

northwest

Nike Tapped for Outie Award

Nike's GLBT & Friends Network, the company's queer resource group, has been nominated for an Employee Resource Group of the Year "Outie" award from Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, a national nonprofit organization devoted exclusively to promoting workplace equality for sexual minority employees.

The award recognizes a particular employee resource group, sometimes referred to as a business group or network that has a proven track record of success in advocating for equal rights in its own workplace.

The GLBT & Friends group has built education and awareness programs internally and has helped Nike create a visible presence at Pride celebrations nationwide.

The network worked with Nike's state and public affairs director to take a public stance in support of the two gay rights bills in Oregon. Nike employees gave testimony in the House and Senate judiciary committees to help both bills pass.

The winner will be announced at Out & Equal's gala awards dinner Sept. 28 at the Hilton Washington in Washington, D.C., during the annual Out & Equal Workplace Summit. The dinner will be hosted by comedian Kate Clinton.

For more information visit www.outandequal.org.

Columnists Launch Blog

Lesbian advice columnists Lipstick and Dipstick launched their own blog earlier this month at www.lipstickdipstick.blogspot.com. Former *Just Out* contributors Gina Daggett, aka Lipstick, and Kathy Belge, aka Dipstick, find they often have more

material than they can write about in their *Curve* magazine column.

They hope the blog will allow them to answer more queries about lesbian relationship issues. It will also serve as a space for personal anecdotes. (An early entry chronicles Belge's run-in with The Gossip lead singer Beth Ditto in the ladies room at Berbat's.) Embracing the butch/femme stereotypes, Belge and Daggett offer different perspectives on readers' problems, peppering their comments with humor and political savvy.

The pair is slated to release a book called *Lipstick and Dipstick's Essential Guide to Lesbian Relationships* in November.

Race Raises AIDS Relief Funds

In response to the AIDS epidemic 14 years ago, Lyle Smith and his wife, Diana, then living in Chicago, organized Lyle's Myles. This was a race where anyone finishing before Lyle would be disqualified.

Regarding this as a philanthropic opportunity, they invited their friends and asked them to donate money. All funds raised went to Global Partners, a four-star charity helping people and families with AIDS in Africa.

Eight years ago, the couple relocated from Chicago to the Portland area and brought their race with them. Upon moving to Portland, they made the race a public event and charged an entry fee, bringing in about \$2,000 each year.

This year, Gigi Petrey, an employee of Diana Smith, got involved, and together they are working to raise \$20,000 or more. They also decided to donate money to two local organizations, Cascade

AIDS Project and Martha's Pantry, which will each receive 20 percent of the money they raise from Lyle's Myles. The remaining 60 percent will benefit Global Partners. By asking participants to raise \$100 in pledges, they are hopeful they can reach their fund-raising goal.

"It's 10 \$10 pledges. Your \$10 can change someone's life. That's one time you stay home and read a book instead of go to a movie. That's one day you bring lunch from home, but that can really help someone, be it here in Portland or thousands of miles away in Africa," Petrey said with an affable smile and a determined look. "People can also sign up to be team captains, building teams of 10 people or more, each with their \$100 in pledges."

The Portland Area Business Association has also decided to get involved in Lyle's Myles. Some of its members have donated time and services, like Christian Messer of Whiplash Designs, which designed the Web page, and Christopher Reed of A Word in Edgewise, which is providing printing services. Other members have signed on as team captains.

The 7.3-kilometer run will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 6 at Esther Short Park in Vancouver, Wash. There is no deadline to sign up.

For more information visit www.lylesmyles.com.

Portland Blood Czar Promoted

Portlander Thomas Bruner, former executive director of Cascade AIDS Project, is now the



Thomas Bruner, who was tapped as the regional executive of the American Red Cross for Oregon, continues to raise the issue of the ban on blood donation from gays.

American Red Cross' regional executive for Oregon. That means that in addition to being the chief executive officer of the Oregon Trail chapter of the American Red Cross, which serves the Portland metro area, CEOs from its Salem, Eugene, Medford, Bend and Baker City chapters also report to him.

Bruner describes the change as part of the national Red Cross' restructuring effort.

"It's all about looking for ways to find efficiency and cut waste and cut duplication, and it's also a way to get regional groupings of Red Cross chapters working together more closely," said Bruner.

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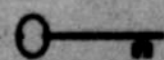


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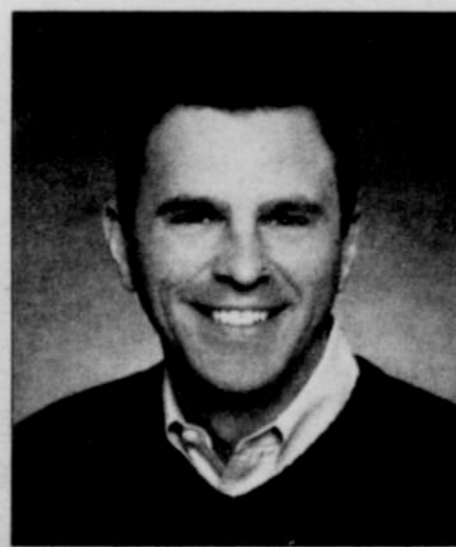
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