Bare Facts

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Annual Meeting Report

Members of the Lake Edun Foundation held their Annual Meeting the evening of October 27, 2012 at TruckHenge. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 by Carl who chaired the meeting. He declared a quorum was present.

Minutes from our prior Annual Meeting held October 29, 2011 and printed in the November, 2011 issue of Bare Facts were approved.

The treasurer distributed financial statements and a discussion followed. While year-over-year memberships held steady, they were not as good as we had optimistically projected when we approved our budget. There is a need to improve membership in the Couples/Family category. Visitor contributions were up over 8% from last year.

We received a very generous contribution earmarked for the North Road. All other income categories were in line with our budget. Total income for the year so far is \$17,310.

Expenses for our caretaker were about \$1,200 under budget due, in large measure, to our corps of volunteers. We thank them all. Our lease expense was up due to our decision to extend the North Road across creek #3. Most other expenses were in line with budget. Total expenses for the year so far are \$16,661.68. We know of an additional expenses that will probably amount to around \$3-\$4,000 before year-end. Cash on hand is \$9,516.72 which the treasurer believes is sufficient to last until next Spring (barely). Upon a motion made and seconded, the treasurer's report was approved.

Next we had a lively discussion on the interim results of our annual survey. Participation so far has been much better than last hear, which was good. There was considerable interest in what our supporters are telling us. Once the survey is closed, the board will begin analyzing the results.

Finally, we held elections for membership on our Board of Directors. The following LEF members were nominated and elected: Carl, Chance, Craig, Mike, Robert, Tom, and Webb.

Then we had a general discussion on ways to improve our service to members, extend our educational effectiveness and reach more people. Eileen offered to sponsor a Female Day/program focused on women's issues. Tom suggested several ways to improve our publicity. At the conclusion, the meeting was adjourned.

Support Your Favorite Charity

We all have favorite charities we support. We do so for a variety of reasons. Church, relief organizations, arts, youth groups. There is a long list of worthwhile causes that improve our communities and the people in them.

We hope our supporters will consider a tax-deductible gift to the Lake Edun Foundation. We that takes seriously our commitment toward promoting the benefits of body acceptance which all of us embrace and have benefitted many.

Last Chance To Take The Survey

Responses to our annual Survey have been outstanding. We thank all our supporters who have taken the time to give their feedback and express their opinions. We will leave the survey available for our supporters for a few more days ant then begin the long task of analyzing results.

If you have not taken the survey, there is still time. You will find it here.

Our annual survey is a tool the board has used for several years to help us focus our efforts to provide the best program we can for our members and supporters. Feedback from the survey tells us how we're doing and what our supporters would like to see.

If you haven't done so, please take the survey. We'll close it at midnight on November 11.

Looking Back; Looking Ahead

Many felt this summer was hot. Perhaps we forget this is Kansas. 2012 was a great year. We experimented with some afternoon seminars which were well-received. We will do more of these in the future. Through the diligent efforts of our caretakers and volunteers, our special place is particularly beautiful. Our three year project to rehabilitate our lounge chairs is nearly complete. And, most telling, we made substantial progress on North Road.

At its next few meetings, the Board will be setting priorities for the next year. These will be influenced in large measure by responses to our annual survey. We can expect more work on North Road, expansion of our irrigation system, and perhaps some provision for campers and trailers.

If you have some special skills or equipment available, please let us know. Two items that come immediately to mind are a dump truck, and some way to bury a wire underground.

This is the time our Winter Warriors like to make progress on many projects. After the ticks, chiggers, and poison ivy are gone, it is more pleasant to work. The Winter Warriors are a group who gather when conditions are favorable to make these things happen. If you would like to join this fun, productive group, please let us know.

DON'T FORGET

Nov 4; Sun; 8-10; Sauna

Nov 4; Sun; 4-6; Board of Directors

Nov 7; Wed; 7-9; Sauna

Nov 17; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Nov 28; Wed; 7-9; Sauna

Dec 9; Sun; 4-6; Board of Directors

Dec 9; Sun; 8-10; Sauna

Dec 14; Fri; 8-10; Sauna

Dec 19; Wed; 7-9; Sauna

Dec 29; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Freedom To Be Free

Being naturists makes us a rare breed. Since most of us didn't grow up in a naturist family, we can reflect on our before and after thoughts and emotions. We are able to understand societal dismay at social nudity, but at the same time know the joy and liberation of clothes freedom.

