

BEACH BUZZ

March – April 2001

Volume 2, Number 2

a publication of B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation and its Chapters
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"Keeping Our Beaches Bare"

What do Americans feel about nude recreation?

Independent Roper-Starch organization conducted a new nation-wide poll, commissioned by the Naturist Education Foundation on skinny-dipping and nude sunbathing. The poll results indicate that Americans overwhelmingly approve of nude sunbathing on beaches set aside for that purpose.

A scientific sampling of 1,010 adult U.S. residents found that 80% said they believed people who enjoyed nude sunbathing should be able to do so without interference from officials as long as they do so at a beach that is accepted for that purpose. Results of this poll was compared to a similar poll conducted by the Gallup organization in 1983, using identical questions. The 1983 Gallup Poll found 72% approved of designated nude sunbathing. Clearly the public is becoming more accepting of this form of recreation based on the eight percent increase as well as the growth in numbers of people using our limited traditional clothing optional public beaches,

shorelines and hot springs.

Responses to other questions in the poll suggests that more than 51 million Americans have skinny-dipped or sunbathed nude in mixed gender groups.

FACTS AND STATISTICS

The International Naturist Federation (INF) has some 33 million dues paying, card carrying members worldwide through its 26 country organizations. Obviously these numbers do not begin to reflect the vast popularity of nude recreation or its potential market size.

As one of the most popular beaches with nude use, Haulover Beach's clothing optional section is reflective of these attitudes and growing numbers. The clothing optional section was established by the leadership of South Florida Free Beaches/Florida Naturist Association with about 30 of its members attending the beach's christening event during National Nude Weekend in July, 1991. By 1997, the number of users to this 1/4 section of

beach had grown to over one million visitor per year with parking revenues nearly matching the number of visitors. Beach users hale from all parts of the world and there is no such thing as an "off season" here. Miami-Dade tourism officials have not polled these visitors or published the financial impact to the area in bed and sales taxes. This year Miami-Dade County's Park and Recreation Department is planning for the expansion of the clothing optional section to accommodate the growing numbers – Hopefully in time for its 10 Year Anniversary.

In an open letter from Bill Lone, executive director of the Sunny Isles Beach Resort Hotel Association, states "I am taking the opportunity with this letter to convey the favorable benefits our community has experienced, resultant of the establishment of the Haulover Park clothing optional beach. ☆"