Bare Facts

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Box 1982; Topeka, KS 66601 ● e-mail: benude@lakeedun.com ● Website: www.lakeedun.com 38° 58′ 7″ North; 95° 47′ 56″ West

Our Wonderful Mid-Winter Party

Winter time is always difficult for Naturists in Kansas. It's difficult to keep up with our friends and even more difficult to sunbath. Our Mid-Winter party was a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships.

Our hosts went out of their way to make us comfortable ... they even turned up the heat in their welcoming home.

Of course, the food was great and the entertainment provided by Carl was excellent. But, what most seemed to appreciate was the opportunity to catch up on everyone's winter activities and plans for the coming summer.

There was also a great deal of interest in learning about all the improvements we have been making at our special place.

When the weather is less than perfect for Naturists, it is good to get together. Not so much because we "do" something. More because we are able to relax among friends who appreciate our lifestyle.

Thank you to our hosts. Thank you to all who brought something for the pot luck. Thank you to Carl. And, thank you to all who participated. It was great to see everyone.

Be A Hero

Some of our supporters don't know how easy it is to become a hero in the eyes of their friends. But, it is. Here's how.

Periodically, we all meet people who might wonder about Naturism or even about the Lake Edun Foundation. When this happens to you, you can offer to get more information mailed to them. Just email their name and address to benude@lakeedun.com and ask that we send our information packet to them. It's that easy.

Or, let them know about our website, www.lakeedun.com. If they are really interested in knowing about all we take for granted, they will appreciate your "tip." If they actually look into all the educational information we have available, perhaps it will open their eyes to the advantages we already realize. There you have it. Be a hero. Spread the word.

Items We Need

Please see our website at lakeedun.com for more details.

- Non-motorized boats
- Chipper we can borrow
- Lawn or lounge chairs
- Large water storage tank
- Plastic barrels
- 20" chain saw to borrow
- Aluminum cans, etc
- Concrete pavers

I am not a naturist, a nudist, a streaker, nor an exhibitionist. Labels are for clothes. My unclothed appearance is also not motivated sexually nor out of any gratuitous need to seek attention. I believe that while society continues to have a fundamentally negative relationship with the human body and appearance, we can never be a free or mature society. It's the 21st century. Time to evolve. - Russell Higgs

Spring Is Fast Approaching

It is hard to believe we have turned the page on the calender to uncover March already. But, it must be true. We have seen at least a dozen geese at our special place and have noticed new shoots on some of our trees. Soon, we will witness the annual natural explosion we recognize as Spring.

This means we bid adieu to the Winter Warriors and extend our appreciation to their job well done. This under-appreciated group made major progress this winter season. Thanks to all who helped.

As we do every Spring, we have scheduled a number of work days to complete the tasks necessary to prepare our special place for the coming season. During these, we clean up and check everything. Then move it where it will be most useful.

Typically none of the tasks are particularly difficult and our combined effort has a big impact on our readiness for the warm weather. If you are able, we hope you will volunteer for one of our work days. The first is March 31.

There are a few tasks we would like to accomplish this Spring requiring special skills or equipment. Please let us know if you can assist with any of these:

We want to remove a few larger Cedar Trees that are a bit too large for our 14" chain saw. If you have something larger, please let us know.

We have a plumbing project to assist with our irrigation system. It is not major but will make a big contribution when complete. We also seek some plastic 55 gal barrels.

From the survey we know there is much interest in fixing our volleyball court. There are some roots in the sand. We are looking for a roto-tiller we can borrow use to clear this out.

DON'T FORGET

Activities designated HN are sponsored by Heartland Naturists

Mar 3; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Mar 7; Wed; 7-9; Sauna

Mar 10; Sat; 12-4; Work Day

Mar 11; Sun; 4-6; Board of Directors

Mar 11; Sun; 7-9; Sauna

Mar 16; Fri; 8-10; HN Swim

Mar 20; Tues; 7-9; Sauna

Mar 29; Thurs; 7-9; Sauna

Mar 31; Sat; 12-4; Work Day

Apr 8; Sat; 4-6; Board of Directors

Apr 10; Tues; 7-9; Sauna

Apr 14; Sat; 12-4; Work Day

Apr 19; Thurs; 7-9; Sauna

Apr 20; Fri; 8-10; HN Swim

Apr 21; Sat; 12-4; Work Day

Apr 21; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Apr 22; Sun; 12-4; Work Day

Apr 25; Wed; 7-9; Sauna

Naturism Gave Me My Life Back

Despite Canada being more naturist friendly in many places than is the U.S., naturists there can still find themselves in the public spotlight and have to defend themselves. Such is the case of John Cropper. For <u>here</u> the full story go.