Once we crossed to the "other side" we suddenly realized all the shame producing taboos about nudity were false. In the time it took to remove clothing we've compulsively worn our whole lives, the conditioning of a lifetime vanished. As if stepping through a doorway to a bright new world, we were released from the myths, fears, and self doubt about our bodies.

Unfortunately conventional thinking, lack of imagination, and a compulsive need for conformity drives many to repress body freedom. Theirs is a pathology. It earnestly seeks any and all excuses to curb the freedom of others. Our body freedom is an unbearable threat to their cherished fears that the nude body poses a danger to public order and children.

At every turn society pushes the belief that nudity can only be sexual—think flashers, pedophiles, rapists, prostitutes, etc. This belief is reinforced in media and legally protected strip clubs. So potent is this myth that every community guards itself from nudity with a bewildering array of laws and legal penalties for nudity in public.

Once we probably believed this cultural myth ourselves. In fact, we have come to recognize the harm society inflicts with this myth. The porn and sex industry is but one of the unintended consequences of body repression. To believe that clothing prevents or even reduces lust is laughable. Yet society clings to the childish magical thinking about clothing preventing social ills. With this in mind, consider the following essay. [Ed.]

I admit it. I am frustrated and kind of angry that there aren't more places to be nude, places where I am free to connect with nature in a way that I feel God intended.

First, I don't know why on Earth it should bother people that anyone is without clothes. Never would I force it on others, although I do think they're not living fully by missing out on this experience. But why do they get to force their views on me and my fellow naturists? And if nudity is so mortifying, then why are nude paintings OK in public but not nude people? There really seems to be a disconnect there.

Secondly, if some folks are going to be so uncomfortable with nudity, then can we not get some share of the public land set aside as clothing optional where we can camp, hike, fish, bike or whatever without clothing if that's how we want to enjoy the outdoors? I don't think this is anything crazy to ask for. People have been enjoying the outdoors au natural for centuries, including US presidents who have gone skinny dipping in the Potomac.

I'm not talking about sexual experiences. I'm talking about natural experiences. Just a piece of land here and there where families, friends, and people in general may experience the outdoors without being in sweaty clothes and may enjoy feeling the warmth of the sun on their skin. It's a very basic human experience.

I want the freedom to experience nature naturally, the freedom to live life on my own terms, and the freedom to be me without worry, without judgments. In short, freedom!

Freedom is an issue of concern to many Naturists. You'll find the original article here.

Vitamin D Cuts The Risk Of Breast Cancer

Naturists probably receive enough sunlight in the summer to take care of their vitamin D needs. However, winter is a different matter. Overall, people living in the higher latitudes tend to have lower levels of vitamin D and a higher incidence of certain forms of cancer. The health message here is for everyone to take a vitamin D3 supplement during winter months. [Ed.]

According to a recent study, women with higher Vitamin D levels experience a 43% reduction in the risk of Breast Cancer. Also, a review of over 63 studies presented at the American Association for Cancer Research meeting in 2006, found Vitamin D lowered the risk of developing Breast Cancer by up to 50%.

Sunlight exposure begins the skin's production of Vitamin D. It requires sun block not be used and the person have a perfect functioning intestinal tract, liver, and kidney as these organs, along with skin, are intricately involved in production of Vitamin D. For years we believed simple sun exposure was enough to get adequate Vitamin D levels. Now evidence shows supplementation is necessary in northern latitudes.

It is important to note Vitamin D comes in two supplement forms: Vitamin D-2, ergocalciferol is the synthetic type; and Vitamin D-3, cholecalciferol which is natural because it is structurally identical to the Vitamin D normally produced in the body. Research indicates it is important for people wishing to reduce the risk of Breast Cancer to supplement daily with Vitamin D-3. There is more information here.

