

Music, News, and NPR from Austin, Texas

— Elizabeth Pierson Hernandez

Sen. Wentworth faces ethics complaint

The Texas Ethics Commission will have to decide whether State Senator Jeff Wentworth violated the law by paying for expensive hotels, luxury car leases and travel with campaign contributions. State law allows using campaign funds for a wide variety of expenses, as long as they are connected to official duties.

Below you'll find a verbatim recitation of the report and interviews by *Elizabeth Pierson Hernandez*. You can listen to the report online at: <http://kut.org/items/show/12222>. At the end of Ms. Hernandez's report, you'll find an April 9 letter to Wentworth; April 7 letters to Wentworth, Lexus of Austin and the Ethics Commission, and April 2 letter to Wentworth.

Elizabeth:

The complaint alleges that Senator Wentworth has misused almost \$1 million in campaign funds over seven years.

Dave Palmer is a Watchdog in Folsom, California who filed the complaint on Friday (April 4, 2008) with the Texas Ethics Commission.

He spends 10-hours-a-day scouring campaign finance reports across the country and Wentworth's car lease from a Lexus dealership and his travel caught his eye.

Watchdawg:

It's always at the Four Seasons Hotels; all these expensive \$400 to \$500 a night hotels. He also had outrageous expenses for rental cars.

Elizabeth:

Senator Wentworth denies the allegations.

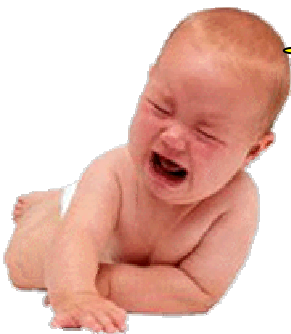
Wentworth:



Bad dawgie!

And this guy who knows nothing about these trips; essentially is saying that I'm turning them into vacations.

It is frivolous and it is baseless and I'm frankly offended that the media is giving him any credibility at all, but when you run a story it makes it appear.... Well maybe this guy knows something about corrupt politicians in Texas, and he doesn't.



Elizabeth:

Senator Wentworth also traveled to the Bohemian Grove, which Palmer claims is a secretive and elite male only retreat in the California Redwoods where in the past membership was limited to white people.

The complaint says that Wentworth spent more than \$18,000 traveling to summer conferences there.

Senator Wentworth represents Southwest Austin and San Marcos in the legislature.

Tim Terrells is an attorney at the Texas Ethics Commission. He says the agency can't discuss the complaint even to confirm that it was filed. It would be made public only if the Commission finds evidence of wrongdoing.

Dave Palmer
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April 9, 2008

Sen. Jeffrey Wentworth
25th District
San Antonio, TX

Re: Ethics complaint and your comments to KUT Public Radio in Austin

Dear Jeffrey:

Your comments to *KUT Public Radio* provided me with yet another opportunity for comedic relief and further solidify my past comment that you should consider becoming a stand-up comedian. Your feigned indignation is in keeping with the hyperbolic-dribble we've come to expect from public officials caught with their hands in the cookie jar.

You comment that my complaint is frivolous and baseless is of course untrue and is proven so by your comment to the *San Antonio Express-News* about your jaunts to the Bohemian Grove wherein you said, "I'd say it's a music camp for old men." Well it sure in hell ain't no music camp Jeffrey!

In all honesty Jeff, why don't you save the taxpayers some money and just come clean and admit that at a minimum the \$18,000 you spent for bi-annual jaunts to the Bohemian Grove had absolutely nothing to do with your official duties as a legislator. Be a man Jeff and admit you violated the Ethics Laws.

I'm sure your constituents in Austin and San Marcos are not happy to know that you've spent \$124,000 on a Lexus/Infiniti or that you spend an inordinate amount of time at the Bohemian Grove and other exotic venues.

Since I'm not far from the Grove, let me know if you're going to be here in July. Maybe we can do lunch. I'll pay unless you can bill your campaign again.

The Watchdawg
Folsom, California

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April 7, 2008

Sen. Jeff Wentworth
San Antonio, Texas

Re: Comments to Gary Scharrer/*San Antonio News-Express*

Dear Jeff:

The defenses you offered to Mr. Scharrer in regards to the campaign ethics complaint I recently filed take hubris and hyperbole to new and as yet unseen levels. I really think you missed your calling Jeff. Rather than politics, you should have been a standup comedian. And of course it's never too late to take advantage of your comedic talents!

