

Polar Bears Strip Down For Plunge



Intrepid swimmers aim for the water.



Polar Bears refresh themselves with a daredevil douse in the Atlantic.

Photos by Steve Solomonson

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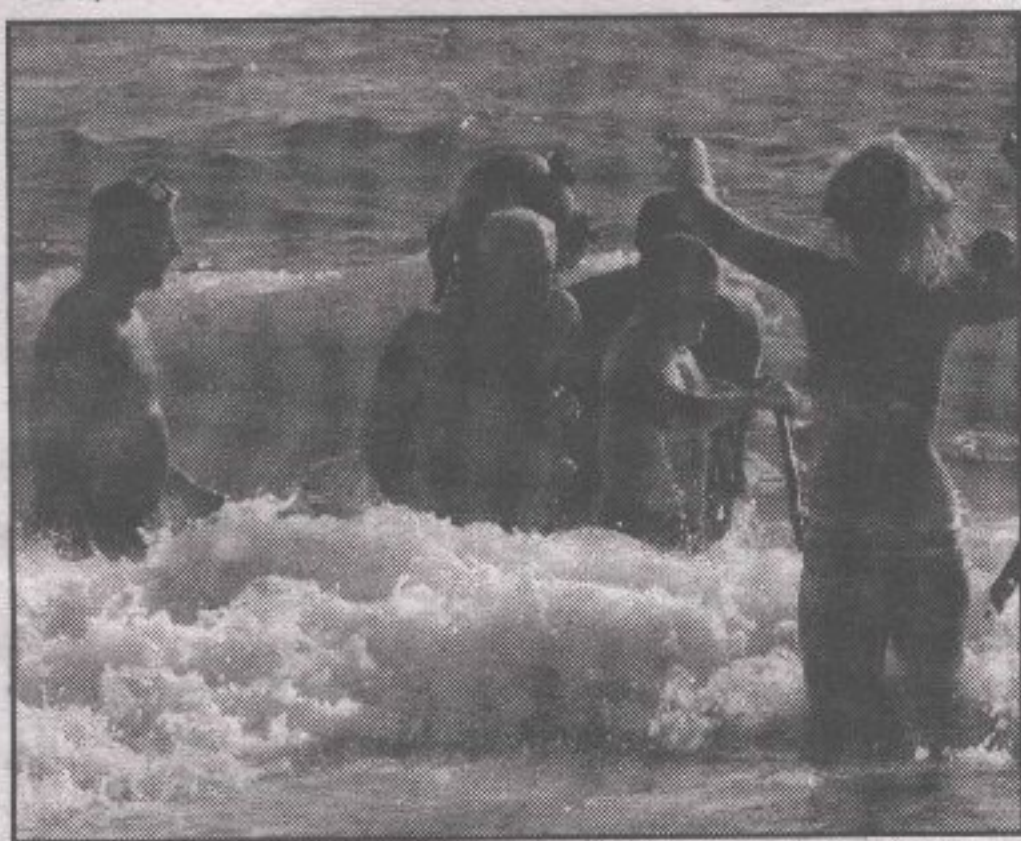
Daredevil douse: Against the backdrop of an Indian summer, fearless boroughites *brrr*-aved the first semi-cold front of the season by taking to the waters of Coney Island for a thrill-seeking, dip.

Clad in swimsuits and bathing trunks, the intrepid ice-men and gals – members of the Coney Island Polar Bear Club – embraced the Atlantic Ocean, slinking into the water in anticipation of Old Man Winter and drawing stares of awe and admiration from beach walkers.

