

PRESS

A one-act drama by
Lojo Simon

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Students on the *Saxon Scope* staff

LAUREN SIMON, editor in chief, female.

WITT PRATT, managing editor, male.

KAREN LEE-THORP, editorials editor, female.

VIRGINIA BACKAITIS, sports editor, female.

BENJIE SIMON, staff photographer & Lauren's brother, male.

Adults

ATHELIA KNIGHT, reporter, Black, female.

DEACON MACCUBBIN, bookstore owner, male.

HULDAH "HUD" CLARK, newspaper faculty advisor, female.

THOMAS CABELIUS, school principal, male.

JOHN DAVIS, school superintendent, white, male.

Characters may be cast with actors of any ethnicity, except as noted.

SETTING

Northern Virginia, 1977 and after.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

This play is based on a true story – my story – that dates back more than 40 years, to when I was a senior in high school. The names of the characters, places, schools, newspapers and court cases are true, as are the basic facts of the story, to the best of my recollection and point of view. However, because I wrote this story for the stage, I have altered some minor details, imagined the scenes and created the dialogue solely from my imagination.

This play may be produced in person or online with students and adults, or cast solely with student actors. Following the production, directors are encouraged to engage audiences in a talkback centered around the questions: Do you think a student press should be protected under the First Amendment? How can we use our right to free expression under the law to make the world a better place? Additional thoughts and resources on this subject may be found in *The Author Speaks*, included in this publication.

This play is dedicated to all the journalists whose reporting tells stories that defend, protect and promote the humanity and dignity of all people.

SCENE 1: Prologue

(LAUREN, KNIGHT, MACCUBBIN, DAVIS, CABELIUS and CLARK, sometime and someplace after. If the play is produced on stage, the playing space should be defined solely by folding chairs. In the Prologue, there are five chairs used at various times by the adults. Lauren does not sit.)

LAUREN: I was 11 years old in 1972 when reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein began reporting on the Watergate break-in.

KNIGHT: I was a senior at Norfolk State University.

MACCUBBIN: 1972? I was back from Vietnam by then. What was I up to? Oh, yeah, I'd just opened Earthworks.

LAUREN: I remember Earthworks!

DAVIS: It was a head shop on Dupont Circle.

MACCUBBIN: A tobacconist.

DAVIS: A tobacconist that sold illegal marijuana.

CABELIUS: And other illicit paraphernalia.

KNIGHT: So, you knew it well?

CLARK: Stop! This has to stop!

LAUREN: We just started.

CLARK: This is your lede? Watergate, Vietnam, Earthworks? Have you forgotten everything I taught you?

KNIGHT: Lede—L-E-D-E: The opening paragraph of a news article that summarizes the story's most important points.

LAUREN: A first impression intended to entice the reader. Or in this case, you, the audience.

MACCUBBIN: Politics. Pot. Pornography? Sounds like enticement to me.

CLARK: It's precisely that kind of enticement I worry about.

LAUREN: I'm setting the stage. Showing them why this story matters.

KNIGHT: Because of Woodward and Bernstein?

LAUREN: They were my heroes. I wanted to be them.

CABELIUS: That was your first mistake.

DAVIS: If you wanted to follow in someone's footsteps, you didn't have to look further than Mrs. Clark. When you were growing up, she was not only your journalism advisor, she was also married to a career civil servant, the mother of four children and a leader in Girl Scouts of America.

CLARK: I don't need praise here. What I need is for you to recognize that one of my best writers and editors is starting the story all wrong, introducing misleading, irrelevant information in the first graf.

KNIGHT: Graf—G-R-A-F, as in paragraph.

LAUREN: This isn't a paragraph. It isn't journalism. It's theatre.

CLARK: Sounds like an excuse for a lack of objectivity.

LAUREN: No drama, no theatre.

DAVIS: Choosing drama over truth. That's what got you into trouble in the first place.

LAUREN: I need to expose the backstory.

KNIGHT: Backstory: the backdrop. The setting. The context for the story you're about to hear.

LAUREN: Woodward and Bernstein weren't satisfied reporting only the facts. They revealed the truth hidden under the surface.

CLARK: I bet their editors never allowed them to bury the lede.

KNIGHT: Burying the lede: a failure to emphasize the most important part of the story in the first paragraph.