Additional information about vitamin D is provided by Mike Adams, AKA The Health Ranger. He has a list of twenty nine references to studies indicating the positive health benefits of vitamin D. Following are two particularly interesting quotes. The important thing for all naturists is to supplement with vitamin D during the winter months. Of course, a winter vacation to some sunny beach or island is highly indicated for a total health tune up. [Ed.]

Two equally effective sources of vitamin D in humans are derived from plant ergosterol, which is converted to ergo-calciferol (vitamin D2) and cholecalciferol (vitamin D3) by the action of sunlight on the skin. The body uses vitamin D3 for normal immune system function, to control cellular growth, and to absorb calcium from the digestive tract. Vitamin D3 can inhibit the growth of malignant melanoma, breast cancer, leukemia, and mammary tumors in laboratory animals. Vitamin D3 can also inhibit angiogenesis, which is the growth of new blood vessels that permit the spread of cancer cells through the body.

But how does vitamin D actually work? For many years it was a mystery. The "revolution of information" on vitamin D began in 1968, when J.W. Blunt and colleagues discovered the form of vitamin D that actually circulates in the blood (25-OH-D3). This hormonal form of the vitamin, created in

the kidneys, is ultimately responsible for the classical action of the vitamin. At the molecular level, some cancer cells appear to have receptors on their surfaces capable of receiving the vitamin D molecule. (This is where the action of the vitamin inhibits the growth of the cancer cell). These and other quotations from a number of studies are online.

Dropping Their Clothes In The Name Of Art

The following comes from a student newspaper article. While it's written from an approving point of view of nude modeling for art classes, it still contains some jarring notes.

The introduction to nude modeling describes the anxiety of a first timer. The legitimizing factor for simple nudity is 'it's for art'. Art elevates nudity to the realm of respectability. While naturists certainly approve of nudity in art, we don't think 'art' solely marks the legitimate boundary within which human nudity becomes cultured and respectable.

While most in society see nudity as acceptable within the confines of art, this allowed exception is itself severely restricted even in the artistic community.

The model who is the focus of the article ably testifies to the liberating and life expanding effect she experienced. After her initial exposure, she adapted quickly, becoming comfortable and growing in confidence. How marvelous! The anticipated nightmare was demolished and replaced with the truth. Nudity doesn't harm anyone. The reality is the opposite.

The model, Emily, was changed by her experience in a manner none of the students looking at her will ever be aware of unless they become a model themselves. The truth of her experience set her free of fear and irrational taboos. She also was set free of the fear of her body being judged.

Despite the insight Emily gained from modeling and her testimony to what she learned, the institution remained unmoved. Every effort is made to depersonalize the model and hold her nudity to a technical process. This is exemplified by the code of conduct mandating no socializing between student and artist.

Further, even the artistic process is couched in mechanical terms of breaking the body down into axis, lines and proportions that dehumanize the model. This maintains the nude at a distance, an object, not a person. This "professionalism" is likely deemed necessary as nudity otherwise would equal sex.

Just read the instructors final word, "We don't look at it (it?) as a naked model. We look at it as art." How demeaning!

How sad. I would think great art is whatever transcends the technical to convey the human. It seems artists must achieve the human in spite of their training ... if they ever do. [Ed.]

What is a nightmare for some is reality for others, as they stand nude in front of a class of students – by choice.

The thought of posing naked is terrifying to some, but brings an understanding of the human form to those studying art.

The mortifying aspect is nonexistent when it is art, and the live model poses as students break down the body into axis, lines and proportions, said Emily, a sophomore nursing major who recently began modeling for figure-drawing classes.

She was nervous before the experience, yet she walked onto the stage in a black robe and stood in front of a room full of beginning art students with confidence and poise, she said.

Emily explained that, "When I first took off my robe it was strange to recognize that your exposure was intentional and to not flip out about it. After a couple of minutes it fades, because you've already been completely seen. You can't take it back, so the best you can do is move forward in comfort and confidence."

To Emily, the modeling shows the simplicity of life and how the human body looks when it is artistically perceived by students. "I don't feel that I can attach a sense of privacy when my body isn't really there to be judged or compared but is there to be better understood."

