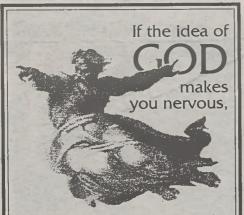
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# Hotline goes bi-coastal to meet GLBT community needs

### by Barry D. Miller Special to Q-Notes

he Gay & Lesbian National Hotline (GLNH), a non-profit peer-counseling, information and local resources telephone hotline, has increased its hours of operation. Thanks to the recent opening of its new San Francisco office, in addition to its original New York location, callers nationwide can now reach the GLNH - toll-free - at 888-THE-GLNH (888-843-4564) Monday-Friday, 4:00 pm to 12:00 midnight (Eastern), and Saturday, 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm (Eastern).

Founded in 1996, the GLNH is the only national organization of its kind in the US. Staffed by well-trained and compassionate volunteers. Each year, GLNH takes more than 100,000 calls from teens and adults from all

50 states. Completely free and totally anonymous, Armistead Maupin has described the GLNH as "a 'place' where gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people everywhere can talk about their feelings openily and without fear of rejection or shame.

Elizabeth Toledo, executive director of the national Gay and Lesbian Task Force, has said: "The Gay and Lesbian National Hotline provides a valuable and indispensable resource for gay, lesbian, bisexaul and transgender people across the country. Many GLBT people live in rural areas and have nowhere to turn when in need. Others live in urban areas but often do not know how to connect with their local community center. For both of these diverse populations, the National Hotline provides vital help and outreach."

"Our approach," says Brad Becker, GLNH

Executive Director, "is to help each caller focus on their feelings, rather than for us to tell them how to solve their problems. By talking to a caller about the issues they are facing, it is often the first step in their ability to come to an understanding and comfort with the way they want to live their lives. Callers can also get information on groups and organizations of every imaginable type - social, support, political, religious, athletic and professional, plus gayfriendly businesses, doctors, lawyers and counselors. Volunteers at the GLNH have access to a national database containing more than 18,000 listings, the largest resource list of its kind in the world, and still growing.

For more information about the GLNH, contact its administrative office toll-free at 888-415-3022; send email to glnh@glng.org; or visit its website at www.glnh.org. 🔻

# Fund hosts national gay and lesbian leaders for summit

### Forum to discuss new political climate at Aspen ski week

by Sloan C. Wiesen Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON — Leaders from several national gay and lesbian organizations will debate the current state of the gay and lesbian civil rights movement at this year's Human Rights Summit, a policy forum on January 24 being coordinated by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund during Aspen Gay & Lesbian Ski Week. The forum is expected to draw as many as 200 people.

The Victory Fund is also hosting two other events during Ski Week: the annual Culinary Institute to raise money for its work to elect qualified openly gay and lesbian candidates for public office, and a free "après ski" reception.

"The Human Rights Summit will gather some of the gay and lesbian community's national leaders to discuss where we are and where we are going as an equal rights move-

ment at this unique time in American political history," said Victory Fund Executive Director Brian K. Bond, who will be among the panelists. "It happens that representatives of several national organizations will be in town for the week, and this will be the only event during Ski Week focusing on public policy issues. This panel will allow Ski Week participants to take a little time out to reflect on the political challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in the new year."

The summit is free and open to the public. It will take place from 4 pm to 5:30 pm MST on Wednesday, January 24, at the Wheeler Opera House located at 320 East Hyman Avenue in Aspen, Colorado.

Representatives from national organizations who will be in Aspen for Ski Week were invited to participate in the panel discussion. The event is being co-sponsored by The Advocate.

Also during Ski Week, on Monday, January 22, the Victory Fund and HERO magazine will co-host an "après ski" reception from 2 pm to 6 pm at Whiskey Rocks in the St. Regis Hotel, located at 315 Dean Street in Aspen.

Following the Human Rights Summit, the Victory Fund is hosting the Third Annual Culinary Institute during Ski Week - an interactive cooking demonstration and gourmet four-course meal.

The fund-raiser is set for Wednesday, January 24, from 7 pm to 10 pm at the Cooking School of Aspen at 414 Hyman Avenue Mall in Aspen. Space is limited and advance ticket purchase is required.

For ticket prices for the Culinary Institute and additional information about all Victory Fund events, please contact Meghan Duffy at 202-842-8679 or mduffy@victoryfund.org or visit the Victory Fund's Web site at www.victoryfund.org.

Aspen Gay & Lesbian Ski Week, set for January 20 - 27, is a series of fund-raising recreational events produced by the Aspen Gay & Lesbian Community Fund, a non-profit organization that donates its net proceeds to local, regional and national charitable organizations.

More information on Ski Week can be found online at www.gayskiweek.com.





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Thursday Hights: 8:30pm, Support Group Meeting Gatekeeper Community Church services each Sunday at 4:30pm (email: bigguynsco)aol.com).



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