

The SunDial



A Publication of South Florida Free Beaches/Florida Naturist Association, Inc.

www.sffb.com

DAYTONA TOP-FREE PROTEST

A Personal Account by Norma Mitchell

Elizabeth Book of Daytona Beach has become a leader in the fight for women's equality. When the City of Daytona Beach charged her with indecent exposure because she took off her shirt in a public place during Bike Week 2003, she knew she had to stand her ground.

She pleaded not guilty, and with the help of a sympathetic attorney has been defending herself since. She has been barred from the grounds of her daughter's school because she has been put in the same category as sex offenders, and the city has been delaying her trial by legal maneuvers and excuses for two years, leaving Liz in a legal limbo. It would have been much easier for her to just cop a plea than to fight.

Historically, the City of Daytona Beach has made a lot of money arresting and fining women for being top-free during Bike Week, even if it was just for a quick "flash" in a bar for fun, like Liz. They get away with it because no one (that I'm aware of) has bothered to fight. Then along came Liz—they've got a tiger by the tail now!

Last year I heard that Liz was organizing a march in downtown Daytona Beach to protest her arrest and draw attention to the inequality of the law. I always talk the talk, and now it was my chance to walk the walk. That's why in March '04 I made the five-hour trip to Daytona Beach to stand next to Liz to offer her moral support. Of course, big brave me wouldn't have done it except that I was joined by Shirley Mason and Kayla Sosnow, both great friends and very experienced in battling the legal system against gender discrimination.

Liz' march turned out to be a disappointment. Instead of an orderly, peaceful walk down Main Street with police protection (as they led us to believe ahead of time), we were herded to the sidewalks and threatened by police with hands on night sticks. Liz was supported by thousands of bikers who stayed in town an extra day to show their support and offer their encouragement. They made donations of money and actually joined us in the street – both

...article continues on page 13

REMEMBERING THE FIRST

"FREE BEACH" PARTY by David Baum

Every year during the second week of July, naturists throughout the United States celebrate **National Nude Weekend** (also known as part of **National Nude Recreation Week**). You may be surprised to know that the seeds for **National Nude Weekend** were planted 30 years ago in Massachusetts at the Cape Cod National Seashore.

FREE BEACH FREEDOM

The Cape Cod National Seashore had been a clothing-optional haven for artists and writers throughout the 20th Century. During the 1960's, hippies and other free thinkers headed there for rest and relaxation. Freedom was an issue, and free people with free minds began using the "free beach". So the term didn't actually refer so much to the stretch of sand where beach-goers were free to remove their clothes, but to the quality of people who used it. **Free people created free beaches.**

When future TNS founder Lee Baxandall (then living in New York) discovered Cap Cod in 1968, the term "free beach" was already in use, and he found the people there were "intelligent, open, and friendly". Many brought their kids to the beach—it was a family beach, whose users just happened to prefer not wearing bathing suits. The term "free

...article continues on page 4



Future
NATURIST SOCIETY
founder
Lee Baxandall
(left)
**Free the Free
Beach
Committee**
nude beach
"celebration"
At Truro
on Cape Cod,
Massachusetts
in 1975.

TNS photo

The SunDial

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HAULOVER BEACH

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National Nude Weekend

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*Sponsored by **The Naturist Society** since 1981, Naturist Gatherings and regional Festivals bring folks of all ages together for festive weekends of informative workshops, sports, games, activities and socializing, at fine facilities where clothing is optional. Gatherings and Festivals are attended by thousands annually.*

Additional Gathering information:

TNS website: www.naturistsociety.com

Lake Como website: www.lakecomoresort.com

Consider attending and joining our SFFB/FNA Sun Club group at the Gathering!

Key West Fantasy Fest

We are planning a Sun Club group outing including overnight camping on October 28th with participation in the Fantasy Fest parade on October 29th.

President's Message *by Richard Mason*

Naturism's Big Picture: Beyond the Dunes

Haulover Beach is a beautiful place to enjoy nude recreation and so it should be. But, we get many requests from visitors asking if there are other places in Florida to visit where they can enjoy being nude.

A larger view of nude recreation reveals that Florida is an ideal place to enjoy nude recreation. There are large upscale nudist resorts such as Caliente, Paradise Lakes and Cypress Cove. There are also several smaller resorts with campgrounds, rental cabins and RV hook-ups—from rustic, natural and peaceful, to modern facilities with restaurants and activities. Most are perfect for families with children.

Florida still has a few beaches where you can skinny-dip, the most notable being Apollo Beach and Playalinda Beach at Canaveral National Seashores. In the Tampa Bay area, the Tampa Area Naturists are lobbying for a designated beach at Fort DeSoto Park, and Florida Keys Naturists are seeking a naturist area at Higgs Beach. (*See page 11.*)

Most Caribbean Island resorts have nude beach sections and now Mexico has a first class nudist resort at Kantenah, Riviera Maya named Hidden Beach. Further, there are several nude cruises each year in a variety of ships, from sail to luxury liners.

