

Just Doing It

Nike LGBT & Friends Network observes National Coming Out Day

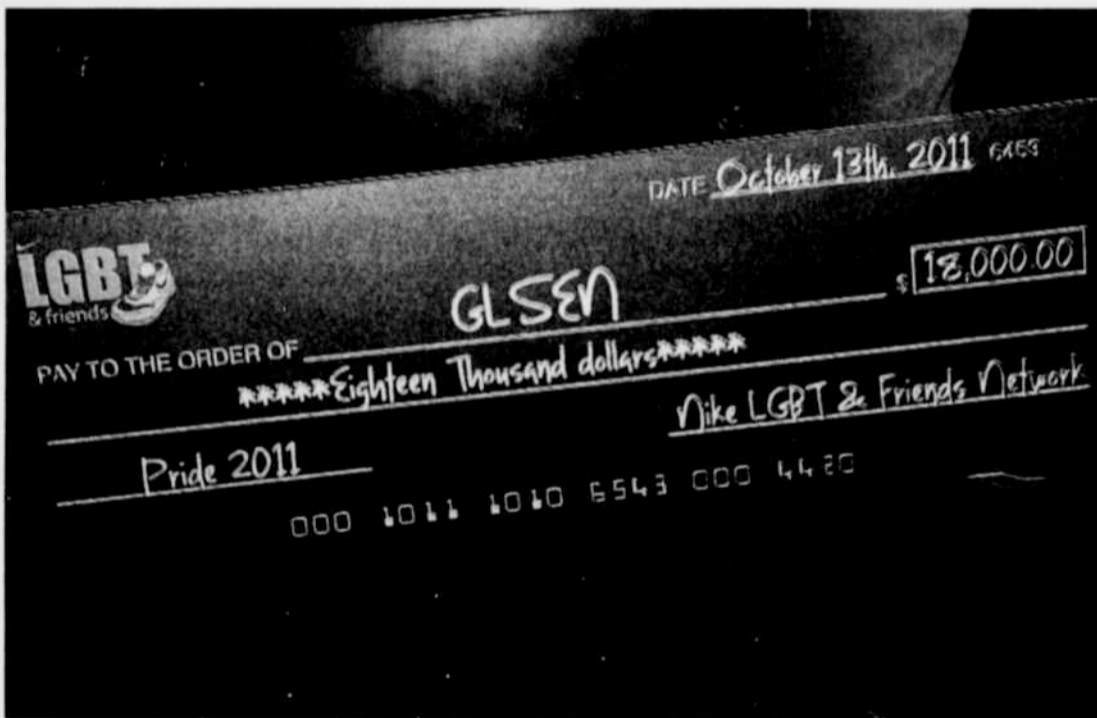
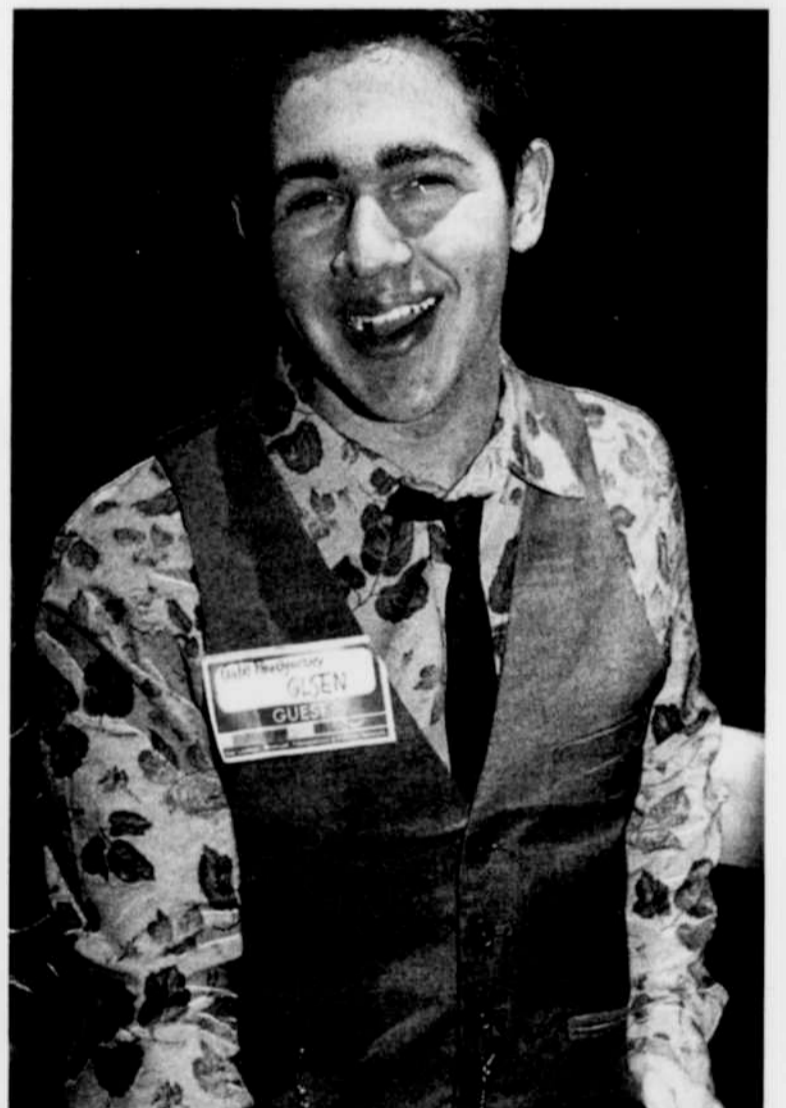
As part of a slew of countrywide events celebrating National Coming Out Day, Nike World Headquarters in Beaverton played host to a week of educational LGBT activities, culminating in the LGBT & Friends Network NCOD Event Thursday, October 13.

Three exhibits on the main campus focused on the importance of LGBT allies, spotlighting statements from senior company leaders. The finale came October 13, when the LGBT & Friends Network held an employee lunch and community event featuring key speakers. Special guests included Jessica Mendoza, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and Game Changer Athlete for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN); Hudson Taylor, wrestling coach at Columbia University and founder of Athlete Ally; and Pat Griffin, professor of social justice education at the University of Massachusetts, as well as the director of the Amherst Project for Changing the Game for GLSEN.

The Nike-GLSEN link is the result of the organization's recent partnership via GLSEN's Changing the Game project, which is working to end homophobia in sports in school grades K-12.

During the event, GLSEN Oregon was awarded a \$14,000 grant to support two trainings for K-12 coaches and physical education teachers on making athletics inclusive of all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. GLSEN's national arm received a check for \$18,000 from the sale of the 2011 Nike Pride T-shirts to support the continued work of the Changing the Game project across the country. **J**

—RYAN J. PRADO, WITH PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS



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