

DOGGY STYLE

Sure, Dick Gephardt and Dick Cheney have dyke daughters. But do they understand the pressing needs of the queer animal community? In *Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde*, Elle Woods (Reese Witherspoon) stood by her fashionable pooch, Bruiser, after he fell in puppy love with a conservative Republican congressman's male dog. She's got my vote in 2004!

PROVINCE TOWN

First it got a strong plug in Michael Moore's gun exposé *Bowling for Columbine*, which won an Academy Award last spring. Then (part of) it legalized same-sex marriage in June. Now it has produced 2003's best foreign language film, *The Barbarian Invasions*, writer/director Denys Arcand's brilliant, progressive and raunchy tale of a philandering professor (Rémy Girard) who invites his family and friends (including a middle-aged gay couple) to help him die with dignity. If Dubya is re-elected in November, what do you say we all move to Canada, eh?

AMERICAN LIFE

Although it was by far the worst entry in the *American Pie* series, at least *American Wedding* featured the horny



Stifler played footsie with a Bear in *American Wedding*

Stifler (Seann William Scott) staging a gay dance-off with the burly Bear (Eric Allen Kramer). It had to be the queerest competition since, well, Clay Aiken's runner-up placement on *American Idol*.

THE METROSEXUAL AGENDA

In *Shattered Glass*, ethically challenged journalist Stephen Glass (Hayden Christensen) whines to a co-worker about how everyone assumes he's gay, then nonchalantly mentions an encounter at the corner of 18th and T in which a man's tongue ended up halfway down his throat. Of course, considering his tendency to stretch the truth, the whole thing might've been a figment of his warped imagination.



The Barbarian Invasions—further proof that Canada rules

P.Y.T.

The same year Michael Jackson was instantly tried and convicted in the media on increasingly dubious child abuse charges (while pedophile priests were protected by the pope), two outstanding nonfiction films managed to examine the touchy topic without rushing to judgment. Director Steve James watched social workers allow Stevie to fall through gaping cracks in the system, and an eccentric Long Island family documented their own destruction in *Capturing the Friedmans*.

CHICK FLICKS

They might not have been about lesbians, but two of the year's most deserving sleeper hits introduced us to heroines who bravely defied gender stereotypes. *Bend It Like Beckham* scored with the story of an Indian teen-ager (Parminder K. Nagra) obsessed with soccer, and critics spouted praise for *Whale Rider*, about a Maori girl (Keisha Castle-Hughes) who demands recognition as her tribe's future chieftain.

TITLES WITH GREATEST GAY PORN POTENTIAL

The Recruit, *Brother Bear*, *Holes*, *Down with Love*, *A Man Apart*.

Queers got a kick out of *Bend It Like Beckham*



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