Bare Facts

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Box 1982; Topeka, KS 66601 ● Voice Mail: 785-478-BARN ● e-mail: benude@lakeedun.com ● Website: www.lakeedun.com 38° 58' 7" North; 95° 47' 56" West

Halloween Party Planned

We have a fantastic annual Halloween celebration planned that includes a hot tub and plenty of ghosts. Festivities will begin at the conclusion of the business meeting on October 30. We will enjoy a pot luck dinner, and costume judging. Dream up your best, most creative, costume for this event.

Our (g)host will provide pop, chips, dip, paper plates, napkins and plastic-ware. Eduners provide their favorite dish for the pot-luck, refreshments and, of course, a towel.

Members will find directions enclosed. If your membership in LEF is not complete, use the form in this issue of *Bare Facts* to complete it so you can participate in this event and the other winter activities we have planned.

This is a wonderful setting to celebrate Halloween and will be a fun evening. If you missed last year, don't miss again!

Annual Meeting Scheduled

Our annual meeting will be held on October 30, just prior to our Halloween Party. We have this meeting every year to review our operation for the past year and get input from members about what they would like to see in the future. We will also elect a new Board of Directors. This year, we will also hear the results from the survey many participated in.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Eduners to learn more about our operation and make suggestions concerning what they would like to see in the future. You can give input to the new board members on which changes we should prioritize.

All Eduners should consider a position on our Board of directors. A listing of Board responsibilities appeared in the September issue of *Bare Facts*. Take time to review it and decide how you might make a meaningful contribution to our continued success. The dedication of individual board members who assist with their time and energy enables us to provide a wonderful program and facility for our members to enjoy at a reasonable cost.

This meeting will mark the end of another great season for us. Each year our special place seems to become even more beautiful. Members will find directions enclosed.

Our Family Loses Another

This has been a difficult year for Eduners and our friends. Recently, we learned of the loss of another of our supporters and friends. Evan, who had a lead roll in one of the three one-act plays we staged last year, has passed away at a local hospice facility.

Evan was both a friend and active supporter of our mission and our place. He discovered the benefits of Naturism about five years ago and was not shy about sharing his knowledge with others. Prior to moving to Topeka, he had a successful law practice in Oklahoma.

We will miss Evan's friendship and his dry sense of humor.

Survey Returns Coming In

We have received well over 100 returns on our survey. We thank all who have taken time to give their opinion. Already we are looking at some modifications. After we close the survey, we will formally tabulate the results.

Our members make possible the educational mission of the Lake Edun Foundation. Several seemed to be unclear on the cost of membership in the Foundation. We have two levels: Regular and Associate. Associate membership is for those who live more than 125 miles from our special place and do not anticipate visiting more than 3-4 times a year. Full membership is \$275/single; \$350/couple per year where a couple is defined as one male and one female. Associate memberships are \$100 less.

In addition, we offer discounts: A \$100 student discount is available to students 25 and under. Anyone may ask for a working membership and save \$50 in return for 10 hours assisting. Finally, we have a \$50-single/\$75-couple recession discount for anyone adversely impacted by the economy.

If you have not registered your opinion, there is still time. The survey was printed in last month's Bare Facts. Or, you can find it online at: http://surveymonkey.com/s/bhh2plb. If you want to respond online, you must do it very soon.

We will share the results with all our membership at the Annual Meeting on October 30.

Random Thoughts And Reflections

Time has come for us to once again change the lock on our gate. Members will find the new combination enclosed.

If you have a pad lock on one of our lockers, be sure to remove your personal effects. After October 16, we must know who is using all the lockers or we will cut the locks.

Items We Need

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

- Non-motorized boats
- Lawn or Lounge Chairs
- Concrete pavers
- Large water storage tank
- Wood for the sauna
- Wooden Cable Spools
- Aluminum cans, etc
- Plastic Barrels
- Electric Drill
- 5 gal. buckets

DON'T FORGET

Activities designated HN are sponsored by Heartland Naturists

Oct 9; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Oct 10; Sun; 1-3; Board of Directors

Oct 15; Fri; 8:30-10:30; HN Swim

Oct 29; Fri; Sauna

Oct 30; Sat; 6:30; Halloween Party & Annual Meeting

Nov 13; Sun; 1-3; Board of Directors

Nov 13; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Nov 19: Fri: 8:30-10:30: HN Swim

Nov 27; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Food For Thought, From One Who Knows

It's the end of another amazing summer season at Lake Edun. I hope all of you enjoyed your time there as much as I did and I hope you were able to be there more than I was. Regardless of that, I felt my dues were well spent.

