ Fri, Sept 30; ____ Sat, Oct 1		15.00 ea	_____
<i>Lake Edun Exposed</i> – Video		35.00	_____
<i>Lake Edun Exposed</i> – DVD		50.00	_____
Naturist Society Membership		50.00	_____
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