Bare Facts

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Box 1982; Topeka, KS 66601 ! e-mail: nude@lakeedun.com ! Website: www.lakeedun.com 38^{N} 58' 7" North; 95^{N} 47' 56" West

The Buff Astronomer – May

The merry month of May will offer some great views of easy to find objects. All five easily found planets will be special this month.

Jupiter is still in the Gemini constellation, shining at -2.0 magnitude. It is moving westward in the sky, but should be visible until about midnight. When it is higher, look for two dark rings with just about any telescope and the Red Storm will be in view regularly. Look also for the dance of the four visible moons of Jupiter as the month goes on.

Most spectacular will be Saturn, who raises her hoop skirt an amazing 22 degrees to give a great view of the rings. Saturn is closest to us on May 10 and will be highest in the sky at 1 AM. Even a small telescope will show the rings.

Mars, which was in opposition (closest to us) in April, lies between Jupiter and Saturn and is easy to find as the classic red planet. By the end of the month, Mars's shine will drop by 50% as it moves away. Larger telescopes are necessary to see details of the "War Planet".

Venus rises before the sun, and can even be seen when the rosy hues of sunrise paint the skies. Mercury will move to the evening sky and is very near the Pleiades Cluster, near Taurus in the west. Mercury will peak on May 24, when it is 23 degrees west of the sun, setting 2 hours after Sol.

We are anticipating two different meteor showers in May. Coming out of Aquarius, the May 6th shower can produce up to 40 meteors an hour. A new shower should appear on May 24 as earth passes through debris from Comet209P/LINEAR before dawn. Some are saying that 100 meteors an hour may appear, and there should be no interference from the tiny crescent Moon. The apparent source of the meteors will be between the Big Bear (Ursa Major or the Big Dipper) and Camelopards (the Giraffe).

Keep your eyes looking upward, except when driving or crossing the street, and you should be delighted by the lights of May.

Open House Season Begins

Every year, we try to make it easy for those wishing to learn more about the benefits of Naturism to visit our special place

Our first open house of the season is scheduled for Saturday, May 17 from Noon until 3. We all know people who are curious about naturism. They may be co-workers, friends or family. They are awaiting an invitation so they can learn more. Offer. You may be surprised by the response.

During an open house, we ask everyone to remain clothed. This allows interested visitors an opportunity to explore our beautiful facility, ask questions of others who are on hand, and decide if it is right for them.

At 3, it becomes clothing-optional. After 5, we expect everyone to embrace our dress code. Don't be shy; ask a friend.

Random Thoughts And Reflections

The Board is considering a couple of important opportunities and need input from our membership. They created a very short <u>survey</u> with only 5 questions so everyone can have a chance to express their opinion. Please take less than five minutes to help us out.

We have a bench grinder that we use frequently particularly to keep our mower blades sharp. Unfortunately it has become old and it is time for it to retire. If you have a replacement that you are not using, please consider donating it to LEF. You can be assured it will be used and appreciated. And, you can take a tax deduction.

Some find our saunas relaxing and incredibly enjoyable; some don't. If you are among the former and have not had your quota of saunas this season, don't delay. They come to an end on the 17th.

We will be changing the lock to the parking lot May 13. Members will find the new combination enclosed. Remember: If you are the last to leave, insure the gate is locked.

Work Day Progress Report

We've had extremely unusual weather this Spring and, by historical measures, we are behind getting everything ready for our season. That said, it is safe to say the progress this year has been substantial. Thanks to all who helped.

The new trail below the dam has been cleared and mowed. Supporters will be impressed with this addition.

We cleared most of the trees off the dam and continued work to control Cedars on the west side of the lake. We made substantial progress on North Road.

Because of weather, still have much to do to prepare for our first open house. We won't have a work day on Mother's Day Weekend. So, if you can help out the week following, please send us an email so we can make best use of your time.

We also scheduled a work day before the Open House and again the following Sunday.

