

AUG 27 1986

35 Court Street
Provincetown, Ma. 02657
August 27, 1986

Dear Gary,

I must commend you on speaking to the problem as it actually is, not as what could conceivably happen. Of course, I address the Spiritus matter. The powers of the Town have once again placed us in a situation that will take a long time to forget. Unfortunately, certain factions within the crowd also chose to make more of the matter than was necessary. Why is it this town brings out the worst in people...leaving them in a perpetual state of non-functioning gray matter... living by reaction instead of action? Our Pilgrim forefathers are surely rolling over in their graves knowing that the birthplace of democracy is turning into a mob-rule anarchist state where individual preference supercedes the good for all.

I was at Spritus in the wee hours of Sunday morning and felt very ill at ease with what was transpiring. And I don't speak about the crowds' attitude, but that of the police. The one officer I spoke with had a chip on his shoulder large enough to spring from, as a diving platform, into the crowd. His attitude was less than professional in his conversation with me, a bystander. It was most annoying taking into consideration that he is a local man, born and raised in town...not a summer officer. He as much as said I was intoxicated (have assumed unjustly that because I was out at that hour of the morning I had been drinking) when in fact I had not had a drink in three hours.

Being a nightowl on weekends, I often drive up Commercial Street after the bars close and I have yet to be curtailed in any way, no more so than during the daylight hours with the crowds frequenting Commercial Street. Even though they are large in number, they are not what I would call an unruly crowd. Nor are they stupid. I cannot honestly believe that this group of adults would arbitrarily choose to block a moving vehicle, personal or public. I have never had any problem...in fact, they invariably part as Moses did the waters and allow me to drive through, unimpeded. I am sure that if they were to hear the wail of a siren, they would disburse immediately. They are only there to unwind after a busy day...not to create hazards.

I do agree that there is a bit of a noise problem in the immediate vicinity, but no more than there was ten years ago when they all gathered at Cafe Poyant and the "meet rack" or twenty years ago when they all gathered at Mary Spaghetti's. I would venture to say that as long as there have been tourists, there has been a noise problem. Thank God it is only for three months of the year. Most people can readily deal with such a short term problem. I also feel that if you choose to live in a tourist town in a congested area, you choose to put up with such matters. The loss of a few hours sleep for such a short period of time does not justify the income derived from the tourist trade. We would not exist as a town were it not for the tourists and the summer workers. We all have to make allowances. The only two things guaranteed in this life are "death and taxes". Everything else is variable. If we all would learn to give and take a little more, and discuss matters levelheadedly beforehand, I think we, as a town, would find that all these mountainous problems are in reality nothing more than miniscule anthills.

Joan Drysdale