

NORTHWESTnews



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Mary Beth Brindley is seeking gay and lesbian seniors who are interested in discussing housing options

HOUSING COMMITTEE LAUNCHED FOR SENIORS

A newly formed committee wants to get the word out to lay the groundwork for housing for gay and lesbian seniors.

The first meeting will be held in late October. Among the questions the committee is asking to gauge interest:

- What type of facility would you like to retire in?
- If you needed assisted living later in your life, would you prefer a facility for gay men and lesbians or an established facility?
- Would you be interested in working on the housing committee?
- Would you be willing to be part of a "Need for Housing" survey?

Mary Beth Brindley, Old Lesbians Organizing for Change chairwoman, says many seniors rely on their family or partners to take care of them. "That's not always realistic, because we don't know tomorrow what's going to happen to us," she notes.

For more information call 503-286-3575.

KBOO WOMEN FORM CAUCUS

KBOO Community Radio recently launched a Women's Caucus to provide a venue for networking among producers, engineers, programmers and volunteers.

The group has many opportunities for newcomers to get involved in news, public affairs and music programming at the station. It holds monthly meetings to provide training and mentoring for involvement with shows such as *Feminista Factor* and *Bread and Roses*.

Caucus secretary Francie Nevill has been a volunteer at KBOO since June. As a lesbian and the daughter of a lesbian, she hopes to bring a unique perspective to the station and wants to see others follow suit.

"I'd love to see more voices out there," Nevill says. "As one person I can't speak for the whole queer community."

KBOO also is reaching out to fill a vacancy left ever since the weekly program *Queer, Queer World* went on hiatus. Anybody interested in getting involved with the production

of a similar show should contact the station.

For more information about the Women's Caucus call Dennise Kowalczyk at 503-231-8032, ext. 203, or send e-mail to fmnews@kboo.org. For more information about *Queer, Queer World* call Kathleen Stephenson at ext. 202.

UW STUDY LEADS TO PAP SMEAR CAMPAIGN

Contrary to a widespread misconception, lesbians should get annual Pap tests even though they don't have straight sex.

A recent study from the University of Washington indicates the human papillomavirus is present in about one out of eight lesbians. Of the 248 women studied, 13 percent tested positive for HPV, and 4 percent showed precancerous changes on the Pap test.

HPV causes genital warts, cervical dysplasia and occasionally cervical cancer—sexually transmitted diseases usually associated with heterosexual intercourse. "About 90 percent of women who have sex with women have been sexually active with men at some point in their lives," Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo, UW School of Medicine assistant professor, told the *Chicago Tribune*.

HPV can be detected during a gynecological exam that includes a simple Pap test. "Timing is critical when it comes to cancer—the sooner it is detected, the better the chance a person has to get successful treatment," said Paula Szytko, a pathologist from High Point, N.C.

To receive private e-mails indicating when to schedule a screening, visit the Internet site www.myhealthstreminder.com.

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