

Vermont News

Arson Suspected in Pearls Fires

Statement of Purpose
 The purpose of *Out in the Mountains* is to serve as a voice for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and our supporters in Vermont. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation. We also see *OITM* as a vehicle for celebration of the goodness and diversity of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities.

Editorial Policy
 We will consider for publication any material which broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper do not necessarily represent those of the staff. This paper cannot and will not endorse any candidates and actions of public officials on issues of importance to lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.

We will not publish any material which is overtly racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, ageist, classist, or homophobic.

All materials submitted must be signed so we can contact the author should we need to consider editorial revisions. However, within the pages of the newspaper, articles may appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit materials for publication and to share your comments, criticisms, and positive feelings with us. This paper is here for you. The deadline for submitting material for each issue is the 7th of the month prior to publication.

Materials should be sent to:
Out in the Mountains
 PO Box 177
 Burlington, VT 05402

Two early morning fires at Pearls in Burlington have led Vermont state police to suspect arson as the cause. Pearls is Burlington's one and only gay bar.

The first fire was started on the morning of September 7 and, though it was relatively small in size, caused approximately \$2,000 worth of damage to the establishment. Minimal damage resulted from the two small fires set at the entrances to the bar on the morning of September 20. Rainy weather conditions helped to prevent those fires from becoming a major threat.

A witness to the first attempt reported seeing a gray-haired white male starting a fire at 5 a.m. outside of the bar. She reported the incident to the police, who neglected to take her name and only recently re-established contact with her in their investigation of the crime.

Following the second attempt, police have been treating the incidents as possible hate crimes. As Chittenden County State's Attorney William Sorrell told the *Burlington Free Press*, "Given the reputation Pearls has, it would seem (the arson attempts) would be possibly generated by a discriminatory bias against gays, but it has to be proved first."

In the wake of these and other recent attacks against gays in the Burlington area, Pearls owner Nancy Barnett called on the

gay community to exhibit strength. In a recent *Free Press* article, she labelled the events "upsetting, irritating, and... frightening," and added, "I think the whole city is going through a cyclical, violent thing, and we're swept up in it. We get pinpointed because we're controversial."

At press time, the police were in search of the main suspect in the case and remained hopeful that the matter would soon be resolved.

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. Sponsors Octoberfest

On Saturday, October 20, the 1990 Octoberfest begins in Alburg, Vermont. All proceeds will go to Vermont C.A.R.E.S., an AIDS support group in Vermont.

The weekend will start off with an outdoor volleyball game by the Lake. This will take place at the Alburg Country Club; there will be several courts available for play. Teams will be formed as people arrived, and refreshments will be served. The games start at 1:00 p.m. and will continue until 5:00. Players are reminded to dress warmly.

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By subscribing now to *OITM*, not only will you guarantee delivery to your mailbox (in a discreet envelope, of course), but you will also help underwrite the rising costs of publishing the newspaper. We also welcome any additional contributions you can make to support our continuing existence. Checks should be made payable to *OITM* and sent, along with this form, to: *OITM*, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, Vermont 05402.

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Donations are especially welcome from those who prefer to pick up *OITM* at one of the paper's distribution points rather than be added to the mailing list.

____ Please also let us know if you'd like to get involved in the newspaper.

How to Advertise

If you would like to run an ad in *OITM*, please contact us for rates, sizes, and information. Ad copy must be received by the 7th of the month to be included in the next month's issue. Copy can be mailed to: *OITM*, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402, or call Ellen at (802) 860-1922.