

Click Here  
For  
Local Ads

**TOYOTA OF RUNNEMEDE**  
99 South Black Horse Pike (Rt 168)  
RUNNEMEDE, NJ **1-888-254-1889**

phillyBurbs.com

## The Intelligencer. The Record

<a href="#">Intelligencer Home</a>	<a href="#">Intelligencer News</a>	<a href="#">Record Home</a>	<a href="#">Record News</a>	<a href="#">News Archive</a>
<a href="#">Local Sports</a>	<a href="#">Columnists</a>	<a href="#">Editorial</a>	<a href="#">Obituaries</a>	<a href="#">Religion</a>
<a href="#">Weekend</a>	<a href="#">Subscribe</a>	<a href="#">Advertise</a>		

### LOCAL NEWS

## Go-go group donates to candidates

By Mark E. Jolly  
Staff Writer  
[E-mail](#)

*Sen. Conti and Rep. McIlhinney received the money from the Pennsylvania Cabaret Association, which represents the interests of the adult entertainment industry. Their opponents questioned the donations.*

Two Central Bucks Republicans seeking re-election to the state Legislature received more than \$6,000 in donations from the adult entertainment industry in 2000 and 2001.

But on Tuesday they defended taking the money, saying no legislation affecting adult businesses has come through the General Assembly.

Sen. Joe Conti, who represents most of Bucks County, took a total of \$5,100 in two donations from the Pennsylvania Cabaret Association, which is located on Computer Avenue in Willow Grove. His former aide, Jim Doyle, is the executive director of the group.

Rep. Chuck McIlhinney, who represents an area stretching from Doylestown to Riegelsville, received \$500 from the organization on three separate occasions.

A third Republican Bucks County lawmaker, Rep. Roy Reinard of Lower Bucks, who is retiring from the House this year, accepted a \$5,000 contribution from the association in 2000.

According to the cabaret group's Web site, it is "committed to enhancing the image of gentleman's clubs statewide" and bringing "a new level of professionalism to the cabaret industry." It provides entertainment owners, employees and vendors with insurance, retirement programs, seminars and legal advice.

But Democratic challengers in this year's election called the donations into question Tuesday.

"The voters are going to have to decide if they want their representative taking money and being influenced by the sex industry," said Betsy Helsel, McIlhinney's opponent in the 143rd District. "That's a concern."

McIlhinney said the \$500 he received from the organization really came through Doyle, the association's leader. He said Doyle used association money to attend several McIlhinney fund-raising events.

[Home](#)  
[Business](#)  
[Entertainment](#)  
[Sports](#) ▶  
[Weather](#) ▶

[Marketplace](#)  
[AutoMall](#)  
[Classifieds](#) ▶  
[.com directory](#)  
[Coupon Clipper](#)  
[Internet Access](#)  
[Job Search](#)  
[WebBuilder](#)  
[Yellow Pages](#)

[Neighborhoods](#) ▶

[Features](#)  
[Communities](#) ▶  
[Crossword](#)  
[Discussion](#)  
[E-The People](#)  
[Food](#)  
[Giving](#)  
[Directory](#)  
[Kids Stuff](#) ▶  
[Lotteries](#) ▶  
[Movie Listings](#)  
[NIE](#)  
[Real Estate](#)  
[Scholarships](#)  
[Travel](#)  
[TV Listings](#)  
[Web Singles](#)

[The AP WIRE](#)

[Feedback](#)  
[Guestbook](#)  
[Our History](#)  
[Staff Directory](#)

Click to turn **off**  
[pull-down menus](#)  
[Menu Help](#)

[Search](#)  
[phillyBurbs.com](#)  
[The Internet](#)  
[Yellow Pages](#)





According to the association's Web site, before joining the association in 1999, Doyle spent three years working for the Senate, first in Conti's 10th District as director of media and community relations, and more recently as a producer for the Republican Caucus Communications Department.

"I've known Jim for a long time, and I wasn't going to insult him by sending back his check," McIlhinney said. "The voters are not going to buy into these associations and inferences."

But Helsel doesn't buy the excuse that Doyle is a friend; a friend should cut a personal check and leave industry money behind, she said.

Doyle, for his part, said small donations to local politicians were, in fact, his doing.

But larger donations, like the \$5,000 Conti received in 2000, were approved by the cabaret association's executive board or by association members who wanted certain candidates to get contributions, Doyle said.

He would not name members or provide specifics on past donations. Doyle said the large contribution had nothing to do with his relationship with the senator.

Conti said he doesn't believe accepting campaign contributions affects the job a legislator does.

"It is a necessity to raise money to continue to serve in public office; the cost of campaigns is very high," Conti said. "Accepting contributions doesn't mean you agree with a position on a matter."

Ron Elgart, Conti's opponent for the 10th Senate seat, got a chuckle out of the donations when told about them.

"I think it's wonderful that Sen. Conti —Mr. Clean Marine himself —accepts money from go-go bars," Elgart said. "Conti and McIlhinney think they can just indiscriminately stick their hands into anyone's pockets and not have a problem with it."

Staff Writer Robert Armengol contributed to this report.

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

[back to Index](#)   [go to Discussion Forums](#)

Tell a friend about this story!

Your Friend's Name

Your Friends E-mail

Your Name

Your E-mail

SEND!

© Copyright 2002  
Calkins Media, Inc.  
[Privacy Policy](#)

<b>Reedman's</b> <b>.COM</b> World Center					
	800-919-8200	www.reedman.com	215-757-4961		

[BACK TO TOP](#)