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formance by Joint Forces Dance Company, led by Guggenheim Award winner Allito Alessi.

The Justice Within Reach celebration is from 7 p.m. to midnight Feb. 3 at Design Within Reach Studio, 1200 N.W. Everett St. Admission is \$25-\$50, and proceeds will benefit the foundation. To purchase tickets call 503-289-1517 or visit www.mrgfoundation.org.

New PABA Treasurer Resigns

The Portland Area Business Association's second meeting of the new board matched last year's tone of musical-chairs-type turnover.

Amid old business such as allocation of scholarship money and instruction on proper parliamentary procedure, Rob Patton, the board's new treasurer, tendered his resignation.

"I don't feel great about it, but the problem is PABA has made me too successful," said Patton. He explained that his Internet marketing company, Enter the Net, has "taken off," requiring too much attention to dedicate to the organization, "combined with the fact that treasurer is a very time-consuming position and I misjudged by how much. I figured instead of trying to tough it out, I'd give this organization that I love a chance to get the right person in the position that had the time to give to it."

Patton's predecessor, Jackie Wheatley, resigned from the treasurer post Oct. 2, before her term expired, amid an ongoing conflict-of-interest controversy. At that time, she called for the resignation of the entire board.

Before Patton's announcement, he presented a

treasurer's report, which reflected PABA's \$7,764.18 checking account balance as of Jan. 21, before a deposit of \$1,140.

As Patton left the meeting unceremoniously, his replacement was recommended and voted in. Newly elected board member Brad Wulf accepted the position of treasurer and has begun the transition with Patton's assistance.

One of Patton's projects during his term as secretary in 2006 was chairman of the silent auction committee for the organization's Winter Party. His committee solicited donations and auction items for the party with the understanding that "a portion of the proceeds" would benefit the PABA scholarship fund.

"We request that at least \$2,000 of the money generated from the silent auction be allocated to the PABA Scholarship Fund," Patton wrote in a strongly worded letter submitted Dec. 18 to the PABA board.

After his departure, the board voted to earmark \$1,500 to the scholarship, pending a review of the budget. That figure is approximately half of the event's net profit.

"I think that's fine, satisfactory," said Patton, who will remain a member of the organization and will be involved with the committee responsible for PABA's presence at Portland Pride 2007.

Legal Workshop Offered

A Legal Family Matters workshop, focusing on ways for queer couples to get the same protections afforded to legally married couples, is being offered by Equal Rights Washington as part of its Vow to Take a Stand event. It is sponsored by the Pride Foundation and Sexual Minority Leadership Roundtable.

The workshop, featuring gay state Rep. Jim Moeller, D-Vancouver, is from 3 to 6 p.m. Feb. 11 at Vancouver Heights United Methodist Church, 5701 MacArthur Blvd. Members of Equal Rights Washington will also update attendees on the status of marriage equality in the state.

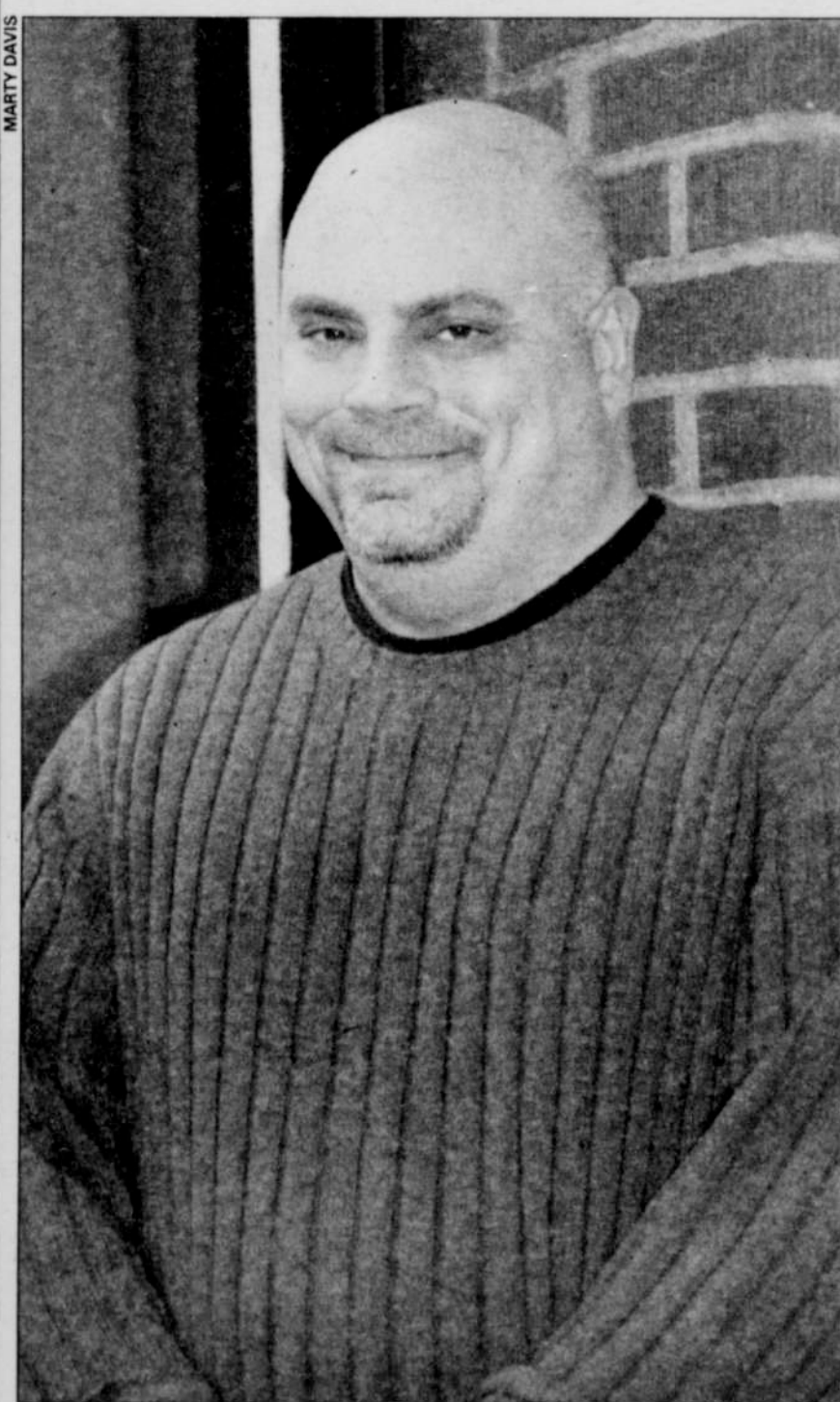
To register visit www.gayvancouverwa.org.

Musician Faces Tragedy

When Sharon Flaherty heard that the house of her ex-partner and good friend Sonny Hess had burned down, she couldn't believe it.

"I laughed and was like, 'Yeah, right.' I drove over to find six fire department trucks," said Flaherty. "The only thing I snagged was a Paul Reed Smith—a really old guitar she played at the beginning of her career that holds a lot of memories. I took it home and set it in front of my gas fireplace. Everything else we had to walk away from."

A professional rhythm and blues musician, Hess, 48, was diagnosed with breast cancer



Rob Patton pauses at Jackman Joe Coffee after resigning as PABA's treasurer.