



Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

P.O. Box 24565 Los Angeles, CA 90024 (310) 472-8952 <http://www.pflagla.org>

June-July 2002

Newsletter 217

OUR MISSION

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) promotes the health and well being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered persons, their families and friends through: **support**, to cope with an adverse society; **education**, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and **advocacy**, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Our meetings are always held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Westwood United Methodist Church, 10497 Wilshire Bl., NE corner of Wilshire and Warner. Take 405 Freeway to Wilshire Bl. East exit. Continue 1.5 miles. The entry on Warner has an elevator; another entry is through the sanctuary to the corridor, then upstairs to the Fellowship Hall - 3rd floor. There is also easy access from the north driveway. Doors open at 6:30 pm; general meeting begins at 7:25 pm.

PFLAG starts each meeting with a rap group where individuals can share their concerns, questions and understanding about and with the gay person or persons in their families. After the rap session, we generally have a speaker or panel of speakers whose topic includes subjects pertinent to the families, gays and lesbians. If needed, a separate group for people wishing to share and learn about people with AIDS (PWAs) is held, along with a Spanish speaking support group facilitated by Spanish speaking parents.

OUR NEXT SPEAKERS

June 18, 2002

Rabbi Denise Eger has been part of Congregation Kol Ami since 1992 which is based in West Hollywood. The Congregation has been on the forefront in letting the GLBT actively and equally participate within the Reformed Judaic community. Rabbi Denise will speak about the path to acceptance and understanding within the Jewish religion.

July 16, 2002

Marc Adams and his partner Todd Tuttle head up Heartstrong, a non-profit, non-sectarian advocacy and educational organization focusing on the plight of the GLBT community within religious institutions. Come here Marc speak about the more than 188,000 miles he and Todd have traveled throughout the U.S. and Canada raising public awareness and helping those in need with their outreach program.

**Don't miss PFLAG's NATIONAL CONFERENCE: Family Voices for Equality,
September 27-29 in Columbus, OH.**

Register now at www.pflag.org to receive the early bird registration fee.

New this year: Family Voices for Equality is being held in conjunction with Family Pride and COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere).

To register by phone or for information call 614-447-5105

HELPLINES, CHAPTERS & CONTACTS 9 am to 9 pm**Area Code 310**

West LA: 454 6681 (Liz) LIZARM@aol.com
West LA: 472 8952 (Adele)
South Bay Chapter: 373 2351

Area Code 323

291 2990 (Elfi Martin)

Area Code 562

Long Beach Chapter: 403 1234

Area Code 626

Pasadena Chapter: 914 1241 (Denny)

Area Code 661

Santa Clarita Chapter: 254 2177 (Peggy)

Area Code 714

Orange County Chapter: 997 8047

Area Code 805

Ventura Chapter: 498 4964 (Rita or Steve)

Area Code 818

Studio City: 788 8678 (Lynette) Lynette114@aol.com
Woodland Hills: 340 8945 (Irene & Alvin)

Area Code 909

Claremont Chapter: 624 6134 or 981 2332
Colton: 825 8368 (Norma)
Redlands Chapter: 335 2005 (Kathy)

Area Code 949

South Orange County: 459 2834 (Karyl)

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

If there is anything you would like to see in the newsletter, please e-mail me at haichi_ca@hotmail.com, call me at (323) 460-4849, or just drop me a note at our PFLAG meetings! Gender bender greetings, Chris Haiss

Deadline for submissions: July 1 (August/September issue)

OTHER HELPLINES / RESOURCES

Spanish Speaking:
(310) 453 8506 (Angela)

African American:
(323) 731 0888 (Shirley)
(323) 305 1853 (Glynis)

Asian Pacific Islander:
(818) 368 2008 (Ellen) HKameya@juno.com

LA Gay & Lesbian Center:
(323) 993 7400

Straight Spouses:
(626) 449 3267 (Onnolee)

TREVOR - 24 hr suicide prevention line
for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth:
(800) 850 8078 www.trevorproject.com

Merging Identities:
One of the National Conference for Community & Justice's programs that helps gay, lesbian and bisexual youth develop positive identities relative to sexual orientation, culture, religion and family.
(213) 250 8787 www.nccjla.org