LAUREN: I just want to tell the truth. The whole truth.

CLARK: Investigative journalism is a noble cause, as long as you're objective.

KNIGHT: In theory. But total objectivity is a myth. Reporters are never completely free of bias. We can't be.

LAUREN: It's your bias, Mrs. Clark, that got us here in the first place.

MACCUBBIN: It's more than bias. It's outright prejudice.

CLARK: Inaccurate and irrelevant. Not only have you written a poor lede, you're relying on questionable sources and dubious opinion instead of facts.

CABELIUS: Woodward and Bernstein—you think they were objective? They were out for blood. Ben Bradlee, too. All of 'em. They hated Nixon, and that was that.

LAUREN: That's not relevant, and you're hijacking my story.

CLARK: If you'd written a more plausible lede—

LAUREN: If you'd let me get back to it.

MACCUBBIN: '72. Groovy times.

KNIGHT: May I make a suggestion? Don't start in '72. Start in '69, with *Tinker v. Des Moines*.

LAUREN: I was 8. I didn't know about *Tinker v. Des Moines*.

CLARK: Supreme Court decision.

KNIGHT: *Tinker v. Des Moines*. The Supreme Court rules that First Amendment rights apply to students.

CLARK: Justice Abe Fortas writes the majority opinion:

KNIGHT: "It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate."

MACCUBBIN: He said schoolhouse? Even cavewoman Clark didn't study in a schoolhouse.

KNIGHT: The point is that school officials cannot censor student speech unless it materially and substantially disrupts the educational process.

DAVIS: Which your so-called speech did.

LAUREN: First, it wasn't "speech." It was the Press. Second, it wasn't disruptive.

CLARK: There you go again—confusing fact with opinion. A reporter should pay better attention to details.

KNIGHT: You have to agree *Tinker v. Des Moines* is relevant.

CLARK: Actually, I don't. Which is why I stopped it.

LAUREN: And why I protested.

KNIGHT: And why I wrote about it.

LAUREN: Forget it! This is a bad idea.

KNIGHT: It's never a bad idea to defend one's First Amendment rights.

LAUREN: They didn't listen then, and they're not listening now.

KNIGHT: You still have a right to tell your story.

CLARK: It won't change the outcome.

KNIGHT: What matters is that your story is heard. There's no statute of limitations on the truth.

CLARK: Have it your way.

LAUREN: It is a worthwhile story. All these years later, I remember every detail.

KNIGHT: We're all here. You may as well tell it.

MACCUBBIN: I'm in if the rest of you are.

LAUREN: We never had a fair hearing. Mr. Davis, would you act on behalf of the school board if I were to appeal?

DAVIS: I welcome the opportunity.

CABELIUS: I'll make sure both sides are heard fairly.

LAUREN: Let's do it then. I'll argue my side. Mrs. Clark, you argue yours. May the best woman win.

(Everyone but Lauren exits.)

SCENE 2: Saxon Scope Staff Meeting

(WITT, KAREN, VIRGINIA and BENJIE enter. As in the first scene, they exist sometime and someplace after. They rearrange the chairs and take their seats. At the start of the meeting, Benjie obtrusively takes photographs.)

LAUREN: Thanks for coming on short notice.

WITT: It's been a while.

KAREN: High school is a distant memory. At least, it was until you called me.

VIRGINIA: Would you stop?

BENJIE: This might be important someday. To document what happens.

VIRGINIA: It's annoying.

LAUREN: We can take photos later.

WITT: You said this was about a story you want us to cover.

LAUREN: Sort of. It's actually a story that happened to us back in high school.

KAREN: You invited us back here to talk about high school?

VIRGINIA: Who cares anymore?

LAUREN: I'm in the middle of a personal project. I mean, it's related to an important issue. Something we all felt strongly about.

WITT: It has to be the advertisement from Lambda Rising.

KAREN: The one Mrs. Clark wouldn't let us print.

VIRGINIA: That was a lifetime ago.

LAUREN: I know. But it was a seminal moment for me.

KAREN: What does that have to do with us?

LAUREN: I want the *Saxon Scope* to cover the story, and you were my editorial staff.

KAREN: We can't cover it. We were part of it.

WITT: We can't be objective.

LAUREN: Objectivity isn't my goal.

VIRGINIA: What is?