Your comments to the San Antonio Express-News two years ago about the Bohemian Grove that "It's not something I'm supposed to talk about. But if I had to put words to it, I'd say it's a music camp for old men." Music camp for old men, you say Jeff? This comment gives a bad name to BS Jeff! I never heard of a "music camp" that performs mock human sacrifices; mock lynchings, or has its members dress in drag. And what about the 3500 bottles of wine available for all you teetotalers, Jeff? Reminds of that ol' ditty, "3500 bottles of wine on the wall."

Your comments to Mr. Scharrer about the lease of a Lexus caused uproarious laughter by not only me, but by my 14 year-old granddaughter, 21-year-old grandson, and my 7-year-old grandson Trevor (pretty smart for his age and has a unique ability to know when someone is blowing smoke up his derriere.

According to the *San Antonio Express-News*, you stated in July 2007 that your expenditures of \$20,308 on a Lexus between Jan-June was in keeping with the kind of cars he (that'd be you Jeff) drives in his personal life. You went on to say that it was necessary for the dangerous stretch of Interstate 35 between San Antonio and Austin and that "it's a matter of safety."

Your comment that a Lexus lease (\$1500 a month – 2000-2007) was in keeping with what you drive in your personal life is further evidence that you're intellectually infirm. If you wish to drive a Lexus, then I suggest you pay for it with your funds and not those of your contributors. Moreover, your statement that "it's a matter of safety," is pure bunk Jeff. In reviewing AOL autos, the safest vehicles are:

- ◆ 2008 Ford Taurus – MSRP - \$23,445
- ◆ 2008 Mercury Sable – MSRP \$23,450
- ◆ Audi A6 – MSRP - \$41,950
- ◆ Audi A4 – MSRP - \$28,240
- ◆ Saab 9-3 – MSRP - \$26,170
- ◆ Subaru Legacy – MSRP - \$20,495

Of course a man of your social standing wouldn't be caught dead driving a Ford Taurus, Mercury Sable or a Subaru, right Jeff? I wonder how the following contributors to your campaigns feel about you spending \$1500 a month to lease a Lexus. Or better yet, how many of them do you think drive a Lexus to work everyday out of "safety concerns" Jeff?

- ◆ Colvin, Charles, Mr., Bulverde, TX, 78163,,, 20061005, 75.00
- ◆ Ritter, Glen, Mr., Arlington, TX, 76103,,, 20061005, 75.00
- ◆ Rubin, Jay, Mrs., San Antonio, TX, 78209,,, 20061017, 75.00
- ◆ Lynch, Alice Ann, Ms., San Antonio, TX, 78209,,, 20051205, 75.00
- ◆ Finnell, Charles, Mr., Holliday, TX, 76366,,, 20061209, 100.00

- Brancel, Dale, Mr., Colleyville, TX, 76034,,,20061208,100.00
- Chapman, Randall, Mr., Austin, TX, 78704,,,20061101,100.00
- Rocha, Susan, Ms., San Antonio, TX, 78225,,,20061208,100.00
- Rodgers, Gary, Mr., Austin, TX, 78759,,,20061209,100.00

I also found your comments to Jamie Castillo (Aug 1, 2007) of the *Express-News* that your two son's drive luxury autos because they're safe and you love them to be pure BS. The real reason they drive luxury autos is because since you became a state Senator you've haven't spent a dime on travel, expensive meals, and/or your luxury ride. I suppose anyone could afford a Lexus if someone else was paying for the rest of their living costs, right Jeff?

If in fact your statement that you drive a Lexus because "it's a matter of safety" were true, then there should be at least 50,000 folks driving a Lexus to commute from San Antonio to Austin everyday out of the 100,000 vehicles using the San Antonio-Austin Corridor. (Source: www.texwyman.com/i35corr.htm.)

If nothing else Jeff, your comments to the *San Antonio News-Express* provided me with some needed humor as I work diligently to expeditiously expose your associates in the Texas Legislature and/or the Texas Judiciary. As I suspect you know, I am also working to expose legislators (ethically deprived like you) from Ohio, California, Florida, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, etc. As the *Columbus Dispatch* once said of me, I'm an equal opportunity exposé.