Hablando Entre Hombres
Spanish support group for Latino Gay Men
(213) 273 8723 (Ramon Ramirez)

PFLAG National
(202) 467 8180 www.pflag.org

PFLAG's Transgender Special Outreach Network (TSOON):
Karen Gross (216) 691 HELP / KittenGr@aol.com
Mary Boenke (540) 890 3957 / maryboenke@aol.com
www.transfamily.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Believe it"

They said we wouldn't believe it. But, at first, doubters that we are, we didn't believe them. How, after all, could walking in a parade be a life changing, spirit enhancing, basic belief affirming, soul warming affair. Sore feet causing, possibly. Sun burn producing, maybe. Mixed feelings provoking, quite likely. But life changing??? Gimme a break.

Well, as happens more and more lately, they were right and I was wrong. Wrong about how touched I would be by the masses of people on the sidewalk, looking with unabashed love at me, and the others in our group, and saying Thanks. How different, this sentiment, of people who love me, in advance, without knowing me than the still all-to-common experience of our son, and the many gay surrogate sons watching us march by, who are loathed in advance, by people who don't know them. Our reception was uniform, and overwhelming positive, as contrasted, say, to the (soon to be ex-) chief of police, who was right behind our PFLAG group -God bless him for being there- and got a mixed reception.

I refer to last year's Gay Pride parade, the first for my wife Rosemary and me, but not the last. This year's parade is on June 23, a Sunday. Please walk, stroll and march with us. It will be an amazing experience. But don't take my word for it. Come and experience it. Betcha a cup of coffee you'll be overwhelmed.

Joel Hendler - Co-President PFLAG Los Angeles

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT / BOARD

At our July meeting, the PFLAG Board nominees will be announced and voted upon.

Anyone who wishes to be on our Board please contact either
Joel Hendler at 213.680.1146 or George Unger at 323.848.7801.

The current Board includes the following members: Bill Clayton, Joel Hendler, Karen Mason, Barry Mason, Brett Mathews, Steve Roberts, Melanie Saldana, George Unger.

Thanks to all these Board members and everyone else involved with PFLAG Los Angeles who donate their time and efforts to help our mission.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT / FISCAL NEWS

For calendar year 2001, PFLAG-LA had expenses of \$17,860. versus revenues of \$16,028. This is the first time in many years that our expenses exceeded our revenues. While not alarming it is a trend that the Board is concerned about. We've taken several actions to help reduce our expenses and hope to continue finding some other sources for income. One of our biggest annual costs is the production and mailing of our newsletter. Rising postal and production costs have caused us to take a closer look at those who receive the newsletter without paying for it.

IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR DUES IN THE LAST 24 MONTHS WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU. The enclosed subscription envelope has all the details you need. Please take time to fill it out and send it back to us.

SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE STRAIGHT

by Ron Romanovsky

Try not to laugh at the clothes that they wear
 Didn't mother teach you that it's not polite to stare
 Don't make a scene when you see them arm-in-arm
 It's best to just act casual as if you're not alarmed
 Just look the other way if they should dare to show affection
 And hope to god that they use condoms for their own protection.

Just try, try, try to open up your heart
 This world is big enough for some of us
 To play a different part
 It's not fair to persecute them for a simple twist of fate
 Some of my best friends are straight.

Try not to wince at their backyard barbecues
 Be tactful when you tell them that their socks don't match their shoes
 And when they drive by in their souped-up automobiles
 Don't shout, "You look ridiculous up there on those big wheels!"
 Though the lifestyle they have chosen seems a bit outrageous
 Take comfort in the fact that their condition's not contagious.
 (*whew*)

Just try, try, try to open up your heart
 This world is big enough for some of us
 To play a different part
 Although at times their preference makes them hard to tolerate
 Some of my best friends are straight

We've got to understand they cannot help themselves
 And if it disturbs you, perhaps you have those tendencies yourself!

Try not to gawk when you see them at the mall
 Don't freak out at the gym if one should share your shower stall
 Try not to smirk at the hairdos that they sport
 Though at times you'd like to haul them off to Fashion Court
 And if in fact you find yourself compelled to intervene
 Just gently recommend they find a barber who's a queen

Just try, try, try to open up your heart
 This world is big enough for some of us
 To play a different part
 Although they have a tendency to overpopulate
 Some of my best friends are straight
 Now I might not want my sister to take one on a date
 But some of my best friends are
 One of your best friends could be
 Even someone right beside you could be straight.