Even Las Vegas has recognized nude recreation as a legitimate market segment. The new \$2.5 billion Wynn Hotel has a nude swimming pool. The Palms Hotel quickly followed with a nude swimming pool, also.

So if you get bored at Haulover and want more variety in nude recreation, check the naturist resort and travel advertisements right here in the SunDial. You can also pick up *N* or *Travel Naturally* magazine with extensive resort listings at *B.E.A.C.H.E.S.' Beach Mall* tiki hut gift shop & naturist information booth. Packing is always light when you travel *au natural!*

The mix of visitors to Haulover's designated clothing-optional family naturist beach always amazes me. I meet Naturists that my wife Shirley and I have known for over 20 years: a few from the old Virginia Keys days, and a few from travels to nude beaches, resorts and campgrounds around Florida and the USA during the 1980s and 1990s.

Sitting next to these old naturist friends are unfamiliar faces: some getting their first naturist experience at Haulover—with their cottontail tan lines revealing their novice status—some tourists from Europe and South America. Some are alone, some are with spouses, and some with their children.

Many Haulover visitors have bought homes and condos in South Florida. We even have a resident real estate agent, Jen Roberts, who will be happy to help you find a home in the area. (See her ad in this issue.)

We still get complaints from naturists about those that wear bathing suits. Many interpret this as a sign of disrespect; others don't care. Some of these "suits" are just in transition—waiting until they feel comfortable before they go natural. Lee Baxandall, founder of The Naturist Society, and leader in the establishment of modern organized naturism in America, once stated to me that the greatest risk to the future of naturist beaches are those that show up and wear bathing suits. Naturists fight to get a section of beach, chase off the perverts, clean the place up and establish beach etiquette, and the "suits" show up to enjoy the work of others. Success has its problems.

Most of the regular beach visitors have learned to ignore the relatively harmless gawkers that still visit the beach, some pretending they are looking for a friend, others saying they are checking it out to see if it is safe to bring the wife—while they walk and scan the beach for hours.

A greater problem is the lone male "suits" that sometimes surround women. When the situation reaches an uncomfortable level, maybe a group of women will form a committee and go talk to these individuals. After all, Florida has over 8,600 miles of coastline, and we have only 1/4 mile of designated clothing-optional beach at Haulover. The "suits" certainly have plenty of places to go. Yes, I know it is a public beach, but this is a designated naturist section. Come on guys! Get with the program. After spending a few hours on the beach, you should know that size does not matter. Naturism is not a spectator sport!

Well, it is obvious that we are doing something right at Haulover. But consider the other options available in nude recreation. Visiting most nudist resorts in the U.S. requires a membership in a nudist/naturist association.

A South Florida Free Beaches card is accepted at most Florida resorts, and many will give you a discount. But to be accepted nationally and be able to enjoy a discount, you should consider getting a Naturist Society membership card, which can be obtained through our association.

**Interested in renting property near
Haulover Beach on a seasonal basis?**

Contact me for availability!

Jen Roberts, Realtor

See ad on page 9 (center)

beach” was soon to gain wider national exposure in 1975, when Superintendent Lawrence Hadley of the newly created Cape Cod National Seashore proclaimed a ban on nudity at Brush Hollow Beach in the town of Truro.

THE LAW STEPS IN

One day during the summer of 1974, there were 1200 nude beach users on Brush Hollow Beach on the Cape. There were some complaints about the “attractive nuisance” of nudity, while others voiced concern that the many visitors might trample the shore vegetation and dunes.

On May 19, 1975, the Park Service used the dune damage complaint against the nudists when they began issuing written warnings to nude bathers. However, a memorandum from the Superintendent on May 28th stated that if the rangers encountered a large nude demonstration, they should “let ‘em have the beach”. That summer, rangers patrolled on ATVs and stood on top of the sand dunes they were trying to save while using binoculars to search for nude sun-bathers.

Lee had co-founded a group called *Free the Free Beaches Committee* to galvanize support against the Park Service ban. Lee had become the group’s spokesman because he was a self-employed writer who didn’t have set work hours, and because he had no fear of associating his name with the cause..

That spring, the *Free The Free Beaches Committee*, with the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union, sued the Park Service over the nudity ban, but a Federal District Court turned down the suit in July. MCLU attorney Alan Dershowitz, then just becoming a noted civil-rights lawyer, filed an appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals—however, it agreed with the lower court, stating that any constitu-

tional rights relating to public nudity were in this case overshadowed by property rights and ecological considerations. This was not a victory, but the court at least did not rule against public nudity outright.