The models' code of conduct requires they not talk with students, and students not to talk with models. This is to maintain a level of professionalism the department insists on.

However, Emily says she finds it fascinating to see what people focus on, how they choose to crop their work and the different styles they all have. The course instructor adds, "We don't look at it as a naked model. We look at it as art."

The article is on The Orion.

The Male Nude In Art

Europeans are held out to us as demonstrating the epitome of nonchalance for acceptance of the nude body. Yet, time and again some jarring event calls that assumption into question. In this case, the publicity posters for a museum exhibit of the male nude. Many people protested and the museum decided to censor their posters. What's this about?

We suspect the subject matter is the issue as female nudity likely would have been readily accepted by the general public. This hasn't always been the case. Just recall the towering statue of David in Florence, Italy.

Despite a lot of words and some suggestions, the writer doesn't really make clear why people become so upset at male nudity. It is a value judgment to say the female body, by its very nature, is beautiful, while the male body is lacking in qualities that make it worthy of artistic interest.

Every age paints it's temperament on the art it produces. Classical Greek and renaissance depictions of the male nude used the male form to tell a story that spoke to their age. We do the same today with the female nude. It is the social forces of the day in the hands of the artist that select the symbols and set the agenda.

Austrians protest to seeing male nudes is a reflection of the esteem men are held, or at least informs us about how our era thinks men should be viewed in public. Still, this discomfort is somehow disturbing and an affront to the dignity of men.

Perhaps the behavior of too many men over the last 200 years is responsible for societies discomfort with the male nude. Perhaps it's not a concern to get too worked up about. After all, people get outraged by female nudity as well, but seldom does female nudity cause as much alarm as does male nudity. Just think of the six years in prison Stephen Gough has served in Scotland for refusing to wear clothing. [Ed.]

Perhaps the art show will start people thinking about the basis of our attitudes toward male nudity. In any event read further about the Austrian art showing.

For centuries, naked women in Western art have been openly celebrated as objects of desire....The female form has been idealized as a thing of beauty. So it may not have come as a total surprise for the organizers of "Naked Men," a new exhibit opening at the Leopold Museum in Vienna, that the show would generate some controversy.

Even so, the public outcry leading up to the exhibit, which features roughly 300 works tracing the history of male nudity in Western art, has caused organizers to bow to the avalanche of complaints and censor promotional posters around town.

"We as a society just aren't used to seeing naked men," said a museum spokesman about the complaints. "It's a problem with our culture, partially religious based."

Some complain the images remind them of sex or sexually traumatic experiences. The male nude "unfortunately is often still associated with sexual abuse in a way that pictures of naked women aren't," suggested a museum spokesperson.

That double standard has existed for centuries.

In the 16th century, Fra Bartolomeo's painting of St. Sebastian was removed by priests in Florence after female worshipers colorful confessions detailing fantasies about the saint.

In 1898, Viennese painter Gustav Klimt was forced to cover a poster he'd done of a naked Theseus defeating the Minotaur he made to promote the Vienna Secession art movement's first exhibition. Both the uncensored and censored versions are shown in the exhibit, which ends Jan. 28.

"Nude Men" begins with statues from antiquity, including one of the Egyptian court official Snofrunefer dated 2400 B.C. But the bulk of the show chronicles developments in the past 200 years.

The 19th century was one of the heydays for the male nude. The ideals of individuality and reason so powerfully espoused in the late 1700s by Voltaire and Immanuel Kant trickled down into early and mid-19th century French art. Nudity was used to distinguish heroes – often defined by their independence and employment of reason – from the hoi polloi.

"Male nudity was associated with independence," even if it resulted in a heroic death, says an art history professor at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna.

By the early 20th century, male heroism was faltering, giving way to the brooding introspection of Austrian artists Egon Schiele, Anton Kolig and Richard Gerstl. Their works started a century of nude self-portraits by male artists, a theme later radicalized by artists like American Robert Mapplethorpe.