Despite enduring having to go to court and subsequently being found not guilty, John remains upbeat and positive about being a naturist. The positive contribution naturism has made to his life is a story worth sharing with the general public. His story speaks loudly about the therapeutic benefits to be gained from naturism through his experiences with other naturists who accepted him as he was.

Just over a decade ago, a miserable and fully clothed John Cropper stopped at Glen Echo Family Nudist Park on his way home from Toronto. After losing his right arm in an accident at 16, the now-62-year-old unexpectedly stumbled on the key to his own self-acceptance.

John reports that becoming a naturist has given him his life back and has brought with it a number of other positive changes. He explains that he was a very shy, withdrawn, depressed, overweight individual years ago. This all changed once he got into naturism.

He stated that, "I had a lot of fear, guilt and shame about being naked. Mentally and physically, I am in better shape than I have ever been. It wasn't until I became a naturist, that first day at Glen Echo with my towel, with people greeting me, that I realized I am just like everyone else."

Paraphrasing John, he says he now wishes that day had started 30 years ago. He added that a lot of people are fearful of nudity, but if you try it, especially in an environment with others of all ages, they are all so friendly. It can change your whole life. It did for me and I have never looked back since.

When asked how do other people react to his choice to be naked when out walking, John replied that about 99% of the people he meets out there are just as pleasant (to me) as anyone you would meet in town, dressed....

No one has ever approached me and acted aggressively in the 10 years (I've been doing this).

We are grateful that things have turned out so well for John. However, we note that being a naturist is still a minority practice and as a consequence isn't always understood or accepted by the majority. Still, these small victories for naturism help us all by advancing the legal boundaries for our chosen way of life.

Individual liberty is supposed to be a fundamental value in democratic societies. This principle is tested by those who choose to go against convention. In this case the unsupported belief that simple nudity is somehow alarming, harmful, and so offensive that it must be punished by both government force and public ridicule.

Most will remain wedded to their unexamined assumptions about nudity. But for others, John's story of personal redemption powerfully opens up an alternative way of thinking. We need more such stories in the public arena. [Ed.]

What Can I Do To Help?

That is a question we've been hearing with some regularity recently. And it is something we like to hear. Without a permanent, paid staff, it is a challenge to fulfill our mission. So we appreciate the show of support.

Support can take many forms. So, the answer to the question really depends on the individual. What strengths and abilities does he/she have.

Of course, as an educational foundation, the most obvious way anyone can help is to spread the word on the beneficial impact living a clothing-free lifestyle can have on the individual, the family, and our society. While we may all agree with this on a gut level, every month we try to provide some empirical data designed to assist our supporters to find the words to help them express their thoughts.

Beyond spreading the word, there are also some very tangible ways our supporters can lend a hand. We schedule periodic work days in the Spring and Fall to do the many tasks required to open and close our special place. Experience has shown the "work" is not that hard and a few volunteers can make a noticeable difference. In addition, if volunteers complete these tasks, we do not need to hire it done which is one reason our membership costs are so reasonable.

Perhaps you are interested in undertaking a specific project. We have several projects we are looking at or you may have something of your own in mind. Talk to us. If a supporter or a group of supporters wish to undertake an approved project we can provide guidance and support.

In addition to these two ways to assist, there are usually some items we seek which our supporters may have or have access to. Check this list to see if there is something you may have that will help us. In addition, use your imagination. Some of our most popular features at our special place were donated by people who thought they might be appropriate and asked if we'd be interested.

Am I Fat?

It's a question and a dilemma. It implies so much and is one of the major issues of our times. In actuality, it's only been a question people routinely posed since the 20th century when widespread abundance of food gave the common man and woman any reason to ask this question instead of, "Where's my next meal coming from?"