This year I felt a new vitality about the place – more enthusiasm, more positives, and more energy. I think we need to thank our groundskeeper for having made a huge difference. The grounds were in good condition, the refurbishing of the lounge chairs was a high point for all visitors, and setting up of our Face Book account was brilliant! All that and a heck of a nice guy too!!

I don't want Lake Edun to lose this spirit which maintains old members and attracts new ones. Indeed, there have been a number of new members this year. I met a number of both new members and first time visitors this summer and I was there only three times. It was great!

Just think about that when renewing your membership next year. It represents your commitment to keeping Lake Edun Foundation moving ahead. It ensures Lake Edun remains available as a place we love to visit for years to come.

Now, for a glimpse of the dark side. There's always a dark side isn't there? This essay by Richard Mason gives us the downside of human nature and its impact on naturist's achievements. Richard is the leading champion in the formation of Haulover Beach near Miami, Florida so that means he knows what he's talking about and is telling it like it is. We just don't want to go there at Lake Edun. Read on and take the pledge never, but never to fall into the dark side. [Ed.]

Resorts:

Each resort is different. If a new resort has a lot of amenities, it will have higher prices.

It is an offering. If a person does not want to pay those prices, they should not visit there. If this business is not sustainable as a nudist facility that leaves the resort owner with an option. Close or re-market the place to a new market segment.

If the new theme is not for you, don't visit. Move on.

Beaches:

After being under assault for 30 years, naturist beaches are a rarity. They are called Free Beaches. But, they are not free.

Someone is putting in the time and money, blood, sweat and tears to keep the beach functioning. They are also putting up with a lot of cheap shit from everyone. The government, the religious community, the land developers, the politicians, the concessionaires, park employees, people in the local population and the pelicans, also from an occasional seagull.

The cheapest shit comes from many of the beach visitors. They complain about everything. And, they have a long list of things that you should be doing. When they spot someone sexually active, they are sure to tell you as they leave the beach. When you ask them why they did not report it when the incident occurred, it was because, **They** did not want to get involved.

They complain about the Beach Ambassadors and then complain about not being able to find a Beach Ambassador when they needed one. They complain about smokers, glass bottles, loud radios and loud phone conversations and cameras and camera phones. They complain about the people wearing clothing and the gawkers.

When you ask them is they like Haulover Beach, it is always "Yes, I have been coming here for 15, 17 18 years," pick one. When you ask them if they are a member/supporter of South Florida Free Beaches, you always get the same answer, "No, I don't want to get involved in those things. I like to just come to the beach to relax." Really?

So we naturist activists are in the relaxing of beach visitors business and we don't even charge for the service?

For every Thank You that you receive, you will get several rejections. "Don't hand me that Beach Guide. I'm not interested."

The users of a beach seem to have a thought process that was beamed down from the heavens that a God or Goddess put that beach there for them to use and enjoy.

When you have a majority of beach users who cannot fathom the fact that the next really legal naturist beach is 1300 miles north to Sandy Hook and the next really naturist family beach is over 3500 miles west to Blacks Beach, and the why of that fact, then just maybe the sun is dangerous to a person's brain. Logic evaporates.

I have come to the conclusion that the majority of people that visit a nudist facility, private or a beach are zoned out on the reality, that this form of recreation has a fragile existence.

When it stops, it will not be due to any external force. It will be because those that should have known better buried their heads in the sand for the moment, and the next moment and the next moment. They did not want to know.

Many nudist resorts and beach groups operate on a zero tolerance when it comes to sex, There is a good reason for that.

One only has to travel with a lobbyist at a state legislature or call on one on your own and ask that there be more naturist beaches and you quickly will learn the fragility of the future of "nude recreation."

Richard Mason Haulover Beach

Nakations Are The Latest Travel Trend

Here's a surprise. Radio host and entertainer John Tesh, informed his listeners about nude vacations on his program. What makes it surprising is that John is well known for his Christian views. Given all the choices he has to make about material he puts on the air choosing to talk about something so risky, from a mainstream point of view, took courage. [Ed.]

