

GLAAD to honor Internet leaders

by William Horn
Special to Q-Notes

SAN FRANCISCO—On July 22, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) announced that David Bohnett, president and founder of GeoCities, and Megan Smith, CEO of PlanetOut, would receive special awards at GLAAD's first-ever Salute to Interactive Media. The event, honoring progress in GLBT online media, is set for August 20 at the Ralston Hall Mansion in Belmont, CA.

GLAAD's Salute to Interactive Media was created as an extension of their Media Awards ceremonies — held at three separate galas in Los Angeles, New York and Washington, DC.

David Bohnett will receive GLAAD's Internet Visionary Award. The award is given to an individual who has created and maintained unique online resources for the enhancement of a global GLBT community. GeoCities, founded by Bohnett six years ago and recently acquired by Yahoo!, has become one of the most innovative and largest Internet community providers in the US. Through the creation of the "West Hollywood" and "Castro" online "neighborhoods," GeoCities has fostered worldwide communication within the community.

GLAAD's Internet Leadership Award will be presented to PlanetOut chief Megan Smith. PlanetOut is one of the largest gay sites on the Internet. The Internet Leadership Award honors an individual who has shown outstanding dedication to supporting the fair and equal treatment of GLBT people online. Smith was appointed CEO of PlanetOut in 1998 and is responsible for sales, operations, management, strategy, business development, distribution, marketing and finance.

"These honorees exemplify the powerful impact lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had online through their talent, vision and commitment to a more inclusive world," said Will Doherty, GLAAD Director of Online Community Development.

For more information on the Salute, call (415) 861-2244 or visit www.glaad.org.

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