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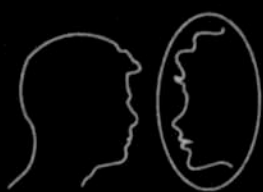
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Gay Candidates Emerge for City Council Race

Sexual minority candidates are emerging for a chance to fill Portland City Commissioner Erik Sten's Position 2 seat.

Community activist Ed Garren, a psychotherapist in private practice, is gathering donations to qualify for public financing.

Tamara DeRidder is the self-employed principal for TDR and Associates, a land-use planning company.

Neither candidate has held public office, but Garren once campaigned for city commissioner in West Hollywood. He has been an Oregonian for two years.

DeRidder moved to Northeast Portland in 1985 from Knoxville, Tenn., and joined the Rose City Park Neighborhood Association. She has worked as a long-range planning manager for nearly 20 years from Sandy to Vancouver, Wash.

DeRidder has a special interest in issues affecting diversity, education and homelessness. She is collaborating with several agencies to help coordinate a Peace Institute, which would provide a venue for education, celebration, classes and performances aimed at honoring diversity.

DeRidder says she is running because "They need the help." She expressed frustration about the City Council's refusal to extend the deadline for public financing; Sten announced his resignation Jan. 2.

"They make some great rules, but they don't understand they need to follow them, from the Chavez street naming to when they create public

campaign finance dollars," DeRidder said. "They make this impossible for anyone to get campaign finance dollars if they keep the deadline."

DeRidder, who is a lesbian, is an active member of St. Michael and All Angel's Episcopal Church and sings in its choir.

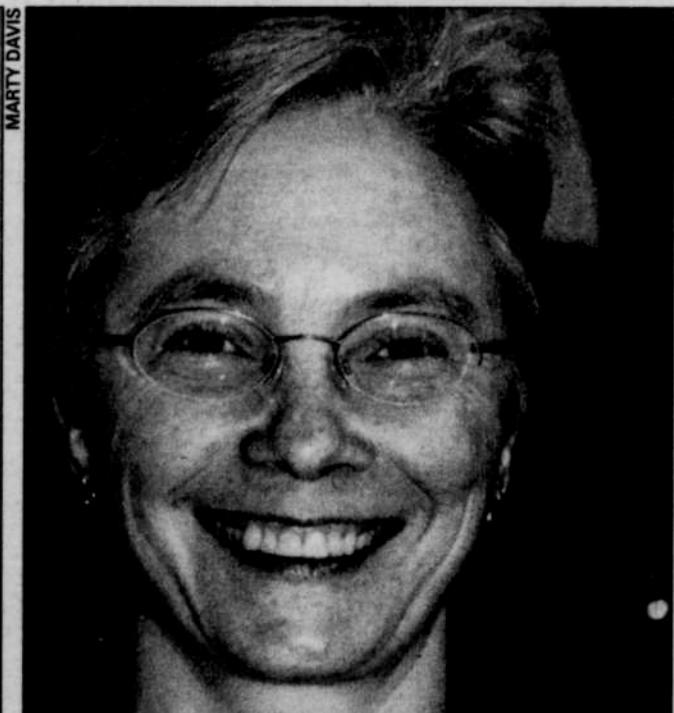
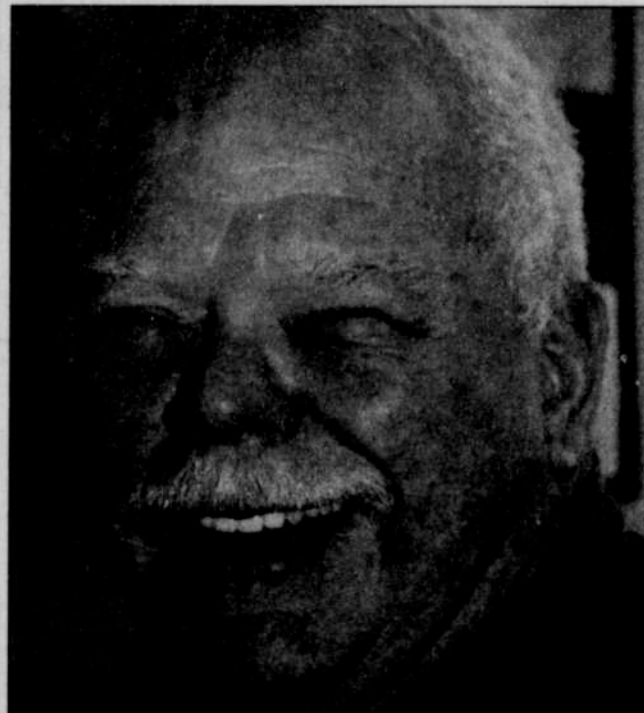
Garren's name became familiar when he proposed a development moratorium on Hayden Island, which halted the construction of Wal-Mart in 2006. When the moratorium was threatened the following year, he was the principal negotiator in the conflict resolution between the neighborhood association and the Jantzen Beach Super Center.

He is co-chairman of the Hayden Island Plan Steering Committee.

Garren, who serves on the Environmental Justice Group of the Columbia River Crossing Project, has concerns about diesel emissions and other environmental causes, affordable housing, living-wage jobs and the city's disaster preparedness plan in case of an earthquake.

Garren, who is gay, has a history of supporting sexual minority causes. He was active with the Gay and Lesbian Student Association at University of South Florida. After moving to West Hollywood in 1983, he became an officer in the Stonewall Democratic Club and worked as an HIV educator at the AIDS Response program of Orange County. He was also a member of the Gay and Lesbian Advisory Task Force in West Hollywood.

"Our oppression is about invisibility and silence—the civilian equivalent of 'don't ask, don't tell.' It's painful, and it's not right," he said.



Gay and lesbian candidates Ed Garren and Tamara DeRidder are vying to fill the seat of vacating Portland City Commissioner Erik Sten.

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