

*Dis
9-27-86
cc: T.M.
Chief of Police*

4 Leonard Street
Nesconset, N.Y. 11767

September 4, 1986

Board of Selectmen
c/o Gabriel's
104 Bradford Street
Provincetown, Mass. 02657

Dear Selectmen:

I am writing to express my anger and indignation following my vacation in Provincetown this summer.

I have been vacationing in P'town for the past 15 years because it has always held the reputation of being a place where the gay community could be free from the hostility and harassment experienced elsewhere. Regretfully, that was not the case this year.

I stayed at Gabriel's on Bradford Street with my companion, a 53 year old, handicapped, woman who must use crutches to walk. During the course of our stay, a middle-aged man driving a jeep tried to hit my companion with his vehicle as we were crossing the street. He also shouted an offensive comment about "dykes not belonging on Bradford Street."

We, and friends who accompanied us, also experienced an unfriendly atmosphere in town. We were harassed by young people, obviously under the legal drinking age, drinking in the streets, and straight teenagers driving through town yelling obscenities and attempting to stop couples to discuss their sexual preferences.

Law enforcement appeared to be non-existent. The only police officer I saw was in the center of town directing traffic; and, while his antics certainly provide amusement for visitors, he hardly suffices as a means of security.

The Provincetown tradespeople rely heavily on the gay community for financial support. I myself spend well over two thousand dollars in P'town each year. However, unless something is done to protect vacationers from the harassment experienced by me and many of my friends this year, we must seriously consider going elsewhere in the future. It is, therefore, to our mutual benefit to find a solution to the problem.

Sincerely yours,



Agatha L. Desmond