DON'T FORGET

May 4; Sun; 12-4; Work Day

May 4; Sun; 8-10; Sauna

May 9; Fri; 8-10; Sauna

May 17; Sat; 10-12; Work Day

May 17; Sat; 12-3; Open House

May 17; Sat; 4-6; Board of Directors

May 17; Sat; 8-10; FINAL Sauna

May 18; Sun; 12-4; Work Day

May 23-26; Memorial Day Weekend

May 31; Sat; 12-4; Work Day

June 14; Sat; 12-3; Open House

June 15; Sun; Mulberry Season Begins

June 14; Sat; 4-6; Board of Directors

The Quest For Body Acceptance

Recently the United States Breastfeeding Committee brought national discourse regarding the maternal act of breastfeeding into headlines once again. Certainly this is a national conversation that needs ongoing support. In some respects this is a critical front in the struggle for women to take control of their bodies that generates both widespread support and controversy.

Obviously, the problems confronting women have been debated and contested for well over one hundred years. At least in the Western world much has changed for women in that period of time. However, these changes in attitudes and habits occur unevenly and take a significant amount of time to spread throughout society.

Over time the more desirable innovations take hold widely. In the case of breastfeeding, prior to WWII it was far more widely practiced and thought of as normal. Following the war, something was lost. Baby bottles and formula became the rage and even the medical profession encouraged this practice. Thus, a bad idea, bad science, and commercial gain by baby food manufactures stampeded women into turning away from breastfeeding. Oh, don't forget the increasingly eroticized breast in the movies and other media playing their part in capturing the breast for their bottom line also.

It's been a long road, but women are now fighting back to reclaim their breasts both for their natural purpose and as not automatically being erotic through the demand to be treated equally as a man who can be top free in public. [Ed.]

Too often the simplistic polar opposite extremes of points of view are how the options are presented. For some, public discussions and displays of female biological functions are inappropriate at best and obscene at worst. To others, the hypersexualization of the female body is far more offensive than candid discussions regarding what it does naturally.

One authority noted that, "On the one hand, we see a lot of the female body, literally. And yet we are uncomfortable with women's bodies as they are naturally." An example cited is how breastfeeding plays out in society illustrates the problem. There is an obsession with breasts in our society however, when women are using their breasts for exactly what they're intended to be used for, they experience discrimination and discomfort from others.

Some have suggested that there is a national reluctance to acknowledge and discuss the female body as a natural being – to the point where aging and exhibiting signs of pregnancy after childbirth are also regarded by some as taboo for women which could possibly have several negative side-effects on women in America.

An educator noted that, "Women become uncomfortable with their real bodies ... [which] have scars, stretch marks, and 'cellulite.' We rarely see those kinds of images. When you're given an image that actually doesn't exist in real life ... and you're comparing yourself [to it], you will always lose."

She added, "Our culture puts at odds the natural, "more animalistic" facets of the female body and the sexualized definitions certain parts of it have come to assume. "Breasts

are food, but they are sexualized," she noted. "We remove nature and replace it with sex."

These and other experts have expressed concern regarding the toll such imagery and national discourse might take on women of all ages.

"It isn't just young girls. Clearly we want to raise young girls with healthy body images," she stated. "[But] everyone is held up to that standard – the best case scenario is you meet that standard for a short period of time in your life."

Is this only a problem in America? Learn more about this important subject here.

Treating PTSD In Florida

It seems every time a naturist is interviewed one of the things they mention as being so positive about naturism is that it helps them relax. Even if this is only anecdotal, I believe it is substantially true.

Somehow, a Vietnam veteran came to the attention of a local Florida TV station who interviewed him about what he did to cope with his PTSD. As it turns out, he and some other vets live at one of the nudist parks in Lutz, Florida.

While the military does offer treatment programs to help returning veterans, it doesn't offer this help to service personnel who were reservists. These traumatized persons are on their own when seeking help. Fortunately, there is no set way to treat PTSD as the veterans in this story attest.

Every year, millions of people in the United States are diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder due to a wide range of traumatizing events in their lives. Many find help through medication and therapy, but for some a doctor's office just isn't enough.

This particular veteran says his time in the army – "Four years, six months, three days," – is something he'll never forget. "I can't change what happened. There's things that were good, and things that were bad." He is but one of more than five million people in the U.S. living with post-traumatic stress.