LAUREN: To tell the story as honestly as I can remember it. And to set it in context for everyone watching and living it now.

BENJIE: What if we don't cover the story per se? What if we just be there for you?

LAUREN: Be there? As in be a part of it?

BENJIE: Yeah, like tell the story with you. I'm down for that.

WITT: So am I.

KAREN: I don't know. I'm really not that into going back to high school.

VIRGINIA: I hated high school.

LAUREN: It'll take less than an hour, and then you can go back to your lives.

BENJIE: My life can wait an hour. Honestly, it's not as cool being an adult as I imagined it would be.

VIRGINIA: I guess I can make the time.

WITT: Karen?

KAREN: Fine, I won't ruin your party. I just want to ask you one thing: Why does it mean so much to you?

LAUREN: If you play along, I promise, you'll find out.

SCENE 3: The Five W's

(The scene changes. It is now 1977 in Northern Virginia. Davis, Clark, Cabelius, Knight and Maccubbin enter with more folding chairs. The chairs are divided into two spaces. On one side are the students, as well as Knight and Maccubbin. On the other side are Clark and Cabelius. Much like a judge, Davis is seated in the middle.)

DAVIS: The meeting of the Fairfax County School Board is now in session. Being so close to the Christmas holiday, we have only one item on the agenda today: Lauren Simon versus Mrs. Huldah Clark and the Langley High School Administration. Miss Simon, you may begin.

LAUREN: Welcome, everyone, to my senior year in high school. Langley High School, specifically, a large public school in a suburb of Washington, D.C. It's December 1977, and I've just turned 17. I'm the editor of our school newspaper, the *Saxon Scope*, named after the school mascots, the Langley Saxons.

WITT, BENJIE, VIRGINIA & KAREN: Go, Saxons!

LAUREN: This is my editorial staff.

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WITT: Witt Pratt, *Saxon Scope* managing editor.

KAREN: Karen Lee-Thorp, editorials editor.

BENJIE: Benjie Simon, staff photographer.

LAUREN: And my little brother.

VIRGINIA: Virginia Backaitis, assistant editor and sports editor.

WITT: Who doesn't like you.

VIRGINIA: Because I should be editor in chief. I've been on staff longer.

LAUREN: I was chosen as editor in chief by the newspaper's faculty advisor, Mrs. Clark.

CLARK: Huldah Clark, journalism teacher and faculty advisor for the *Saxon Scope*.

CABELIUS: And I'm Thomas Cabelius, the school principal—that's P-R-I-N-C-I-P-A-L, because the principal is your P-A-L pal.

DAVIS: And I'm Superintendent of Schools John Davis.

LAUREN: Now that we've introduced ourselves, let's start at the beginning, when the advertisement in question arrives in the mail.

WITT: Back when mail arrived through the mail.

BENJIE: Mail's here!

(Benjie hands out envelopes to the editorial staff.)

WITT: Printing bill for the last issue.

KAREN: Back when we paid someone to print the newspaper that we pasted up on layout tables, using a waxing machine and an Exacto knife.

CLARK: I'll take that.

BENJIE: Ad from Arby's.

WITT: I'll take it for the back page.

BENJIE: This week's lunch menu.

WITT: Also back page.

BENJIE: Virginia, sign-up notice for spring sports.

VIRGINIA: Page 5.

BENJIE: Announcement for the Personals: "From Pickles to B.B. and everything in between. To wish you a happy 18th. Love you."

KAREN: Word count?

BENJIE: One, two, three... (*Continues to count silently*)
...sixteen. Four words to spare.

KAREN: I'll run it on page 4.

BENJIE: Mrs. Munson announces the cast for *Glass Menagerie*. Allison Hiatt as Laura.

VIRGINIA: Figures.

WITT: It'll fit on page 3. Benjie, see if you can get a photo of her in costume.

LAUREN: Here's something interesting: an ad from Lambda Rising on Dupont Circle.

VIRGINIA: What's that?

LAUREN: "Books, magazines, gifts for gay men and lesbians, their families and friends."

KAREN: They have families and friends?

LAUREN: "Celebrate the gay experience at Lambda Rising."

WITT: Ooh, give it here. "Gay youth group meets at Lambda Rising every Saturday at 3 p.m. Gay teens and friends welcome."

VIRGINIA: Sounds like the back page to me.

