

Beach Guide Is Banned From Park

Tradewinds, St. John

When Gerald Singer was preparing *The St. John Beach Guide*, he asked park officials how they would like him to treat the issue of nudity on V.I. National Park beaches and they asked him not to.

"Chief Ranger Harry Daniel told me that he would like me to not mention nudity at all as the park is sensitive to the issue and was definitely against people being nude on the beaches," said Singer, who published the informative guide this past summer.

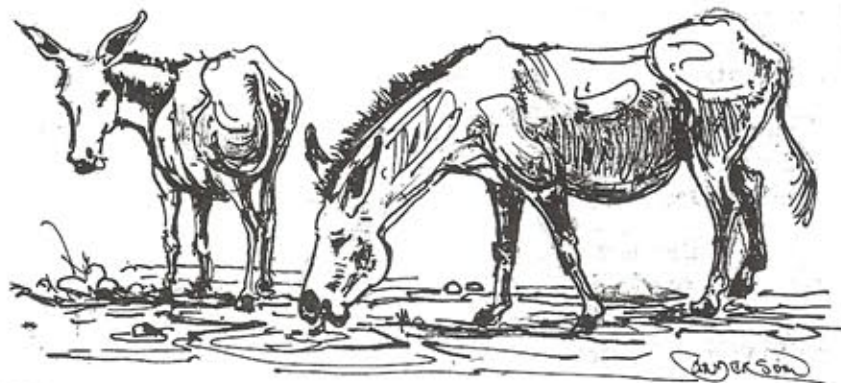
"I complied with his wishes and didn't mention nudity on any of the beaches, public or private," Singer added.

Unfortunately, Singer didn't realize just how sensitive the park service officials were about the nudity issue, *The St. John Beach Guide* has been banned from sale at the V.I. National Park Visitors Center — for promoting nudity because of one whimsical illustration of a topless sunbather by St. John artist Les Anderson, according to Singer.

"Mr. Peltier had disapproved of the book because of two illustrations by artist Les Anderson," Singer said he was told by a park official.

"One was an illustration of two donkeys which Mr. Peltier thought promoted a positive attitude towards donkeys," Singer said.

The other offending artwork was an illustration of a young woman at the beach with her back toward the viewer, according to Singer. She is wearing no top, but her breasts are not showing. A pelican is flying away with the top of her suit.



"This illustration was on the page opposite the Solomon Bay section," Singer said. Solomon Beach attracts nude beachgoers because of its isolation and proximity to town. "Mr. Peltier objected to it saying it promoted nudity on the beaches.

A V.I. National Park official said the book had gone through the standard review procedure, but declined further comment.

"It doesn't pay to try and please them," Singer said of his efforts to cooperate with the park service. "So in the next edition I will address nudity on the beaches."

It probably won't be on sale at the V.I. National Park.