If you recall your art history, renaissance painters often depicted rather plump beauties. Their roundness was a sure sign of wealth which allowed them to eat enough to gain a few extra pounds while most of the population starved. Reubenesque is the term used to describe these women.

Times have changed and thin is in. Women now starve themselves and spend fortunes to make themselves a size 0. Which brings us to this item in the news.

I've been the same weight for approximately five years. 140 lbs. I am 5 foot 6 1/2 inches tall. I'm 46. The question is, am I fat?

Well, no!

The National Heart Lung and Blood Institute says a normal BMI is 18.5 - 24.9. The author calculated her BMI as 22.3 which is well within the normal, healthy range.

The U.S. Army says that if I were a female in the U.S. Army my healthy weight would be between 143-147 lbs. Hoo-ahh!

Another web site says a woman the author's height should weigh between 118-156 lbs. Clearly this indicates that she is in a healthy weight range. So, she says, "I've decided to do something radical. I'm not going to lose weight."

Her rationale is that she has quit demanding that she weigh 130 even though she wouldn't mind weighing 130 again. But does she have to weigh 130? "No. I've been nit-picking myself about those ten pounds for five years. I've been wanting to get back to my pre-child, pre-40s size. Well I'm done with it and this is why."

In an unretouched nude photograph is the author at age 25 and weighing 125 lbs. She's a size 4. She doesn't like her body. She's broken it down into parts as if it were a car. Some parts are acceptable, others she hates. She thinks she has cellulite on her bum. She thinks she needs liposuction on her thighs. She thinks her breasts are too small.

With a media-induced case of Body Dysmorphic Disorder. She had allowed herself to be photographed as a subject for a gallery show with the thought of trying to see her real body. Not the inadequate one she thought she had.

From her current perspective she says, "I look at this girl now and wonder why did she even wear any clothes? She could've just walked around naked all the time! Whenever I get the chance I show everyone my nudes. ...I don't have the same body I had in my nudes. But ... not bad."

Producing a current photo the author says, "In 21 years from now I'll look back at this photo and think – I looked great. Why did I worry so much about sucking in my soft round belly? It barely showed! And my kids loved to snuggle on it, my husband too. Why didn't I enjoy the way I looked and especially the way I felt, which was extravagantly healthy? "

Any woman worth her salt knows all about the photoshopping and air brushing that runs rampant in the advertising industry, accosting us relentlessly with fake perfection. We all know that advertisers make it their business to manipulate us into hating ourselves so we'll buy their products. Still an image is worth a thousand words. As a society we are brainwashed into the perpetual quest for perfection and it's just NOT POSSIBLE.

So I won't be losing weight. What I'll be doing is: **Developing a healthier relationship with food,** and maintaining a healthy weight.

What a declaration of independence! To hell with the fashion, and advertising industries and the vacuous pop culture they ensnare us in. Unfortunately it's not so easy to let go of cultural conditioning and poses a significant barrier to some, preventing any consideration of social nudity.

Yet I think this woman, not a naturist, is influencing many toward a more healthy relationship with their bodies. Look at the comments of support many women wrote. They get it, not so much from reading the article, but finding their view of their own bodies validated. This is very hopeful.

Share these insights with the people you come into contact with. It would be a very low key way to lead into a discussion of naturism if the situation permits. [Ed.]

Dale Sneaks Into A Nudist Camp

Once upon a time, as many a good story begins, a funny thing happened to a 17 year old teenage boy. His family moved to a new town where his dad was the pastor for a church. Shortly thereafter, young Dale heard rumors of a nudist camp in the area.

Later a newspaper article gave the location of two nudist camps, one being Fraternity Snoqualmie, forty three miles away. This led to a daring plan by young Dale to pay a visit.

Telling his parents he was going camping for the weekend he rode off on his bike to the highway. After hiding his bike, began hitch hiking to his destination. Being resourceful, Dale reached his destination. There begins his adventure for a day among the nudists, blending in and never being found out. He recounts his experience here.

Dale narrates a 15 minute video account of his adventures and eventual return home. Despite his all over sunburn, his parents never suspected the circumstances of how it occurred.

Dales's story is delightful and well told. His discovery that after a few minutes social nudity becomes "normal" and liberating, even relaxing is what we all experience. It was a revelation after a lifetime of inhibitions and embarrassments that his and others bodies are both interesting and good. We can certainly identify with this "first time" story. [Ed.]