WITT: We've already got ads for Arby's, Flying Disc and Featherellos. Karen, can you take it on 3?

KAREN: Let me check.

CLARK: Not so fast. Let me see it.

(The students are silent as they watch her read the ad.)

I'm not comfortable with this.

LAUREN: With what?

CLARK: The content.

LAUREN: Content of what? It's an ad.

CLARK: It's inappropriate for high school.

LAUREN: It's a reputable place.

CLARK: Have you been there?

LAUREN: No, but—

CLARK: Then you don't know, do you?

LAUREN: No. But—I mean, it's a bookstore.

CLARK: For gays and lesbians.

LAUREN: But books are good, right? We like books.

WITT: I like books.

BENJIE: Books are...informative.

KAREN: It says books and magazines. Do you think that means...X-rated magazines?

CLARK: I don't care what they sell. What worries me is that—

LAUREN: What?

CLARK: There are some students who— We shouldn't be influencing...some of our younger students who read the paper— Some students have not yet—I have children of my own...I know how they are. And some children, they're confused...about relationships. This...advertisement—it might encourage—it might tip the balance...

LAUREN: You're discriminating against homosexuals.

VIRGINIA: Technically, homosexuals and lesbians.

CLARK: This topic is off-limits. I'm not going to discuss it further.

LAUREN: But you're not being fair! If it were a regular bookstore—

CLARK: It's not a regular bookstore.

DAVIS: Ladies. Ladies! I'm going to interrupt here. We're not here to argue the merits of the bookstore.

CABELIUS: It's not about the bookstore. It's about the principles—P-R-I-N-C-I-P-L-E-S—that this school stands for. We're a family-oriented institution.

CLARK: In a family-oriented community.

MACCUBBIN: Gay and lesbian people have families, too.

DAVIS: Mr. Maccubbin. You're the bookstore owner?

MACCUBBIN: I am. And as the founder and owner of Lambda Rising, I'd like a chance to speak.

DAVIS: Of course.

MACCUBBIN: First, I want to say that I am very proud of my new little bookstore—the first of its kind in Washington, D.C. We are not a porn store. We are a legitimate bookstore with legitimate reading material for gay and lesbian customers.

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WITT: Why is it called Lambda Rising?

MACCUBBIN: Lambda is the eleventh letter of the Greek alphabet. Lambda first was used as a symbol in the LGBT community in 1970 when it was chosen as the logo of the New York Chapter of the Gay Activists Alliance. For the Alliance, lambda represents an exchange of energy—that moment in time that bears witness to absolute activity in chemistry and physics. In 1974, lambda was officially declared the international symbol for gay and lesbian rights by the International Gay Rights Congress.

CABELIUS: So, you advocate for turning people gay?

MACCUBBIN: I believe people have the right to be who they are. I sent this ad to all of the high school newspapers around the D.C. Metro area. I did so because I believe—and statistics prove me out—that some ten percent of men are gay. The numbers are smaller, but still there are many girls and women who are attracted to other girls and women.

DAVIS: Mr. Maccubbin, as well meaning as you may be, it's neither relevant nor appropriate to talk about such subjects with children present.

MACCUBBIN: All I'm saying, Mr. Davis, is that through my store, I want to offer a support system for students who might feel isolated and alone because of their sexual orientation. I want them to know that there is somewhere they can go where they will be accepted and valued.

CABELIUS: We don't have those kinds of students at Langley High.

WITT: Not that anyone's willing to admit.

CLARK: Even if we did, it's not the role of the student newspaper to reach out to them.

CABELIUS: Being homosexual is a family matter.

CLARK: A private family matter.

LAUREN: Let's take a vote: Who here wants to run the ad?

(Lauren, Witt, Virginia and Benjie raise their hands. [Note: This can also be an opportunity to engage the audience in a hand vote.] Karen looks around at the raised hands.)

KAREN: Oh, alright.

(Karen raises her hand.)

LAUREN: It's unanimous among the staff. We accept the ad for publication.

CLARK: And I say we don't.

KNIGHT: *The Washington Post*, December 23, 1977.

DAVIS: Remind me of your name, ma'am.

KNIGHT: Athelia Knight, reporter for *The Washington Post*.

CABELIUS: *The Woodward and Bernstein Post*.

LAUREN: I told you it was relevant.