Please keep up the good work in hosing your contributors so that you can continue to live in the style (Potentate) that you've become accustomed to. Pray tell if you ever had to live like a common, hard-working stiff Jeff!

Doggone it Jeff, a Dawg's work is never done if ya know what I mean.

The Watchdawg
Folsom, California

PS: Please find attached copies of letters faxed this date to the TX Ethics Commission, Lexus of Austin and San Antonio Lexus.

Dave Palmer
The Watchdog
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URL: www.noethics.net

April 7, 2008

Lexus of Austin
Sales Department
(512) 343-3425

Re: Ad campaign for future sales of Lexus cars

To Whom It May Concern:

I think I've stumbled on to something that should or could cause Lexus sales in your area to explode. In July and Aug 2007, Texas State Senator Jeff Wentworth from San Antonio was interviewed by the *San Antonio News-Express* regarding his use of campaign funds to lease a Lexus for about \$1500 a month.

During the interviews, Wentworth defended his conduct by saying "It's a matter of safety." He went on to say both of his college-age sons have walked away "without a scratch" from accidents that totaled their vehicles." Wentworth opined the reason was because they were driving luxury vehicles. He then said, "One of my sons wants a pickup truck. I told him as long as I'm paying for it, he's not going to drive a truck because I love him too much." Is this a heart-wrenching story or what? It makes me feel like I abused my three daughters by buying them a (a) Honda Accord, (b) Buick Riviera, and (c) a Volkswagen Cabriolet. I hope they won't be angry at me for my bad judgment!

When asked which Lexus model he drove, Wentworth said he “I don’t know. It’s heavy, it’s got airbags and it says ‘Lexus’ on the steering wheel. Good thing Lexus puts its name on the steering wheel because if they didn’t, poor ol’ Jeff could have ended up driving a piece of crap like a Cadillac or Lincoln.

My research on the Internet shows that there about 100,000 cars per day travel on the 1-35 corridor from San Antonio to Austin. I believe that it would be to your financial benefit to use Wentworth’s words “It’s a matter of safety” for future advertising in order to generate sales. Since Wentworth was recently named Legislator of the Year by the TX NRA and other organizations, credibility clearly isn’t an issue, right?

Of course I don’t know how many cars you’ve sold to the good folks in and around Austin over the past year, but I would find it hard to believe that you’ve sold 50,000 or more. This is a perfect opportunity for Lexus of Austin to use Wentworth as a sounding board to push its cars on the safety issue. I believe that you shouldn’t have any trouble taking sales away from those who sell “unsafe” cars like, GM, Ford, Chrysler, Honda, Audi, Volkswagen, Mercedes Benz or Rolls Royce for that matter.

If you need any assistance in drafting up a sales plan, let me know and I’ll be more than happy to provide you with some unique ideas.

The Watchdawg
Folsom, California

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April 7, 2008

David A. Reisman
Executive Director
Texas Ethics Commission

Re: Sen. Jeff Wentworth Ethics Complaint

Dear Mr. Reisman:

The *San Antonio News-Express* did a story about this complaint on the 5th.
www.mysanantonio.com/news/metro/stories/MYSA040508.01B.Wentworth_ethics.37f768b.html

While commenting to the *News-Express* last July regarding the Bohemian Grove, Wentworth said “It’s not something I’m supposed to talk about (super, super, secret society). But if I had to put words to it, I’d say it’s a music camp for old men.” This sham comment is proven false by going to *Google* and using the search words “Bohemian Grove.” Claiming the Grove is like a “music camp for old men,” is like saying that Jeffrey Dahmer ran a kitchen for aspiring gourmet cooks.

Also, Wentworth’s comments to the San Antonio News-Express in July 2007 regarding the exorbitant amounts he spent to lease a Lexus are obscene and further evidence that he actually believes he is “above the law” and/or some kind of sovereign monarch. To defend his leasing of a Lexus, Wentworth had the chutzpah to say it was in keeping with the kind of cars he drives in his personal life and that “It’s a matter of safety.”