Rethinking Fashion Trends

In keeping with the theme of body acceptance, here's a short video on that topic.

The caption for the site says, "We think the fashion industry is talking the talk...

It's now time Walk the Catwalk.

Curvy models Liis Windischmann and Diane Pellini have decided it's time to create real change!

Lots of people are speaking out. I wonder how many listen. [Ed.]

On The Lighter Side

As all you readers of Bare Facts know, Bare Facts is a serious publication for discussion and education about naturism – generally. At the same time, even if only once in a while, we lighten up. This is one of those moments.

This is a <u>YouTube video</u> posted by Young Naturist America. Their title for this bit – **Shit People Say To Nudists And Shit Nudists Say In Response**

I left that in bold to get your attention. Did it work?

It's a serious message. [Ed.]

TNS Mid-Winter Festival

by Ralph Earls

Imagine challenging the mind, exercising the body and growing friendships all under the whole body blessing of the February Florida sun. The 24th Naturist Society Mid-Winter Festival at Sunsport Gardens in Loxahatchie, is THE REAL THING! In a naturist resort with a tropical setting where managers show their respect for Mother Nature by maintaining a beautiful proliferation of tropical plants, fruits, and flowers; by generating a good share of their electricity and water heating by solar power; by recycling all plastics, glass and aluminum and by using nontoxic additives to maintain the hot tub and the pool, guests at the Festival (there were over 300 this year) keep themselves occupied by choosing from among many recreational activities and from more than 200 small group mini-seminars.

Several of the seminars were particularly meaningful to me. Douglas Malette, a young space technology engineer led several sessions on the various technological solutions that are being developed to try to solve world problems like energy and food production. He emphasized non-polluting technologies that can be de-centralized so that when crises occur their effects can be localized. He has two Facebook sites (facebook.com/CybernatedFarmSystems) where we can follow the progress of his projects and the company he has formed to make a techno response to world hunger.

Dr. Paul Lavalley, a professor of Art History at Florida State Univ., led a session with slides showing classical paintings of nude subjects. The paintings of Degas were prominent but he also showed work by less famous artists including some who were embraced by Hitler's Nazi regime because they supposedly exhibited the superior Aryan ideal. Paul's knowledge of the context of the paintings made viewing the slides more than a visual treat.

Later during the Festival, Lavalley led a meeting of the Professors & Researchers Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Naturist Society. This SIG has developed a bibliography of publications concerning all things nude and encourages members conducting research on naturist topics. The bibliography can be accessed at the SIG website:

Another session was led by former pathologist Dr. Walter Loeb, who has taken up massage as a part time retirement occupation. He divided the group members into teams of 5 and directed 4 of them in massaging the fifth, explaining precisely the different strokes and rubs that he uses for giving massage. The members of the teams rotated so that all got a mini-massage. Walter also generously offered a complete hour long massage to anyone attending the festival who contributed \$100 to the Naturist Action Committee (NAC), a group of individuals who work with the board of the Naturist Society to assist any naturist group (like Lake Edun) or individual who is having conflicts with local, state or federal officials over issues concerning nudity.

Morley Schloss, former public education administrator and current Director of Sunsport Gardens, led the session of current members of NAC & others interested in their work.

In addition to defending naturists, NAC representatives (the one for our area is David Bitters of Shawnee Mission who has been a strong source of support) monitor local publications, local ordinances and state and federal regulations and legislation to try to increase acceptance of the right to the pursuit of happiness by practicing naturists.

Other small group sessions included: Sexting: A Naturist Issue? Water Aerobics, Meditation, Children's Painting, African Drumming, Children's Field Games, Recreating Relationships, The "Stuff" that Owns Us, People's Yoga, Drawing the Nude, Square Dance, Raw Vegan Dehydration, Privatizing a Backyard, Climate Change, Being an Advocate for Naturism, Creative Writing, Singles Meet & Greet, Naturist Photography, Christians in the Naturist/Nudist World, Belly Dancing, Informing Politicians of Naturist Family Values, Hillbilly Wine Making.....and many more.

