

"I'm AVAILABLE
when *you* are!"

Careful and energetic handling of
all your home financing needs

**MORTGAGE
Advocates**

6700 SW 105th Ave., Suite 200 Beaverton, OR 97005
Toll Free (877) 826-9900 Fax (503) 297-0824
E-Mail: colleenw@mtgadvocates.com www.mtgadvocates.com

Colleen Weed

Office 503-297-9900

Cell 503-780-1561



The Joseph Landry Salon



602 SE 38th Ave.
Portland, OR 97214
503.231.3922
Wed - Sat

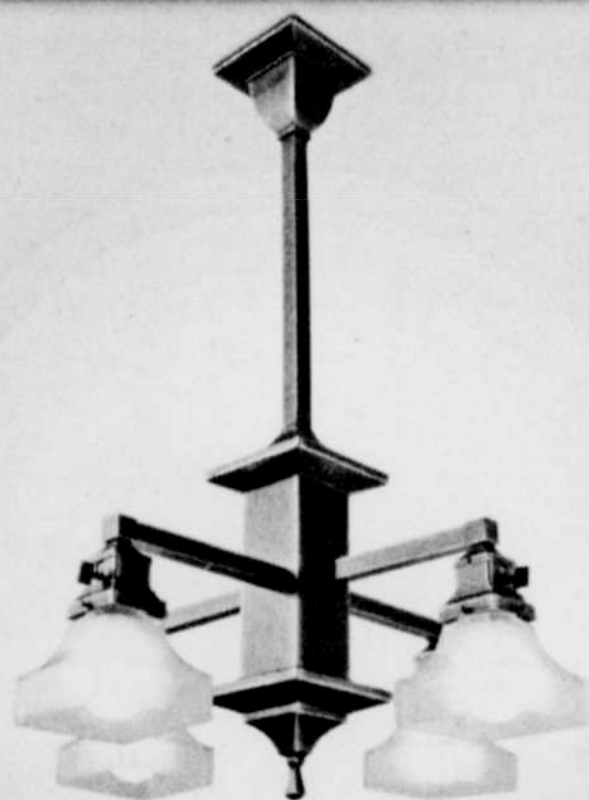
PAUL MITCHELL

DIGNIFIED PET SERVICES
Cremation & Memorials For Your Companion

- Unique Cremation Urns
- Memorial Jewelry
- Personalized Caskets
- Granite Monuments
- Books & Literature

8976 SW Tualatin Sherwood Road
Tualatin OR 97062
Phone (503) 885-2211

www.DignifiedPetServices.com
(A Division of Cascade Funeral Directors, Inc)



SO SWANKY, YOU'LL WANT TO CRANK UP
THE TELEPHONE AND TELL THE OPERATOR
TO CALL THE NEIGHBORS

The Wilshire exemplifies the hand-
work and artisanship of the Craftsman
era. To see a full range of early to
mid-twentieth century light fixtures,
drop by 1100 SE Grand Mon-Sat
9-6:30, Sun 11-5, call 503.238.1900,
or visit rejuvenation.com.

REJUVENATION
PORTLAND OREGON

NORTHWESTnews

QUEER ENERGY: Two Views

Where sexual minority activists stand
on the proposed public utility district by Meg Daly

LESBIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST SAYS PUD IS WHAT PORTLAND NEEDS

Nancy Newell doesn't exactly look like a major enemy of corporate-controlled utilities.

The slim, casually dressed 50-something Portlander is full of exuberant energy. Her eyes are warm—with a flicker of devilishness—and she is quick to throw back her head and laugh. But what she is fighting for is no laughing matter. As the only queer candidate running for one of the five director positions of the Multnomah County Public Utility District, she is all seriousness on the subject of citizens taking charge of their utilities.

"Public power is a way to gain back community choices that are locally decided," says Newell, a specialist on deregulation issues in the utility industry.

The Multnomah County Public Utility District is an entity that will be created if voters approve Measure 26-51 (whether to form the PUD) and Measure 26-52 (whether to impose a tax levy amounting to 45 cents on \$150,000 property value to fund an engineering study) in a special election Nov. 4.

If adopted, the PUD would be locally owned and controlled, with a board of directors elected by voters. It would acquire Portland General Electric's assets at the lowest price by using eminent domain, which means the PUD will not have to bid at the Enron bankruptcy auction. The PUD would be required to honor existing union contracts of PGE workers.

Activists like Newell have been agitating for a PUD ever since the Enron takeover of PGE in 1997. They claim a PUD would lower rates by at least 25 percent immediately. According to the Oregon Public Power Committee, savings would come in part from removing the charges for shareholder profits, state and federal income taxes and exorbitant management salaries associated with corporate-controlled utilities.

"Overnight, it would become ours," Newell says, referring to the general public. "We would be able to make our own decisions."

Newell says one of the advantages of a PUD is that it would not have to generate profits, in the traditional sense. It would be a strictly cost-based model of energy use—the customers pay only for the costs of their energy. Currently, PGE users pay a number of additional costs each month, including state and federal income taxes.

And therein lies one of the main rallying points for the PUD. Proponents say PGE—or, rather, its defunct parent company, Enron—owes Oregon \$70 million in income taxes that ratepayers paid to PGE but that PGE paid to Enron. However, Enron never paid that money to Oregon. At a time when public confidence in large corporate business practices is low, PUD supporters find no comfort in the thought that PGE could be sold to another corporate entity when it goes up for auction.

Beyond fraud and unpaid taxes, Newell says a utility company owned by a company like Enron is bad news for queers. CEOs at Enron,



"Gays and lesbians should pull a plug on the Bush/Cheney/Ashcroft team. If we adopt a PUD, there will be more money in people's pockets to get Bush out of office."

—Nancy Newell

she notes, were major contributors to President Bush's campaign.

"Gays and lesbians should pull a plug on the Bush/Cheney/Ashcroft team," Newell says. "If we adopt a PUD, there will be more money in people's pockets to get Bush out of office."

Newell acknowledges that PGE has a great track record in terms of queer employees. But she says there is no reason those benefits would not continue, especially with a lesbian PUD board member advocating for queer rights both within the organization and at a state level.

Newell is a 30-year veteran activist on environmental, energy, sexual minority, peace and justice issues. She is co-director of the "No Enron Committee," which tried to stop the Enron merger during the Oregon Public Utility Commission's deliberations in 1997.

Newell is a former board chairwoman of Cascadia Times and Northwest Environmental Advocates. She was a key organizer for former U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Furse, D-Ore., in her first campaign for Congress.

In 1998, Newell was appointed as U.S. consumer representative to the United Kingdom's Board of Industry and Trade deliberations on the attempted merger by PacifiCorp with an English corporation that owned and operated most of the coal generating and mining operations in the western United States. Her appointment led to a six-month hearing process in the United Kingdom that caused the \$11 billion purchase by PacifiCorp to fail. Her main objection was the failure of PacifiCorp to aid the international effort to reduce global warming.

"We've had comfort in the U.S. at the