

Out on DVD

by Steve Warren . Contributing Writer

'Let's Get Frank' profiles gay congressman

Barney Frank moves up in my personal pantheon from minor hero to major hero with "Let's Get Frank," Bart Everly's profile of the gay Massachusetts congressman. It brings out the wit, intelligence and honesty that have endeared him to the people of his state from 1981, when they first sent him to Washington, through 1989 when he survived the sex scandal that brought him out, to the present day.

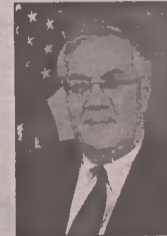
And beyond. In an 11-minute 2006 interview added to the DVD Frank says, "I'm sure I won't still be in Congress when I'm 75 — that's nine years from now. Sometime after 70 me and my dignity are gonna get the hell out of there."

The update is useful because most of "Let's Get Frank" is ancient history, centered on the 1998 impeachment hearings for President Clinton. As a member of the House Judiciary Committee Frank provided comic relief and was much sought after by the media (hence the film's title) for his comments.

There are flashbacks to Frank's own scandal, when it was revealed that Steve Gobie, a

male prostitute, had turned tricks in Frank's apartment. The Representative feels surviving that made him eminently qualified to serve on the panel judg-

ing Clinton, because he had nothing left to fear. As if to prove him right, committee chair Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL) and Georgia Rep. Bob Barr are both outed as adulterers during the proceedings.



Barney Frank has served as a congressman since 1981.

Frank comes across as a left-wing Archie Bunker, whose curmudgeonly exterior makes his utterings all the more hilarious. Yet there's also an element of truth in them, as when he says, "Most Americans are not nearly as homophobic as they were brought up to think they were supposed to be."

Adding to the historic nature of the documentary are the prominence of Frank's now-deceased mother, Elsie, and his now-former partner, Sergio Pombo, with whom he walks off into the sunset at the end.

"Let's Get Frank" can be marketed as a comedy in most of the Western world, where people are convulsed by America's puritanical attitude toward sex. ▀

Award winners announced

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Holtzclaw, and Alison Freehling, *Daily Press*, Newport News, VA

• Second Place presented to "See Dick Be Jane," Julia Reischel, *Broward-Palm Beach New Times*

• Third Place presented posthumously to Joe Dignan, for "Cross Purposes," *The San Francisco Bay Guardian*

NLGJA Excellence in Writing Award
Opinion/Editorial

• First Place presented to "The Married State" series, Alfred P. Doblin, *Herald News*

• Second Place presented to Jon Carroll for his column in the *San Francisco Chronicle*

• Third Place presented to "I'm Not Willing to Settle for Crumbs," Kim Severson, *Newsweek*

NLGJA/Seigenthaler Excellence in Radio

• First Place presented to "Gay Pride Banned in Tampa," Andrew Stelzer, *Free Speech Radio News*

• Second Place presented to "Two Moms Ruled Legal by State Supreme Court," Eric Jansen and Marilyn Pittman, *Out in the Bay/KALW 91.7 FM, San Francisco*

• Third Place presented to "Native Gay Pride," Patty Talahongva, Camille Lacapa and Tara Gatewood, *Native America Calling*

NLGJA/Seigenthaler Excellence in Network Television

• First Place presented to "Gay or Straight?" Lesley Stahl, Shari Finkelstein, Sianne Garlick and Matt Lev, *CBS News' "60 Minutes"*

• Second Place presented to "I'm Still Emily," Amber Hall, *In the Life Media, Inc.*

NLGJA/Seigenthaler Excellence in Local Television

• First Place presented to "Dads," Jessica Abo, *WCAX-TV, Burlington, Vt.*

NLGJA/RTNDA Excellence in Online

Journalism Award

• First Place presented to "How AIDS Changed America," *Newsweek.com*

• Second Place presented to "Gender Outlaws," Emily Alpert, *InTheFray.com*

• Third Place presented to "Arrested Justice: When LGBT People Land in Jail," Patrick Letellier, *Gay.com* and *PlanetOut.com*

NLGJA Excellence in Photojournalism Award

• First Place presented to "An Anniversary," Lacy Atkins, *San Francisco Chronicle*

• Second Place presented to "Illusions of a Glittered Life," Kim Badawi, *SHIFT*

• Third Place presented to "Center's Senior Prom," Gil Kaan, *Frontiers Magazine*

NLGJA Excellence in HIV/AIDS Coverage Award

• First Place presented to "AIDS at 25," David Jefferson, Geoff Cowley, Claudia Kalb, Andrew Murr, and Ellis Cose, *Newsweek*

• Second Place presented to "Over 50 with HIV," Jim Rodriguez, Rocco Zappa and Scott Dill, *QTN World News* with Steve Kmetko

• Third Place presented to "CBS News on LOGO: AIDS," Brett Alexander, Jason Bellini and Court Passant, *CBS News on LOGO*

NLGJA Excellence in Student Journalism Award, sponsored by Jim Duggins, Ph.D.

• First Place presented to "Left Out," James Kirchick, *Yale Daily News Magazine*

• Second Place presented to "Hollywood: Straight and Narrow?" Jason Blalock, *UC Berkeley Television (University of California, Berkeley)*

• Third Place presented to "Resist Urge, Gays Told: Jesus as 'Motivating Factor,'" Bradley Wooten, *UWM Post (University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee)* ▀

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