

The NUDE & NEWSLETTER

NATURAL

The Naturist Society

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NAC Scores Victory in Kentucky

House Bill 438 would have increased penalties for nudity in the presence of children, removed existing protections for benign nudity.

FRANKFORT, Kentucky — Very good news from Kentucky! The Naturist Action Committee is pleased to report that the threat from Kentucky House Bill 438 has been removed.



Rep. Brandon Spencer (D-Prestonburg). Sponsor of HB 438.

In a gratifying show of grass roots strength, Kentucky residents responded to NAC's recent Action Alert and contacted the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee concerning this bill. That action complemented NAC's continuing behind-the-scenes work with Kentucky lawmakers. The combined effort was focused and effective, and it achieved exactly the desired result. The Judiciary Committee replaced HB 438 with a substitute bill prepared by the Kentucky Attorney General's office.

The committee substitute removes every bit of the language to which naturists had objected in the original bill. This is a significant success for NAC and for naturists.

WHAT WAS THE THREAT FROM HOUSE BILL 438?



Rep. Kathy Stein (D-Lexington). Chair of House Judiciary Committee was focus of NAC's Action Alert.

Kentucky House Bill 438 proposes a significant increase to the level of punishment for mere nudity in the presence of a minor, making it a felony for a second offense. More importantly, the bill would strip away the portion of EXISTING Kentucky law that distinguishes benign nudity in the presence of children and protects it from arrest, prosecution and conviction.

Specifically, House Bill 438 would have removed a key existing phrase from the state's existing first degree indecent exposure law. Section 510.148, as it presently exists in the Kentucky Revised Statutes, declares that an individual commits the offense of exposure only when it takes place "under circumstances in which he knows or should know that his conduct is likely to cause affront or alarm."

HB 438 would have altogether removed that qualifying phrase, criminalizing ANY intentional adult nudity when a minor is present. No circumstance would have been protected. Additionally, HB 438 proposed to add that the very fact of the nudity itself would constitute evidence of intent to commit a criminal act.

Obviously threatened was any form of family-friendly naturist activity in which adults are nude in the presence of children - even their own children, and even in their own homes.

Also at risk from the proposed new law were adults, naturists or not, who might find themselves in the presence of someone under 18 while they are ...

- in the locker room at a gym or spa,
- in the changing room at a public (or private) swimming pool,
- using a urinal in a public restroom,
- at home

If House Bill 438 had been passed into law, Kentucky law enforcement, prosecutors and courts would have been left with no way to recognize or distinguish benign exposure.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

House Bill 438 was introduced by Rep. Brandon Spencer, a freshman Democrat lawmaker from Prestonburg. The measure was assigned to the House Judiciary Committee, of which Rep. Kathy Stein (D-Lexington) is Chair.

The bill attempted to burden the definition of personal indecent exposure, so that it would include images sent by electronic communications. That would have forced an awkward

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Kentucky (cont'd from page 1)

fusion of two separate legal notions that should remain distinct, and it would have made bad law itself. But the bill's proposed removal of existing circumstantial protections was the factor that created the greatest alarm.

NAC TAKES ACTION

Early in the 2007 legislative session, the Naturist Action Committee hired a professional Kentucky lobbyist to act as a legislative advisor.

NAC prepared an Action Alert and issued it on February 22, asking Kentucky residents to contact House Judiciary Committee Chair Kathy Stein (D-Lexington). The grass roots response from Kentucky naturists was impressive, appropriate and quite successful.

The Naturist Action Committee pursued this issue with specific Kentucky lawmakers, including Rep. Stein, whom NAC Executive Director Bob Morton contacted personally. NAC made the point that certain fundamentals of House Bill 438 were simply improper. Rather than accepting a flawed law and seeking the shaky refuge of a narrow exemption, NAC broadened the argument to address the proposed law's more general impact, exposing its flaws and insisting on a replacement.

