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'Tom, you can't say that;' Jackie Tancredo spouses off — Capital Living, P 25

# Lobbyist plays Sunset Strip

In a turn of events that would make the Blues Brothers proud, a Washington lobbyist resurrected his law-school bar band and this weekend played a gig at the world-famous Viper Room on the Sunset Strip in Los Angeles.

As the frontman of the Surreal McCoys during his salad days at Notre Dame law school, **Erik Huey** played to jam-packed houses around South Bend, Ind. But after graduation, the band's five members drifted apart.

Huey has spent the past 13 years representing entertainment-industry clients at Venable LLP. That is, until this fall, he said, "when we got the call — we're putting the band back together." And after a gig in South Bend, fortune struck. The band's bassist, who Huey says is signed with a "real band" through Def Jam records, got them a date at the Viper Room over Oscars weekend.

"To walk on that stage was an honor," he said from L.A. yesterday. "Being a rock star is not a dissimilar skill set to being a lobbyist," he said. "It comes down to connecting with people."

The McCoys' hour-long set before a packed house included everything from **Hank Williams** to **Neil Young** to the Replacements. "We punk most of them up," he said. Plus, "if you pick obscure enough covers and put a twist on them, people think they're your own."

Washingtonians may soon be able to decide for themselves. He said they're tentatively planning a D.C. gig for this fall.