Recreational activities that were always available included: volleyball, horseshoes, petanque, swimming, hot tub, nature hikes, reading by the pool (they have quite an extensive library), nightly drum circle & dancing around the huge bonfire (professionally maintained by Wayne), visiting with other nudists with no textile clues about their politics, religion or work experience. The last day of the festival offered excursions to Haulover Beach (the officially approved nude beach in Miami Co.) or to the Loxahatchie River for "canuding" (nude canoeing) down a tropical clear water river among alligators, limpkins (a long-legged tropical water bird) and river lilies.

Luckly for me, Kansas did its best to get tropical on Feb. 22 when I returned by warming to near 60 degrees. Anyone interested in knowing more about the Festival can check the Sunsport Gardens Family Naturist Resort website or e-mail me. You may reach me through benude@lakeedun.com. Hope you will join me in Florida next February for the 25th Naturists Society Mid-Winter Festival.

L'alphabet des Corps

So you think you know your A B C's? Sure, every one of you does – or do you?

YouTube has a video of male and female dancers using their bodies to form the letters of the alphabet. You may immediately think, that's interesting, but how practical is that? Sounds like a pretty inconvenient way to write a paper don't you think?

Such questions! Well, if that's what you are thinking you are way too literal. Seriously.

In fact, we are watching a unique combination of dance and gymnastics. The beauty of the nude human form is highlighted in the deliberate, sinuous movements of the pair to form the letters. It's truly beautiful to watch. Of course, all the letters are in French. Enjoy anyway. Lol [Ed.]

Does Being Nude Help Overcome Body Image Issues?

Naturists aren't alone in this fight. (See below). There's no telling how many individuals have done their best to warn anyone who would listen of the dangerous lies we are daily told in the media about our bodies. Yet the machine rolls on devouring one generation after another.

I'm reminded of the folk song, Blowin in the Wind so richly sung by Peter, Paul and Mary, throwing down the gauntlet in the face of apathy. Among the meaningful lines of that song these words stand out as particularly meaningful in the context of the battle for body acceptance.

How many years can a mountain exist before it is washed to the sea? And another: How many times must a man look out before he can see the sun? The answer my friend is blowin in the wind, the answer is blowin in the wind.

Those being affected the most in society either don't recognize or ignore the degree to which they are being manipulated to feel insecure about and disgust toward their bodies. The evil triumvirate of apathy, group think, and fear of not belonging chains people to a culture of mass self loathing. Even the "beautiful people" partake of this sickness. Perhaps they are among the most intense in their striving to live up to/become the impossible image.

Add to this witches brew of a concoction the illogical belief that all nudity can only be sexual and you have a toxicity quotient that is off the charts.

Meanwhile the purveyors of this crap benefit, laughing all the way to the bank. They are indifferent to the suffering and wrecked lives left in their wake. As the saying goes, caveat emptor. [Ed.]

The author explains that the American psyche is battered by relentless media projections of what the "ideal" body should be. While women have been targeted historically, he notes that men are now an increasingly lucrative target for the industries that profit off of insecurity and self-hatred.

He points to a report showing that between 2009 and 2014 worldwide purchases of beauty products targeted to men will rise from nearly \$20 billion to \$85 billion per year. Equally telling, in a 2009 follow-up to a 1984 survey sponsored by Glamour Magazine about female body image, found that for twenty-five years, body dissatisfaction has remained steady across eras at 40 percent. This means that nearly 63 million American women are unhappy based solely on subjective views about their bodies which they cannot escape. One result is a diet industry which has a tremendous failure rate, yet thrives fabulously with promises of beauty and happiness.

The solution offered by the author to resolve this no win quandary is deceptively paradoxical. His recommendation "...for people enduring body hatred is simple: be naked more often." Not necessarily among other people, but definitely more than just for your daily shower.

He admits it sounds crazy and counterintuitive, even to him.

He knows the body beautiful wars first hand. It was during the two years he lived in Hollywood playing the wannabe actor game, that he developed a devastating case of body hatred. Hoping desperately to be among the blessed he hired an esthetician, dermatologist, and chiropractor, became a member of a gym, ran 90 miles per week, and carefully controlled the quantity of food he ate.

Despite all this exertion his mirror only reflected back a heavy and lumpy 150-pound man whenever he looked into it. His hands constantly were finding fat where others saw scrawniness.