You can Google John's web site at: John Tesh, Intelligence for Your Life.

Don't like the hefty new fees airlines charge for checked baggage? No problem! Don't bring <u>any</u> clothes. The new trend is: The "nakation" – which is a fancy word for <u>naked</u>

vacation, basically clothing-optional spa, cruise and hotel stays for people who'd rather relax in their birthday suits, and pack only the basics: sunscreen, sunglasses, shoes, hat, and toothbrush.

According to *The New York Times*, nakations are big business among so-called "naturists" – people who want to get back to nature, live green, and reduce their impact on the planet. So, what's the appeal?

Nakation enthusiasts insist it's not about sex. It's about being free from the artificial pretenses of society, where everyone is judged by what they wear, what they drive, and what they do. Larry Massa, a retired Navy commander who takes nude vacations with his wife, points out that not wearing clothes is the great equalizer....

Before you write off the nakation as gross, weird, or perverted—know this: both Benjamin Franklin and Henry David Thoreau extolled the benefits of nude nature walks—or "air baths," as they called them. The ancient Greeks did a lot of things in the nude, including playing in the Olympics.

Naturism In East Germany

Blogs are great things – well some of them are worth the time. A blog I recently came across is well worth the effort. It's especially interesting as it is written by an Eastern European man, thus giving us eyes from a different part of the world through which to look at naturism.

Vadimage Blog – Blog on Art, Society and Naturism is to be found at: http://vadimage.wordpress.com/2010/01/17/fkk-in-the-context/ Here are some excerpts from a couple of posts, the first from 1-17-10 in which the author discusses the rise and fall of naturism in East German.

One of the articles in the book is written by Dagmar Herzog and entitled 'East Germany's Sexual Revolution' (p. 71). The issue of FKK (Freikörperkultur), an important part of GDR culture, is touched upon as well. I'd like to give a few quotes from the article that may shed some light on the place nudism occupied in the life of East German people.

Starting in the middle of the 1960s nude bathing became acceptable for growing numbers of GDR citizens, and by the 1970s full nudity was clearly the norm at GDR beaches, lakeside or ocean side. Early attempts by municipal authorities to prevent this practice were simply overridden by the adamant masses, who stripped and would not move.

Nakedness for the whole family also within the home became increasingly standard practice as well, especially for that generation that had grown up together with the GDR...

The researcher writes that from the point of view of West Germans, the East German habit of naked display at the beach was variously interpreted as quaint and odd, as a trifle disturbing, or as (misplaced) compensation for East Germans' lack of political independence.

As a bit of context to better understand nudism in East Germany, the following may be helpful and is taken from the 7-18-09 Vadimage post entitled Nudists vs. Communists. On August 14, 1954 the GDR government extended the ban on nude bathing (*Nacktbadeverbot*) for the entire East German

Baltic Sea coast and from the Szczecin Lagoon. But some East Germans were ready to defend a tiny bit of private liberty. They began to protest, wrote letters and submissions to the government. The fact that the Communist GDR still supports the prohibition of nudism from the Nazi era did not strengthen the position of authorities. In June, 1956, the GDR government had to introduce a new arrangement to regulate outdoor recreation. Henceforth, the nude bathing in "places to which everyone has access" became permitted if these places would "be explicitly marked and adopted by the relevant local councils." Nude bathing received, with some restrictions, the state's blessing and soon became the mass movement in the GDR.

After the reunification of Germany, the West Germans achieved what the GDR police had failed to do decades earlier.

The flood of Western pornography effectively demolished the Eastern culture of nakedness. ...Many East German women no longer felt safe going naked now that they were viewed with Western men's "pornographically schooled gaze" (pornographisch geschulter Blick). And they did begin to cover themselves.

If this indeed dampened interest in naturism in East Germany after reunification, it is a sad commentary on contemporary Western values. One of the responses to the post of 1-17-10 supported the contention that naturism languishes in the US due to the perceived connection between nudity and pornography/sex. That is, the male gaze is conditioned by pornography to objectify women sexually. He writes:

"The connection between pornography and women not feeling comfortable with nudism sums up the problem in the US. Nudity is viewed by a large part of the population to be hand-in-glove with pornography, and therefore they never try social nudism. This attitude also leads to the looky-loos who chase away some of those who have tried it."

