

Federation Focus

International Naturist Federation Newsletter

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January 2013

PREFACE

Every year I am baffled how quickly the month of January passes by, one barely has cleared away all the remainders of the Christmas – and New Year feasts, observed the first important appointments in the New Year, and the first month of the year already is history.

Yet, we already got over the Fair in Utrecht with great success and right here my sincere thanks to all those who supplied us with their publicity brochures and flyers. The EuNat Sports-Meeting surely was a needful source of information to all participants and now the prearrangements for the

various sports- and familyevents in 2013 and 2014 can be tackled with new verve and vigor. I myself will now start the preparations needed for the fair in Essen, where I will hand over the brochures and flyers which we were unable to distribute in Utrecht.

Sieglinde Tro

President INF-FNI

LIMITS ARE TO BE EXCEEDED

The Naturist Youth intensifies international work.

If it is about limits being exceeded, then the Naturist Youth stands in the front rows these days. Because the Federal President of the DFK Naturist Youth Association, Andreas Fischer, is presently looking for possibilities to be active on international basis. An excellent example is the International Youth Meeting of the Naturist Youth Association in cooperation with the European Naturist Youth (ENY), which will take place at the "Naturist Camping Baltic Sea" in Grube/Holstein from 26th July till 4th August 2013. Dozens of young naturists coming from several federations of European Naturist Youth will be present for the second time.

"We simply must look upon to prepare the way for the future", says the Federal President of the Naturist Youth Association, Andreas Fischer. It is necessary to initiate young people to enjoy the pleasures of nudity. This is feasible during the International Youth Meetings by bridging fun and games, with the youthful fellowship and creativity for their own program, reports Andreas Fischer about the experiences of last year's international youth meeting. A community had been established which also during wintertime keeps in touch with each other.

The Naturist Youth Association wants to set more milestones during the year 2013. For this Andreas Fischer plans to travel together with several young

persons to the INF-ENY Youth Springtime Rally to Great Britain in May. During recent times the participation at such events has fallen a bit into oblivion at the Naturist Youth Association. „We simply must face the developments. If the naturist movement gets more and more international, the naturist youth section must also follow“, underlines Andreas Fischer. The internationalization of the youth activity and the naturists gets noticeable also in social networks. Here the announcements of the International Youth Meeting find a large dissemination.

In today's life the social media are a huge link between young people. For that reason one may hope that the International Youth Meeting will get around by these social media and will be received well. The fact that, for example, the adolescents and young people will have their own (protected) space during the International Youth Meeting can be described as an attribute of sole agency. This is far from being a self-evidence at a huge naturist camping place, where at the same time an international family camp takes place. Andreas Fischer expresses his hopes that the second international youth meeting at the Rosenfeld Beach will be a milestone to inspire the youth about being nude.

Anyone who wants to register at the International Youth Meeting: jugendtreffen@fkk-jugend.de

VAKANTIEBEURS REPORT

Once again this year INF was present at the Vakantiebeurs holiday exhibition in Utrecht. We were part of the naturist plaza in pavilion 10 where in addition to the holiday exhibition stands there was a central activities area where the NFN had arranged for quizzes, videos, interviews and entertainment to attract and hold the interest of the public.

The INF stand was this year designed in a more open plan in which those participating were able to mingle together and with the public. Sharing the INF stand were FENAIT, DFK, ONV, FBN and Mullerhoff Camping. The INF stand filled one side of the plaza while the NFN took the opposite side. In between were other stands of various naturist centres and organisations.

The attendance appeared to be reduced this year in comparison with last year and our early assumption that the public would be more interested in holidays closer to home as the recession bites did not appear to be correct. Interest in the further destinations was just as strong and those who visited the stand appeared to be more interested in the information and locations and had sensible questions to ask. The "professional" brochure collectors were less in evidence.

We had a good selection of information although it was noticeable, both to us, and the public that some federations were absent and information unavailable. For those we can only say that they have deprived their clubs of potential visitors and therefore income and missed the opportunity to promote naturism and help its growth. Equally for those who did provide information then we thank them for their help in making the exhibition a success. We will certainly be there again next year to help keep INF and naturism in the public eye and later this month INF will be present at the exhibition to be held in Essen as we continue the policy of providing a cost effective method for federations and our members to promote centres and membership.



VICTORY FOR FEN

Ismael Rodrigo, President of FEN reports that: Recently we read in „La Voz de Galicia“ „O Grove punishes nudists“. The notice specified that „The document, which bears the signature of Bea Fredi councilman, is issued with all kinds of assumptions and affects almost every group of bathers. Bathers who, incidentally, must be covered and that nudism is one of the things that the ordinance seeks to eradicate.

„The article continued: „Fredi Bea declares war on nudism in the chapter on“ basic standards of use.“ There it states that it is prohibited“ to practice nudism on beaches that are considered urban and on non-classified beaches or not signed for this use ». However, the ordinance clarifies that „you can practice nudism always when there a zone enabled and signed for it

On the telephone with the Councilor for Environment and Safety, Alfredo Bea, I explained to him the legal reasons that prevent them from legislating about nudity on its beaches and after listening carefully, he informed me that he was already warned by the City Council's legal advisors and he had reports of the actions and demands from the Naturist Federation against the City of Cadiz. They have therefore decided to withdraw the ban on nudity and replace the text of the beaches ordinance for a recommendation and promotion of its traditionally nude areas. Specifically, the new text will read: „It will inform of the beaches with preferential areas for the practice of naturism, which will be promoted in national and international circuits.“

It is noticeable that although most of us ignore municipalities when we can make representations in the popular consultation phase, this is the first time that changes have been achieved without formal submissions, i.e. only by telephone and e-mails, which honors this council and the councilor „Fredi Bea“, whom we thank for the speed of its action in the face of the Ordinance to adjust the law criminalising or eliminating nudity and to protect the rights and freedoms of citizens. Notably, according to the conversation with Councilman actions to adjust the ordinance to the Act had already started, based on information and legal actions that have been applied for years by FEN and these therefore begin to bear fruit even before direct contact with local councils.

Congratulations to the City of „O Grove“, Alfredo Bea and all Naturists.

This is a victory for the Spanish Naturist Federation in its fight against the criminalisation of nudity. A challenge the FEN and its associations will continue to face so we are able to protect your existing freedoms.

www.naturismo.org

GREG SCHWEM - US PRESSE OUTTAKE

Greg Schwem, Tribune Media ServicesHumor Hotel, 4:30 a.m. CST, January 22, 2013

The San Francisco TV reporter was young, perky and brunette. Her interview subject was her polar opposite: male, late 60s and balding, with skin that looked as if it had traveled south for the winter and wasn't coming back.

He was also naked.

I came across this rather, um, awkward exchange while channel surfing in my Bay Area hotel room one evening. Over a plate of room service pasta, I watched several unclad men and women strutting their stuff outside San Francisco City Hall in unseasonably chilly weather, protesting what they said was their right to free speech and freedom of expression. I stared at the TV, speechless and expressionless. Any desire for food disappeared.

„Stripped“ down demonstrations have played out repeatedly following this most liberal of cities' decision to ban public nudity. While the rest of the country debates the right to bear arms, some San Franciscans are fighting for the right to bare everything. Unfortunately, it appears they are losing, thanks to a recently passed bill sponsored by City Supervisor Scott „Trust me, I've heard all the jokes about my last name“ Weiner. The „Weiner Bill“ makes it illegal to display one's junk except at nude beaches or during special occasions such as the Gay Pride Parade. An appeal is currently in the fully robed lap of U.S. District Court Judge Edward Chen.

The law as it currently stands was news to me; I've been to San Francisco numerous times and have never seen a resident, say, feeding a parking meter or making an ATM deposit au naturel. Those images stay with you. For that matter, so does a gathering of naked people who look like they could be protesting a loss of Social Security benefits.

Seriously, where are all the young nudes? Who elected Grandpa Saggy Butt to speak for the entire naked community? After watching him converse with the San Francisco reporter, I wanted to put on a parka and not remove it until July. Wouldn't our nation's exposed improve their standing in the court of public opinion if their spokesperson were, perhaps, 23, with a body that screams, „I have an active health club membership! And I use it!“?

Felicity Jones, 24, thinks so. She's co-founder of Young Naturists America, a New York-based group for the 18- to 35-year-old naked set. Founded in 2010, the group boasts 7,000 website subscribers but only 80 paying members, a figure that concerns her.

„The usual demographic for nature and nudity is age 50 and up,“ she said. „Those people are not reaching the younger generation today. They are outdated in the way that they market.“

Actually I'm not sure the nation's naked are marketing at all. I'm 50 and check my email daily, but have yet to receive correspondence from anyone inviting me to a clothing optional event. I even check my spam folder, just to be sure.

Jones said nudity today is perceived as „sexual“ and „dirty,“ two viewpoints her group is trying to change.

„Naturism should be about acceptance, not sex,“ she said, adding that more nudists of her generation would be inclined to model their birthday suits in public were there less of a stigma.

At the risk of sounding incredibly perverted, I then asked Jones the question that had been on my mind since she dialed my office and we began chatting.

„Are you currently naked?“

„I'm topless,“ she replied.

Jones will be disappointed if Chen upholds the ban, saying it would be a loss of „one of our basic freedoms.“ I, on the other hand, will be returning to San Francisco next month and will be very disappointed if a naked Gen Y or Gen Z individual doesn't step up and handle all media interviews. The city, after all, has tremendous restaurants and I'd like to maintain a hearty appetite.

(Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up comedian and author of „Text Me If You're Breathing: Observations, Frustrations and Life Lessons From a Low-Tech Dad,“ available at <http://amzn.to/schwem>. Visit Greg on the web at <http://www.gregschwem.com>.)

NUDE MEN - FROM 1800 TILL TODAY

Tobias G. Natter / Elisabeth Leopold.
Hirmer-Verlag, München 2012,
ISBN 978-3-7774-5791-8, 348 Seiten

How can it be that we tolerate the presentation of nude men in the classical antiquity? Why does it seem that there is low opposition against male nudity in representations of a state, as, for example, it was the case during the National Socialism?

from CHRISTOPH MÜLLER

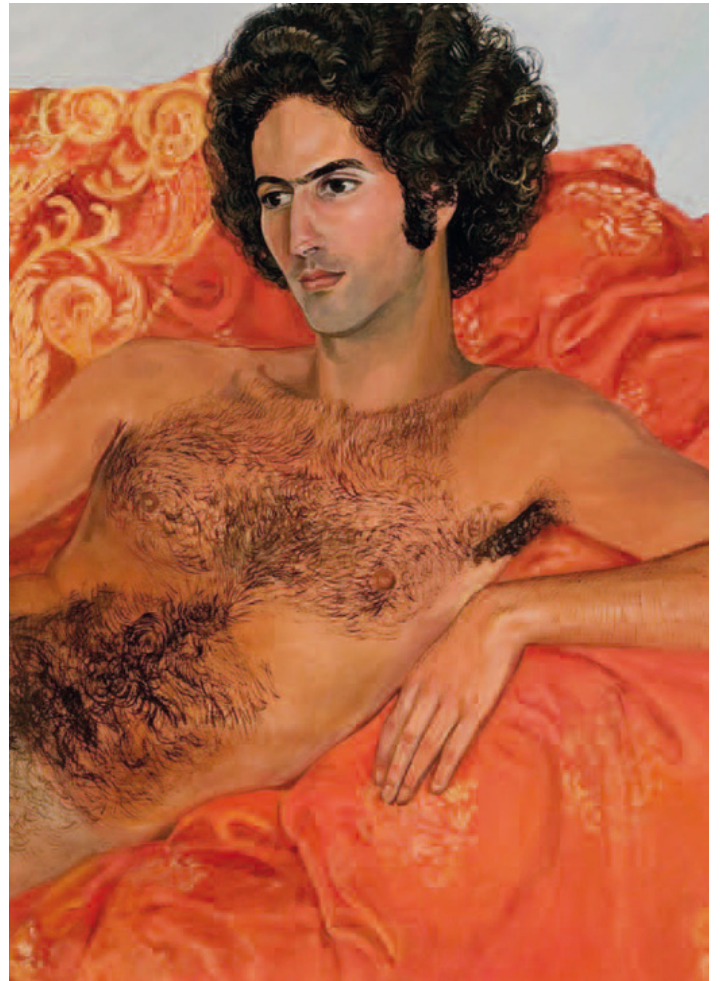
The exhibition book „Nude Men from 1800 till today“ does not present any conclusive answers. Yet the articles and visual presentations at the exhibition „Nude Men from 1800 till today“, taking place at the Leopold Museum at Vienna till 28th January 2013, expressively approach these questions.

It is an approach to what the nude male actually means. When, for example, you watch „The Kiss“ by Edvard Munchs, you see a hugging young and nude couple. In the same way as in „Hugging Couple“ by Gustav Klimt, these paintings do not give an impression of pornography. No, they appear like scenes as they happen at home day by day, without thinking of it. But what is the alleged object of scandal of a nude man? There is no real answer in the exhibition book „Nude Men from 1800 till today“. Even unusual motives fail to suggest any viciousness. There are only few unreasonable demands.

The pictures and paintings, the statues in the exhibition book rather disclose the individual vulnerability. The nude man in the painting „Youth and Amor“ by Anton Kolig created in 1911 rather seems to be assailable. He does not provoke any kind of mental movie, as one could possibly expect. The painting by Egon Schiele „Preacher“ who, confused, looks at his penis, also rather reveals the vulnerability of the actor. The „Bathing Boys“ by Ludwig von Hoffmann not only signal innocence. By their innocence they rather provoke the question why the culture of bathing has lead to such a large fashion wear of swimsuits.

Anyone who would like to contradict such a statement will face difficulties after reading and consulting the exhibition book „Nude Men from 1800 till today“. While male nudity in this book appears to be obvious, the authors of this book yet try to elaborate a sound classifying and dating of the motives shown.

Whereas the chapter „The Power of Reason“ describes the male nudity in Classicism and Age of Enlightenment, the „Heroes as cultural Model“ as well as „The antique Ideal“ are presented as „Standard and Projective“. In the chapter „Modern Classicism“ it presents „Being together in the Bathtub“ and „Battle of the Sexes and Refusal“. The chapter „After 1945“ specifically emphasizes on what present-day people of course feel very close to.



The exhibition „Nude Men from 1800 till today“ brings the male nudity into the limelight. This is good. Being nude deserves this style of seriousness.

THE NAKED MAN

Sabine Fellner / Stella Rollig / Elisabeth Nowak-Thaller, Verlag f. moderne Kunst, Nürnberg 2012, ISBN 978-3-86984-357-5, 440 Seiten

What is so fascinating at the nude man ? Can a nude man fascinate at all? Somehow it should, because the exhibition book „Der nackte Mann“ (The Nude Man), which accompanies you at the Lentos Artmuseum at Linz (Austria) up to 17th February 2013, shows it at an impressive manner. Or, as the catalogue states: „More than 300 exhibits form twelve chapters of a show which in a so far unseen way analyses the role of the male body during more than a century.“

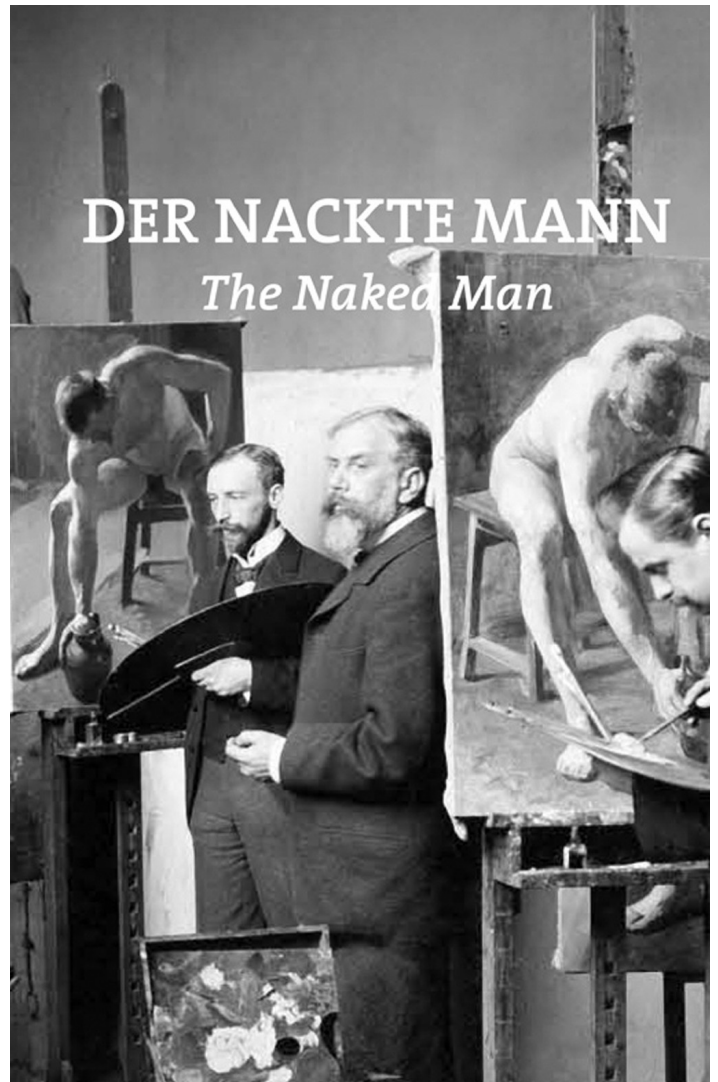
from CHRISTOPH MÜLLER

The exhibition and the exhibition catalogue „The Nude Man“ fetch out an invisible topic out of its hideaway. It is the nudity of the man, which even in present times stands in the dark, due to the omnipresence of the nude females as well as the female eroticism. This is not necessarily comprehensible if one watches the countless photographs and charcoal drawings, oil paintings on canvas and statues. You cannot face the nudity at these exhibits with morality and repulse. The numerous pieces of art simply appear to be too natural.

The nude man is part of life. After reading the exhibition catalogue „The Nude Man“, respectively after mindful watching the motives, you will take this message into your own everyday life. In that everyday life you think about what a man and his manliness actually matter. This way the numerous portrayals in the perspective of the nude and the posture, the dominance and the biceps, the age and the pain are marked with such naturalness, that the nudity of a man is willingly accepted.

It appears to be unusual that, for example, the nude penis attracts one's gaze. Yet, in the context of the exhibition „The Nude Man“, the forming art allows to watch the alleged object of scandal in an objective and emotionless way. You don't believe it? Then dare to look at the „recumbent nude“ by Guglielmo Lüschoy of the year 1900 or the picture „At the Mountain Peak“ painted by Istvan Szonyi with oil on canvas in the year 1925. The nude man, presenting himself at the side of a friend showing a naked torso, definitely speaks its own language. The „Male Nude“ by Margaret Depner of the year 1930 has its own charm. By his total nudity the young man, crouching in the midpoint, appears virginal in his own way.

The additional articles of course provoke thoughtfulness, too. Sabine Fellner calls the nude man a taboo. Christina von Braun writes about „Nudity, Shame and Manliness“. Peter Weiermair thinks about the „Homosexual Stare.“



and expresses himself on "The Picture of the Male Nude as Object of Homosexual Desire". At one page he writes: „The gender issue as a social political core theme is central to a notion of art, which interprets art as a medium to understand the world, art as a catalyst of experience of the individual realities of life, but also art as a means to try social possibilities.“ Today's society should use the occasion of the exhibition and the catalogue „The Nude Man“ to behold the unusual – the nude man.

The exhibition and the catalogue „The Nude Man“ seek the ordinariness of the nude man, which nobody would deny in private bounds. Grant yourself the occasion to see this, too.

US NATURISTS LOSE COURT ACTION

NEW YORK (*Reuters*)

Nudists in famously tolerant San Francisco lost a bid on Tuesday to block a city ban on nakedness in public places, when a federal judge threw out a legal challenge that argued public nudity was akin to political expression.

San Francisco city leaders last month approved the ban on baring it all in streets, public plazas and the transit system to curtail public nudity, which some residents and business owners complained had gotten out of control.

The efforts to clamp down have caused a flap in the city, where men in particular are known to parade naked through the streets of the predominantly gay Castro District.

Some residents say nudists, and specifically a group known as the Naked Guys, have gone too far with their constant presence at a square in the Castro District. But nudists claim they have a right go naked in public and say politicians in San Francisco, which has often celebrated the bizarre and unconventional, should leave them alone.

Four nudist activists sued in November, even before the measure barring public nudity was passed by a slim majority of the Board of Supervisors, saying it would violate their constitutional right to free expression.

However, U.S. District Judge Edward Chen concluded that „nudity in and of itself is not inherently expressive,” and denied the nudists’ request for an injunction blocking the measure, which is due to go into effect on Friday.

Violators face fines of up to \$100 (63.5 pounds) for a first offense and \$200 for a second. A third violation can bring a year in jail and a \$500 penalty.

„Unlike the burning of a flag, burning of a draft card, or wearing a black armband in protest against the war, public nudity in and of itself is not commonly associated with expression of a particular message,” Chen wrote in his decision.

He also noted that the law allows nudity on beaches and during certain events that require city permits, such as the gay pride parade.

The attorney for the nudists, Christina DiEdoardo, said they were still determining

their next step. But she said nudists could mount a renewed challenge once the ordinance goes into effect if they are arrested while protesting the law, since they could then explicitly link their nudity to political expression.

„The judge seemed to issue an open invitation to file an amended complaint,” she said.

A demonstration is scheduled for Friday outside San Francisco’ City Hall.

(Reporting by Joseph Ax; Editing by Cynthia Johnston and Christopher Wilson)

FEDERATIONS FOCUS

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