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MAN CLAIMS BOUNCER ATTACKED HIM AT MANHOLE

A gay man is filing a civil lawsuit against Manhole bar as well as a bouncer and other employees, after he said he was knocked to the floor and punched by the bouncer.

The alleged incident took place around 2 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 11, at 3458 N. Halsted. Greg Jarvis, a 29-year-old public relations professional, said he entered the bar with two friends, paying the \$6-per-person cover and then heading to the back bar.

However, Manhole's back bar has a dress code—you must wear no shirt, or be wearing rubber or leather. Jarvis' friends began to comply with the policy, and Jarvis said he was wearing a rubber jacket. However, the employee checking said it was not rubber. Jarvis and his friend Marc Aguila said the employee then refused to refund their cover charge and called for the bouncer.

Jarvis and the bouncer then reportedly exchanged harsh words after the bar again refused to return his cover. Aguila, Jarvis and a claim made in a civil suit against Manhole then state that the bouncer allegedly grabbed Jarvis, threw him to the ground and began punching him. The bouncer is described as approximately 5'7", 200 pounds.

The bouncer and another employee allegedly then dragged Jarvis out of the bar, and Jarvis and his friends sought help from police. A subsequent police report does not list any defendants, and Jarvis said police refused to arrest anyone at the bar.

Jarvis' attorney and partner Jay Paul Deratany are filing a civil suit in Cook County, preferring to seek additional remedy through the civil courts. Jarvis is asking for \$50,000 in damages as a result of a black eye and minor whiplash doctors said he suffered. He said he would donate the money to charity.

Manhole owner Jeff Tessler said he could not release the name of the bouncer accused in the assault. He also said his bar has not had any similar complaints recently, despite Jarvis' claim that the police told him they had been called to the bar at least four times in recent weeks.

Tessler had not seen the lawsuit or been contacted about the incident as of presstime, so he said he could not comment on the case. He did say he believes the customer initiated the attack by punching and biting the security person. Tessler said the bouncer being accused does not have a history of such assaults.