DID YOU KNOW?

...that the DSM-IV (Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) DOES NOT list homosexuality as a mental disorder, but, for example, male erectile disorder and female orgasmic disorder?

(Note from the editor: Now you know how to respond next time someone tells you that being gay is a mental illness!)

GAY HISTORY with LISA DIGUARDI

March 30, 1985:

Ed Davis, former Los Angeles Chief of Police, publicly blasted anti-gay politicians as a "bunch of maladjusted jerks" and refused pressure from evangelical groups to refuse donations from gay organizations.

He closed a letter to the American Coalition for Family Values writing "I ask you to take a few minutes to read two short documents with which you may not be familiar-The Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights."

He confused glb activists with his statements- he had formerly been one of the chief political enemies of gay rights in California.

CALIFORNIA RESOLUTION HONORING THE BOY SCOUTS DEFEATED

SACRAMENTO (April 2, 2002) - Today, the California Assembly Judiciary Committee rejected a resolution that would honor the Boy Scouts of America on its anniversary of holding a congressional charter. The resolution, ACR 140, is authored by Republican Assemblymember Robert Pacheco of Walnut.

Jean Harris: "The leadership of the Boy Scouts of America is failing miserably when it sends the message that discrimination and intolerance are acceptable. The organization's call 'to respect and defend the rights of all people' rings hollow when they continue to discriminate against gay Americans."

SPREADING THE WORD IN THE COMMUNITY

- Louis Cuck, Jenn Kennedy, Nick Rufca and Chrys Balis spoke to students at Pepperdine University.
- Maurie Davidson, Marty Olson, Peter Grey, Sam Gill, Angie Kiel, Bill Mochon and Sylvia Weisenberg spoke to students at Granada Hills High School.
- Richard Berman, Lynette Sperber, Pat Rubin, Sylvia Weisenberg, Marla Weiss, Maurie Davidson and Josh Levin spoke to students at Pressman Academy, a Jewish day school in Los Angeles.
- George Unger, Rob Berlinger, Herman Eastmond, Marla Weiss, Sam Gill and Andy Birnbaum spoke to students at Antelope Valley High School.
- Loretta Amaro and Rob Berlinger spoke in Palmdale to high school faculty and representatives of the Department of Mental Health.
- Marty Olson, Nancy Howell, Karen Mason, Nick Rufca, Peter Winn, Stephen Monkarsh, Herman Eastmond, Peter Grey, Josh Levin, Marla Weiss, Sylvia Weisenberg, Chrys Balis and Beth Robbins spoke to students at Beverly Hills High School.
- Karen Mason, Rob Berlinger, Heather Michelson, Jane Drucker, Nick Rufca, Craig Van Skaik, Bill Mochon and Louis Cuck spoke to students at Campbell Hall School in Studio City.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT / ANNUAL DUES

We've enclosed envelopes for renewing your membership with PFLAG Los Angeles.

For those of you who gave at the first of the year, we thank you for your support.

Additionally, Members may wish to give a membership as a gift, or consider making a donation or tribute in the name of someone you care about.

All contributions are greatly appreciated.

PARADE NEWS

It's the 32nd Annual Christopher Street West
(West Hollywood) Pride Parade on
Sunday June 23rd.

Plan on meeting near the corner of Crescent
Heights and Santa Monica at 10AM.

The parade starts an hour later and heads west
on Santa Monica Blvd for just about a mile.

It's an exhilarating event and always memorable.

We hope to see you there!!

MORE PARADE NEWS

Those of you wishing to order

PFLAG T-Shirts

can do so by contacting George Unger
at 323.848.7801 or email at
sjcgeo@rocketmail.com.

These are our familiar red shirts with white
lettering. Cost will be approximately \$15.
Please specify quantity and sizes when
ordering.

Orders must be received by June 10th.

Wouldn't you like to know how members of the 107th Congress voted on LGBT issues?

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has released its new scorecard that tracks Congressmembers' voting/cosponsorship records on LGBT/HIV rights issues. The HRC scorecard is one of the most well-known and widely circulated publications about Congress and LGBT/HIV-related legislation.

