

STREET SCENE

This week our Street Scene reporter asked this question of local townspeople: What is your general opinion on the Spiritus incident?



Harriet Leider
The Diva

Many nights the town kids congregate in front of George's Pizza. They spill out onto the street and are very loud and boisterous. The police don't say anything. Yet they chose to arrest people in front of Spiritus. If anything is done in this town, it should be a fairly constructed political move. If the crowd at George's is okay, then the crowds at Spiritus' should be. Gay people are not looking for anything special—just equal treatment.



Linda Schlecter
Street Artist

I feel that on most issues the townspeople are supportive of each other. I also feel the arrests at Spiritus were untimely because they occurred during Carnival week. On every other Friday and Saturday nights there are always crowds of equal magnitude and high energy at Spiritus and no one is arrested. If we could settle the underlying issues, we could come together and recapture the specialness of Provincetown with a renewed community spirit.

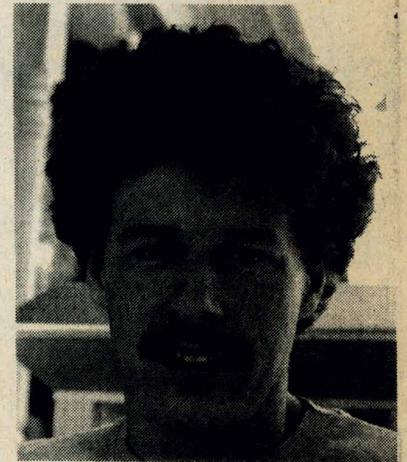
Howie
Interpreter for the Deaf

I really feel that it's vitally important that Provincetown Police are oriented to know how to work with alternative lifestyles. Homophobia is very subtle and needs to be openly discussed in the community. As far as being in the vicinity of Spiritus, I feel the police have more important things they should be doing.



Tara Adler
Editor, Provincetown Magazine

I think the incident at Spiritus is the result of some error in judgement and overreaction by both the police and street crowds. In no way do I think it's a gays vs cops issue. To suggest that incident occurred because the Provincetown Police wanted to persecute gay people or sabotage Carnival week is irresponsible, paranoid speculation. I think that the Police Chief is honestly trying to deal with the law enforcement and public safety problems in Provincetown.



Tom Wineman
Owner, Outermost Kites

I think the police action was unnecessary and the Town used bad judgement to let something like that happen. The groups have always been there and to change it mid-season without warning can only be interpreted as harassment.

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