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PAUL MITCHELL

DIVERSIONS

Seated in St. Johns

Several gay and lesbian artists and business owners are involved in North Portland's third annual St. Johns Window Project.

Each participating store adds an element of creativity by exhibiting a "Transformed Chair" by one of 24 artists, or a print by students of Pacific Northwest College of Art, inspired by St. Johns' history. Local sculptors also have collaborated to create a sculpture garden.

"Primarily, my interest has always been promoting artists and building that bridge between people who generally don't care about art and artists in North Portland," says Rhoda London, a queer artist who is organizing the print portion of the project. She says the art will bring in those who may be unfamiliar with this distinctive neighborhood.

Andy Stout, owner of Four Corners Frame Studio, 7238 N. Burlington Ave., is hosting four chairs and prints at his business and has created a chair that's on display at an office furniture shop.

His chair is painted to match the St. Johns Bridge and gives concentration to light and angles with fishing line. "It's a metaphysical example of thought," says Stout, who is also a painter.

Artist Courtney Frisse, a first-time contributor to the project, injected her chair with a dose of humor by creating a structure that supports nothing—not even itself. The chair will be displayed in the window of St. Johns Booksellers, a new independent store at 8622 N. Lombard St.

"I love projects like this in which art leaves the galleries and studios and is incorporated into the everyday life of a community," says Frisse. "I think the conversations and interactions between the artists, residents and business owners are as much a part of the project as the artwork itself."

The St. Johns Window Project is on display through Aug. 30.

"This event will help out all the local businesses in town with exposure and let people know that these resources—in St. Johns, in North Portland—do exist," says Stout.

—Jaymee R. Cuti

Ladies, are you lookin' fore a good time? Then go hit the Links!

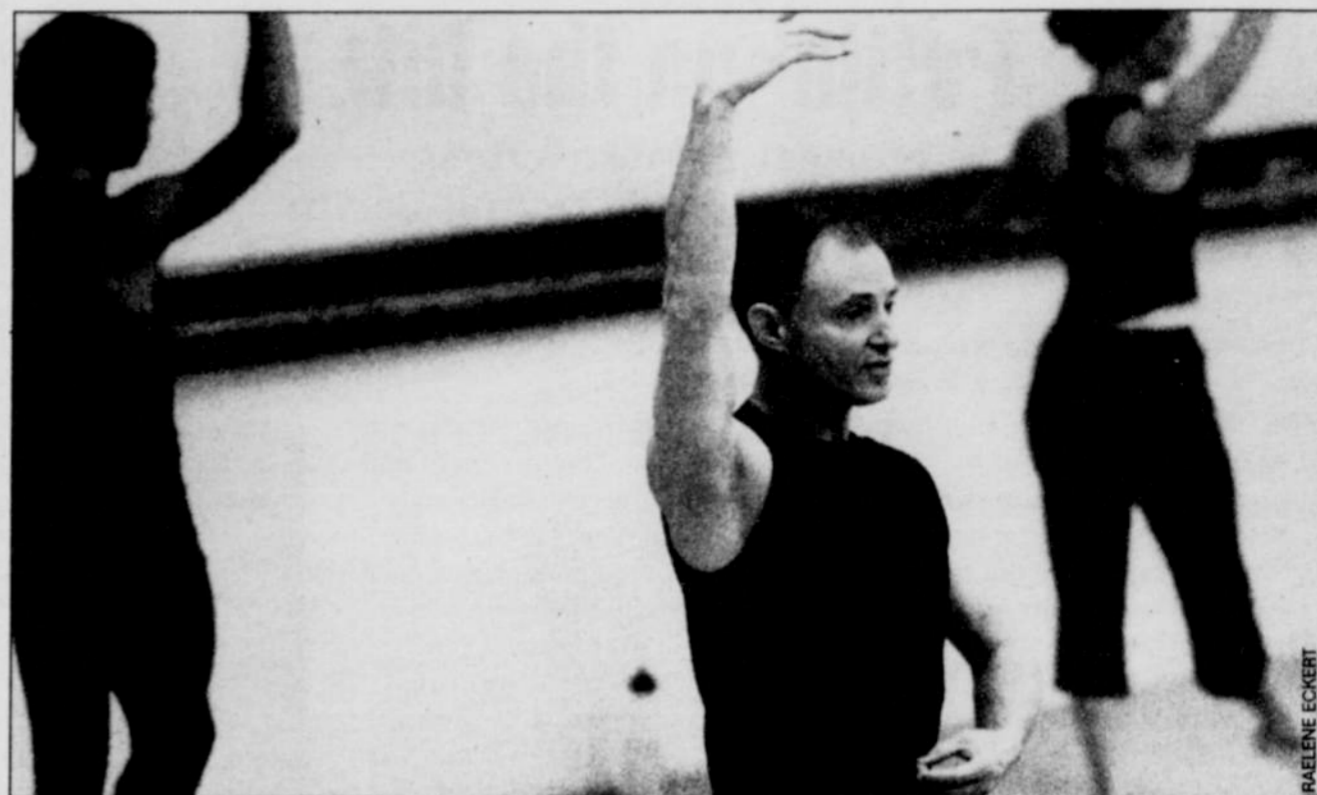
For singles and couples who enjoy a good game of golf, Ladies on the Links Golf Tournament is sure to be a hit. The women-only golf tournament will take place Oct. 2 at Heron Lakes Golf Club followed by a party at the stylish wine and martini bar Crush.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other women, singles as well as couples who share similar interests while raising money for two great causes," says tournament organizer Ellie Heller. "I want people to enjoy themselves."