While agreeing with this assessment, this is not the sole reason for social nudity to find such a difficult path toward acceptance in the US. That being said, effectively dispelling the almost knee-jerk reaction the majority of Americans have when naturism is mentioned is a major challenge.

The challenge is made all the more difficult because from subtle to blatant, this meaning for nudity is constantly reinforced daily by every form of media available. Exploitation of the body's potential for sex is a major ingredient to much of advertising and entertainment. As is said, — Sex Sells! Female bodies, child and adult become commodities for purposes unrelated to them as individuals. Their personhood is immaterial; lust for their bodies is silently transferred to a product to enhance its "sex" appeal — and sales. Are we gullible or what?

I much prefer the independence of spirit shown by East Germans in defying an oppressive government. They effectively opposed and demolished the attempts by officials to pigeon hole nudity as being about sex or any other nonsense. The courage and sheer force of will demonstrated in standing up for social nudity and in the end gaining official acceptance is inspiring. [Ed.]

Topfreedom – Nineteen Years Later

Here's something from Canada. The article that caught my attention states that she was attending a Topfreedom celebration in the city of Guelph. There 19 years ago she had written an article in support of one Gwen Jacob, then a college student on a sweltering day decided to emulate the actions of several who had taken off their shirts to beat the heat. Thinking to herself, "If guys can do it, why can't we?" That and the succeeding court case that she won changed the law in Ontario. Go to: http://news.guelphmercury.com/News/Local/article/683114 [Ed.]

The reporter commented, yes, of course I was 100 per cent in favor of the rights of women to be bare-chested in public without being turned into criminals for doing so... But, admitted that she was still not fully convinced as she contemplated actually looking at someone's real breasts.

Following the standard line of thinking she considered the presumption that breasts are "private parts," and do they really have to do this on the streets? In front of all these people?

One of the event organizers explained that the reason to hold a "top-free" celebration like this was to encourage and to empower women to exercise their right without the fear of ridicule or of being seen as a sexual object. She added that the purpose of the days demonstration as necessary in that rights can fade away if they're not used.

As for women being embarrassed to go topless, "This is not a beauty contest," she noted, "We're beautiful, just because we are."

The participants had to deal with the crowd of men who were gathered taking pictures. Rather than being put on the defensive, they cheerfully engaged the on lookers with requests for donations for the cause – peacefully and cleverly challenging them.

After spending time with the participants and talking to some more people, listened to the music, the reporter noticed that she had easily become used to the sight of the bare breasts. In fact it was a revelation that, just as each human face is unique and beautiful in its own way, so is each human breast. Each one looked as if it belonged to its owner's individual body.

No big deal, after all.

UK Nude Beach Closing

The US has the closing of San Onofre Beach in Southern California this year. However, leading the way a year earlier Great Britain joined the illustrious club of the Intolerant Prudes.

Guardian journalist Paul MacInnes made a video essay about what could be the last open day at the naturist beach in Corton, Suffolk, as Waveney District Council have decided to de-designate the beach from November 2009.

You can view his efforts at:

http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/video/2009/aug/15/naturism-corton-beach

It seems that the problem wasn't the actual nude naturists on

the beach, but rather those that frequented the fringes of the beach for sexual activity. One of the towns people interviewed made reference to the numbers of gay men in the bushes accosting any lone male for sex.

This is pretty much the same sort of complaint that the California Parks Department used to justify closing San Onofre to nude use. No one accused the naturists of inappropriate behavior, but the beach had to be closed to nude use due to another group's activities.

This is an incredible difficult problem. There are men accosting other men for sex. How on earth are we as responsible government officials going to deal with this and secure public safety?

Let's consider the options – A. We could do nothing. B. We could ask the police to patrol the area on a regular basis. C. We could partner with the naturists to politely discourage inappropriate activity. D. We could close the beach to nude use. All in favor of D, raise your hands! See! Brits and Americans do have a lot in common.

Makes perfect sense to me. Get rid of those damn naturists and that will make us safe from gay men. Huh?

There is no accounting for what passes as logic in the bureaucratic mind. [Ed.]

