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Odd vision of Eden

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Today Editor

SOME people paint them green, some cover them with scarecrows, some let the weeds grow as high as an elephant's eye ... and others skulk around at night punishing crimes of bad taste committed on them.

The front lawn isn't always a pretty sight. In fact, as *Lawn And Order* shows us, some people are downright weird about their little pieces of Eden.

Directed and produced by Janis Lundman and Adrienne Mitchell (*Talk 16*), this delightfully dippy documentary covers the front yards of North America from Utah to Cape Breton Island in search of lawn jockeys and gnomes, miniature farms, works of art and uncontrolled undergrowth ... or overgrowth.

There's a man on Cape Breton who has decorated his enormous front yard with a "drive in theatre of scarecrows." And a guy in Utah who has a running war going with his city over the vegetable patch he has planted on the "parking strip" between the sidewalk and curb in front of his home.

There are the "terrorists" of good taste who steal garden gnomes and sundry ornaments, and leave explanatory notes behind them. (This is depicted with a hilarious re-enactment concerning pink flamingos, a car that only runs backward and a group of confused homeowners straight out of a Leon's ad.)

Probably the most peculiar is the ... uh, large woman who made a body casting of herself ... in the nude ... and set it on her front porch. The silent footage of passers-by reacting to it is hilarious.

Lawn And Order isn't all fun and games. There is one down note, and that's the profusion of black jockeys and kids with fishing poles popping up in people's yards. Two African-Canadian kids who are striking back talk about this subversive racism, and later are shown wheeling a jockey down the street on a skateboard.

Apparently lawns are subjects of considerable volatility for many North Americans, and *Lawn And Order* blows the lid off their grassy passions.

This is a morbidly fascinating and original hour of television. Don't miss it.