END GAME

In the end, it was the Kentucky Attorney General's office that stepped in with substitute language for HB 438. With its benign new language, the bill passed the House with a floor vote of 100-0. However, HB 438 received no attention at all in the Senate, and it failed to become law, even in its amended form.

MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Additional information, including the NAC Action Alert and NAC Update, as well as the complete text of Kentucky House Bill 438 (both the introduced version and the substitute), can be found on the Web site of the Naturist Action Committee.

www.naturistaction.org

Get college credit for advancing naturism? Now you can!

by **Mark Storey**
Board Member
Naturist Action Committee

As many of you know, I teach philosophy at Bellevue Community College and have done so for about 15 years. It's a good two-year school for many, and is now offering a limited number of four-year degrees for the Bellevue-Seattle, Washington, region.

Last year I designed and passed through the school's curriculum committee a new philosophy course called Grassroots Activism, or Philosophy 114. The course applies ethical theory and principles of social justice in a very practical manner. Students taking the course will learn grassroots techniques for advancing social change with a small budget and with few people in society on their side. Sound familiar? Welcome to the world of the Naturist Action Committee, and, of course, many other grassroots organizations with little in the way of financial and personal resources.

Students will spend less time on textbooks and tests, and more time working in mock grassroots activist groups developing practical strategies to respond to real-life situations the instructor will throw their way, situations that their real-life counterpart groups face week after week.

Students will also be required to work outside of class with an activist group of their choice. They can hook up with a pro-life or pro-choice group; they can join the NRA or a group promoting a "Brady Bill"; they can work with their church to preach the gospel or they can fight for greater separation of Church and State; they can assist Guerrilla Girls, Act-Up, World Naked Bike Ride or Earth First!

They can even work with the Naturist Action Committee on a project that promotes clothing-optional beaches in

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2007

Upcoming Naturist Gatherings, Festivals and Events

- May 5 **World Naked Gardening Day**
Worldwide
- June 18-24 **Eastern Naturist Gathering**
Eastover Resort, Lenox, MA
- July 9-15 **Nude Recreation Week**
Throughout North America
- July 14-15 **Nude Gardening & Celebration**
Rising Sun Farm, River Falls, WI

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL *The Naturist Society* at (800) 886-7230

- July 26-29 **Western Naturist Gathering**
Lupin, Los Gatos, CA
- August 7-12 **Northeast Naturist Festival**
Empire Haven, Moravia, NY
- August 16-19 **Canadian Naturist Festival**
La Pommerie, St-Antoine-Abbe, QC



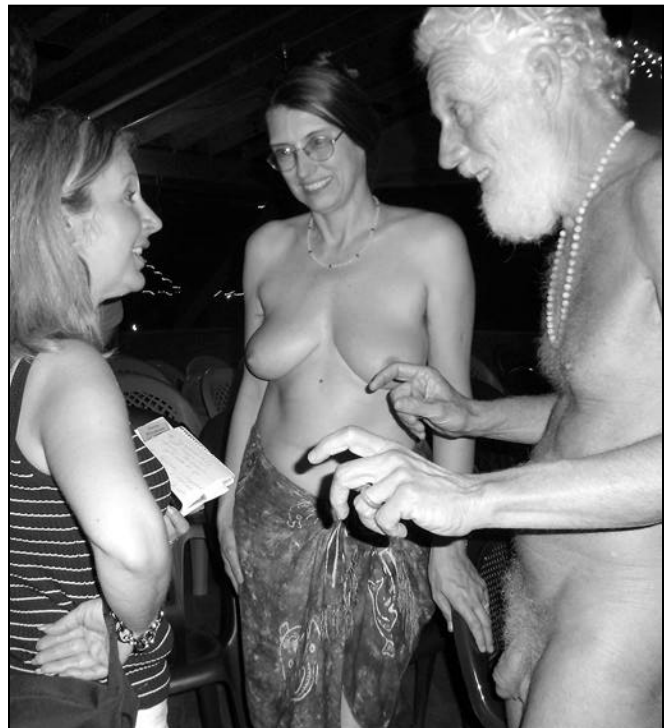
PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY DONNA JANUS



ABOVE: A photographer captures the scene. The candidates chose to be clothed. Moderator Morley Schloss and several members of the audience chose to be nude.