The *Free the Free Beaches Committee* decided to organize a beach party that August as a show of force to protest the nudity ban and to demonstrate the solidarity of people who loved the free beach. Quiet demonstrations were allowed on National Park Service property if the group had a permit and obeyed regulations. But since the Committee did not bill the event as a demonstration, it decided it didn’t need a permit, and announced that the individual participants in the so-called “celebration” were responsible for their own actions. Although the Seashore Superintendent said his rangers would enforce the ban, no matter how many were nude, Lee did not expect any mass arrests because of the Superintendent’s earlier memorandum that said to “let ‘em have the beach” if the nudist presence were overwhelming.

The Committee wanted a lot of publicity, so the upcoming event was announced in three local papers and on a radio station as a “free beach party”: It was described as a gathering of individuals, not a demonstration. No one was asked to break the law—but wouldn’t it be great if people decided on their own to defy the ban and get nude?

Tom Chittenden, who was later to move to South Florida and become a co-founder of *South Florida Free Beaches*, heard about the event over the radio. At age 37, he had successfully promoted nude swimming hours at public pools with his nudist group and had done radio interviews using his real name. Tom was ready and willing to get nude whenever possible and even be arrested to challenge local laws.

...article concludes on page 6

Fourteenth Anniversary – July 14th: 1991–2005

HAULOVER’S
NATURIST BEACH



25TH ANNIVERSARY

THE NATURIST SOCIETY 1980 - 2005 SOUTH FLORIDA FREE BEACHES



Future **South Florida Free Beaches** founder **Tom Chittenden** with rangers at nude beach “celebration” at Truro on Cape Cod - 1975

AP photo



First **NATIONAL NUDE BEACH DAY**, Cape Cod - 1976
Stephen Sherman photo



First **TNS GATHERING** at Elysium (California) - 1980

Leif Heilberg photo



First **NATIONAL NUDE BEACH DAY** - 1976
Westward Beach, Los Angeles
with **Beachfront USA** members

Charles Finley photo



TNS GATHERING group at Haulover - 1992
Richard Mason (kneeling), **Morley Schloss**
(standing immediately behind Richard w/o cap)

David Baum photo



TNS publicity photo from the 1980's for
NATIONAL NUDE WEEKEND - **Phineas Baxandall**,
Joanna Moore, **Lee Baxandall**

TNS photo

THE FIRST “FREE BEACH” PARTY

On Saturday, August 23, 1975, 1500 to 2000 people converged on Brush Hollow Beach in Truro. Newspaper reporters and television news crews were there to greet them.

Members of the *Free The Free Beaches Committee* helped direct cars to parking areas while handing out two “position papers”: One asked the Seashore to drop the ban and relieve parking problems at Truro by opening its *Head of the Meadow* federal beach to clothing-optional use, while the other flyer was a statement from the Seashore giving a friendly welcome and a request to obey the rules of the Seashore. Lee handed out the flyers while wearing a T-shirt with **Free The Free Beaches** printed on it.

A jitney service brought people to the beach from other parking lots while tow trucks removed illegally parked cars. And, although the beach did not usually have life-guards or trash barrels, the Seashore supplied them that day. People were asked to remove their own litter and leave the beach as clean as they found it.

All five full-time Truro policemen and all 15 reserves joined the National Park Rangers that day.

Tom remembers that when he arrived there certainly seemed to be enough rangers handy, and that at first everyone on the beach was dressed except for one man. Someone asked a ranger what his job was. “To enforce and uphold the law,” he was told. After he pointed out the nude man, the ranger reacted with a “so what of it?”

As the day got warmer, people began to undress. By mid-afternoon, 500 to 1000 beach-goers were nude, with some playing volleyball, others swimming. There were too many people and not enough rangers to make arrests for simple nudity, but the unit commanders didn’t seem to want to do that, anyway.

Tom, now nude as well, photographed a lady friend standing nude between two rangers. (This picture and a few others from this event appear in Lee Baxandall’s *World Guide to Nude Beaches and Resorts*).

The event at Brush Hollow Beach in Truro was a success thanks to the major amount of publicity in the Boston area. It was the largest crowd ever counted at the beach.

A MOVEMENT IS BORN...

Lee realized that other free beach users around the country knew little of each other and they needed a network with a publication. He knew that California had listings and information in a tabloid-format newspaper called *Bare In Mind*, but Lee wanted to see a national network and publication to coordinate information on free beaches and groups throughout the whole country.

After the success of the first organized nude beach event on the East coast, Lee received a phone call of congratulations from Eugene Callen, head of the California-based nude beach group *Beachfront USA*—a group that was fighting similar restrictions on skinny-dipping on the West Coast, and the publisher of *Bare in Mind*. They agreed to meet and discuss coordinating activities between the East and West coast beaches. (*Beachfront USA* is still very much in existence, with a website at www.bfusa.org and a bi-monthly newsletter.)

