



# **Rosie and the Docs Peddle Bad Medicine**

**TV Host, Pediatrics Group  
Promote "Gay Parenting"**

**By Robert Knight**

Rosie O'Donnell was once best-known for her folksy TV personality and for outspoken advocacy of gun control. When she "came out" in March as a lesbian, her agenda shifted to a new cause—"gay parenting."

In a two-hour interview with Diane Sawyer on ABC's *Primetime Thursday* on March 14, O'Donnell made the case that children are as well off in homosexual households as they are in married homes. It didn't seem to matter that decades of research had already validated a common-sense truth: Children do best in intact homes with a mom and dad.

The previous month, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) had issued a statement setting the stage for O'Donnell's campaign. Citing an article in the Academy's own journal, *Pediatrics*, the AAP declared there is no difference for children in homosexual households and that laws should be adjusted to facilitate "gay" families.

Reviewing a handful of studies done mostly by lesbian researchers, the article says that "prevalent heterosexism and stigmatization" might lead to problems for children, but that homosexual households are no different for children and might even be more beneficial in some cases.

The article uses a "broad estimate" that 1 to 9 million children in the United States "have at least one parent who is lesbian or gay." Given that there are about 80 million children under 18 in the United States, and from 2.7 to 5.2 million homosexuals (1 to 2 percent of the population), the high-end estimate of 9 million would mean that every single homosexual in America, regardless of age, is parenting two to four children—a statistical

absurdity.

The Pediatrics article fails to cite thousands of studies showing the superiority of mother-father, married households for the welfare of children. Nearly all the cited studies in the *Pediatrics* article compare children in homosexual households to those in single-parent households, usually of divorced mothers or fathers.

## A Radical Position

The article and statement drew immediate fire from pro-family groups. CWA's Culture and Family Institute drafted a letter and a three-page research summary for parents to give to their pediatricians. The letter, which urges the doctor to ask the AAP to change its stance, says in part:

"As a pediatrician, committed to preserving the life and health of children, you should have a voice in how pediatricians are represented to the public. As things stand, the public is being given the impression that all pediatricians believe that homosexuality is good, normal and healthy, and that children are no better off in married households than in homosexual households.

"I urge you to write to the AAP to challenge the radical, unsubstantiated position they have taken." (The letter and research summary can be accessed from CWA's Web site at <http://legislation.cwfa.org/aap>.)

Meanwhile, the Christian Medical Association (CMA) sent a letter to more than 1,000 of its pediatrician members urging them to reconsider membership in the AAP. "The AAP has made a serious mistake in promoting a radical homosexual agenda, which seeks to normalize a detrimental

# In Their Own Words: Kids in Homosexual Households

Rafkin (1990) and Saffron (1996) published 57 narratives in which children of homosexual parents spoke about their experiences. Some approved of the lifestyle, such as the child of a lesbian who said, "It doesn't matter if you are raised by a pack of dogs, just as long as they love you!" However, numerous others pointed out the difficulties they faced while being reared in homosexual households.

★ Girl (13): "I don't have many men in my life, so I'm not as comfortable around them as I would like to be. ... It's really hard for kids of lesbians. ... I don't know if I'm gay or straight."

★ Boy (14): "I missed having a relationship with a man when I was growing up."

★ Girl (7): "I get to snuggle with them in the nighttime. ... I might get married. I might not like men. I might be a lesbian. I might like to be with both, I don't really know yet. There are a lot of choices."

★ Woman (19): "Growing up is a hard enough thing to do, and I

sometimes resented my mother for making it harder. ... My mother, my sisters and I attended these [lesbian/feminist] merrymakings. ... I'd sometimes bring my best friend and we'd pretend to 'be together' to avoid being hit on."

★ Boy (12): "[I have] been to every Gay Pride march. Last year ... two men came up to us. One of them started touching me. ... I didn't want to go this year because of that."

★ Woman (20): "That my parents were gay made it a lot easier for me to come out and see that there could be a physical dimension to my friendships with girls. ... I have experimented

lifestyle," wrote CMA Executive Director David Stevens, M.D. "It is out of step with the majority of its members, many of whom will likely withdraw their memberships unless the AAP reverses its stance."

## A Closer Look

A 2001 article in the *American Sociological Review* by University of Southern California researchers Judith Stacey and Timothy Biblarz, which looked at 21 gay-parenting studies, concluded that research found many

differences for children in homosexual households.

The pro-homosexual authors, who wrote that they saw nothing wrong with children becoming homosexuals, said that they understood the fears of other researchers that publicity about this could inflame "homophobia," but felt that scientists should honestly acknowledge what the data reveal.

