

OFFICE OF
BOARD OF SELECTMAN
PROVINCETOWN MASSACHUSETTS

An Appeal To All Decent People In The Town of Provincetown

This town is today faced with a situation which bids fair to undermine our morals, our business in fact our very existence as a respectable summer resort. It can be no more eloquently, presented to you than to quote a letter received by the Selectmen which follows:

“Your Honor:

After considerable thought, I am writing this with the hope that something will be done before it is too late and before your fair little town has such a reputation no decent people will visit, much less live there.

For the past ten years my husband and I have gone to Provincetown with our family for our vacation. We have always enjoyed ourselves and found the place and most of the people delightful. There has always been that artistic element that seemed to know and stay in it's place. But now I fear it has gone too far and is completely out of control. We have abruptly left before the season began this year, because of a horrible discovery I made last week. Right now I am in hopes of getting my two boys off to Europe with me for a complete change and treatment. I discovered they were victims of a large homosexual element, that first gave them dope in the form of cigarettes and then powder to inhale—sex orgies followed. The meeting place during the day is at the beach in the dunes near the light house. At night they meet at various bars and are taken to apartments which the older ones have rented.

Fortunately we are in a position to have our children treated and for obvious reasons wish to remain anonymous. As an American mother I feel it my duty to call this to your attention just as it is your duty to see to it that it is rectified.”

We can no longer say, “it can't happen here.” It has and we are at this moment overrun with a throng of men described by Archbishop Cushing as “the lowest form of animal life.”

Unbelievable as it may seem, they have friends, defenders and supporters among our own people. And the number of such is not inconsiderable. Many of the women who run lodging houses willingly house them. The night club operators cater to them. We are not getting the support we should in our effort to rid our town of these degenerates. We must make an attempt to eliminate illegal operation of liquor establishments especially the night clubs which are nests where the homosexuals congregate and the attraction what

brings them here. The selectmen and police cannot succeed in this crusade without the force of public opinion.

We need your articulate and militant support. Exert the power of your influence to help stamp out this degrading and soul destroying influence. Save our boys and girls from complete moral degradation. Let the forces of righteousness stand up and be counted and be as diligent in forwarding their cause as the forces of evil. We cannot sit calmly by and see a small group of unscrupulous and Godless people barter the souls of our youth for a few dirty dollars. Let us not permit our town to become a Sodom or Gomorrah.

“Come over into Macedonia and help us”

Selectmen of Provincetown, Mass.
Frank H. Barnett, Chairman
William A. White, Clerk
Ralph S. Carpenter, Member

(Postmarked – Provincetown August 5, 1952)

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Unsigned"

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