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Around town

Joe's basement: underground hit

● There may be some of you out there, those without cable television or without the patience to sit through the many—often weird or boring—offerings from cable's access channels, who have never heard of Joe Winston.

He is the host, the guiding light and the star of "This Week in Joe's Basement," an iconoclastic, witty and intellectually aggressive program.

We find it encouraging that the show will be airing its 50th episode this month and that in honor of such a triumph of fortitude over complacency, a party's being held.

It's from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday at a loft at 1509 N. Milwaukee Ave. "The whole gang at 'Joe's Basement' will be there," Joe informs us. "This is a chance for those of us who made this strange TV show possible (both as producers and viewers) to kick back, enjoy ourselves and get wasted together."

There will be beer, t-shirts, snack food, videos and, it's promised, "strange, live entertainment."

By Rick Kogan