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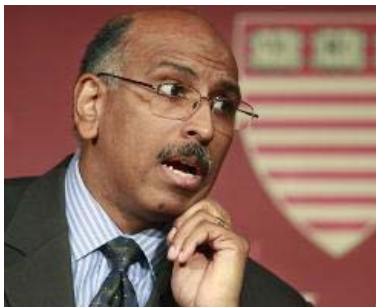


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RNC consultant to return \$2K for risque club

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Enlarge By Steven Senne, AP

RNC head Michael Steele was not at the bondage-themed club.

By **Matt Kelley**, USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The Republican National Committee demanded a refund and launched an investigation Monday into how nearly \$2,000 from its campaign account was spent at a sex-themed nightclub in the Los Angeles area, an RNC spokesman said.

The committee's February report to the Federal Election Commission shows it paid \$1,946 on Feb. 4 for meals at [Voyeur West Hollywood](#). The club's website describes it as "a destination for provocative revelry that combines eroticism and nightlife exclusivity."

RNC spokesman Doug Heye said in an e-mail that the committee paid the reimbursement to Erik Brown, the head of a California marketing firm that has worked for GOP candidates. Heye said Brown would return the money to the RNC.

An RNC staffer, who accompanied a group of donors to the nightclub and filed the expense, has been fired by the committee, *Politico* reported. In an internal committee e-mail obtained by *Politico*, RNC chief of staff Ken McKay announced the termination of the staffer, who was not named.

ON POLITICS: RNC investigates tab at erotic nightclub

Brown did not respond Monday to phone and e-mail messages left at his firm, Dynamic Marketing.

The payment was first reported Monday by *The Daily Caller*, a website founded by conservative commentators [Tucker Carlson](#), who is also a senior fellow at the [Cato Institute](#), and [Neil Patel](#), who was an adviser to former vice president [Dick Cheney](#).

Heye said Republican Party Chairman [Michael Steele](#) had nothing to do with the bar tab. "This was a reimbursement made to a non-committee staffer," Heye's statement said. "The chairman was never at the location in question, he had no knowledge of the expenditure, nor does he find the use of committee funds at such a location at all acceptable."

A *Los Angeles Times* article about the club's opening in October describes *Voyeur* as "not a sex club but rather a high-end nightclub." Entertainment includes "impromptu bondage and S&M 'scenes' being played out ... by scantily clad performers."

The conservative group Concerned Women for America said the RNC should disclose more about the episode. In a statement, group President Penny Nance questioned how

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the payment happened.

Contributing: *The Associated Press*

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Independent 1 (42 friends, send message) wrote: <1m ago
gregbrady (34 friends, send message) wrote: 2h 2m ago
Shocking-I can't believe that a Republican scandal actually centers around HETEROSEXUAL behavior-Cons seem to like to take a walk on the other side of the fence for their sexual acting out. They usually seem to be looking for a toe-tapping, Larry Craig kind of time!
=====
West Hollywood is MORE gay than San Francisco!!

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Independent 1 (42 friends, send message) wrote: 3m ago
Trooper1 (26 friends, send message) wrote: 42m ago
Was this against any rules/laws?
=====
It doesn't have to be...It's against their b.s. false "Family Values" platform!!

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mialover (0 friends, send message) wrote: 15m ago
I support Bill Clinton, it is cheaper to order pizza and cigar in the white house.

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KLynn (21 friends, send message) wrote: 23m ago
Who knew this is what they meant by family values? This could open the party up to a whole new demographic!

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jpetz (0 friends, send message) wrote: 23m ago
objectivity (20 friends, send message) wrote: 2m ago
"The chairman was never at the location in question, he had no knowledge of the expenditure, nor does he find the use of committee funds at such a location at all acceptable."
=====
Please explain to us, then, USA Today, why his photo appears in the article.

Steele's picture is associated with every RNC article, mostly so people can see what the loudmouth blasting Obama's presidency looks like.

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The only reason Steele was appointed was the GOP's answer to the fact America elected its first black president. Obama was elected by an entire nation; Steele was appointed by a committee, some of whom did not want him. If Steele doesn't start doing a better job of policing his RNC, he'll be canned. He's already allowed rogue disciples to launch a despicable smear campaign against Obama.

And you wonder why there is so much violent backlash. Once Americans realize they were fed misinformation from the GOP on Obamacare, there will be repercussions.

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Biker Santa (53 friends, [send message](#)) w rote: 23m ago

Slimy Republicans.
Slimy Democrats.

Potato, Patahtow.

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jjcctt (8 friends, [send message](#)) w rote: 32m ago

This incident has "handcuffed" the RNC, they will remain "bound and gagged" until it is resolved, and they will likely get a "spanking" from their constituents over this debauchery.

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Omega88 (2 friends, [send message](#)) w rote: 36m ago

White Lightning (26 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 16m ago
When a republican gets caught he is imediately investigated and then fired as was the RNC employee.
=====

Face facts billy bob. People don't like republicans. They're a rather despicable lot actually.

hey, at least we didn't catch another republican sen. in an airport mens room !!!

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objectivity (20 friends, [send message](#)) w rote: 38m ago

Mescalero (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 8h 45m ago
The conservative group Concerned Women for America said the RNC should disclose more about the episode.

--
I totally agree! Were the topless dancers men or women?
=====

Full disclosure required, huh?

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objectivity (20 friends, [send message](#)) w rote: 40m ago

"The chairman was never at the location in question, he had no knowledge of the expenditure, nor does he find the use of committee funds at such a location at all acceptable."
=====

Please explain to us, then, USA Today, why his photo appears in the article.

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