Award Winning Journalism Student

It would seem that nudists/naturists exert a continuing fascination for the clothed public. It's flattering in some respects. It's not that journalists or many in the public would ever deign to actually participate in social nudity, but the exoticness of the whole thing inspires curiosity about those strange creatures that do like to be nude.

Recently, a University of South Carolina public relations major received a national award for a magazine article she wrote featuring Cheri Alexander, the founder of the Travelites nudist travel club.

The article is well written. It doesn't engage in the "cutesy," but tired humor bits many journalists employ to trivialize social nudism and subtly inform readers that they aren't taken in by these crazies.

Instead the writer describes her reactions to a first time social nude experience in which she participates. Near the end of her article she observes, "Knowing that nudism is one of the nation's biggest taboos as far as lifestyle choices seems nothing short of absurd now. Almost as absurd as I initially felt when naked in a crowded room. Given the ills of society however, it does seem ridiculous that the human body, one of the greatest works of art, is really viewed as something impermissible."

Like many that venture to try social nudity, the author has experienced a changed perception about the body and nudity. "Sitting on the Horseshoe in shorts in perfect 75-degree weather, the sun tenderly warms my skin. Before I remember that not all people are as pure at heart and accepting as those welcoming members of the Travelites, I quietly wonder to myself 'Why not?'" [Ed.]

For the full article go to: http://www.jour.sc.edu/news/newsann

Covering It Up In Missouri

By Dave Bitters

In November 2005 the Weinstein Company released a British film entitled "Mrs. Henderson Presents." Despite its stellar cast (headed by Judi Dench and Bob Hoskins) superb acting and good reviews, it wasn't exactly a blockbuster. This may have been due to its R rating, its highbrow plot and (perhaps most importantly) its subject.

Based on a true story, it involved a wealthy widow (Laura Henderson, played by Dench) who wanted to do something with her inheritance, beyond attending endless social functions. She invested in the decaying Windmill Theater in London's West End, hired a professional manager and proceeded to stage Vaudeville-type reviews. This succeeded for a time, but eventually the novelty of this format began to wear thin.

A sub-plot of the film revolved around her son, a young officer killed in France during World War I. The loss of her lad proved to be a significant motif.

As the theater's revenues began to sag, Henderson and her manager Vivian Van Damm (played by Hoskins) agonized over what to do to re-energize the business. "Why not have naked girls," she offered. Her manager was skeptical at best. In 1930s London there was, of course, the thorny issue of gaining official approval. But she was on social terms with the Lord Chamberlain and managed to persuade him to acquiesce, provided that the young women not move.

This ploy, of course, gave Mrs. Henderson's "Revudeville" the kick-start it needed. But eventually the Lord Chamberlain had second thoughts — about the corruption of morals, particularly of the young soldiers who frequented the theater during the dark days of the Battle of Britain. He moved to close the revue and the theater, in part because he called it unsafe during air raids. But in an impassioned speech Mrs. Henderson argued that, being underground, it was one of the safest places on the West End. Moreover, she revealed that she'd found among her son's belongings some "French postcards." Wasn't it a pity, she asserted, that he gave his life for King and country without ever having seen a naked girl? She argued that young men called up to defend the homeland against Nazism deserved better than this.

On August 27 a law went into effect in Missouri that, among other things, outlawed full nudity in strip clubs. This was a legislative triumph for state senator Matt Bartle of Lees Summit. One might be tempted to say it was his brain-child, but this would be a long stretch (as I'll explain presently). No doubt his avowed purpose, similar to that of the Lord Chamberlain in the movie, was to prevent (by legislative fiat in this case) the corruption of the morals of the body politic. Given the district he represents and his membership in the Abundant Life Baptist Church one might be tempted to conjecture, however, that his real agenda was to bring the legal framework of Missouri more into concordance with Baptist dogma.

The Kansas City Star reported on Aug. 27 that last-minute attempts by attorneys representing the adult entertainment industry to obtain an injunction against the law had failed. "In the order allowing the law to take effect, [Judge Jon] Beetem acknowledged that the adult businesses would suffer harm because of the law. But he said the businesses had not shown they would probably win on the merits of the case or letting the law take effect would harm the public interest."