More recently the feminist and gay movements beginning in the 1970s spurred a growing number of female and openly gay or bisexual male artists like Andy Warhol interpreting their sexual fantasies via art. The museum explores these themes in its two most graphic sections, with works like Warhol's 1982 "Querelle" and Urs Lüthi's self-portraits exploring gender identity.

For the full story, follow this link.

The Quandary of Family Nudity

I say quandary, because family nudity is an ongoing discussion as to what is appropriate. Furthermore, it generates heated responses from the public both pro and con.

For the most part, the questions usually center on bathing with children by either parent. The "wisdom" usually offered is the children will let you know when they are no longer comfortable with this practice. Others think that around age two it is time for the parent of the opposite gender to never see the child nude again.

Certainly, the history of what is usually called Puritanism is blamed for our discomfort with nudity and the body in general. Of course, Victorian prudery is also looked to as a dominate source of body phobia which influenced the entire European dominated world.

Today, these twin fountainheads of body discomfort including nudity have been reincarnated and reinforced in the reality and mythology of pedophilia. In all, the element of fear is heightened to a fever pitch whether of lust and illicit sex, often between consenting adults, or the genuine horrors of child sexual abuse in our age.

The universal response in the West to address these concerns has been intense repression which can go to extraordinary lengths to prevent the perceived abuses of decency. People are convinced, based on their conception of common sense, that repression is the appropriate and effective response that, as much as possible, ensures the evil practices are prevented.

The sad truth is repression, and all the laws that enforce it, is a two edged sword. Often it does not stop the practices they target, but does bring considerable unintended consequences.

Such consequences include widespread body shame and sexual dysfunction in otherwise normal people, and a morbid fascination with pornography, and a burgeoning sex trade.

The insidious consequences of shame and fear intrude on the family and what is considered appropriate within families. For us, the fear of being thought of as a pervert, aka, child molester is bound to cross everyone's mind. The weight of this fear ensures self censorship and withdrawal from both physical and visual contact between otherwise healthy parent-child relationships where nudity is involved.

This is a wound to the spontaneous loving and playful interactions between parent and child. Because we think it is demanded for the sake of decency or fear of what others might think it is none the less toxic. Toxic because a silent message is given the child that something is inappropriate, possibly even bad.

Children have no way to articulate questions, nor can they conceive that the problems lie in their parents. Children are much more intuitive and tend to see in themselves something that is to blame to explain why parents pull away from old practices with them. Such impressions are not forgotten nor are they inconsequential in later life. No doubt numerous later learnings reinforce these early impressions that can lead to a sense of shame about the self. Certainly parents and society are a ready source of unbalanced information about the body.

Instead of the home being a refuge of body sanity in the storm of a disordered society, the home may collude with society to damage our self esteem and body image. Nothing good comes from this.

Naturism has always believed non-sexual nudity is possible and a positive in the life of all. This includes children and their parents. Naturism is a corrective to the distorted values of society teaching the goodness of the body. Naturism in the home normalizes the body through the common experiences of being nude in daily life while going about daily activities.

Far from heightening sexual curiosity about the body of the opposite gender, family nudity makes the naked body commonplace, ordinary. No big deal. Instead of unsatisfied curiosity about what the body looks like, family nudity makes the nude body the norm and makes curiosity unnecessary. Compare that to sneaking around to look at "men's" magazines so boys can see what a woman look like, but only in the context of sex.

Perversely, this is exactly the expectation of society and the "boys will be boys" nonsense used to wink at training males to view women as objects of lust to be consumed for their individual pleasure. This is what passes for societal "morality?" What bilge!

Thus, the prudish and exaggerated concerns with family nudity, or with children seeing any nude figure, even a statue in the park comes back to bite us. Instead of stopping the abuses we are aiming at, we unintentionally create far more harm than we ever imagine. [Ed.]

With the above in mind, two recent articles in a British newspaper illustrate the conflicted thinking of members of the public regarding family nudity.

A mother writes to me that her husband and daughter have been sharing a bath on an occasional basis for the girl's whole life. Now, as her daughter approaches pre-adolescence, the mother wonders whether the girl's changing body, and awareness of her father's body, makes the sharing of this happy evening ritual inappropriate. Also, is it different if she shares a bath with her mother?