That meeting led to the creation of *National Nude Beach Day* in 1976—notably, the Bicentennial Year of the “Land of the Free”—which was celebrated not only on Cap Cod, but at beaches in California, New York, and a few other places. *National Nude Beach Day* soon became *National Nude Weekend*, held every July since 1977.

Lee later organized the *Free Beach Documentation Center* in his home town of Oshkosh, Wisconsin (where he had assumed control of a family printing business), publishing the tabloid *Free Beach Sun* (later *Sun*). In 1980, the *FBDC* morphed into *The Naturist Society*—Lee chose to adopt the European term *naturists* for nude beach users—and the publication grew in size to the magazine *Clothed With the Sun*, later renamed *Nude and Natural*. Additionally, from 1980 *The Naturist Society* has promoted national naturist *Gatherings & Festivals*, allowing naturists from across the country the opportunity both to socialize and to strategize.

Lee’s work in making it all happen earns him a high place in the pantheon of twentieth-century naturist leaders. Lee’s inspiration certainly was a major stimulus leading to the founding of *South Florida Free Beaches* in 1980, and the creation of Haulover’s naturist beach in 1991.

Who could have imagined it all started on a Massachusetts beach in 1975?

The sources for this article include: Mark Storey, “The Naturist Society—A Brief History,” N Magazine 19.3; Ced Cinder, The Nudist Idea, Ultraviolet Press, 1998, (pp. 585-631); and the personal recollections of Tom Chittenden, Kathleen Chittenden, and Lee Baxandall.

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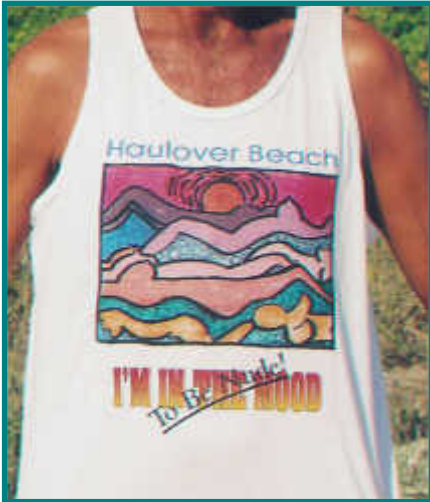
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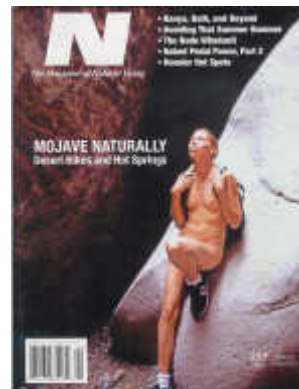
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The Miami-Dade Park Department recently put into place a program allowing community-based 501 (c) (3) organizations to become **Program Partners** at specific parks, and **B.E.A.C.H.E.S. — Beach Education Advocates for Culture, Health, Environment & Safety Foundation Institute, Inc.** — has recently been accorded this status.
Website: www.beachesfoundation.org

B.E.A.C.H.E.S. was started by founding chapters **South Florida Free Beaches** and **Central Florida Naturists** in 2000, specifically to take advantage of programs only available to 501 (c) (3) corporations. However, such organizations “*are absolutely prohibited from ...intervening in any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office [... and...] an organization that conducts excessive lobbying activity in any taxable year may lose its tax-exempt status.*” (IRS code)

South Florida Free Beaches created the clothing-optional beach at Haulover in 1991 and has worked since to insure its continued legal status, freedom from development, and safety. **SFFB** will continue the legislative lobbying and political activities needed to preserve Haulover Beach and naturist rights, including retaining our legislative lobbyist in Tallahassee, relying on independent contributions from our sponsors and donors.

While **SFFB/FNA** and **B.E.A.C.H.E.S.** are allied in the goal of promoting naturism and insuring the continued clothing-optional status of Haulover, they are separate organizations with separate officers and boards of directors.

BEACH MAINTENANCE

—Tim Byrnes, Park Dept. Region 3 Manager

The saying, "Tide Waits for no Man" is true in our Best Beach Maintenance Practices. It calls for our tractors to blend in the seaweed with the sand. To accomplish this, we need to wait for the receding tide. Sometimes this coincides with low beach patron usage times, and staff's work schedule, and sometimes it does not. Our standard operating procedure is to not have a tractor along the water's edge at all on weekends or holidays, but if the amount of seaweed warrants some attention we will work on it up until 12 PM the latest, which coincides with when the bulk of the patrons start coming out to the beach. The Beach Maintenance supervisors who are out on the beach will make the judgment call on whether to pull the tractor out earlier if he feels that the beach is too crowded. One of our biggest complaints from beach patrons is the seaweed on the beach that is deposited by the outgoing tide; it is a complex juggling act that our staff performs with trying to keep the beach clean, with as little nuisance to the beach patrons as possible.

