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

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Threats to Naturism: Emerging Trends

Over the past year we have observed an increase in the number of legal, political, and cultural threats to naturism. Sometimes, these threats directly target naturists – nude beachgoers at Little Beach, Hawaii facing citations, for example. However, more often than not, the potential threats exist within initiatives that, on the surface, may appear to have little to do with naturism. Naturists must remain aware of proposed legislation in their states, discussion of new ordinances, city and environmental planning projects, and even real estate transactions that may impact naturist interests. There are several key areas that naturists should monitor.

Expansion of indecent exposure laws

Crook County Mailbox Nudist Prompts Lawmaker To Draft Genitals Intimidation Bill
Cowboy State Daily
January 16, 2024

Senate passes bills targeting naked bike ride events in Wisconsin
CBS 58
January 16, 2024

Naturists have long benefitted from provisions in anti-nudity laws that specify that nudity must be indecent in order to be considered criminal. However, an alarming trend emerged in 2023, one that saw Wisconsin legislators attempt to modify "indecent exposure" to "intentional exposure," and Wyoming move to penalize nudity that is considered "intimidating." While the words indecent, intentional, and intimidating sound deceptively similar, their meanings and potential legal interpretations are vastly different, and there are serious implications for naturists, skinny-dippers, artists, and

others who may engage in any expression involving nonsexual nudity.

The impact of land development on naturist spaces

Seattle might add privately funded playground at longtime nude beach
Seattle Times
November 21, 2023

City drops plan for permanent festival space on Hanlan's Point after pushback from LGBTQ+ community
CBC
March 1, 2023

Not long after it was learned that the City of Toronto had dumped sediment from a construction project near Hanlan's Point clothing-optional beach came the news that the city was examining the feasibility of building a festival space at the beach, a move that would have reduced the footprint of the nude beach and potentially disrupted its use with an influx of festival goers. The plans were abandoned following an outcry from the local LGBTQ community. Then came the news that an anonymous citizen had donated funds to construct a children's playground near Denny Blaine Park in Seattle, setting up a potential confrontation between nude beachgoers and families who might want to use the new park. As with Hanlan's Point, the plan was shelved following protests from the LGBTQ community in the area. It is unclear if the proposal represented an attempt to create a situation that would lead to calls for the nude beach's closure. However, naturists should closely monitor traditional clothing-optional spaces for similar efforts.

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Internet age verification bills

Online age verification is coming, and privacy is on the chopping block
The Verge
 May 15, 2023

Online age verification bills were introduced nationwide in 2023 and early 2024. While most appear to be legitimate efforts to protect children from accessing online pornography, there is concern that requiring adults to submit a state or federal-issued photo ID to access websites or even maintain a social media account could have a chilling effect on internet use. Would naturist websites and blogs be classified as adult material? If so, would naturist websites risk liability if they fail to verify the age of every visitor? Would many internet users hesitate or refuse to submit a driver's license or other form of ID to access a website? Would age verification requirements effectively shut down online networks and communities?

Library book bans

Librarians could be criminally charged over 'obscene' books in West Virginia bill
ABC News
 February 20, 2024

Kenosha County considers asking for 'secure adult-only' areas in libraries
Wisconsin Public Radio
 February 20, 2024

Book ban jumps from public schools to private stores like Barnes & Noble
Salon
 May 20, 2022

What began as an attempt to remove several LGBTQ-themed books from school libraries has evolved to include efforts to remove specific history and classic literature books from public libraries and even bookstores. Some of these bills propose criminal charges for librarians.

Library and bookstore censorship bills should alarm any naturist, as any book or publication that depicts or potentially even discusses nudity or naturism would likely be subject to prohibitions. Additionally, the censorship of books has historically accompanied or foreshadowed expanded intrusions on civil liberties.

Changes to pornography laws

A proposed law in Oklahoma would punish people who text sexually explicit pictures with up to 20 years in prison.
Metro Weekly
 February 2, 2024

Naturists may understand that simple nudity is not the same as pornography, but lawmakers do not always make such a distinction. In Oklahoma, a new bill would make it a crime to send nude images to anyone other than one's spouse and would also define "unlawful pornography" as "displays of nudity, including pictures, live video, drawings, or animations that depict genitalia, buttocks, or breasts."

Other bills are emerging to confront the growing concern over AI-generated nudes. There is little doubt that deepfake nudes represent a legitimate problem. Such images have been used to harass, exploit, and even blackmail. However, naturists should monitor proposed bills for overly broad language that might be used to criminalize depictions of nudity beyond AI images created for nefarious purposes.

Naturist spaces being sold or repurposed

As an increasing number of nudist resort and park owners reach retirement age, more and more nudist and naturist spaces are being sold or transitioning to clothed spaces. While naturists cannot always do much to influence these personal business decisions, it is essential to remain aware of these changes.

What can naturists do?

The Naturist Action Committee has long relied on its Area Representatives and other concerned citizens to be the "eyes and ears" of the organization, alerting its staff to emerging bills and other threats in their home states. Bills can be monitored on a state's official website or using tools like LegiScan (<https://legiscan.com/gaits/search>). Visitors to beaches, parks, resorts, and other naturist venues are often the first to learn of proposed changes to these spaces. If you know of a potential threat or want to learn how to do more to help preserve naturist activities in your area, please contact the Naturist Action Committee.





After working hard these past six months to prevent anti-nudity bills from being passed in Wisconsin, NAC Board Member Jim Dickey and WNBR-Milwaukee leader John Jankowski took a brief break to play hard and win the Class B division of the body painting volleyball tournament during Superbowl South at Lake Como!

Calling themselves "The Smokin' J's", they were the oldest players in the tournament. After showing how their old bodies could still control the ball with impeccable grace and style, they headed back north to continue their work in attempting to prevent the final approval of the Wisconsin DNR's newly promulgated anti-nudity NR-45 Administrative Rules which prevent anyone from being nude anywhere on state public lands managed by the DNR.

Scholarship Opportunity!

The Naturist Education Foundation is proud to help sponsor a joint scholarship with the AANR Education Foundation.

AANR members may have seen the St. Patrick's Day email already (pictured on the right). There will be a few more going out through April. The deadline for applicants is May 1.

AANR-EF has the application on their website at aanr-ef.com under the "Applications" tab. All of the details on who would qualify are there as well.

If you're a student with an interest in nudism, and are going to college, this is a great opportunity for support. I encourage you to sign up.

There is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow!

We are pleased to announce the 2024 \$2,000 Joint Scholarship open to all AANR members and those affiliated with the NEF! Application documents can be found at the website aanr-ef.com. The deadline for submission is May 1, 2024.

You need not be Irish but you do need to apply!



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