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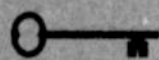


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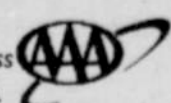
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northwest

Continued from Page 9

tive Portland choreographers; Defunkt Theatre received \$4,310 for the world premiere of a piece by local playwright James Moore; Hand2Mouth Theatre received \$3,750 for a concert-lecture piece about American values; Tahni Holt received \$3,060 for her project *The 25 Dances That Saved My Life*; Liminal Performance Group received \$5,000 for the performance of *The Theory of Love*; Oslund + Co. received \$4,233 for its 2007 performance season; Pendulum Aerial Dance Theatre received \$3,750 for a new contemporary work titled *Dawn*; Performance Works NorthWest received \$4,750 for the dance *Circus Me Around*; Polaris Dance Theatre received \$3,750 for the choreographic retelling of Federico Lorca's *Bodas De Sangre*; Project Quest received \$3,970 for the Healing and Empowerment Program for breast cancer survivors and women in treatment; Sojourn Theatre received \$4,000 for pairing underserved teens with professional mentors; Sowelu Theatre received \$3,323 for the production of *The Hero*, a play by Luke Heyerman; and Third Rail Repertory Theatre received \$5,000 to produce local playwright Ebbe Roe Smith's *Number Three*.

Drunk-Driving Victim Grateful for Community

Portland lesbian Sue Baker was seriously injured when her car was hit Nov. 19. A longtime dance instructor, most recently at Crystal's Country Jam, she is facing nine more months of healing and rehabilitation before she can set her sights on the dance floor again.

"I started two-stepping about 15 years ago when the East Side [now the Egyptian Room] was a country dancing place," said Baker, 53, a supervisor trainer at Wilshire Credit. "I was coming out of a relationship and didn't know many people. Most of my friendships today began through country dancing." She said she and dance partner Delmar Gordy do not teach for money but to share their passion for dancing and help people learn how to two-step.

Baker said she was on her way home from her friends' house and wanted to pick up an artificial tree at J.C. Penney. "I was on [Interstate] 205 heading northbound, took the exit, entered the intersection, and a car heading eastbound T-boned me on the driver side," she said. "All I remember was the impact and screaming. After everything stopped, I remember thinking the light was green."

According to Baker, the 19-year-old male who hit her was fleeing from a hit-and-run of a 24-year-old woman as she was walking home from work. "Even though my injuries are bad and I won't go



Sue Baker is on the mend from serious injuries resulting from a hit-and-run accident.

back to work for a couple of months, at least I'm not paralyzed," she adds. "My purpose was to stop him and catch him." After speaking with the district attorney's office, Baker learned that the driver had a .15 blood-alcohol level four hours after the accident and that officers found meth in his van.

Baker suffered a fractured pelvis. Surgeons put in a 3 1/4-inch screw as well as an external flexor, which she jokingly refers to as a human bar towel. After 12 days at Emanuel Hospital and two weeks at Cascade Terrace care facility, Baker was able to return home in time for Christmas with her dog and cat.

"On Christmas Eve, 17 friends showed up in my front yard singing me carols," she said. "I'm single but far from alone. This experience has told me that I'll never be alone. It's something money cannot buy."

One friend, Michele Lish, sent out an e-mail to set up a schedule for meals, helping Baker out and spending the night with her. "I had nothing to worry about except to heal. I was a very active person before this accident," Baker said emotionally, "but I don't have anything to complain about because of the support of my friends."

Be a Joiner

Combine your new year's resolutions of getting fit and contributing to the community by joining the Amazon Dragons Paddling Club, Portland's out-and-proud lesbian dragon boat team. Its first information meeting for potential paddlers is 3:30 p.m. Jan. 7 at Q Center, 69 S.E. Taylor St.

The season starts in February, but dry land conditioning starts now. The organization, which boasts the values of community, fitness, friendship and competition, welcomes all women 16 and older. For more information visit www.amazondragons.org. **JO**

By JAYMEE R. CUTI and MALKA GEFFEN



Training starts now for the Amazon Dragons Paddling Club.