KNIGHT: I've been with *The Post* since 1975 when I was hired as a staff writer. Prior to that, I earned my Master's in Journalism at Ohio State.

DAVIS: And now you're involved with Miss Simon?

KNIGHT: I wrote about her fight for freedom of the student press.

LAUREN: The headline: "Gay Teens' Ad Banned in School Newspaper."

BENJIE: And the subhead reads: "Langley High *Saxon Scope* Editors Charge Censorship."

LAUREN: And we do.

KNIGHT: *The Washington Post*, December 23, 1977. Lede:

VIRGINIA: "A faculty advisor has blocked a Fairfax County high school newspaper from printing an advertisement for a bookstore for homosexuals that invites 'gay teens and friends' to visit the store."

WITT: Initial quote:

CLARK: "I think it is inappropriate for high school age kids,' Hud Clark, the advisor to the *Saxon Scope*, the Langley High School newspaper, said yesterday."

LAUREN: You're denying us our First Amendment rights. Freedom of the press!

VIRGINIA, WITT & BENJIE: Freedom of the press! Freedom of the press!

KAREN: Counter-quote:

LAUREN: "Lauren Simon, editor of the newspaper, said the adviser is imposing her personal views on the students by 'censoring' the ad, which was submitted by Lambda Rising, a bookstore at 212 S Street, Northwest."

DAVIS: Then your claim, Miss Simon, is about censorship?

LAUREN: It's about our First Amendment rights which, as you know, are protected under *Tinker v. Des Moines*.

KNIGHT: *Saxon Scope*, what's your lede on *Tinker v. Des Moines*?

WITT: Parents of three Des Moines students are suing the local school board over a decision to prohibit the students from wearing black armbands to school in protest of the Vietnam War.

KNIGHT: Excellent. What comes next?

KAREN: Who, what, when, where and why: Fifteen-year-old John Tinker and 16-year-old Christopher Eckhardt attend high school in Des Moines, Iowa. John's sister, 13-year-old Mary Beth Tinker, is a student in junior high school.

VIRGINIA: In December 1965, a group of adults and students hold a meeting at Christopher and Mary Beth's home. The subject of the meeting is the Vietnam War.

BENJIE: Those attending the meeting oppose the war. To express their anti-war sentiment, they decide to wear black armbands to school.

LAUREN: Des Moines school principals learn of the students' plan and adopt a policy that all students wearing black armbands to school will be asked to remove them. If they refuse, they will be suspended.

KNIGHT: And what happens?

BENJIE: On December 16, 1965, Mary Beth and Christopher wear black armbands to school. John Tinker wears his armband the next day. They all are suspended.

CABELIUS: Wearing armbands to school to protest the war is dangerous. It could cause a disruption in the classrooms and in the hallways. Other students might be influenced to insurrection.

KNIGHT: Is that what happens?

VIRGINIA: No, but the students' parents file a lawsuit on behalf of their children calling for an injunction against the school disciplining students who express their anti-war beliefs.

CLARK: And the court rules in favor of the school.

KNIGHT: But the story doesn't end there, does it?

WITT: The families file an appeal.

CABELIUS: Which they lose.

KAREN: On a second appeal, the case makes it to the Supreme Court, where it is argued on November 12, 1968.

BENJIE: Nearly a year later?

MACCUBBIN: America is still in the middle of the war in Vietnam. It still matters.

LAUREN: Justice Abe Fortas writes the majority opinion. He says:

WITT: "Schools may not be enclaves of totalitarianism. School officials do not possess absolute authority over their students. Students in school as well as out of school are 'persons' under our Constitution. They are possessed of fundamental rights which the State must respect, just as they themselves must respect their obligations to the State."

KNIGHT: Excellent use of quotes. An essential skill for a journalist.

WITT: Thank you.

KAREN: Furthermore, Fortas says, "In the absence of a specific showing of constitutionally valid reasons to regulate their speech, students are entitled to freedom of expression of their views."

LAUREN: That's why we're here. To discuss how the Langley High School administration is denying our right to freedom of expression granted to us by the United States Constitution.

KNIGHT: Freedom of the press is a very important matter, not only to me personally, but to this great democracy we call America.

LAUREN: The censorship of information in this particular advertisement is based on nothing more than Mrs. Clark's old-fashioned morality, which she shouldn't impose on the rest of

us. It's plain and simple discrimination against people who are gay. And it's a violation of the First Amendment.