You can download the new scorecard at <http://www.hrc.org/congress/107/scorecard.pdf>

Silent no more - a parent's story (Excerpts)

(By Ralph Ellis, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, April 13, 2002)

Late at night, when she couldn't sleep, Patti Ellis sought anonymous solace on the Internet.

She was distraught because Adam, her teenage son, had revealed that he was homosexual. That news turned her life upside down and created conflict with the Christian teachings she'd absorbed since childhood. But she didn't find understanding on the Internet, only X-rated Web sites or church-sponsored sites telling her that Adam would burn in hell.

That was four years ago. Today, Adam, 20, is an openly gay college student. His parents have come out of the closet in their own way. Instead of being ashamed and fearful of their child's homosexuality, the Fayette County couple have turned activist. Last fall they paid to create their own Web site, <http://www.familyacceptance.com>, that tells in detail what it's like to be the parents of a gay child.

The Web site, put online with Adam's blessing, preaches parental understanding and describes how Jeff and Patti Ellis' religious beliefs evolved after Adam told them he was homosexual.

The Web site addresses such subjects as "Is My Child Gay or Confused?," "Is Homosexuality a Sin?" and "What Is God's Plan?" The Ellises, both in their early 50s, are speaking to business groups about their experiences and want to reach out to church groups, too.

Jeff, a builder, and Patti, a Realtor, were churchgoers while growing up in South Carolina and regularly attended a Methodist church in Fayette County.

"We should have had reserved seats," Jeff quipped. About five years ago - well before Adam came out to his parents - the family quietly dropped out because of an uneasiness with the rules and what they regarded as the narrowness of the organized church.

On Dec. 17, 1997, Adam dropped the bomb. He was 16. His parents were devastated. At first, Patti held out hope that Adam was just a confused teenager and would change his mind. They sought counselors who would confirm that belief. Patti now calls that attitude a form of denial that many parents of gay children go through. "I was certain of only one thing back then: I did not want to lose my child," Patti writes on the Web site. "I knew I would have to find a way to change him or to accept him. . . . I felt trapped between my love for my son and the teachings of my church."

Jeff and Patti told Adam to stay in the closet - for his own safety - until he finished high school. Though Jeff and Patti kept giving Adam hugs and support, everybody in the family was frustrated. Counseling didn't help. Their beautiful two-story house became a tinderbox of denial, depression and anger.

"It was kind of hush-hush and nobody knew what to do. It was very emotional," said Danielle Dail, Adam's best friend in

high school. "Our confusion was caused by two major beliefs that were irreconcilable," Jeff writes on the Web site. "The first belief was that Adam was a wonderful son. . . . To the other extreme, we were told to believe that homosexuals were perverted, sexual deviants. . . . Either our son had pulled the biggest con job on us for his entire life or our concept of homosexuals was based on misinformation."

Adam came out to his friend Danielle shortly after telling his parents. They jokingly compare their relationship to that of the gay guy and straight girl on the sitcom "Will & Grace." Danielle said Adam reconciled his religion and his homosexuality a lot faster than his parents did. He still considers himself Christian, but doesn't go to church.

"Adam is religious, but his big thing is that God made him and God made him the way he is, so God loved him," she said. "I don't think Adam had much of a problem with his religion, but he had a problem with his parents and the way they handled it."

Jeff and Patti didn't have rock-hard attitudes toward gay people in the first place; it was just that homosexuality was never an issue. Jeff said he used to tell gay jokes. Patti said she never really thought about gays, but felt they deserved God's love. When Adam came out, her passive attitude disappeared. Jeff and Patti kept praying, too. "Faithful to his word, God answered our prayer," Jeff said. "However, the changes that took place were not in Adam but in us. God . . . opened our eyes to the fact that he had created Adam gay for his own reasons and we, in our arrogance, viewed God's creation as flawed."

With a bit of interpretation, Jeff found other passages in the Bible that gave him hope, such as John 8:7, in which Jesus says to a crowd criticizing an adulterous woman, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Jeff asked: "If the story were to be exchanged with a gay man, would Jesus have responded differently? Would he have said, 'You have my blessing in stoning this man to death?' I don't think so."