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

The Florida legislature adjourned *sine die* on May 6th, 2005, and we made it through without the passage of any bills harmful to naturist interests.

In the last *SunDial*, we mentioned Senator Siplin's **SB 2260** — “*An act relating to the indecent wearing of below-waist underwear.*” It's easy to make fun of such legislation—and we did. But any clothing-standards bill poses a lurking threat. As it turned out, this bill died in the Criminal Justice Committee when the regular legislative session ended—as did Siplin's anti-pornography bill. But imagine an alternate scenario:

Imagine that Siplin's bill made it to the Senate floor. Another Senator from a rural county rises and speaks: “Senator Siplin, I like your bill. But it seems to be unnecessarily limited to a particular instance of a much more general problem. I'd like to propose an amendment to read ‘*It shall be unlawful for any person to appear in a public place with a less than fully opaque covering of [...list of body parts....]*’ Doesn't that really get to the heart of what your legislation intends?”

Obviously, such a bill would close Haulover's naturist beach, making irrelevant the favorable case law on Florida's indecent exposure statute 800.03. Could such a thing happen? Would such a bill have a chance of passage? It might well depend on who was presiding that day, and what Senators were on the floor to vote. A few states have already passed bills into law with similar wording, and “boiler-plate” wording for such bills is routinely provided to the state legislators by a few “public morality” watchdog organizations. Numerous Florida counties have such ordinances already. Starting in 1994, several attempts were made to introduce such “clothing-standards” (i.e. “anti-nudity”) legislation in the Florida legislature. We believe it's not so much a matter of if it will happen again, but when.

HAULOVER BEACH IMPROVEMENTS

Through a Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Department Capital Improvement Grant, **B.E.A.C.H.E.S.** has obtained two electric wheelchairs—the Park Department is currently reviewing its proposal for their management. Additionally, three thatched shelters are being erected, and beach-side showers will be coming soon—because of the removal of the wooden dune crossovers, it has been necessary to redraw and to resubmit the shower plans to the Park Dept. and to the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection for their approvals.



NATURIST ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

May 2005

**Morley Schloss,
NAC Board of Directors**

The Superintendent of Canaveral National Seashore in Florida has moved the clothing optional signage at Apollo Beach north to an area near Parking Lot 4 while Parking Lot 5, the previous site, is under construction. This considerate action is an indication of attention to user needs and a good relationship with naturists.

NAC Area Representative [and CFN Vice-president & B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation President] Marv Frandsen has compiled an extensive, impressive report on the usage and incidents of problems at Canaveral National Seashore. Much of the information was gained as a result of a Freedom of Information Act request for National Park Service records on complaint/incident reports throughout 2004. He also obtained public use reports from a National Park Service web site. Among his findings: Incident reports at Apollo Beach have dropped to "near insignificance." While Playalinda Beach had "a relatively high rate of public lewd behavior," nudity related complaints were insignificant at both Playalinda and Apollo Beaches. The "National Park service has admitted in writing that simple nudity causes no adverse secondary effects in regard to public health and safety." Great work Marv.

Florida Keys Naturists are attempting to have Higgs Beach in Key West designated as clothing optional. Higgs Beach is not visible from any road. The group is circulating a petition to the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners. The petition states, "I believe that beach nudity should be controlled and managed by restricting it to a section of Higgs Beach, a County Park designated as clothing optional." [Higgs Beach petition available online at www.floridakeysnaturists.com] Florida Keys Naturists President George Gilliland reports that the County Commission is more progressive than most in Florida and may be open to the idea of a clothing optional beach. In 1984, the Monroe County Commission did approve signage at a Bahia Honda Beach. However, when the beach became part of a Florida State Park, the clothing optional status ended. I have suggested to George that the County Commission is more likely to agree to signage if naturists establish Higgs Beach as a de facto clothing optional beach first. Naturists now unofficially use a Boca Chica beach on Navy property.

Richard Mason, NAC Area Representative Ray Ferrara and I have been assisting John Palm and the Tampa Area

Naturists in developing a strategy to obtain a clothing optional beach in the Tampa area, possibly as a part of Fort DeSoto County Park. Hopefully, TAN will be ready to implement the strategy soon.

In Tennessee, the State and Local Government Committee of the House ended consideration of HB 492 which would have designated any bookstore containing even one sexually oriented (poorly defined) book or magazine as an adult bookstore. Had it passed, regular bookstores might have been reluctant to carry naturist literature.

In New York State, SB 417 which, would prevent minors from dancing where people perform or dance unclothed, passed the State Senate. A companion bill, Assembly Bill 1686, is sitting in the Assembly Codes Committee. Codes Committee staff, and even the staff of the Bill's sponsor, Aileen Gunther, tell me that the Bill has no chance of being reported out of the liberal Codes Committee in 2005. A staff member of Assemblymember Gunther has asked me to send Gunther a letter explaining why a similar bill should not be introduced in the future. The Bill would have limited the activities of children at New York's four nudist parks.

