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SUPPORT FOR NUDE SUNBATHING UP IN MARYLAND

Nude sunbathing is preferred over gambling by Marylanders.

KISSIMMEE, FL (Jan. 14, 2005) — According to a recent poll conducted for the American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR), by Gonzales Research & Marketing Strategies “Maryland’s leader in public opinion polling,” permission to grant nude sunbathers a designated area of Assateague Island beach, if sufficient signage was posted, was favored by 50% of respondents, an increase of 2% over last year’s results. Details of the poll can be viewed at AANR’s Web site: www.aanr.com.

The freedom to enjoy Assateague “au natural” seems to be slightly more popular a pastime among Marylanders than gambling, whose support for allowing slots in Maryland dipped to 49% in favor, 45% opposed, and 6% with no opinion...a slip from 55% favoring slots in 2004.

“Apparently, Marylanders would prefer to lose more than just their shirts,” quipped AANR lobbyist, Don Murphy.

“Enjoyment of Assateague — as the early indigenous peoples did, unencumbered by clothes — is a freedom the legislature should ensure for Marylanders and its beach visitors when the issue comes up during the current session,” said Carolyn Hawkins, PR Coordinator for AANR.

The poll surveyed 804 registered voters in Maryland who vote regularly and were interviewed by telephone. A cross section of interviews was conducted in each jurisdiction within the state to reflect general election voting patterns. In particular, approval in Baltimore City/suburbs increased from an average 39% in 2004 to nearly 50% in 2005.

The American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR) has nearly 50,000 members nationwide and is working to find a management or legislative solution to formalize the practice of nude sunbathing that has been an informal practice for years along certain empty stretches of Assateague Island. Membership in this organization is a passport to fun and can be purchased for less than the price of a bathing suit. For more information, call AANR at (800) TRY-NUDE, or visit them on the Web at www.aanr.com

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