If it was truly a matter of safety, then why didn’t he lease a Hummer fitted with armored plating” Or better yet, why not a M-1 Abrams tank built at the Lima (Ohio) Army Tank facility? At least with the tank, some of my friends working their (Lima is only about 75 miles from Toledo – lived there for 55 years) would be assured of a little overtime from time to time.

In July when the Express-News reported that Wentworth had spent \$20,308 between January and June 2007 to lease a Lexus, Wentworth said the campaign Lexus was in keeping with the kind of cars he drives in his

personal life. He said it was necessary for the dangerous stretch of Interstate 35 between San Antonio and Austin.

Bottom line here is that Wentworth's own words to the Express-News about the Bohemian Grove and the Lexus clearly demonstrate that he knowingly and arrogantly violated the Ethics Laws and clearly intends to continue to so act in the future. Lastly, please go to my website at www.noethics.net where you'll find specific details on Wentworth's expenditures.

The Watchdawg
Folsom, California

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April 2, 2008

Sen. Jeffrey Wentworth
25th District
San Antonio, TX

Re: Complaint filed with the Texas Ethics Commission

Dear Jeffrey:

On this date I mailed a complaint to the Texas Ethics Commission on what certainly appears to be serial violations of Title 15 of the Election Code relating to personal use of campaign funds. A copy of the complaint can be found on my website at www.noethics.net by going to "Texas Reporter" and clicking onto "Ethics complaint filed v. Sen. Jeffrey Wentworth."

I'm particularly troubled by your membership in and/or association with the Bohemian Grove located north of San Francisco and the \$18,000 you spent in campaign funds for several 16-18 day jaunts. My review of the goings-on at the Grove raises serious questions as to the efficacy of the people's representative (that'd be you) belonging to such a group.

As you well know the Bohemian Grove unabashedly discriminates against women as it does against other minorities based on race, ethnicity, etc. I have three daughters and I personally take great offense to any group or organization that engages in misogynistic conduct aimed at openly discriminating against women. I understand that in a magnanimous gesture of equity and fairness, the practicing misogynists at the Grove now allow women in their so-called encampment, albeit for the sole purpose of acting as compliant servants of food, working on the skeet range and/or acting as valets.

The activities at the Grove are quite disturbing to say the least and I'm at loss to understand or appreciate how you can defend the use of campaign funds of over \$18,000 to engage in activities that include mock human sacrifices on an alter backed by a 40-foot statute of some ancient pagan God named Moloch. Past events (may well still be going on for all I know) that are even more disquieting are mock lynchings.

It is painfully clear that the attendees at the Grove are nothing more than a bunch of arrogant, aristocratic, imperialist-buffoons that find it acceptable to engage in conduct that one would expect from practicing occultists and those of their ilk. To suggest that it is proper to use campaign funds to engage in demented revelry and occultist type activities that includes excessive drinking is of course absurd. The assertion that the members of the Grove are the crème de le crème of corporate/governmental America is a rather sad thought to say the least.

As I suspect you know, at least 50% (350,000 or more) of your constituents are women. In addition, about 35% of your constituency base is comprised of African-Americans (4.3%), Hispanics (26.2%), and Asians, etc. (3.1%)—Source: 2000 census. I cannot imagine that a plurality of women and/minorities in the 25th District would be pleased to discover that you are a member of the Grove. Of course there can be no dispute that you should have no trouble garnering at least 95% of the misogynist vote in San Antonio in the next election.

Obviously, I cannot comment on whether or not you have been or will in the future be a member of the drag-chorus at the Grove. However, I suspect that you'd be awfully hard on a pair of pumps given your weight, etc. In the event you have been a member of the drag-chorus, I would greatly appreciate it if you could forward me a copy of any photographs of you in drag so that my posting on my website can accurately reflect on your activities at the Grove. As I suspect you know, accuracy (aka, due diligence) is a prerequisite to fair and balanced reporting.

In addition to the \$18,000 you spent on Grove activities, I was also taken aback by the amount of campaign funds you spent for first class airfare, including a flight on Air France's Concord. This type of unwarranted conduct gives arrogance a bad name.

Please provide me with a copy of your response to the complaint.

Thanks for your time and attention to this matter.

The Watchdawg
Folsom, California