In Tampa, Florida, Joe Redner, owner of an adult entertainment club, is challenging in court Tampa's ordinance requiring women to conceal their breasts where alcohol is served. His challenge is based on the premise that government must show that an anti-nudity law must further a public interest and that there is no evidence of negative secondary effects from breast exposure. A win would have positive implications for naturist issues.

Congratulations to [South Florida Free Beaches'] Richard Mason on being the first recipient of the Naturist Society's Baxandall Naturist Leadership Award. The honor is well deserved.

Editor's note:

A long-time naturist activist, Morley Schloss divides his time and naturist energies between Rochester NY and Sunsport Gardens in Florida.

The Naturist Action Committee is the political adjunct of The Naturist Society. View National Action Alerts & Advisories at: www.naturistsociety.com/NAC

***Have you priced swimsuits lately?
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Also, consider joining and supporting SFFB/FNA and local active naturist groups. See Free Beach group listing on the Naturist Links page of the SFFB website for links to Florida group websites: www.sffb.com

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DAYTONA TOP-FREE PROTEST

...from cover

men and women. But the city was well prepared with their storm troopers who physically separated everyone from Liz and then arrested her as soon as she bared her dangerous breasts. The story was barely covered by the media, and what coverage there was turned out to be a farce.

Last January I heard Liz was planning a protest demonstration in a park during Bike Week to again draw attention to the injustice of the law. She and her attorney had somehow wrangled permission from Daytona Beach to stage a First Amendment protest for top-free equality. I read the “contract” the city prepared that guaranteed that none of the protesters would be harassed or intimidated; it also specified a site (legal description included) for the protest. Again, Shirley, Kayla and I decided to join Liz. Shirley and I made the trip from Miami and Kayla met us there from Gainesville. It sounded like we might get a chance to get some positive attention, but we knew from previous experience that Daytona Beach says one thing and does another.

When we arrived at the designated site, no one was there. After searching the area, we found that the demonstration site had been changed from a park to a parking lot a block or so away. They just didn’t bother to let anyone know. There had been a very small item in the newspaper regarding the planned demonstration, but no location was specified in the article.

When we finally found the new location—a parking lot next to one of the main drags—we were surprised to find virtually no supporters for Liz, just lots of cops and some media. Liz had agreed to be confined to a flatbed trailer shielded by plastic on three sides to protect any passersby from irreparable emotional harm from the sight of her bared breasts. (It’s strange they don’t feel that the statue of female Blind Justice in front of their courthouse would have the same effect.) We, on the other hand, were given the curbs of the parking lot as boundaries for our activities.

We had prepared picket signs and stood as close to the curb facing traffic as we could with our shirts off. Shaking our signs (and, incidentally, our own “bad girls”) and yelling to the passing cars, we started generating some attention, especially when the red light backed up traffic right in front of us. What’s the point of a demonstration anyway? We were delighted!

That’s when the police captain in charge of security for the protest decided to change the rules. He said we were to stay within six feet of Liz’ flatbed trailer which, of course, would remove us from being seen by anyone. I asked the cop exactly why the boundaries were being moved, and I asked to see it in writing, but I was completely ignored. So we decided to ignore him back and stay where we were.

Shortly afterward the paddy wagon arrived and Shirley, Kayla and I (as well as two others) were grabbed, hospital-gowned, cuffed and locked into the back of the police van. We were taken to a holding area and processed—slowly.

...article concludes on page 14



DAYTONA TOP-FREE PROTEST**conclusion**

Good thing they kept us in a locked cage, handcuffed to a chain link fence topped with barbed wire, or God only knows what kind of havoc we would have wreaked!

They let us sit in the cage for about an hour while trying to figure out how we should be charged. At first they told us we were being charged with indecent exposure. When we at last saw the actual arrest record, they had changed the charge to disorderly conduct.

First they told us we could be released if we pleaded guilty and paid a fine of \$250.00—the record of our arrest and conviction would then be kept in the county files and not shared with any other outside agency. We refused that generous offer. They came back after a bit and said that if we paid \$53.00 we'd be released—but they wouldn't keep our dirty little secret hidden from the general public. We told them we wouldn't give them any money at all, so they fingerprinted us to make sure we weren't wanted by Interpol, and once we were positively identified, we were released. One of the cops told me earlier that there was no need for me to worry; they intended to release us no matter what. They just wanted us out of there, but not before 5:00 PM, which was the time set for the demonstration to end.

We've retained an attorney to represent all five of us jointly. We are pleading not guilty and will have our pre-trial hearing sometime in July. Our attorney requested all the evidence from the prosecution, which includes the video tape taken that day by the city photographer. If it ends up being shown in court, everyone in the courtroom will be subjected to the sight of our breasts and may have to undergo psychotherapy in order to live a normal life again. We will ask that the charges be dismissed. If the judge doesn't agree, we're headed for a trial.

Attempting to change social mores and established prejudice is a dangerous occupation, and only those willing to sacrifice their safety and freedom can hope for any lasting effect. It takes not only leaders, but supporters. Martin Luther King wouldn't have gotten much media attention if he had stood alone. So even though I don't hold out much

hope for changing Daytona Beach's laws, at least I have the personal satisfaction that I was a participant in a cause that addresses gender discrimination. Liz is not just doing it for herself; she knows that if she prevails it will be another step toward equal gender protection, and all American women will reap the benefits. I've watched Liz Book's story unfold for a couple years and don't envy her (although I've admired her bravery as she's stood her ground). Personally, I'm glad I was only charged with disorderly conduct rather than indecent exposure, like Liz.

South Florida Free Beaches paid the attorney's retainer from its Legal Defense/Political Action Fund, so a big thanks to all its sponsors and contributors. In order to make sure we can continue to pursue this case, we need money. I would personally urge those who believe in the cause of ending gender discrimination to make a donation to B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation—it's tax-deductible, and you may ear-mark your donation to top-free equality—see box below for information.

Editor's postscript:

On June 21, 2005, in Volusia County, Judge David Beck ruled that Liz Book was protected by the First Amendment in the original March 2003 top-free protest. The City of Daytona has announced that it is considering appealing this ruling to a higher court.

HELP SUPPORT TOP-FREE EQUALITY!

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SPIRIT OF JUSTICE UNCOVERED AGAIN

On Friday, June 24, in the Great Hall of the Department of Justice in Washington, DC, the semi-nude statues of the *Spirit of Justice*—a female figure with one bare breast—and the *Majesty of Justice*—a bare-chested male—were again unveiled. Attorney General John Ashcroft had had the statues concealed with a blue drapery in 2002. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales recently approved the removal of the drapery. The statues have been in place since the 1930's, shortly after the building opened.

—From AP report by Mark Sherman

A NATURIST MANIFESTO

There comes moods when clothes of ours are not only too irksome to wear, but are themselves indecent. Perhaps indeed he or she to whom the free exhilarating extasy of nakedness in Nature has never been eligible (and how many thousands there are!) has not really known what purity is – nor what faith or art or health really is.

— Walt Whitman

Who hasn't wondered what it would be like if we could go naked in everyday life? Some believe that in our heart of hearts we are *all* natural-born nudists. That, were the world a gentler place—*far* gentler, filled with positive body acceptance for ourselves and each other—legions of current “closet nudists,” not to mention untold millions of practicing nudists, would walk about with few or no clothes in warm weather and think nothing of it, except how natural it felt.

Strict social conventions, however, taught us at an early age we *must* wear clothes, that it's uncivilized and indecent—even unnatural—not to. It drums any nudist inclination out of us, or tries to. But many maintain that, as the human species is part of nature, and nakedness the natural state, a frustrated nudist lurks in all of us. For some, it's just below the surface; for others it's buried deep. Alas, we have become so far removed from feeling one with nature that many blanch at the thought of being naked with others beside lovers, unless indulging in a fantasy. It simply isn't done...

It would be simplistic to deny that nudity and sex often go together—this of course being the conventional reasoning back of banning public nudity. It would be equally simplistic, though, to treat them as synonymous, *as many do*.

Granted, it's a thin line between sensuous and sensual. Is one indulging in sexual behavior by relishing the physical pleasure of a bath or shower? Most everyone would say no. But what about skinny-dipping to enjoy the water without a swimsuit? Or nude sunbathing to enjoy the sun's radiance all over?

Some insist even these innocent and therapeutic pleasures constitute indecent behavior, if seen by others. But what really gets body-phobics' undies in a bunch is *socializing* these activities, getting together with kindred spirits, refusing to cave to entrenched body shame. They assume Rabelaisian sex orgies in the making. Cut off from their fuller physical selves, they cannot fathom the positive body acceptance socialized nudity fosters—or just don't care, since it upsets the status quo.

It strikes naturists as purely wrong not being allowed to get mindfully naked more often without consequence. It's a denial of one of life's most basic freedoms—the *freedom to be our natural selves*, stripped free of cloth—man-made materials which, on every warm day, serve only to reflect a wrong-headed, perverse judgment against the integrity and decency of our own biological beings...

More and more people believe it is only an arbitrary obedience to the Great God Conformity and lukewarm allegiance to an increasingly outdated moral mindset that keeps us from freely shedding our wraps more often without guilt or self-consciousness...

To some, the freedom to be naked if you want may seem a frivolous issue to explore in any depth during our perilous times. But these are *rarified* times as well, a time when all things come to light. Legions of naturists, throughout America and around the world, believe it a subject fully deserving of attention.

—from **Body Freedom Day** by Stuart R. Ward

Editor's note: A Pleasant Summer Beach Read—Stuart Ward's short (slightly more than 100 page) book is a work of both fiction and non-fiction. The premise is that it is the work of an aged nudist (103 years old) writing in 2056, reminiscing about the rise of naturism in the course of his long lifetime.

The first half of the book is really a fact-based account of the nudist movement in the U.S. from the 1920's to 2004. In some forty-odd pages, it presents one of the best and most concise accounts of this history now available.

The rest of the book is a possible future history of the triumph of naturism. This could easily have been presented as an unrealistic fantasy. It is not. Ward in fact speculates that it will take an ecological disaster to finally get people to stop worrying about what each other are wearing (or not), and to focus on the really important issues: life, liberty, & the pursuit of happiness.

*You may order a copy of **Body Freedom Day** directly from the author for \$12.00 per copy, postpaid. (U.S.)*

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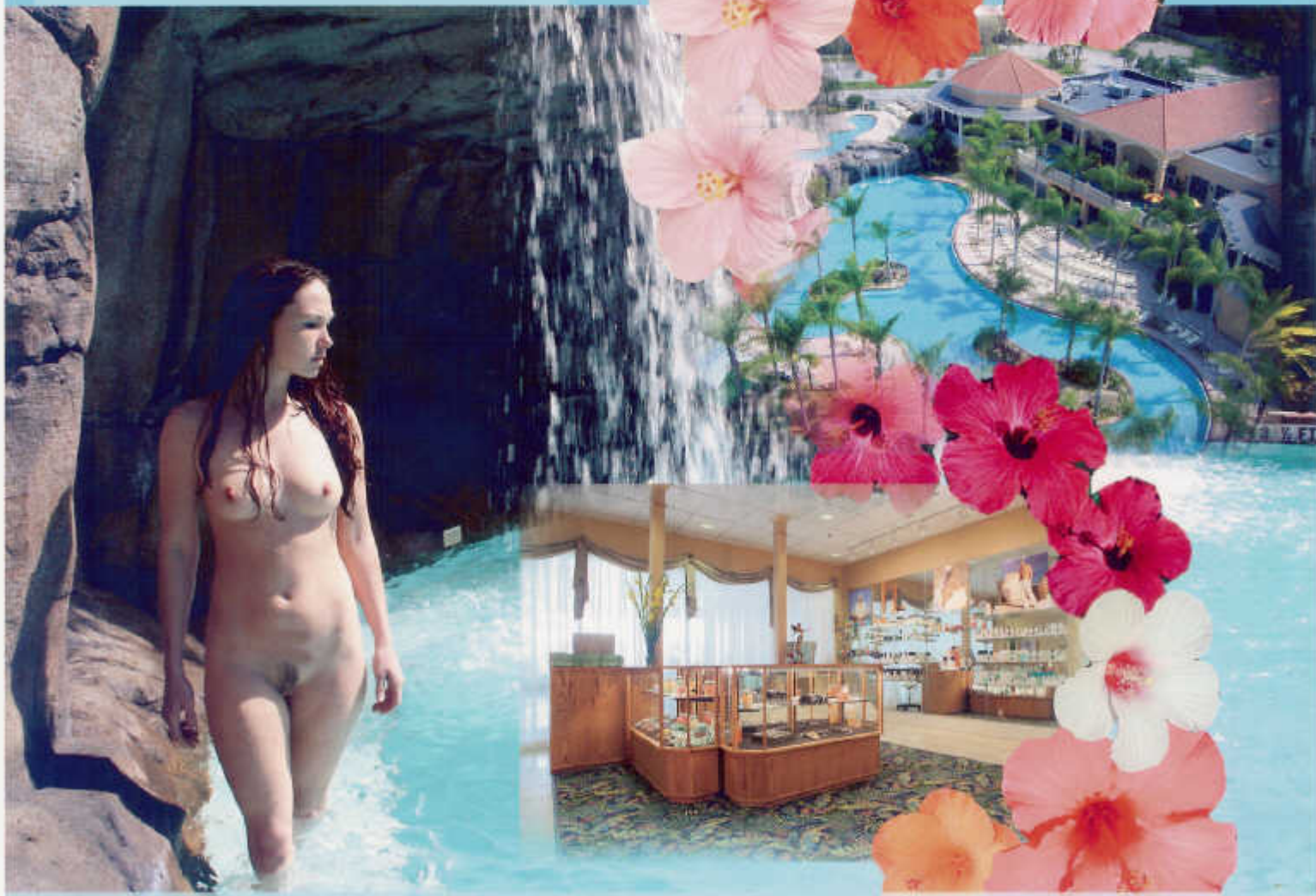
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