And while he has been to a therapist to help treat his PTSD, he says that doesn't always work, so he found a different way. Rather than fixating on his problems and having them become worse or become angry or violent, he sought a different way.

He's now a part of a group of veterans who live at the Fountains at Paradise Lakes, a clothing-optional housing complex, where they find peace by going bare, or as he puts it, "I forget about the whole world."

The fact that this is an unconventional approach to finding relief from PTSD doesn't in itself discredit the claims by this and other veterans to the stress relieving potential of their bare lifestyle. A professor at the University of South Florida's College of Nursing told the news reporter that many times, unconventional ways of life can help people dealing with PTSD. He's treated hundreds of veterans with PTSD, and says he's all for out-of-the-box therapies.

PTSD is a problem and this is an innovative form of treatment that seems to work for some. Learn more here.

Acceptance Of The Real Body

Like drops of water, so small, so benign, yet when pooled together become a mighty river, so it is with the increasing numbers of men and women who call attention to body acceptance. The vehicle they use is nudity. The enemy they fight is body shame and the pain that accompanies it. [Ed.]

So it is with A Beautiful Body Project: The Bodies of Mothers by photographer Jade Beall. Her's is a picture book featuring photographs of 80 women pictured nude or semi nude, telling their stories of how giving birth changed them.

Beall wants to tell the truth about mothers/women all without any photoshopping. Stretch marks, saggy tummies and loose skin telling the story of what the process of bring new life into the world entails.

The women in Beall's book say that having their photograph taken helped them reconnect with their bodies and overcome any negative thoughts about their perceived imperfections. Accompanying the photographs each woman tells her story.

Beall's inspiration for the project came after giving birth and falling into a trough of self-loathing and an obsession with losing weight.

Later, she posted a nude self-portrait online showing her breast-feeding her baby son. It went viral. Due to the interest shown around the world Beall then decided to create a series of photos showing 'real' and inspiring women of all different ages, shapes and sizes, hoping to inspire future generations of woman to embrace their beauty just as they are.

Contrary to the messages that bombard us from the media, Beall believes women do not need to buy something to 'improve' or 'change' their irreplaceable preciousness. "There is no one else like you. Our variety and differences give greater meaning and depth to the concept of what beautiful truly is!"

For a newspaper-type account of this story, go here.

To further the living out of the message of A Beautiful Body Project, women are urged to take the pledge:

"I want to join the movement & agree to love my body more and more each day, to use kind words towards myself and towards other women, to be a role-model for future generations of mothers, and to choose to be empowered knowing that I am not alone, and that by coming together, we can reshape body image in mass-media, build self-esteem, and explore vulnerability as a collective."

For more examples of post-birth mothers, go here.

Items We Need

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

- ! Non-motorized boats
- Plastic barrels
- ! Concrete pavers
- Wooden Cable spools
- ! Lawn or lounge chairs
- Aluminum cans, etc
- ! Large water storage tank

their dismissal.

Anyone who has visited our special place or any clothingoptional facility knows this. Read this entire story here.

The Tradition Of The Naked Run

Reading how other people describe their reaction to nudity, especially when it is met with obvious enthusiasm in the midst of trying to adjust to something so alien to daily experience is a distinct pleasure. The paragraph included here captures the spirit of the young college lady in question.

There is something of a stereotype that men are adventurous and constantly testing limits while women tend to be the keepers of tradition. Certainly there is some truth to this. However, when it comes to those in the media reacting to social nudity in almost every case males are reactionary and uncomfortable. The opposite is almost always true when a woman is reporting her first time experience. They tend to be more accepting, more serious, and in some cases become naturists themselves. This is another case in point.

Judge Decides For Nude Sunbathing

In a digital world every private move, every private moment may end up on the internet. Such is the plight of an Eastern European court judge. She had the practice of sunbathing and exercising nude in her locked office by windows through which she could get some sun.

Following the posting of photos of her nude exercises, she was dismissed from her job. Fortunately, sanity prevailed and she was reinstated to her judgeship.

It does show that people can callously do harm out of the sheer pleasure of shaming another person. There was no mercy, no decency from the one taking the pictures and no regard for what might become of her once the pictures became public. This is a crass example of objectification of this woman.

The news story below stupidly added insult to injury with the usual juvenile use of puns and humor in their telling of the story and including descriptors such risque and X-rated. [Ed.]

A top judge from Bosnia and Herzegovina has won her job back after being fired for stripping naked and sunbathing in plain view before attending court

Workers in the building opposite the court had taken the pictures, which showed judge Bilajac, 35, basking in the morning sun completely nude.

An inquiry was set up into Bilajac's behavior after the images were leaked to the local press.

The Supreme Court of the country initially dismissed her for damaging the court's image, but since allowed her to return.

The judge had claimed that the display was part of her morning ritual and that she had locked the door to prevent anyone else entering.

Ultimately the committee assessing her behavior deemed it unintentional excused the judge of all blame by reversing

Having made this observation, it is also true that actual participants in social nudity tend to have men significantly out-numbering women. I'm not sure what to make of this paradox.

I was struck by her observation that seeing her fellow students naked didn't bother her and she realized seeing people as they really are was pleasurable and "weirdly beautiful." This new understanding excited her to want to go through this campus ritual herself in the future.

Social nudity—it's catching! [Ed.]

"Just when I thought all the excitement was over, I ran into a naked girl, (Not literally) who wasn't running. She was just walking slowly, deep in a conversation with her friend and not even the slightest bit phased that she was naked. It was so weird to see her standing without her fellow streakers, in nothing but her birthday suit.

"That is when I kinda realized how big of a role clothing plays in our society. Her nakedness didn't bother me, nor did anyone else's. It surely may have shocked me, but it was kinda nice to see people as just people. It was weirdly beautiful and I am so psyched to do it in a couple years."

This is an interesting treatment of a first-time exposure to social nudity. Read more here.

Clothing: What's It Good For?

Why do we wear clothing? Obviously we wear clothing in public to avoid being arrested for public indecency. Of course this begs the question because we have the task of explaining the origin of the concept of public indecency. This term is based on the belief that there is something inherently objectionable to the body in its uncovered state. But who, what, when, or where did this occur? In short, I don't know and no one else does either.

Humans have worn some sort of textile clothing for tens of thousands of years. Precisely how long ago is difficult to know as fabric deteriorates quickly compared to other human artifacts, but some information has been inferred by studying lice. The body louse specifically lives in human clothing and when it diverged from head lice it can be inferred that clothing existed at that time. One study estimated that this happened between 83,000 to 170,000 years ago, another estimates between 65,000 and 149,000 years ago.

While un-provable, the hypothesis that clothing was first adopted for practical reasons related to survival in a harsh world seems the most reasonable. Everything else we associate with clothing developed after this point including feeling shame about the unclothed body.

Despite all this textile history lots of people didn't jump on the textile bandwagon and remained gloriously naked. For a few peoples, this freedom from clothing remains to this day. From this it may be inferred that whether ancient or modern man, the body wasn't clothed because of some deep seated sense that it is indecent.

The author of the following excerpted essay explores the value of clothing and asks a number of interesting questions.

For instance, he wonders how our dependence on clothing has affected us, and have those effects been positive or negative? [Ed.]

Another consideration is our susceptibility to temperatures. Do we feel the cold more because our clothes insulate us from it and thus prevent our bodies from naturally adjusting to cope as best they can? Do we feel the heat so much for the same kinds of reasons? Of course, with the latter, the insulating properties of clothes are a problem as well as the way they interfere with our built-in heat management system – sweat.

Closely related – the sun. Surely the reason we burn so easily is because we hide our skin from the sun so much, and thus it can't cope nearly as well as it might when it is exposed. I have some small personal experience of this – I used to burn very badly, especially during my teenage period of being so hung-up about my body I couldn't even bare an arm in private, but since adopting as much of a naturist lifestyle as I reasonably could, I hardly do any more. It's tempting to think the pasty white complexion of the westerner isn't a natural skin tone at all...

Then there's the sense that arguably is the keenest we possess, and certainly the most all-encompassing, yet the one we seem to neglect the most – touch. Only our eyes can see; only our noses can smell; only our ears can hear; only our mouths can taste – but everything can feel. Every last part of our bodies can touch and be touched, and yet we swaddle most of it in clothing, thus deadening ourselves more than we might realize. Touch is a sense, I believe, to be treasured and savored, not neglected.

Finally, there's, less tangible effects on our behavior and relationships. Most obviously there are the body issues that seem to plague us more and more each day. Less obviously, there are the barriers clothing can create, emotional and psychological.

Clothes can be, and frequently are, a disguise, presenting an image quite removed from the reality beneath, and thus placing distance between you and those around you. Good thing or bad thing? Further, are we really as close to our friends, family, and lovers as we think we are? Do clothes keep us at as much of an emotional remove as they do a physical one? Can a hug, for example, be as intimate and close clothed as nude? Personally, I don't think so. Personally, the feeling of skin on skin would mean far more than the feeling of clothes on clothes.

After all that, I have little doubt clothing has had a vast effect on us, but is it positive or negative? Has our dependence now become over-dependence? Are clothes an adequate substitute for the natural things they replace, or not? Have we now reached the point where they're more detrimental than beneficial?

Are they actually doing us more harm than good?

Learn more and decide for yourself. The full article is <u>here</u>.

The best dress for walking is nakedness. - Colin Fletcher, The Complete Walker III

A Brief History of Naturism in France

It is useful at times to look around and compare the development of naturism in the United States with that found in other countries. Case in point is France.

While the following history is presented in Wikipedia in what would appear as an uninterrupted series of naturist advances, largely unopposed by the public, such is not entirely the case. As is indicated, there were some court cases won by naturists allowing them to publish and advance their cause.

A similar court victory was won in court against the US Postal Service that paved the way for naturist publications to be sent through the mail. Of course, that same victory opened the door to publications such as Playboy to do the same.

Of course we all know that Playboy became wildly successful, making Hugh Hefner a multimillionaire. At the same time naturist publications, with their much tamer and non-erotic content didn't fare nearly as well. Sex sells, as they say.

It is confounding that millions of subscribes to Playboy openly received their monthly magazine, but naturists continued to stress anonymity. Naturists only used first names, and feared serious repercussions should their naturism become public knowledge. All of this at the same time that Playboy and its readers openly encouraged casual sex while receiving only minimal, and largely unsuccessful, social disapproval. This is something of a head scratcher.

The message that society at large seems to have been sending is that it is normal and manly, not to mention hip, to be willing to pay to see extremely beautiful women nude. No doubt their motivation was to better enhance their esthetic appreciation of women. Playboy was a fantasy message to many a lonely and socially inept male about being in charge and experiencing pseudo intimacy with women they would never be sexually intimate with, much less even meet. What's not to like about that message??

Playboy was on Main Street, or at least the newsstand, while naturists were in their ghettos. Playboy promised sexual liberation and perhaps even conquest. Naturism stressed non-sexual family oriented nudity with the possibility of liberation to grow as a person. Major companies flocked to the pages of Playboy to advertise. Naturist publications advertised other naturist clubs.

The bottom line for the larger society it seems is that seeking fantasy sexual stimulation by looking at magazines in the privacy of your bedroom is ok. However, to seek genuine mature, but non-sexual relationships through social nudity with other like minded people is horrifying, and an affront to good morals and all that is holy!

America made the decision to tolerate and financially reward voyeuristic erotic nudity. Except in the imagination, the nudity was one sided. Men, purchasers of the product did so with their clothes on. Only the women, the objects of the gaze of the male readership, were undressed. Men kept their clothes on, and the nude women weren't really there. What better way to strike a balance between the traditional male

position in society vis-a-vis women, and striking a blow for modernity?

Social nudity, on the other hand, doesn't play games with our sexuality. Instead, its intention is, and always has been, to place men and women on a level playing field. Neither is cast as object, both are subject to the other. Mutual respect for the personhood of the other is fundamental to naturist philosophy and practice.

The male naturist isn't looking for a "playmate" of the month to consume and then move on to next month's offering. On the contrary, early naturism was concerned that single male and female participants honestly evaluate one another for the prospect of marriage and children. However, this is a far cry from the objectifying nature, even if mutual, of "casual sex."

Early naturists viewed social nudity as the ideal arena in which to value and improve the health and vitality of the body. The world of the city and factory were viewed as causing debilitating weakness and decay of the body. It was believed that sunshine, exercise, and healthy diet could restore to the body what had been lost as a result of modern life.

This is the message and credo that was sent forth from Germany and Europe in the early 20th century. Sadly, on this side of the Atlantic only the body as sexual was the prevailing paradigm. Here, we can only look at the wide spread acceptance of naturism in Europe and mutter, "If only...."

It is good to read the story of French naturism even if only in abbreviated form where naturism has flourished, even though most French aren't naturists. Today, over a million tourists from all over the world flock to naturist venues in France. Overall, this is all that naturists ask for. That is, a degree of co-existence and non-interference with our choice of outdoor wear, generally in recreational settings.

In turn, naturists uphold to an unbalanced society the essential dignity of the body as not inherently shameful and not exclusively sexual in all its parts and functions. This message is a valuable corrective to all that the body is simply "the body," and unless the context is explicitly sexual is neutral. This would be a message of healing to many ills that plague so many people. [Ed.]

From 1857, Dr. Duhamel spoke of the importance of heliotherapy, and worked with children suffering from tuberculosis on the beach at Berck. In 1903, S. Gay created a naturist community at Bois-Fourgon. In 1907, supported by his superiors, Abbé Legrée encouraged the students at his catholic college to bathe nude on the rocky beaches near Marseille. A report on German naturism was published in la *Revue des deux mondes*.

Marcel Kienné de Mongeot, who came from a noble family and who was an aviator in the Great War, is credited with starting naturism in France in 1920. By then he was a journalist who wrote a defense of the dancer, Malkowski, in the journal *Vouloir*. His family had suffered from tuberculo-

sis, and he saw naturism as a cure and a continuation of the traditions of the ancient Greeks. In 1926, he started the magazine Vivre intégralement (later called Vivre) and the first French naturist club, Sparta Club at Garambouville, near Evreux. Others quickly followed as did local opposition. His victory in court established that nudism was legal on private property that was fenced and screened.

Drs. André and Gaston Durville opened a naturist health centre, edited the La vie sage (1924) and bought a 70 hectare site on the Île du Levant on which they established the Héliopolis. The village was open to the public. Dr François Fougerat de David de Lastours, who was gassed in the Great War and was saved by exposure to the sun, in 1925 wrote a thesis on heliotherapy and in that year opened the Club gymnique de France. Jacque de Marquette wrote on naturism and vegetarianism. In 1936, government minister Léo Lagrange recognized the naturist movement.

Albert and Christine Lecocq were active members of many of these clubs, but after disagreements left and in 1944 founded their own travel club Club du Soleil. It was popular and had members in 84 cities, becoming the world's largest naturist club. In 1948, they founded the FFN. In 1949, they started a magazine, Vie au Soleil and in 1950, they opened the CHM Montalivet at Montalivet, the world's first naturist holiday centre. In 1951, they assisted in the formation of the INF.

The Quartier Naturiste at Agde opened offering a different form of social nudity. In 1975, Euronat, the largest holiday centre (335ha) opened 10 km north of Montalivet which was running at capacity. In 1983, the FFN was accepted as an official tourist and youth movement. SOCNAT provided the management and financial stability to the movement and runs 5 centers in France and one in Spain. Holiday centers started to form cooperative marketing groups and aim for 5 star status. Publicity material was of a quality indistinguishable from textile holiday companies.

In this benign climate, Randonue, an unauthorized form of naturisme sauvage has become popular, and areas traditionally known for discreet sunbathing have been revisited. Naturism is accepted and can even be practiced on many popular textilist beaches.

As of 2007, France has 150 member clubs offering holiday accommodation, 50 holiday centers, official naturist beaches, unofficial beaches and many homes where naturist swimming and sunbathing is normal. Naturism employs more than 3000 people, and is estimated to be worth 250 million Euros to the French economy. France is represented on the INF by the FFN. Go on-line for the complete discussion.

Many come to bring their clothes to church rather than themselves. - Thomas Fuller

Lake Edun Foundation, Inc.

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