One cannot expect the Association of Club Executives, an adult entertainment industry trade group, to roll over and yield gracefully. An article in the June 2 edition of KCFreepress.com quoted attorney Richard Bryant as saying, "According to the analysis submitted by the bill's sponsors, SB 586 would have no impact at all on the state's general revenue fund, and would result in a reduction of 'less than \$100,000' in the revenues of all city and local governments across the state." But Dick Snow, vice president of the Missouri ACE chapter, offered that "If this bill goes into effect, you're going to have clubs closing," ... "That's just a fact. If you figure that 60 percent of the clubs in the state had to close because of this bill – and I think that's an underestimate – you're looking at more than a million dollars in lost state tax revenue from Kansas City alone."

"This whole thing, it just really makes me puzzled," Snow said. "We've been around for 31 years, and have had this really great, almost flawless run. And this would put me out of business."

Indeed.

When this case goes to trial we'll probably be treated to lots of economic statistics from the plaintiffs and lots of talk about "harmful secondary effects" from the defendants. Regarding the latter, whether there's any "there" there (to paraphrase former president Bill Clinton), remains to be seen. Naturist Action Committee Executive Director Bob Morton avers that the adult entertainment industry has amassed impressive statistics refuting any claims that these businesses produce alleged harmful effects. (But how does one prove a negative?) Evidence of "harmful secondary effects" is a requirement under current case law to uphold the constitutionality of an anti-nudity law. (See Justice Souter's controlling opinion in Barnes v. Glen Theater 501 U.S. 560 (1991).)

But all of this misses the main point. There is a massive amount of hubris in assuming that a world-view one accepts as correct for oneself is correct for everyone else. Who's to say that my neighbor, far from being harmed by seeing live naked girls, might actually be spared the harm of repressed sexual curiosity? This was, of course, the main point of "Mrs. Henderson Presents."

Naturists might scoff at the idea that strip clubs are a wholesome form of sex education or body acceptance. We tend to see the naked human form as neutral (or "natural"), but I submit that this is a matter of conditioning (or re-conditioning). The larger culture remains deeply conflicted about the naked human form (else how do we explain the profitability of strip clubs on the one hand, and on the other hand the fact that bathing suits are not optional everywhere)? These days it's not difficult to find images of naked females (and others) on the Internet. But this is at best an artificial substitute. If Bartle really wanted to put strip clubs out of business (while at the same time ending the eternal tug-of-war between prurience and prudery) he would have sponsored a bill mandating that clothing be optional at every public beach in Missouri. This is, of course, a utopian ideal given our collective cultural mindset.

Rather, if the Missouri law thus enacted withstands the court challenge by the Association of Club Executives we can anticipate that a similar initiative will be enacted in Kansas. In fact, for several years a state representative named Lance Kinzer (Olathe) has introduced bills in the Kansas legislature that are virtually identical to the one Missouri passed in May.

If you find this a coincidence, you should have a look at the following web sites: http://www.alliancedefensefund.org/#, http://www.afa.net/.

These organizations (The Alliance Defense Fund; The American Family Association) write model bills of the sort enacted by Missouri this year, and they provide the resources (including counseling for attorneys and legislators) to assist

in implementing their agenda. Let's be clear: these organizations aim to come as close as possible to implementing a theocracy in the United States – consistent with their world-view. This world-view is anti-sexual, anti-body acceptance, anti-naturist. Their language is couched in positive and soothing terms ("family values," "protect the community," etc.) But they have little tolerance for those with other views.

Would you appreciate being branded as a sex criminal (or as crazy) because of your naturist interest/inclinations? I offer that the day when this comes to pass may be closer than you think.

Harmonie Respect Et Liberté

I don't know about you, but I don't speak a word of French. However, if you go to: http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9ez1d_harmonie-respect-et-liberte_people/ you can view a beautifully produced video about French naturism.

It is worth the "thousand words" to watch these pictures of happy people of all ages enjoying various naturist locations, both resort and scenic rivers. I found myself envious and wishing I could be there. It makes us wonder, if exposure to adult non-sexual nudity is so harmful, why do these supposed harms not adversely impact the French, Scandinavians or others who are able to live free? Man! Aren't you glad to be a naturist? [Ed.]

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Membership Application Change of Address Form

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