

San Francisco Chronicle

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**A Word on
Lesbian in
GOP Family****GOSSIP***Liz Smith*

People are talking about last week's Washington Post story, by Laura Blumenfeld, titled "The Lesbian in the GOP Family." The protagonist is Diane Mosbacher, daughter of Robert, who is George Bush's chief fund-raiser.

Forget that Diane Mosbacher is gay. Just try considering her as a human being, and you'll see how admirably she comes off in this piece that pits her life and social realities against the gay-bashing of a Republican hierarchy headed by her famous father and her brother, Rob (who is running the Republican re-election effort in Texas).

Diane has had a 17-year relationship with Nanette Gartrell (referred to in the article as "a gorgeous doctor"). Diane is the regional medical chief for mental health in California's San Mateo County. She donates much time and money to a host of gay causes. Both Diane and Nanette are close to their families and "delight in visiting nieces and nephews." Reporter Blumenfeld notes that "theirs is the longest-lasting relationship in the entire Mosbacher family."

Diane says of her father's and brother's attitudes within the GOP: "I think they really don't know — I hope they don't — that this affects people in the street, that people can get beat up, people can get killed, teenagers can commit suicide."

One of the most dismaying portions of the Post piece is a discussion with Robert Mosbacher's ebullient and socially mobile wife, Georgette: "When asked about her stepdaughter, Georgette, two years older than Dee (Diane), snaps: 'Not my stepdaughter. You mean my husband's daughter.'" The Post reporter asks, "Is that not the definition of stepdaughter?" To this, Georgette responds: "I don't know what the definition of that is."