Among the differences Stacey and Biblarz found in various studies:

★ A higher proportion of young-adult children raised by lesbian

sexually, and my parents have created a supportive environment for that.”

★ Man (27): “I met lesbian friends of my mother’s who also had kids. ... I do recall our wishing our mothers were more attentive to us than to each other. We kids would get together and have sex, males or females, in any combination. ... Since my parents had sex with the same sex (my mother with other women, my stepfather with me), I had not understood that homosexuality is wrong. Also, at the time I couldn’t figure out my own sexuality, because I was having sex with people of both sexes.”

★ Girl (17): “I’ve pushed myself to be heterosexual because I know my mom wants me to be lesbian. I’d like to have a lesbian experience, because

otherwise, how will I know what I want?”

★ Woman (23): “I’ve always known my mother as a lesbian. ... She always lived with her lovers.... When the relationship was over, these lovers would leave, saying they wanted to continue a relationship with me. But they never did.”

★ Woman (19): “Being a father isn’t great for my dad’s image. ... When we go to the supermarket and I call him Dad, he tries to shush me up. ... He thinks men won’t look at him if they know he’s got a daughter.”

★ Girl (9): “Having lesbian mothers is nothing to laugh about. ... I have told my [mother] that she has made my life difficult.”

*From L. Rafkin, Different Mothers: Sons and Daughters of Lesbians Talk About Their Lives (San Francisco: Cleis Press, 1990) and L. Saffron, What About the Children? Sons and Daughters of Lesbian and Gay Parents Talk About Their Lives (London: Cassel, 1996), analyzed and excerpted by Paul Cameron and Kirk Cameron in Children of Homosexual Parents Report Difficulties, Family Research Institute Special Report (2002).*

mothers say they tried homosexuality themselves or would be open to trying it.

★ Girls raised by lesbians are more likely to be sexually adventurous, while boys raised by lesbians are more passive and less masculine than boys raised in heterosexual homes.

★ Girls from lesbian homes are less likely to conform to “cultural norms,” gravitating to traditionally masculine activities, such as playing with trucks and guns, and

dressing in more masculine clothing.

The authors concluded, “It is difficult to conceive of a credible theory of sexual development that would not expect the adult children of lesbigay [lesbian, bisexual and gay] parents to display somewhat higher incidence of homoerotic desire, behavior and identity than children of heterosexual parents.”

In the book *No Basis: What the Studies Don’t Tell Us about Same-Sex*

*Continued on page 13*



CWA artist Carmelo Torres created this cartoon in response to the American Academy of Pediatrics' endorsement of "gay" parenting. The cartoon generated an angry response, which read in part: "I doubt that you know any 'gay' parents, or children of 'gay' parents, or you could not still hold the practically medieval view that a family must consist of a married heterosexual couple." Carmelo's response follows:

# It's Not "Gay"

At the age of 13, I found out that my mother was "gay."

The hurts, doubts and fears I had to face growing up in a homosexual environment I would not wish on anyone. My brother and I were abused by our mother and her various lovers simply because we were male. Meanwhile, my mother focused on satisfying her own sexual and emotional cravings at the expense of her children.

Many times we had to fend for ourselves because she had to "live her life." And I was not an isolated case. Many of my mother's "partners" had kids of their own. I did not run into one child who was not depressed, ashamed and introverted because of these circumstances.

One day, I was invited to church by a high school classmate and found that, through Jesus, I could have a personal relationship with God. Jesus would heal me of all the hurts in my life. He would be more than my mother and father, and would fill any other void I had in my life.

My mother was not happy that I became a Christian. She kicked me out

of the house, saying, "I would rather you become a drug addict than a Christian." I went to live with my sister.

My mother finally left that lifestyle behind and has been a Christian for more than five years. She tells me that when she made the life-changing choice to become a Christian, she felt free for the first time in her life. There is no more anger or pain, but an incredible joy. She also informed me that she had been introduced to homosexuality through being seduced by a "friend."

I do not hate those who live a homosexual lifestyle. I care for them. But I do not condone their behavior. I do get upset at those who distort the facts and out-and-out lie for their personal or political agendas, not caring for all those who get lost on the way. I pray they would understand that unrepentant homosexuality leads to destruction not just in this life, but also for eternity. I have witnessed the earthly part.

God is waiting with open arms for those looking for a fresh start, a new beginning.