WITT: I agree. It's offensive that we're subjected to Mrs. Clark's bigotry.

KAREN: I'm Catholic, so I'm not sure what I think about the gay part. I mean, homosexuality is a sin. But at the same time, our Constitutionally granted freedoms are worth fighting for.

VIRGINIA: If you censor one thing, who says you won't censor other things?

KAREN: Last year, the newspaper advisor at Hayfield High banned an article about birth control.

DAVIS: Don't remind me. The student editors took their case to court and created a furor among taxpayers who resented that their tax dollars were paying for student newspapers publishing articles on taboo subjects.

LAUREN: Despite that, the court upheld the students' right to publish what they want.

KAREN: In his opinion, Judge Albert Bryan said the First Amendment applies to students as well as adults and only differs in degree.

WITT: I quote: "While the scope of constitutional freedom may vary with the nature of the environment and the maturity of the individuals affected, the considerations governing the applicability of (the) First Amendment...do not change. Either the First Amendment is operative, or it is not."

KNIGHT: Another good use of quotes.

VIRGINIA: Two more points for the home team.

CABELIUS: Regardless of what happened at Hayfield High, in this case – which is a completely different sort of thing – Mrs.

Clark's decision is not only the responsible one, it is nipping controversy in the bud.

KNIGHT: It's not Mrs. Clark's right to do so. As media critic Ben Bagdikian so eloquently puts it: "If freedom of the press becomes merely an empty slogan in the minds of our children, it will be dead by the time our children grow into adulthood."

CLARK: How dare you accuse me of trampling on freedom of the press—a very right I have championed my whole career?!

KNIGHT: Trampling is exactly what you're doing.

CLARK: The school district in this case serves as publisher of the school newspaper. As a representative and employee of the publisher, I have the right—like all publishers, even yours, Miss Knight—to review and reject advertisements that do not meet a certain standard. For example, many newspapers refuse to publish ads for X-rated movies. Others don't publish ads for cigarettes or liquor stores. Fairfax County Public Schools has a moral and legal commitment to determine what sort of advertisement it wants to print.

DAVIS: I couldn't agree more.

LAUREN: Really? After all of our arguments—after *Tinker v. Des Moines*, after Judge Bryan's ruling, Athelia Knight's expert opinion—you're still going to take their side?

DAVIS: I am. And there's nothing you can do about it.

KNIGHT: *The Post* publishes a follow-up: School Superintendent John Davis agrees that the bookstore advertisement shouldn't run in the newspaper. He said last night:

DAVIS: "I see the action taken by the school as the appropriate one. I haven't been involved in it, but I have reviewed all the material, and I agree with the school's decision."

WITT, VIRGINIA & KAREN: Boo!

BENJIE: That's it then? It's all over?

KNIGHT: According to Fairfax County's student code of rights and responsibilities, if you disagree with an advisor's decision, you can appeal to the school principal.

LAUREN: Which I did.

KNIGHT: If you're not satisfied with the principal's decision, you can appeal to the superintendent.

DAVIS: I've made my ruling.

KNIGHT: And if you're still not satisfied, you can appeal to the County School Board.

WITT: Or you can sue in court.

BENJIE: Like they did in Des Moines.

VIRGINIA: Do you think we could win?

KAREN: Wouldn't that be expensive?

MACCUBBIN: I'd pay for your legal fees.

KNIGHT: And I'd testify on your behalf.

BENJIE: But that's not what happens.

LAUREN: We don't sue. We don't even appeal.

BENJIE: Are you going to say why?

LAUREN: I have to. It's part of the story.

SCENE 4: Why Does It Mean So Much to You?

(Lights shift. The actors rearrange the chairs to indicate a new time and place, after.)

BENJIE: Did you know? Did you know back then that I was gay?

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LAUREN: You didn't come out until years later.

WITT: I hadn't come out yet either.

LAUREN: I sort of knew anyway. After we went to prom together.

WITT: Wait—are you saying I was a bad kisser?

KAREN: You two kissed?

LAUREN: That's not the point. As much as I'd like to say that I was motivated by supporting kids dealing with their sexuality, for me it really was about defending our basic freedoms.

VIRGINIA: Then why did you walk away? Why didn't you hire a lawyer and fight back?

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