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**The Newsletter of the *Naturist Action Committee* and the *Naturist Education Foundation***

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## How Does America -- And Europe -- Feel About Naturism?

Opinion polls provide important snapshots of how the public perceives a wide range of topics, but their true value lies in their ability to identify trends. For over 20 years, the Naturist Education Foundation has funded a national poll that analyzes American attitudes toward social nudity. In 2025, a YouGov survey of 1,083 U.S. adult citizens asked similar questions as the most recent Naturist Education Foundation poll, a 2021 Zogby Analytics survey of 1,101 adults. An abbreviated version of the YouGov survey was subsequently sent to participants in six Western European countries (2,245 adults in Britain, 1,020 in Denmark, 1,009 in France, 2,188 in Germany, 1,016 in Italy, and 1,055 in Spain). Analysis of selected results follows.

### Nudity on Designated Beaches

In 2021, the NEF poll asked, "Do you agree people who enjoy nude sunbathing should be able to do so without interference from officials as long as they do so at a beach accepted for that purpose?" The YouGov 2025 polls posed a similar question: "Do you think it should be legal or illegal for an adult to be completely naked in the following situations (at a public nudist beach)?"

2021 NEF Poll (US)	2025 YouGov Poll (US)	2025 YouGov Poll (Europe)
75% (support)	75% (support)	77-91% (support)

Note that the wording of the question in the NEF survey and the U.S. YouGov survey differs, but the overall response

rate is essentially the same, with 75% of respondents supporting the statement. Support is higher in Europe, particularly in Great Britain and Denmark, where 91% of respondents support the right to sunbathe nude on a naturist beach.

### Nudity on Private Property

The 2021 NEF poll asked, "Do you agree or disagree that people have a right to be nude in their homes or on their property even if they may be visible to others?" Support in the NEF survey jumped dramatically from 24% in 2006 to 68% in 2021. The U.S. YouGov survey asked a pair of similar questions: "Do you think it is acceptable or unacceptable for an adult to be completely naked in the following situations (in their own garden)?" and "Do you think it should be legal or illegal for an adult to be completely naked in the following situations (in their own garden)?" The European YouGov survey only asked about the *acceptability* of nudity on one's private property.

2021 NEF Poll (US)	2025 YouGov Poll (US)	2025 YouGov Poll (Europe)
68% (have a right)	62% (acceptable), 76% (legal)	46-87% (acceptable)

It is unclear why more American respondents in the U.S. YouGov survey indicated their support for the *legality* of backyard nudity while being less enthusiastic about the

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acceptability of the practice, though the overall level of support is similar to what was identified in the 2021 NEF survey. European participants in the YouGov survey were only asked about *acceptability*, and the responses to this question were much more mixed, with only 46% of respondents in Italy indicating their belief that it is acceptable to be nude in one's own garden, while 87% of those in Denmark were supportive.

Popularity of Skinny-dipping or Nude Sunbathing

The 2021 NEF survey asked, "Have you ever personally gone skinny-dipping or nude sunbathing with others?" 39.8% of participants confirmed they had done one or the other. The YouGov surveys broke this question down into a variety of settings and did not specify if the activity took place alone or with others. However, the highest number of U.S. respondents confirming that they had participated in a nude activity (swimming completely naked outside in a natural body of water) was only 26%, suggesting a possible decline.

2021 NEF Poll (US)	2025 YouGov Poll (US)	2025 YouGov Poll (Europe)
39.8% (swimming or sunbathing)	26% (natural body of water)	22-54% (nude activity)

Other nude activities mentioned in the US YouGov survey, like going nude in saunas, gardens, or general outdoor activities, failed to top 18%. Only 5% of women in the US survey suggested they had ever gone topless at a beach. Only 9% of men and women replied that they had gone nude at a dedicated nude campsite or beach. The European YouGov survey again revealed dramatic differences among the countries surveyed. Only 22% of Italians reported participating in at least one of the specified nude activities, compared to 54% of Danes. A full 25% of Germans and 22% of Spaniards report visiting a dedicated nudist campground or beach.

Support for Topfreedom

The 2021 NEF survey asked, "Women in some jurisdictions are required to cover their chests even where men are not. Do you agree or disagree that the government should compel women to dress differently from men in this manner?" The YouGov polls posed a similar question: "Do you think the following are acceptable or unacceptable: For a woman to be topless at a public beach?"

2021 NEF Poll (US)	2025 YouGov Poll (US)	2025 YouGov Poll (Europe)
46.2%	27%	57-82%

While the wording of the questions might have yielded different responses, only 27% of the US YouGov responses



supported a woman's right to go topless at a beach, suggesting another decline in support. In European countries, the support was as high as 82% in Denmark and Spain, with the lowest support--57%--in Great Britain.

Opinions on Nudism and Naturism

The U.S. YouGov poll reveals much about how men and women view the idea of nudism and naturism, as well as the right of women to go topless at beaches. When asked, "Do you have a positive or negative opinion of nudists/naturists?" A full 32% of women have a negative view, while only 14% have a positive view. Among men, 22% have a positive view of nudists, while 21 % have a negative view. When asked about toplessness on beaches, women are dramatically opposed to the idea. Only 17% of women support the idea, while 76% oppose it. Men are far more supportive of women going topless on beaches. 38% say it is acceptable, while 54% oppose the idea.

Together, these three polls offer valuable insights into the trends in public opinion regarding nudity and naturism among the populations of the United States and several Western European countries. The U.S. YouGov survey generally supports the findings in the 2021 NEF survey, with the exceptions being a possible decline in both public participation in nude activities and support for women's ability to go topless on beaches. A future NEF poll will revisit these questions.

The full results of each of the three surveys can be found at the links below.

2021 Naturist Education Foundation Zogby Poll Results  
<https://naturisteducation.org/publications/polls/>

YouGov 2025 U.S. Survey Results  
[https://d3nkl3psvxxpe9.cloudfront.net/documents/Public\\_Nudity\\_poll\\_results.pdf](https://d3nkl3psvxxpe9.cloudfront.net/documents/Public_Nudity_poll_results.pdf)

YouGov 2025 European Survey Results  
[https://ygo-assets-websites-editorial-emea.yougov.net/documents/Internal\\_PublicNudityEurope\\_250922.pdf](https://ygo-assets-websites-editorial-emea.yougov.net/documents/Internal_PublicNudityEurope_250922.pdf)



# Figuring Out the Fieldstone

by Olaf Danielson

The early Eighties were the best of times and they were the worst of times. Inflation was still out of control, but Fed Chair Paul Volker raised interest rates to the highest level in history (briefly over 20% in July 1981) to fight it. For savers these were the best of times, you could get a CD or a 30 year treasury bond with an interest rate in the mid to high teens. Average people, though, could not afford mortgages so they could not buy houses. Banks were soon upside down on these mortgages and many collapsed. This also led to the Savings and Loan crisis. Unemployment was rampant. Farm prices collapsed. For farmers, it was the "THE Dirty Eighties" and even the oil patch collapsed. To top it all off, the boycotts of the 1980 Moscow Olympics and the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics cast a pall over everything.

Personally, I was in high school and the worst times continued. In 1981, paralysis overtook me, and what was years later learned to be a tick-borne disease tried its best to kill me. Two years later, in 1983, an arsonist burnt down my high school. I spent my senior year doing science classes in a bus garage and another class in a weight room.

For nudists, it was even more schizophrenic. Many nudist venues closed across the country due to a more conservative attitude and little money for travel. In places like New Jersey, five nudist venues—Circle H Ranch, Sunny Heights, Pine Forest, Paradise Valley, and even the iconic Sunshine Park—closed between 1981 and 1984. Naturist buyers for these properties who could float a mortgage or pay cash could not be found, or in most cases, no one even appeared to try. Yet, in 1981 alone, the two most iconic nudist resorts in North America opened, Club Orient in St. Martin and Paradise Lakes north of Tampa. So one might assume by looking at the success of Club Orient and Paradise Lakes that much of the downturn in nudist properties seemed to be from short-sighted ownership and not for a lack of nudists willing to spend their money. Paradise Lakes not only was able to sell out its condo development, they were able to sell out a second phase of development during the decade and plan a third.

However, it appears that Paradise Lakes and Club Orient buyers were both in a different socio-economic class than the rest of us. In the middle of this, the most ambitious project of all (or so it seems today), was conceived near Houston, Texas. An existing 276-unit apartment complex, the Fieldstone Apartments, attempted to convert to a nudist living complex. Club Fieldstone, it was hoped, would become the model of nudist living in America. Like a quote from the movie of the same name, this "was a bridge too far."

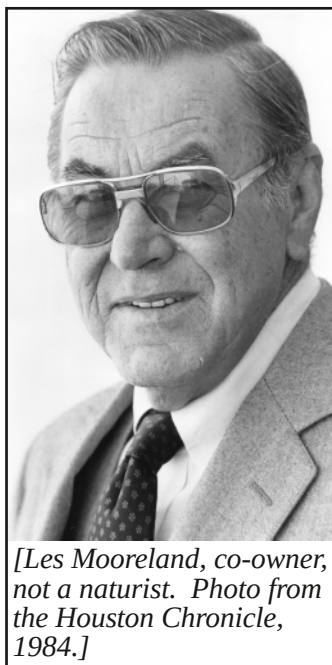
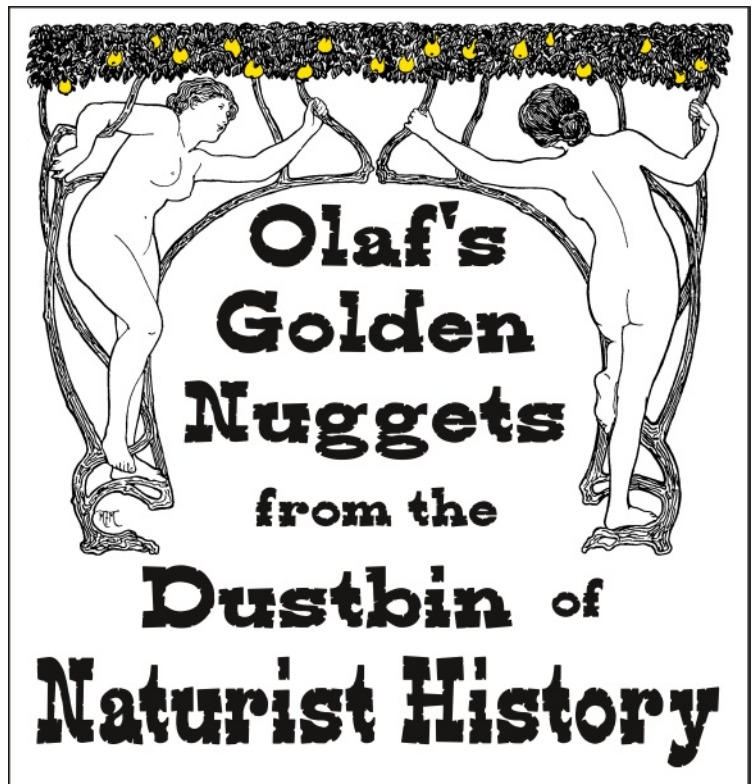
For a historian, it is very difficult doing an autopsy on the project. Mentions of the Fieldstone Apartments first appeared in the press in January 1984. It fully converted to much angst in the newspapers in April and by May, residents were

competing in nude volleyball at an All Texas Days event at Bluebonnet. By July, however, it was over. Many people, Lee Baxandall for one, Veal Johnson (manager of the project) another, wrote long essays on the failure of the project. Each of them (Baxandall in particular) hit many of the reasons behind the failure, but both seemed to not be too critical on the foundations of the fiasco.

It is easy to be critical forty-two years later. Now, I have taught a business course in college and I have run large businesses in multiple industries starting most of them from scratch, and my number one "arm chair" observation was that my now seven-month-old springer spaniel has more patience than the owners involved with this project did.

The first problem was that the complex had existing tenants who had not signed up for a clothing-optional existence. In January 1984, they were signing petitions, retaining lawyers, and ready to cause holy hell. One asks why did they pick this property then? The owner of Metro-Dyne Financial of San Jose, California seemed to this historian to have just sprung it all on the tenants in mid-January. One needs to think that such an endeavor needs to be in a new, empty, or heavily incentivized situation, like dropping rent of these people in order to sign on to it or leave. The property had just opened in 1982 as a young, singles- and couples-focused apartment building. The financial collapse and oil shock had led to huge vacancies in many apartment buildings (20% on average) and the nudist idea only came after the 10.5 million dollar complex had failed to fill normally. It also appears that, almost immediately, they lost the PR war.

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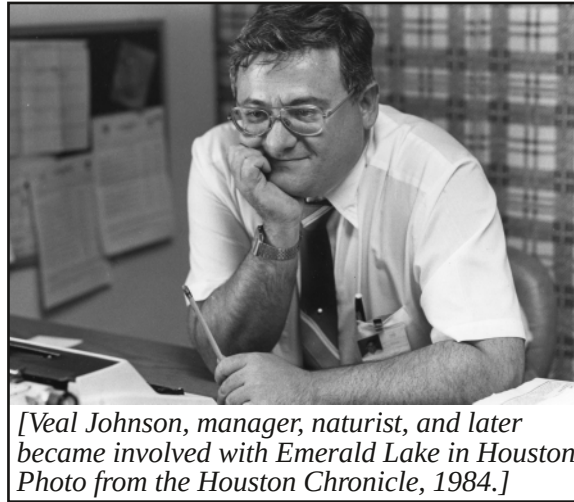
[Les Mooreland, co-owner, not a nudist. Photo from the Houston Chronicle, 1984.]

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Glyn Stout, a writer in Lupin Lodge's newsletter, cited a very concise postmortem about the other issues. The available nudist population in the Houston market was too thin, just believed to number a thousand people. The initial inquiries and rentals booked were also almost exclusively men and as such were perceived as a threat to luring potential women or couples as residents. The other problem was the housing glut, and as such, price competition trumped clothing competition.

Another big issue, and an issue with current nudist resorts, were that hardly anyone (only Veal Johnson as far as I can tell) who were investors and leaders of the projects came from naturist backgrounds and did not understand what naturists desired, and at times, had conflicting ideas. It seems their only goal was filling the building as fast as possible. They also needed to get women naturists involved earlier in the project. This post mortem also noted that making the pool compulsory nude use from the get go probably did not help in making existing tenants comfortable with the project. Shockingly, however, fully half of the existing tenants agreed to stay after the conversion, five times higher than projected. Yea, and again, the ownership had the patience of a

spring spaniel puppy. Instead of building on the three months of its clothing-optional existence, the ownership pulled the plug as it was just 40% occupied.



[Veal Johnson, manager, naturist, and later became involved with Emerald Lake in Houston. Photo from the Houston Chronicle, 1984.]

This change forced many of them to leave the apartment building, and it had to change its name to Stonegate Apartments. Veal Johnson, who was the local manager, quit and stated that his only regret was that it was possibly too big of a building. Four decades later, The Fieldstone Apartments saga is a footnote to both Houston and Naturist history.

Veal Johnson stated that the "project was ahead of its time." However, no similar project has been attempted in the last 40 years. After a flurry of condo and single-family nudist and clothing optional housing development, and some campground redevelopment, that largely peaked around the millennium and ended by 2007 due to the Great Recession, demographics, spiking land prices, a lack of naturist succession by owners and residents, and just plain bad financial networking by naturist projects in getting naturist ownership, no significant new projects have been developed in the last twenty years and many existing placers have become textile. These, however, are discussions for another time.



[Tomas Garcia, resident, with the apartment building and pool in the background. Photo from the Houston Chronicle, 1984.]



# Protecting Our Cultural Heritage

by Doug Hickok

*...or at least trying to!*

A new sign has been added at the Naturist Education Foundation Research Library. It's a simple addition, which seems to be warranted at this time, and conveys a deep meaning and a cause for action under the right circumstances.

## What is it?

The "Blue Shield" to mark property as being applicable for the "Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict". This is an agreement between (currently) 138 international parties, and was initiated in response to the cultural property being destroyed during WWII.

## Does the NEF Research Library Qualify?

We believe so. Take a look at the definition:

"Cultural property is the manifestation and expression of the cultural heritage of a group of people or a society. It is an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including the customs of a people, their practices, places, objects, artistic endeavours and values. The protection of cultural property during times of armed conflict or occupation is of great importance, because such property reflects the life, history and identity of communities; its preservation helps to rebuild communities, re-establish identities, and link people's past with their present and future."

NEFRL's huge archive, including many rare items from the 1800's to the present time, certainly defines the entire cultural heritage of naturism including everything named on the list above. Naturists should take a moment to reflect on the definition above and realize how significant their cultural heritage actually is.

However, and I hate to even mention it, the official designation of property within the party's area is determined by the signing party. NEFRL is not yet designated by the United States of America, and therein lies the problem.

## Is there a threat?

The United States of America is in what some would call a civil war. Armed military are being sent into cities across the nation, with a president encouraging arrests and disruption, even going so far as making death threats. This isn't an "armed conflict" per the formal definition (an act of congress), but it's trending closer every day.

Ever since January 20, Christian Nationalists and Republicans have been quickly working through their list of priorities (for the most part), which are defined in "Project

**"Naturists should take a moment to reflect ... and realize how significant their cultural heritage actually is."**



2025". We're about one year in, and one year to go until the midterms. Where does this fall in their timeline of priorities?

"Pornography, manifested today in the omnipresent propagation of transgender ideology and sexualization of children, for instance, is not a political Gordian knot inextricably binding up disparate claims about free speech, property rights, sexual liberation, and child welfare. It has no claim to First Amendment protection. Its purveyors are child predators and misogynistic exploiters of women. Their product is as addictive as any illicit drug and as psychologically destructive as any crime. Pornography should be outlawed. The people who produce and distribute it should be imprisoned. Educators and public librarians who purvey it should be classed as registered sex offenders. And telecommunications and technology firms that facilitate its spread should be shuttered." (Page 5)

Now...us naturists don't believe our cultural property would be considered pornography, but there are a lot of conservatives (including most likely the authors and executors of "Project 2025") who would see any and all nudity as pornographic, especially when all ages are shown. Thus, the threat is real.

## What happens if our cultural property is destroyed?

Per the guiding principles of the convention: "... that any damage to cultural property, irrespective of the people it

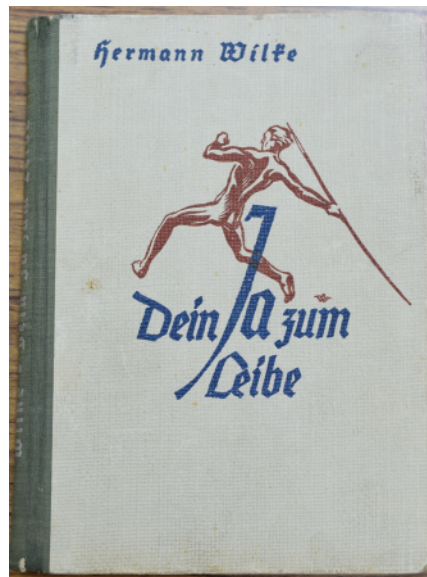
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belongs to, is a damage to the cultural heritage of all humanity, because every people contributes to the world's culture ...

If this unfortunate scenario happens, I don't think the international organizations would take it too seriously since the cultural property isn't officially recognized. However, I don't want this to nullify a response. NEFRL has the "Blue Shield" displayed with good reason and good intentions, and the fundamental intent of the Hague Convention would seem to cover it.

So if it happens, I would kindly ask that the international naturist community put pressure on their respective governments to recognize the destruction of naturist cultural property, sanction the USA for their actions, and hold those accountable for war crimes similar to any other Hague Convention violation.



## Cataloging, Anyone?

We're working on a full catalog of the books at the Naturist Education Foundation Research Library, and we could use the help of a few volunteers.

The library is unstaffed, and there are two NEF Board members who make routine trips to Oshkosh. One is mostly for routine business like checking the PO box, coordinating things with the landlord, and making sure the everything is OK at the site. The other, myself, makes the occasional weekend trip (3 hours each way) to make progress on library tasks.

During my last trip, I spent Friday night and Saturday assembling a catalog of the Travel books and Main collection books. This had never been done – only a partial list of titles had been created in 2015.

On Sunday, faced with a large shelf of foreign books, I knew there was no way I could identify the needed information and carefully type in the foreign language names and words in one short day. Instead, I pulled out the camera, and photographed all the important stuff for all of the books.

This is where you can help.

The task is easy – look at the pictures and catalog the title, author, and year. The challenge is that it's about 300 books and none are in English. If you'd be up for this task, reach out! Library@NaturistEducation.org





## Another Year of Support for Florida Nakations

For the last several years, Florida Nakations has set up an amazing booth at the Florida Governor's Conference on Tourism. And like previous years, the Naturist Action Committee and the Naturist Education Foundation have supported their efforts to get naturism into the public eye.

The reports we've seen were that the event was well attended and the booth was well received. Great job, guys!

If you look close, you can see NAC's and NEF's logos as two of the sponsor signs in the background, about in the middle, and on the TV screen.



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- ▶ the activist efforts of the Naturist Action Committee,
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Please support NAC with its mission of naturist activism set forth by Lee Baxandall. NAC relies entirely on donations from generous naturists like you, now more than ever. Donations are accepted online or by mail.

[NaturistAction.org/donate](https://NaturistAction.org/donate)

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