—Carmelo Torres

Continued on page 11

*Parenting*, Dr. Robert Lerner and Dr. Althea Nagai examined 49 empirical studies on “gay parenting,” many of which are cited frequently in court cases and in legislative reports to promote “gay” adoption and custody. Many of the studies examined are cited in the *Pediatrics* article. They found all of the studies flawed, and said: “Do these 49 studies offer conclusive proof that there is ‘no difference’ between heterosexual and homosexual households? We believe that these studies offer no basis for that conclusion—because they are [such] deeply flawed pieces of research.”

Flaws include researcher bias, small sample sizes, control group disparities, biased recruitment of subjects, omission of key data, generalizing specific groups to larger populations, ignoring significant differences in variables between groups (such as education level or income) and making assumptions based on data not suited for such conclusions.

In 1993, the *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage* examined numerous “gay parenting” studies (many of which are cited in the *Pediatrics* article) and found that they were all flawed. Many of the studies reflected the bias of the researchers and had methodological problems, the authors said.

The *Pediatrics* study also ignored research showing a higher propensity for domestic violence in nonmarried households, including homosexual units, and numerous studies indicating increased health risks for people practicing homosexuality

Homosexuals of both sexes are more prone to high-risk behaviors such as alcoholism, drug use and

promiscuous sex, and typically have more sexually transmitted diseases, according to numerous studies in medical and sociological journals. Male homosexuals typically have a shorter life span than married people, according to an Oxford study published in the *International Journal of Epidemiology*.

## The Sexes Are Different

Even if there were not a formidable body of research showing the hazards of homosexuality, the most compelling reason for securing the placement of children in intact households as a matter of policy is the unique contribution of mothers and fathers.

Focus on the Family's Glenn T. Stanton, senior research analyst for marriage and sexuality, summarized some of the key differences between mothers and fathers this way:

“In discipline, fathers often stress justice, fairness and duty based on rules. Mothers more often stress sympathy and gentleness based on relationships. Consequently, fathers teach objectivity and consequences of right and wrong. Mothers teach grace and hopefulness. Alone, neither is sufficient, but together they provide healthy balance.

“Mothers are concerned about how outside influences affect their child: a bully, an aggressive dog, bacteria and lightning. Fathers, while not unconcerned about these things, tend to focus on how well their child connects with the world: Poor school performance means fewer job opportunities, rudeness leads to rejection. Fathers help children prepare for life's harshness; mothers

protect against it.


“Most importantly, fathers provide a glimpse into and a familiarity with the world of men, a crucial factor in boys’ developing masculinity. Girls need to learn from their mother and father what healthy affection from a man is like. Such familiarity gives confidence, which protects them from predatory males.

“Mothers, meanwhile, provide a view into the world of women. Young girls need this model in order to see how a woman successfully negotiates domestic and public life with men. Boys need to learn how to respond respectfully to the sensitivity and intuition of a woman. Children who are deprived regular exposure to the habits and worlds of men and women are at a substantial disadvantage as they seek to negotiate relationships with members of the opposite sex—whether socially, domestically or professionally.”

### An Ongoing Agenda

Just as faulty research by sex pioneer Alfred C. Kinsey in the '40s and '50s helped to launch America's sexual revolution in the name of “science,” homosexual activists have captured yet another professional association and harnessed it to their radical political agenda. Rosie O'Donnell may be on a wrong-headed personal crusade, but the AAP has no excuse for ignoring good science and elevating bad science.

Unless the AAP is persuaded to pull back from its ill-advised embrace of “gay parenting,” married couples will lose preferential status in adoptions; schools will teach children that Heather should have two

mommies, and the homosexual agenda will advance to the next stage—lowering the age of consent for sex. 

*Robert H. Knight is director of CWA's Culture and Family Institute. See [www.cultureandfamily.org](http://www.cultureandfamily.org), the CFI Web site.*



*What's it like for children to be raised by a gay parent? How does homosexuality affect them?*

*In the first published book by a woman who was raised by a lesbian mother, Like*

*Mother Like Daughter by Jakii Edwards gives a unique look at this tragic cultural movement. \$15.00. Call 1-800-323-2200, or use the coupon on page 38.*

## TAKE ACTION

Contact:

**The American Academy of Pediatrics**

141 Northwest Point Boulevard

Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098

847-434-4000

847-434-8000 (Fax)

e-mail: [kidsdocs@aap.org](mailto:kidsdocs@aap.org)

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- PRAY** that Rosie O'Donnell receives Christ as her personal Savior, if she has not already.
- PRAISE** God for His power to transform homosexuals and lesbians.
- ACT** Let the American Academy of Pediatrics know what you think, and give this article to your pediatrician.