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Doernbecher Pediatric Foundation and the Hambleton Project.

The foundation supports many services that are made available to children not only in the Portland area but nationwide, from heart defects to cancer treatment. "As an employee of Doernbecher," Heller says, "I personally have seen firsthand the tremendous work done there and the smiles of those kids who benefit from the services provided."

Hambleton, a support group for lesbians with cancer and other life-threatening conditions, is run by volunteers and solely functions on the donations it receives. "The Hambleton



The NW Professional Dance Project gives young dancers a chance to study under choreographers from a wide range of backgrounds

Project is a godsend," Heller says.

The idea for the benefit golf tournament and mixer came about when Heller was talking to a friend about ways to meet other singles in Portland. "There are a lot of women that play golf, and so I thought that somebody should put together a golf tournament," she says.

After her friend suggested Heller should organize the event, she rose to the occasion. The end result is a fabulous day-long event full of fun, friends and golf.

Tickets cost \$100 a person and include 18 holes of scramble-style golf, a tee prize, cart service, catered lunch and access to the after-party, which will feature T-Dance drink specials, hors d'oeuvres, awards and prizes.

Applications for the tournament can be found online at www.cruisecontrolpdx.com. For more information contact Heller at hellere@ohsu.edu.

—Courtney Perkins

Portland project fosters young dancers

For the second year, the NW Professional Dance Project brings together the wisdom of experience and the exuberance of youth.

Big-name choreographers and artistic directors from companies like Nederlands Dans Theater III and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago fly to Portland and join local dance artists in working with a "company" of 36 professional and preprofessional dancers, ages 16 to 25. For three full weeks, nearly 10 hours a day, the young dancers learn from these choreographers by way of classes, workshops and choreographic sessions.

The dancers will be "pushed, torqued, twisted, manipulated, challenged," says Sarah Slipper, who is one of the project's artistic directors, along with Steve Gonzales, artistic director of the Jefferson Dancers.



Not only does the project give dancers a chance to study under choreographers from a wide range of backgrounds, but it also provides an important opportunity for making connections.

"It's all about mentoring these dancers, who are so hungry," says Slipper.

Last year, for instance, several of the dancers received contracts with professional companies as a result of their time at the project, and others received recommendations. After all, as Slipper points out, a dancer can make a big impression on a choreographer during the project.

"You learn an incredible amount about a dancer: how they work with others, how they respond to you, how creative they are," she explains.

It's a dream arrangement for the choreogra-



Queer artist Courtney Frisse injected her chair with a dose of humor.