LEFT: Naturists are voters involved in the community.

BELOW: Sunsport's Morley Schloss (right) and Anne Fisher (center) speak with a reporter after the event.



Naturist Resort Plays Host to Candidate Forum

LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, Florida — Sunsport Gardens Family Naturist Resort in Loxahatchee Groves, Florida, hosted a Candidates Forum on March 1, 2007. Nine candidates for the Town Council in recently incorporated Loxahatchee Groves answered questions from an audience of

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Candidate Forum

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over 100 voters. Although the candidates were dressed, moderator Morley Schloss and about one third of the voters were nude.

Only one of the ten candidates for five Town Council seats declined to attend. Sunsport Gardens has the largest concentration of voters in the new town and may be the payer of the highest property taxes. Candidates were anxious to make a good impression and gain support. Four of the candidates dined in Sunsport's restaurant prior to the Forum.

Schloss, who is a board member of the Naturist Action Committee and Sunsport's primary shareholder, has been active in the Loxahatchee Groves Neighborhood Association since he purchased Sunsport in 2001. Sunsport is a respected part of the community.

Four newspapers, four television stations, and a freelance photographer from New York attended the forum, providing positive coverage prior to and after the event. The Associated Press and Cable News Network picked up the stories and reported them nationwide.

College Credit for Activists

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Washington State! And get five transferable college credits in the process!! The class is content-neutral, so as long as the group you are associated with is attempting to make our society (as they see it) a better place, it will apply.

To my knowledge, this is the first time naturist activists (or any other activists) can get college credit for living out their passion. Call it "Do-Gooderism 101" if you want, but the class is all about civic engagement at its best.

I'm kind of excited about this class, and look forward to facilitating (i.e., teaching) it this Spring. I figured naturists in the Pacific Northwest might want to know about it. For more information on Bellevue Community College, the Philosophy Department, and this class, see www.bellevuecollege.edu or email me at mstorey@bcc.ctc.edu.

Life's too short not to have fun!



NAC Roundup

Quick topics from the active files of the Naturist Action Committee more info: www.naturistaction.org

Mary Nash (1925 -2006)

ELMENDORF, Texas — Riverside Ranch announces the death of its founder Mary Nash, who was known to generations at the nudist club simply as "Mom." Born in North Platte, Nebraska on February 19, 1925, she moved to San Antonio, Texas in 1945 at the end of World War II. She and her late husband, Joe Nash ran several businesses together in the San Antonio area.

On January 15, 1971, the Nashes purchased 17 acres and started a nudist campground. A year later, they were granted an ASA charter under the name, Sun Acres. Shortly thereafter, they renamed it Riverside Ranch and it grew and prospered under their ownership for nearly 20 years until Joe Nash passed away.

Mary Nash sold Riverside Ranch and maintained a residence there until her death on December 21, 2006. Current owners Dave and June Hoover are quick to point out the reasons that earned Mrs. Nash the universal respect and affection she enjoyed.

"She was independent, funny, unselfish, and hard working," Dave Hoover recalled recently. "She joined in all the social events at the resort. The members of Riverside were considered her 'camp kids.'"

State Legislation Runs Amok

Some states have laws limiting each legislative bill to a single topic. Not Connecticut! House Bill 7269 is a veritable cornucopia. Introduced on February 22, the bill is officially described as: "An act concerning criminal history background checks, child pornography, repeated false alarms and the destruction of seized fireworks."

Arkansas Senate Bill 369 attempts to redefine "sexual abuse of a child" by adding "forcing the listening to a description of sexual intercourse." So, if a parent insists that a child listen to a "birds & bees" talk, or if a school official schedules a child to attend sex education classes, are those crimes?

THE NEWSLETTER editor: Bob Morton

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