

# Pearls' Passion

Paul Olsen

Pearls Bar: Vermont's bar of alternative lifestyles, the first, and for some the only, bar that many newly out lesbians and gay men go to, the sometimes target of Burlington area homophobes, the place where lovers are met and lost, and the place we often love to hate. Affectionately referred to by many as the "Palais de Moo Moo", Pearls Bar has been an important part of Vermont's lesbian and gay social scene for over ten years.

Pearls Bar was opened in 1983 by Nancy Barnett, Ed Packin, Jimmy Moyer, and Barbara Volz. While Nancy, Ed and Jimmy remain owners they recently hired a new manager in an attempt to bring new energy and creativity to Pearls. Barnett cited increased outside interests and burnout as the reasons for decreasing the owners' role in the day-to-day operations of Pearls. "Planning a party seven days a week for over 10 years gets tired" Barnett said. In response to questions regarding the potential sale of Pearls Bar, Barnett indicated that "Pearls is for sale but we want to sell it as a gay bar".

General Manager Robert Toms has big plans for Pearls Bar. Toms explains that he has been working with community groups and organizations including Vermont CARES, Vermont Gay Social Alternatives (VGSA), and UVM's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance (GLBA) on joint social activities. UVM's GLBA now sponsors the weekly Wednesday night juice bar. "I'm open to anyone approaching me with ideas regarding Pearls" said Toms. Other changes at Pearls Bar include a cabaret on Sunday nights, alternative music on Thursdays, regular Men's Tea Dances, a smoke free environment downstairs, and a large outdoor event planned for Pride Day on June 4, 1994.

Pearls Bar is attempting to make positive changes to meet the needs of Vermont's diverse lesbian and gay community. With their energy, creativity and commitment to making changes at Pearls, Robert Toms and his staff truly demonstrate that Pearls Bar is about "community". ▼

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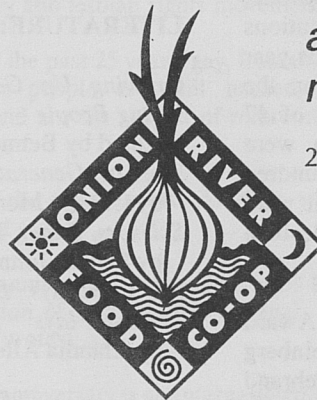
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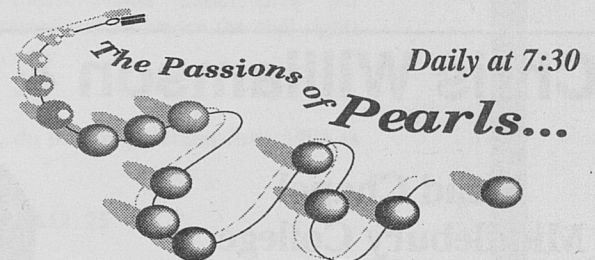
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<b>Sunday May 1</b>	<b>Summer is Coming</b>	\$3.00	6pm - 9pm
	VT CARES Benefit		
<b>Mon., May 2</b>	<b>Tamah</b>	Free	9pm-11pm
	Original acoustic performer		
<b>Friday, May 6</b>	<b>Women's Dance</b>	\$6.00	5pm - 9pm
<b>Sat., May 7</b>	<b>Spaghetti Dinner</b>		7pm - 9pm
	Benefit - Gay Men's Volleyball Team for the Gay Games		
<b>Sun., May 8</b>	<b>Big Band Night</b>	Free	5pm - 9pm
	<b>&amp; Pearl's Cabaret</b>	\$3.00	9pm-11pm
	Open microphone 10-11		
<b>Sun., May 15</b>	<b>Men's T-Dance</b>	\$3.00	5pm - 9pm
	VGSA Sponsored		
<b>Sun., May 22</b>	<b>Pearl's Cabaret</b>	\$3.00	9pm-11pm
	Different Show every time		
<b>Sun., May 29</b>	<b>Beach Party</b>	Free	5 'til close
<b>Mondays</b>	<b>Free Pool</b>		7:30 'til close
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>\$1 Bud Night</b>		7:30 'til close
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>Juice Bar</b>	\$3.00	8pm - 1am
	Outright presents Juice bar starting 5/11/94	\$2.00	w/college ID

Downstairs no smoking • Smoking upstairs  
135 Pearl Street • Burlington, VT • 863-2343