Through groups such as Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, the Ellises met other homosexuals. Jeff and Patti were struck by the way young gays and lesbians stared at them when they attended meetings with Adam. They discovered that many of these young people had been rejected by their parents after they revealed their homosexuality. That strengthened their resolution to stay connected to Adam, no matter the cost.

Jeff said the young homosexuals he met seemed, for lack of a better word, normal. That attitude is decried by anti-homosexual groups that say "normalizing" homosexuality is part of a nationwide gay agenda. The anti-gay voices helped to drive Jeff to activism. When the tri-weekly Fayette Citizen ran a syndicated column by the Rev. Louis Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition contending that gayness is a life choice, not genetic, Jeff fired back with a 17-paragraph letter to the editor. The letter said that Jeff's son was gay and included the words, "If God created them that way, it must not be a sin."

AT THE MOVIES

by Walter Lippmann
walterlx@earthlink.net



From Havana, Cuba, Walter Lippmann writes:

Before returning for another visit to Cuba, three good new movies were being shown in Los Angeles, which should be of interest to PFLAG members, readers and supporters.

TREMBLING BEFORE G-D

Human beings have a profound desire for both intimacy and spiritual connections. These take myriad forms whose possibilities are limitless.

This is a documentary about Orthodox Jewish lesbians and gays. As the movie itself makes very clear, and as the sign-up sheets, lit tables and mailing lists which have proliferated around this film also indicates, there are numerous gay and lesbian people within the Orthodox Jewish world. Face-to-face interviews with individuals who uphold this faith show how deeply is this longing for connection. A few non-LGBT people are shown looking at this phenomenon in a sympathetic light, but the overall sense which one gets is of a religious sectarianism hostile at its core to people who do not fit into its very rigid sex and gender role constructions.

Hauntingly resonant for me were scenes of one gay man, filmed while calling his 95-year-old father on a speaker phone. He's tried for years to have a relationship with his father, but the 95-year-old man tells his son again that he is simply too busy to see his son at this time!

Perhaps most powerful, though in a negative way, is the fact that the two lesbians who are interviewed in the movie, who remain members of an Orthodox Jewish sect, are so severely closeted that their faces cannot appear in the movie at all. Yet they deeply believe and hope their religious persuasion will ultimately accept them. Well beyond the realm of sexuality, this picture powerfully

conveyed for me out longing for closeness with other human beings.

Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN

In recent years Mexican movies have begun to find a niche in the United States market and to win critical acclaim in the cinema world. This new movie, which had been playing locally in Los Angeles for a couple of months before my departure, isn't primarily about sexuality, but it has a significant dramatic moment relevant to anyone who has, however momentarily, made even the shortest foray across this society's mandatory sexuality lines.

The simple narrative is about a couple of older teen aged boys, slacker types really, who meet and con an "older woman" (she's 28) into running away with them to a hidden beach no one has ever heard of in Mexico. We realize momentarily that no one has heard of it because the place doesn't exist. It was created at the spur of the moment by the two young guys as a manipulation to get the "older woman" to go off with them into the unknown where they hope to have sex with her. To their surprise, a few days later, the woman calls and tells them she wants to join them. She's just found out that her husband has been cheating, and she's decided to dump him, and you can see the possibilities which ensue from these premises.

The boys get to have sex with the older woman, though hardly under circumstances they would have expected. More interestingly, when drunk and both being with her, they find themselves having sex with one another as well, a point omitted from most of the reviews I've seen.

KISSING JESSICA STEIN

This is a thoroughly modern romantic comedy in which the two characters mostly just happen to be female. After a series of encounters with stereotypically self-centered men, Jessica Stein, a twenty-something young professional decides on a whim

to respond to a personal add from a woman. This is entirely new territory for her and she nearly misses her first encounter. Patiently the woman whose add she responds to at last calms Jessica down and their relationship soon is off to a comedic series of starts and stops which I found utterly hysterical in the theater. The language is hip and modern, the various characters are mostly true to (my) experience, and I think viewers will find it a laugh a minutes.

FAMILY VIDEO

The island nation of Cuba formerly produced a large number of movies at its own internationally acclaimed ICAIC studios. With the collapse of the island's long-time ally, the Soviet Union, the country has been forced to radically reduce its cinematic output, and to seek new and cheaper mediums than film.

