

Candidates for City Council debate economy, dirt roads, and schools

By Kate Bennett
Special to The Southwest Portland Post

On the night of October 20th, approximately 50 people showed up at the Multnomah Center auditorium for coffee, neighborly conversation and the Portland City Council Position #1 candidates' debate.

In the space of an hour, Amanda Fritz, 50, and Charles Lewis, 36, (the top two candidates in the primary election) each explained why they thought they were best qualified for the City Commissioner's job.

The debate began with moderator Brian Russell, president of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., asking which candidate would like to go first. After a brief silence, Lewis looked as if he was about to volunteer to go first, until Fritz exclaimed that every debate has to start with a coin toss and that it must be done.

Russell obtained a coin, tossed it and called out "heads." Fritz won. She deferred to Lewis.

For better or worse, this initial exchange immediately highlighted some of the character differences between the two candidates. Fritz appeared to be assertive and law-abiding.

Lewis, although law-abiding, appeared to be a bit more flexible and subdued. Throughout the debate, these candidate's characteristics showed themselves in the candidates' stated interests, priorities and plans.

In his three-minute opening statement, Lewis calmly commented on the

need to strengthen local schools, the importance of job creation, and his desire to create "vibrant neighborhoods."

Lewis noted that he lives in the Cully neighborhood on a "dirt road" and that he understands the importance of good infrastructure.

Fritz, sounding resolute and impassioned, stated that she wants Portland to provide basic services to all of Portland's 95 neighborhoods and 35 business districts.

Fritz said she wants to "make sure that every penny is spent wisely" and that "citizens' voices are heard." She remarked that she has lived in southwest Portland for the past 22 years and understands the specific issues facing each neighborhood.

When looking at resumes, each candidate is equally impressive. Lewis attended the University of Portland which he followed with a two-year stay in the Congo as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Upon his return to the states, he attended Harvard University where he obtained a Masters Degree in public policy. After graduating from Harvard, he moved back to Portland where he founded the Ethos Music Center.

Fritz, originally from England, attended Cambridge University. In 1979 she moved to Pennsylvania where she obtained her nursing degree. Her degree has led to a rewarding 22-year career with OHSU as an inpatient psychiatric nurse. Fritz has also been a dedicated community activist.

The 30-minute question-and-answer section predominantly focused on the



current economy, dirt roads, and schools. Most of Lewis' answers combined his interest in "common-sense solutions" with innovation. As example, one of his answers to Portland's impending budget crisis is to create jobs.

Lewis explained how he came up with an innovative solution to create jobs though by founding Ethos Music Center, a successful non-profit that now has 78 employees.

Regardless of the issue, Fritz's answers emphasized the need to prioritize and for everyone to work together. One of her responses to our city's impending budget crisis is to focus on smaller budgetary items such as how to transport children to school, rather than big ticket items such as "global warming or the \$4.2 billion dollar (Interstate) Bridge."

Fritz stressed the "need to prioritize, to work with other jurisdictions and to use budget money wisely." She also made a point to tell the audience that she is not afraid to tell her fellow commissioners, "We don't have the money to do that right now."

As the debate was drawing to a close, Russell asked the candidates this question: "If elected, which bureau would you want?" Fritz immediately stated, "The Office of Neighborhood Involvement." She claimed that the Office of Neighborhood Involvement is "strategically placed to make our city work better."

Fritz's strengths appeared to be her extensive knowledge of Portland's communities and neighborhoods, her confidence to say it how it is, and her desire to involve everyone.

Lewis stated that he wants the Bureau of Housing and Community Development, as "housing is so critical to so many things here in Portland." He also mentioned how, if elected, he would create a local community corps that would enlist individuals to work exclusively on community development.

Lewis's strengths appeared to be an ability to befriend most anyone, a dedication to social justice and a laudable business background.

Offering a variety of fall floral art, gift baskets, decor and more, for all your party, recognition and gift giving needs.

AMAZING flowers
for **AMAZING** people.

Embellishments for the Home, Office, Events and more. Lets us help you make your events Amazing!

Z-FIORI
Flowers • Gifts • Wine • Stationery

6350 SW Capitol Highway
503.246.4221
www.zfiori.com



GOOD NEIGHBOR PHARMACY

be well ...
and well informed

Bowman's Hillsdale Pharmacy

6256 SW Capitol Hwy.
503-244-7582 • email: hdx@pcez.com

- Walk-In Adult Immunizations
- Flu Shots Available
- Experienced Compounding Pharmacists

www.mygnp.com

Steve Oppenheim for State of Oregon Representative, # 36

A fun guy to have in your house

Because, I'd like to see my pet peeve's become policies

Because there should be a law to allow school districts to abstain from inclusion in tax deferred zones, so politicians could put your money where their mouth is.

Because there should be a law to protect people and businesses from disgruntled people to use the powers of the State of Oregon to harass, based upon false claims.

Because there should be a law to allow the interstate highways to have the same speeds as our neighboring states.

Because there should be a law to allow Oregonians to deduct the costs of adoption, of Oregon children.

Because there should be a law to promote the teaching of Mandarin Chinese in Oregon's primary, and secondary schools, since we will be having to deal with China much more in our future.

Because there should be a law to protect people from harassing use of the courts.

Because there should be a law to allow a plus 5 MPH lane on any three lane Interstate Freeway, so those in a bigger hurry can get past those who aren't.

Because there should be a priority to make I-5 three lanes from Eugene to Portland, and not use the scarce highway dollars to build a I-5 behemoth Bridge.

Because there should be a law that recognizes the regional differences of Oregon, in regards to land use, and property restrictions. An acre of land in the Valley should not be treated the same as one East of the Cascades.

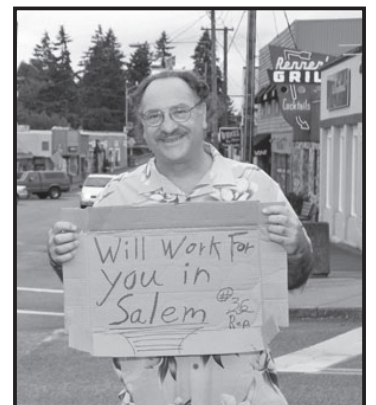
Because we need to recognize that we are all residents of this wonderful state, and share more common needs than differences.

Because I like to have fun in all things involving life's adventures.

ALSO, BECAUSE I AM NOT A RICH MAN I COULD USE ANY HELP I CAN GET. SO, IF YOU CAN SPARE \$50.00, FOR AN OREGON TAX CREDIT, I WOULD BE SO APPRECIATIVE. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO CRONIES OF STEVE OPPENHEIM, AND SEND THEM TO 4610 S.W. Freeman St. Portland Or. 97219,

And, thank you for your support.

(Paid for by Cronies of Steve Oppenheim)



OREGON SCHOOL of MASSAGE

Now offering advanced certification programs in
Maternity, Shiatsu and Sports Massage.



Winter Term begins January 12th!

For information about our program,
contact an Admissions Coordinator or
attend a free Massage Training
Preview on November 12th at 6:30pm.

9500 SW Barbur Blvd. #100
Portland, OR 97219

503-244-3420 or 1-800-844-3420

2111 Front St NE
Salem, OR 97301

503-585-8912 or 1-877-588-8912

www.oregonschoolofmassage.com