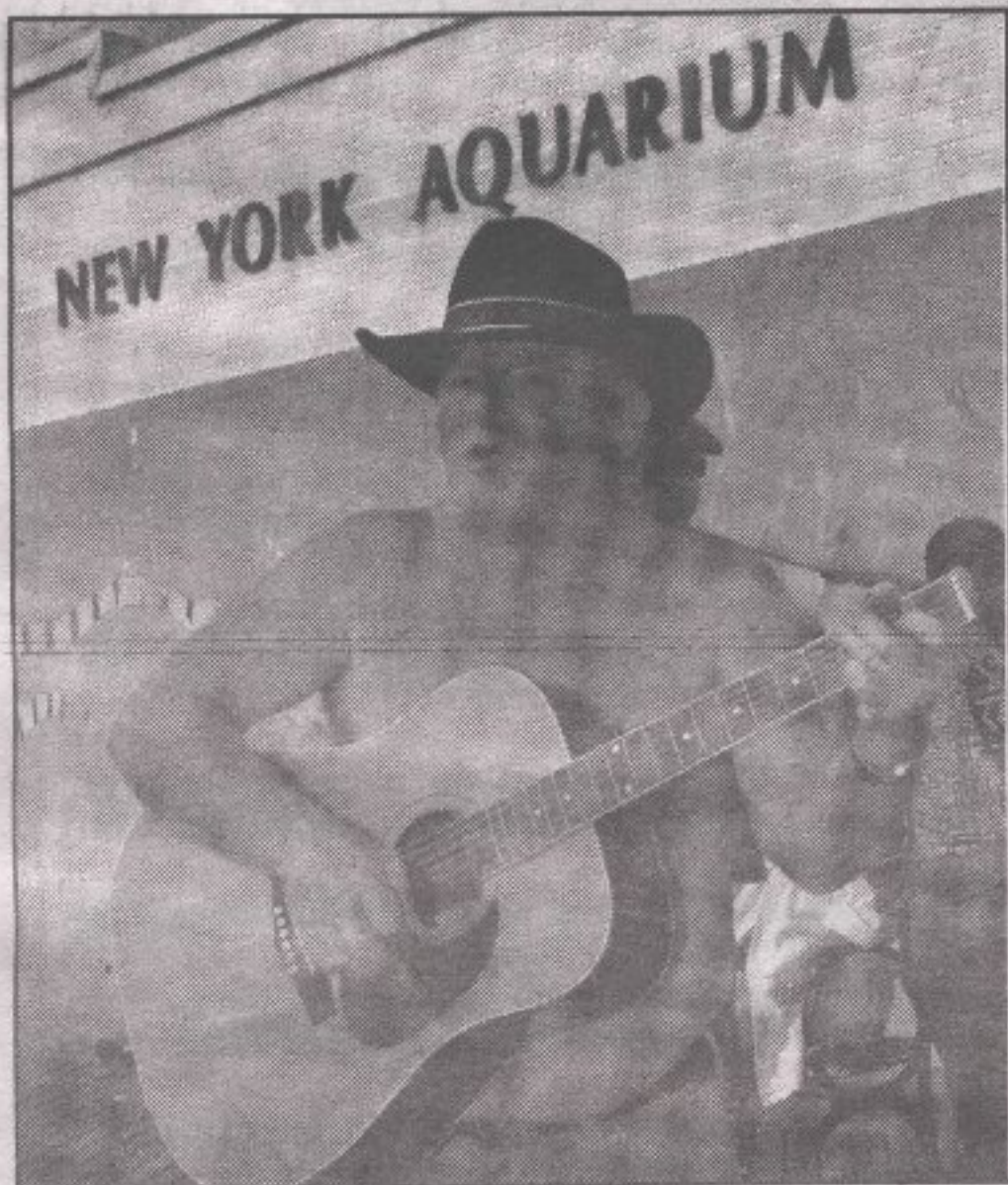
Established in 1903, the Coney Island Polar Bear Club is the nation's original cold-water swimming group with more than 50 active members.

The swim was held in conjunction with Friends of the Boardwalk and Cultural Research Divers.

For more information about the Coney Island Polar Bear Club, call 718-356-7741.



Thrill-seekers frolic in the ocean off Coney Island on an Indian Summer day.



Singing Polar Bear Amos Wangler serenades swimmers with a sweet medley.