

# Dykes To Watch Out For

By Alison Bechdel

# Second Annual Family Weekend

Cheri Goldstein

Over the weekend of August 16-18 about 20 gay and lesbian families from as far away as Washington D.C. brought their camping gear and their sense of humor and enjoyed a few days together.

A diverse variety of families was represented. Most families had children, but not all. Children ranged in ages from 6 months to 15 years old. This weekend was specifically to affirm our families and to be safe with others in similar circumstances. As one child put it, "It was nice to be around other kids like me nobody made fun of me or my dad." "Being around other people who share my same type of circumstance is good for me as well as good for my daughter. She needs to know she is not the only kid whose mother is a lesbian," commented another happy camper.

There was time and space for nature games and structured play for the children. There was also "adult space"; time set aside for a discussion on homophobia and our families.

"This weekend has meant so much to me. I can not really be out at home. This has given me a chance to meet other people and get some support and still be safe in my home town," was one participant's assessment of the weekend. Singer Purley Gates came from New Hampshire to offer an evening of family entertainment. "It was joyous hearing non-sexist songs that the kids can learn and sing on their own." Both children and adults swapped addresses under the main tent on Sunday morning before they headed back to their homes. ▼



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