The diversity of reader responses is instructive. Many were decidedly negative about family nudity while others were supportive, but assumed that children will at some point become uncomfortable and demand privacy in bathing, etc. This complete article can be found here.

The second article is a follow up from the one above.

One respondent recounted his own child rearing practices which were quite tolerant of family nudity. He related he has hundreds of family pictures of him sharing a bath or a water fight with his kids. He believes all depict normal, harmless fun. He believes it runs its course naturally and it is not of question of when to stop it, but rather it stops naturally.

The columnist then states, "Dr Kidd touches on what to me is perhaps key to the issue: nudity, bath-sharing, nudist beaches, these things are all normal if the people involved are normal, and if everyone is a willing participant."

Certainly this is true. However, because some people are disordered, and they will inflict their harm regardless of how

prudish or repressive the rest of us are.

We can be assured that restricting our liberty because of the misbehavior of the few does nothing to advance a more healthy view of the body. Instead, conforming to the fears of society ensures that our children will also be infected by the unhealthy and toxic neuroses of body shame. [Ed.]

To read this second article, follow this link.

Its Just Me



This is my naked body.

I don't feel the need to **sexualise** it in order to feel comfortable with it.

Why do you?

Every day I receive questions in my inbox asking me to do sexual things, like take close up photos of me touching genitalia, or videos of me using sex toys. People even ask me to write erotica for them.

Look at the photo above. *This isn't sex*. This isn't sexual. This is a naked body. We're born this way. We bathe ourselves this way.

Why are so many of us so uncomfortable with seeing somebody naked in a non-sexual context that we feel the need to apply one to it?

It's just a naked body.

Feel free to reblog and/or spread the message however you can. Let's reclaim nudity. You'll find it here.

Mighty Aphrodite

Once again Americans show how silly they can be about nudity. A poster advertising the showing of a 2000 year old statue of Aphrodite was deemed too racy for public viewing for some. Perhaps it was her age. Who wants to see a 2000 year old nude woman anyway? [Ed.]

A critically acclaimed exhibit of Aphrodite opened to great fanfare at the San Antonio Museum of Art in September. But controversy is brewing over one of the exhibit's featured statuettes.

The museum tried to spread the word about this rare exhibit, so it put together an advertisement for Aphrodite.

The San Antonio Current, San Antonio Magazine, San Antonio Jewish Journal and San Antonio Business Journal didn't blanch whatsoever, and ran the ad.

But, others blushed...and censored it.

The museum takes great pride in its new Aphrodite exhibit. It is especially proud of a 2,000-year-old statuette of the Greek goddess emerging from the sea. But, it didn't anticipate the controversy stirred by the ancient sculpture.

A museum spokesperson said, "The human body still incites a lot of feelings, whether they are love or delight, or anxiety."

Although the statuette had a featured spot in the museum's advertisement campaign, three clients said 'no' to the museum's poster, including the San Antonio International Airport. "Whether it's public art or advertising, we don't authorize anything that portrays nudity or violence," stated the airport spokesperson.

The museum insists, "This is art. This is not pornography." "I think it actually is kind of a wonderful spotlight on the show - that it did incite such great feelings of passion and anxiety,"

In the spirit of tolerance for a conflicting viewpoint, the museum opted to replace the original unclothed Aphrodite at the airport for a different image. The museum views this flap as an opportunity underscoring the enduring power of Aphrodite.

We're facinated by the intolerance some have for the human body. Read about this incident here.

Support the Lake Edun Foundation

As we approach the end of the year, many of our friends and supporters send their support to organizations in which they believe. Church, educational, homeless. All of these do a great deal of good for our society.

We hope you will consider support for the Lake Edun Foundation. All donations are tax-deductible as permitted and your support goes toward a truly worth-while cause.

Advocates for body acceptance need a voice ... and they need your support. You may contact us at our P.O. Box or online through our website. We thank you.

Items We Need

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

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

"We are so narrow minded that we show war, murder, and rape on TV, but we are not allowed to show one of the most wonderful creations (the human body) in its natural form."

- Mario Roman

Lake Edun Foundation, Inc.
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