Unfortunately as with so many dreamers, the dream never materialized. Returning home, he obsessively weighed up to ten times daily, and worried about his calorie and fat intake. Searching for answers for this failure in Hollywood, he decided that the fault lay in himself, "... that I was too ugly and out of shape to make it big." Yes, self loathing explains so much.

Resolving to fix this problem, as the situation proved untenable, he searched the Internet and looked up "body image." and "body acceptance." This resulted in numerous websites popped sites promoting nudism and naturism.

This began a process of asking questions and receiving member replies that he should stand nude before the mirror and shower myself with words of love and beauty, accepting his body as is in that moment.

First cringing at the sight of his body, then adapting, and little by little, finding enjoyment. It had taken about a year to manufacture the idea that his body was hideous with the help of the messages and attitudes around him in the acting world. However, it took considerably less time to rediscover real comfort, then elation. How do you tell the world being naked saved you from yourself without receiving ridicule in return?

Like most he kept the good news to himself for many years. Then he realized that nudism had become a life changer, and the ethic behind it could be beneficial to many.

Americans live in a society that has separated our emotional self from the physical. ...we still hold Puritanical beliefs about the "sinfulness" of the human body. Society tells us early in life that nakedness equals dirtiness and sexuality.... A friend told me that a Swede she knows has said she cannot believe how uptight we are about the human form. When the message of fear and distaste is so ingrained in the culture, how should we expect ourselves to react?

The ruin in people's lives abound, unseen and under reported. Eating disorders, billions spent on self-improvement products, a diet industry, and millions of miserable men and women are the direct result of our disordered thinking about the human body. ...maybe all we need to do is strip down.

"If you can find peace with the skin you're in, healthy adjustments will follow. Exercise or change what you eat because you absolutely love your body and want it to thrive. No good change ever comes from hate. I'm talking about uprooting four centuries of mental programming, so I understand that my suggestion could seem weird or scary. It worked for me. It could work for you, too."

You know, I think he is right. [Ed.] Find the full story here.

MapMuse Releases Naturist Locator Maps

This is too good to be true, and I had to let our readers in on this information. This is like an electronic version of Lee Baxandall's guide to nude beaches designed for the smart phone age. The beauty of this is that it can continually be updated rather than having to wait for the next printed edition. We hope many of our supporters will write a review on MapMuse. [Ed.]

MapMuse announced the 2012 release of its Nude Beach and Naturist Maps, a series of web maps and an accompanying iPhone app that plot the locations of nude beaches, nude resorts, nudist clubs, nudist colonies, and nude runs around the world. The maps are intended to serve as the premier online guide and review platform for the Naturist community.

In the past, naturists have been forced to rely on word of mouth and outdated print guides to find nearby beaches and meet-ups. With MapMuse's maps, the locations of nude beaches and other nude places of interest become readily accessible. Users can browse each map for nearby locations or search for ones far and wide, acquiring instant driving directions with the click of a mouse. Most beach and business listings are enriched with helpful web links, background information, and contact details, as well as user-submitted reviews, ratings, and photos. "Think of us as a specialized Yelp or Trip Advisor strictly for naturists..."

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

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While MapMuse dedicates significant resources toward ensuring that their data remains robust and up-to-date, the naturist community has played an equally large role in keeping everything current, despite frequent beach closures and legal attacks on public nudity. Users have the ability to suggest additions and deletions from each map; their suggestions are reviewed for accuracy by MapMuse's staff within 24 hours and either processed or rejected. ..."It's important to the naturist community that the maps maintain a high level of integrity, so we go out of our way to keep them accurate."

Naturists can now also access the maps from their mobile devices, provided they have an iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch. MapMuse's "World Nude Beach Guide" retails for \$2.99 on the iTunes App Store... Users can also submit reviews and photos directly from their devices. "As long as nudists continue to flock here in droves, we'll make sure there are plenty of useful maps for them."

To view a complete list of MapMuse's Naturist maps, please visit www.mapmuse.com/nude. More on this article can be found here.

"A child who has never been allowed to see his parents and brothers and sisters naked sees nudity as something shocking." – Dr. Helga Fleischhauer-Hardt.

Security code

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