

PROUD OF WHO WE ARE

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Washington, DC 20009
contact@proudofwhoweare.org

September 21, 2010

Mr. Rob Johnson
Texans for Rick Perry
PMB 217, P.O. Box 2013
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I'm an investigative [blogger](#) and the head of [Proud of Who We Are](#), a national organization that calls on elected officials to openly serve the public proudly and honestly as to whom they really are.

I've been working for the last 6 years to uncover cases of gross personal life hypocrisy on the part of closeted politicians who use gay and lesbian Americans as a rhetorical punching bag for political gain.

I have attached three articles about my work, which has included successful investigations regarding U.S. Reps. Ed Schrock (VA), Mark Kirk (IL) and Mark Foley (FL); New York City Councilman Vincent Gentile; State Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein (NY); U.S. Sen. Larry Craig (ID); and RNC Chairman Ken Mehlman. These efforts were featured in the award-winning documentary film, "[Outrage.](#)" You might have seen the coverage from Mr. Mehlman's recent decision to [publicly acknowledge his sexuality](#) publicly, despite avoiding or lying in response to previous questions about his orientation – including when I [confronted Mr. Mehlman on camera](#) in 2006.

In a matter unrelated to the above, after recently blogging about a trip to [Austin](#), a reader alerted me to a curious expense reported on Governor Perry's July 2009 campaign finance report.

An entry dated April 13, 2009, reports \$78.26 was spent at an establishment named La Te Da, located in Key West, Florida. The explanation for the expense is simply, "Business meeting." Please see the attached PDF copy of the page from the campaign's expense report.

In case you are not familiar, the La Te Da is well-known destination for gay travelers with a popular cabaret that features drag show acts.

- The hotel boasts of hosting those celebrating gay pride day, and [describes itself](#) as “an internationally famous mecca for discriminating travelers for over 30 years.”
- La Te Da’s current “[entertainment calendar](#)” (screen shot attached), includes:
 - “Not Your Grandma’s Pole Dancing” (8 PM on 9/9)
 - “Pussy Galore Tea Dance” (4 PM on 9/12)
 - “Eat With a Queen Auction” (6 PM on 10/1)
- La-Te-Da talks of its “state-of-the-art cabaret theater.” The hotel staff told a Proud of Who We Are researcher last week that in April of last year, the hotel was featuring two acts, one of which included a Cher impersonator.


This campaign expense seems to clash with the Governor’s comments toward gay and lesbian Americans – including his most recent [assertion](#) that Texas has a better economy because it doesn’t grant gays and lesbians marriage equality.

I am seeking answers to the following questions:

1. Who spent the Governor’s campaign money at La-Te-Da that day?
2. Is it normal from someone from the campaign to conduct a “business meeting” at a Key West, gay hotel and drag show venue? What was the nature of the meeting?
3. As I read Texas law, out-of state-travel is supposed to be designated by checking the box in the entry and completing an accompanying Schedule T form. Can you provide to me the Schedule T form as originally filed? If not, can you please explain its absence?
4. Where was Governor Perry when the money was spent on this “business meeting?”
5. Could you provide me with the Governor’s schedule for two weeks before and after the date of the expenditure?
6. On what did Governor Perry, or a representative of his campaign, spend \$78.26 at the club – an admission ticket, alcohol or something else?

I look forward to hearing from you over the next several days. In advance, thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Rogers

POLITICAL EXPENDITURES**SCHEDULE F**

The INSTRUCTION GUIDE explains how to complete this form.		1 PAGE # Schedule: 84/172 Report: 303/395
2 FILER NAME Texans for Rick Perry		3 ACCOUNT # (Ethics Commission filers) 00015741
4 Date 04/13/2009	5 Payee name La-Te-Da 6 Payee address; City; State; Zip Code 1125 Duval Street Key West, FL 33040	7 Amount (\$) \$78.26
8 Purpose of payment (See instructions regarding type of information required.) Business Meeting (If travel outside of Texas, complete Schedule T) <input type="checkbox"/>		9 ** Complete if direct expenditure to benefit Candidate/Officeholder ** Candidate / Officeholder name: Office sought: Office held:
Date 01/20/2009	Payee name Lane Florist Payee address; City; State; Zip Code 6616 Snyder Plaza Dallas, TX 75205	Amount (\$) \$90.93
Purpose of payment (See instructions regarding type of information required.) Constituent Gifts (If travel outside of Texas, complete Schedule T) <input type="checkbox"/>		** Complete if direct expenditure to benefit Candidate/Officeholder ** Candidate / Officeholder name: Office sought: Office held:
Date 01/28/2009	Payee name Leaf Salad Payee address; City; State; Zip Code 419 W. 2nd Austin, TX 78701	Amount (\$) \$21.92
Purpose of payment (See instructions regarding type of information required.) Business Meeting (If travel outside of Texas, complete Schedule T) <input type="checkbox"/>		** Complete if direct expenditure to benefit Candidate/Officeholder ** Candidate / Officeholder name: Office sought: Office held:
Date 02/03/2009	Payee name Leaf Salad Payee address; City; State; Zip Code 419 W. 2nd Austin, TX 78701	Amount (\$) \$17.22
Purpose of payment (See instructions regarding type of information required.) Business Meeting (If travel outside of Texas, complete Schedule T) <input type="checkbox"/>		** Complete if direct expenditure to benefit Candidate/Officeholder ** Candidate / Officeholder name: Office sought: Office held: