

The Networker
Publication of the Gay Lesbian Community Network
May 1991

Charlie Howard Weekend
July 5-7 1991

A few of us are beginning to make plans for this year's celebration of the life of Charlie Howard. So far we're talking about a pot luck supper and movie for Friday night, a march, rally, and picnic in the park for Saturday, and then a chemical free dance for Saturday night. The Unitarian Church will still hold it's memorial service on Sunday. We'd like to hear other people's ideas. Come to our planning meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 PM. at the Peace and Justice Center. Or if you can't come to a meeting but have ideas you'd like to share call us at 862-5907.

****Don't Forget! The Peace and Justice Center has moved to 58 Columbia St. accross from the Columbia St. Baptist Church*****

Casino Night & Bowl-A-Thon Successful

The Eastern Maine AIDS Network (EMAN) and the Down East AIDS Network (DEAN) raised over \$5000 in two recent fund raising events. On April 14, the Riverfront hosted Casino Night which featured Black Jack, "Wheel of Fortune" "High Roller", and a horse race game, to name just a few. According to John Silvernail of EMAN, "The people there were clearly having a good time.". About 50 bowlers raised an estimated \$4000 at the Bowl-A-Thon on April 27.

According to Silvernail, EMAN will use it's share of the funds for rent and for direct client services, for which they receive no other support. Although pleased with the success of the fund raisers, Silvernail stated that he had been told by the owners of The Riverfront that the "regular Sunday crowd" did not show up for Casino Night. He expressed concern that the local gay community may not be informed about the true threat of AIDS in our area. "The profile of my clients is changing. The people I see now are people who became infected HERE, not people who have moved in from out of state."

EMAN's next fund raising event will be a Walk-A-Thon in the fall. We'll keep you posted. There will also be a Memorial Service on May 19. 1 panel from the AIDS quilt will be at the service. Watch the newspaper for the location.

Where Have All the Nice Gurlz and Boyz Gone?

Have you asked yourself this question lately? Ever get tired of the ole'" See and Be Seen" Scene? It's great that there's a gay bar in Bangor now but does it, in fact, make it easier for us to meet new people? What about those of us who don't drink, smoke, or dance? What are some alternatives for making new friends? The answers to these and other baffling questions will be tossed around at a discussion group at the Peace and Justice Center on Wednesday May 8 at 7:30 PM.

Gone But Not Forgotten (Not By A Long Shot)

L.D. 430, An Act to Prevent Discrimination, has been defeated. Touted as the "Gay Rights Law", it was an easy mark for right wing zealots such as Jasper Wyman and his Christian Civic League. Mr. Wyman was able to convince many of his followers that the bill was part of a "Larger gay agenda that would destroy family values as we know them".

Lawmakers were divided on the measure as well. Some seemed poised to hide behind their contention that few, if any, lesbians or gay men suffer from discrimination due to their sexual orientation. At the public hearing on L.D. 430 on March 18, (the day after the horrible display of bigotry at the NYC St. Patricks Day Parade - thank you Mayor Dinkins), speaker after speaker told personal stories of how they lost jobs, lost promotions, lost custody of children, lost apartments... due to being gay (perhaps I should say due to our society's twisted perceptions of gay people).

Has this ever happened to you? A friend, partner, lover...? We need the protection legislation like L.D. 430 would have created. It isn't over. In all probability a similar bill will be introduced in 1993. What if we all started reporting when appropriate, or remembering or writing down instances/incidents when we are harassed, assaulted, fired, not hired... and kept this information use when another gay rights bill is introduced? There are many of our elected officials who need to hear from us because they do not think that the problems encountered due to one's sexual orientation warrant passage of a specific law.

Next month I hope to have the testimony from one of the leading opponents of L.D. 430. It will make interesting reading.

World's Greatest Garage Sale

On June 15, GLCN will once again participate in the WLBZ World's Greatest Garage Sale. Maybe it's called the World's Largest Garage sale... Oh whatever! Last year, along with being a visible gay and lesbian presence at the sale, we made over 350 dollars!! So clean out those closets! Items that you would like to donate can be dropped off at the Peace and Justice Center. Give the center a call before you go to make sure that someone will be there. That number is 942-9343. We'll be glad to take any items, although last year adults' clothing did not sell real well.

Our Community's Calendar

Wednesday, May 8	GLCN Meeting. Topic: The Gay Lesbian social scene. 7:30 PM Peace and Justice Center, 58 Columbia St. Bangor.
Friday May 10-Sun. May 12	The Maine Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, Portland. Call 828-4714 for info.
Wednesday, May 15	Organizational meeting for Charlie Howard Weekend. 7:30 PM Peace and Justice Center.
Sunday, May 19	AIDS Memorial Service. Watch paper for info.

- Wednesday, May 22 GLCN General Meeting. 7:30 PM Peace & Justice Center.
- Fri May 24 - Mon May 27 Symposium XVIII. Annual Statewide Lesbian/Gay Conference. U of Southern Maine, Portland. Call 780-5656 for info.
- Sunday, June 2 Lesbian Pot Luck Brunch. 12 Noon. If weather is nice: Davenport Pk. Call 862-5907 for info.
- Wednesday, June 5 GLCN Newsletter folding and stamping party. 7:30 PM Peace & Justice.
- Saturday, June 15 World's Largest Garage Sale. Look for our table or call if you want to volunteer some time at the table 862-5907.
- Ongoing: GLCN Youth Group OUTRIGHT TOO Meets each Tuesday Eve. 7:30 PM Peace and Justice Center.
- Women's HIV Group, 7:30 PM to 9 PM every 1st & 3rd Thurs. Call 667-3506, 469-6405 947-0700 for info.
- HIV/AIDS Support Group. Meets every Tues. eve. call 667-3506 for info.
- HIV Caregivers' Supervision & Support Meeting. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Call 667-3506 or 422-3686.
- Classifieds

Female Roommate Wanted: Non-smoker, July 1, to share house in Orrington. Country setting, 8 miles from Bangor. Own room seperate entrance. 330/mo. includes heat, hot H2o, and electric. Call Patti at 825-3910 eves. Animals Negotiable!!