Family division has been a hallmark of the Cuban experience for many reasons since the 1959 revolution. Fidel Castro's family has been divided, as have numerous others. Since gay Cubans (I still hear nothing about lesbians, though they must be here, of course) had their own negative experiences on the island in the past, leaving the island has been featured in the well-known movie **FRESA Y CHOCOLATE** (Strawberry and Chocolate, 1996). Today a new feature dealing with similar themes has recently been released.

This movie, which has played in Havana, Cuba as well as in Miami, Florida recently. I've not seen it, but know that it tells the story of a gay man who has left the island and lives in Miami, Florida. His mother goes in search of him and has to confront her own attitudes toward her son's sexuality. Gay friends who have seen it here in Havana say it's a great movie. It just closed its run at the Yara theater, one of the largest and best-known theaters in the city.

"Family Fundamentals"

(featuring our own Brett Mathews!)

"Well, Mom, there's something I've been meaning to tell you..." It's a phrase that puts most parents onto the precipice between good and bad news, as they breathlessly wait for the "push" that will send them over one edge or another. For politically conservative and fundamentalist Christian parents, the revelation that their children are gay or lesbian must be the worst scenario imaginable; how, asks Oscar®-nominated filmmaker Arthur Dong, does a parent (or can a parent) of a particularly rigid mindset, cope with the prospect of having a child whose sexuality, in their opinion, contains within it "the very element that will lead to the destruction of the human race"? Dong, himself gay, has constructed his latest documentary, *Family Fundamentals*, along the same lines as he has his other films, *Coming Out Under Fire* (a study of gays in the military) and *Licensed to Kill* (about individuals who feel free to kill gays because of biblical and societal justifications). His trademark approach to documenting anti-gay attitudes towards gays and lesbians -- creating empathy for those who hold often frightening views concerning homosexuality without resorting to histrionics -- is on full display here. This time, however, Dong takes this topic beyond the all-too easy opportunity to examine what some might call the ultimate in delicious ironies: he also appears to be "redefining" what it means to be a gay or lesbian though examining the prejudices that confine them within both far-right and far-left political beliefs. In so doing, the filmmaker hopes to encourage dialogue between the various doctrinal and personal cross-sections of gay and-anti gay societies.

In order to accomplish this goal, Dong has chosen three individuals, all of whom represent a disparate cross-section of the gay and lesbian community. Susan Jester, a community redevelopment specialist for the state of New Jersey, gave marriage, in her words, "the old college try", before coming out in her thirties (Jester's son is also gay). Brett Mathews's story has the most typical outcome of the three. Mathews is the son of a former Mormon bishop, an accomplished Air Force pilot who, following a detailed investigation, was stripped of his commission, his pension and his veterans' benefits; after a long fight with the Air Force, he has been able to obtain only an honorable discharge. The most atypical of the three is, arguably, Brian Bennett, a Vice President for Southern California Edison, a Republican, and a former political protégé of current talk-show host, ultra-Republican and former House Representative Robert Dornan. Bennett and Dornan's relationship was once so close that Dornan treated him like a son (Bennett's nickname for Dornan was, and still is, "Poppy"); pictures of the two together at various Republican functions still decorate the walls of Bennett's home.

As with any film devoted to the task of exploring attitudes toward homosexuality, it's hardly surprising that those on the right end of the political spectrum are vehemently opposed to granting gays and lesbians any leeway in the recognition of their civil rights, the approach usually taking the form of alternating between being patronizing toward these moral "inferiors" and savage attacks. Dong captures both with an ease that is remarkably measured in tone given the (usually) flammable nature of the material.

Family Fundamentals is a wryly entertaining, heartbreaking, infuriating and often hilarious film of how fundamentalist Christianity is occasionally obliged to address what it might see as the ultimate viper in its bosom. The film's tagline of "What happens when three Christian families have children who become homosexual?" has only one real answer: anything beyond what one might expect.

"Family Fundamentals" screens at various film festivals nationally and internationally.

You can see it at "OUTFEST 2002" here in Los Angeles. For a film schedule please contact OUTFEST at (213) 480-7088 or e-mail at OUTFEST@OUTFEST.ORG

Festival dates: July 11-22, 2002. Tickets go on sale June 15 and usually sell fast.