

A Funny Thing Happened at Work You Want Me to Do What?

Mike Crawford, CPA, explains how an audit investigation landed him in a Las Vegas gentlemen's club.

A few years ago, I received the most unusual audit request in more than 20 years of practice. I was working for one of the South Pacific island governments, reviewing the audit reports from the government's office of public auditor prior to their release. My reviews provide guidance to the auditor's office as to report content, wording, conclusions and recommendations.

I received an e-mail that included a draft report from the auditor's office dealing with an investigation into allegations of improper use of a government credit card and excessive spending on travel and entertainment by the government's airport director. Included in the draft was a claim that the airport director and the governor of the island had spent nearly \$2,000 of government money in one night at a Las Vegas club. The draft stated the credit card receipt had a business name other than the name of

the club. Based on a phone call, it was determined the facility was a gentlemen's club.

The response from the airport director was that the charges were "for a dinner show to discuss aviation objectives between the airport director and the governor with two officials from the Nevada state government." When I e-mailed my draft suggestions back to the auditor's office, I suggested they might want to consider obtaining better evidence that the facility in question was indeed a gentlemen's club before finalizing a report implicating the island governor of wrongdoing.

The next day, I received a response from the auditor's office stating they agreed with my suggestion. However, they said it would be cost prohibitive for them to investigate it further from the South

(See WORK on page 26)

Michael A. Crawford, CPA, is chairman of Crawford & Associates, P.C., in Okla. City, Okla. Crawford is a past president of the OSCP, past chairman of various OSCP committees and a member of the Oklahoma Accounting Hall of Fame. He is a current member of the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council, nationally recognized as a frequent lecturer and speaker, an author of various AICPA technical publications and the current co-author of the CCH Miller Governmental GAAP Guides and Updates.

Tired of doing Form 901 by hand? We were. And we did something about it.



Personal Property Pro

- **'Business Personal Property Rendition' software**
- **Form approved for all 77 counties in Oklahoma**
- **Freeport Exemption form included**
- **Professional looking returns**

'Personal Property Pro will save me at least 30 minutes on every county report.'

- Marvin Morse, Morse & Co., Tulsa OK

Download the demo today!
www.PersonalPropertyPro.com
(918) 252-1157

New OSCPAs Members

Student Members

Rachel M. Dugger
East Central University
Kristi K. Mast
East Central University
Kamberly D. Petete
East Central University
Steve M. Tilley
East Central University
Shannon P. Hahn
Northeastern Oklahoma State University
Shawn B. Randall
Northwestern Oklahoma State University
Megan E. Stone
Oklahoma Baptist University
Chad S. Wilsie
Oklahoma Baptist University
Wilson N. Chinenyanga
Oklahoma Christian University
Shirdi S. Chittoori
Oklahoma City University
Kamariah Ghazali
Oklahoma City University
Tsai Rung Han
Oklahoma City University
Syed T. Husain
Oklahoma City University
Gerald T. Leonard
Oklahoma City University
Oanh Y. Nguyen
Oklahoma City University
Vidhi Sachdeva
Oklahoma City University
At Cbu Yang
Oklahoma City University
Rizka H. Zulachba
Oklahoma City University
Krista K. Casey
Oklahoma Panhandle State University
Brian K. Conway
Oklahoma State University
Kieran L. Major
Tulsa Community College
Eric L. Clanton
University of Central Oklahoma
Tanya D. Deacon
University of Central Oklahoma
Tillie E. Green
University of Central Oklahoma
Ryan P. Harris
University of Central Oklahoma
Keri B. York
University of Central Oklahoma
Anika L. Milam
University of Houston
Tyler F. Merchant
University of Oklahoma
Prince P. Tuli
University of Oklahoma
Arshad Parvez
University of Tulsa
Amanda J. Thompson
University of Tulsa
Kristen R. White
University of Tulsa

Associate Members

Katie E. Campbell
Okla. City, staff accountant, Richard A. Duffy, CPA
Incorporated, Purcell

Patti L. Denton
Inola, assistant controller, The Nordam Group, Tulsa
Jason M. Dixon
Norman, sponsored program coordinator, University
of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Okla. City
Ysbely Freeland-Rodriguez
Warr Acres
Branden D. Montgomery
Warr Acres, accounting assistant, INTEGRIS Health,
Okla. City
Trisha K. Ruyle
Enid, accountant, Continental Resources, Inc., Enid
Jean J. Yobaman
Yukon

CPA Members

LaDonna R. Balliett
Stratford, staff accountant, Pre-Paid Legal Services,
Inc., Ada
Hedin E. Daubenspeck
Tulsa, sole practitioner, Hedin E. Daubinspeck, CPA,
Tulsa
Jerry L. Dodsen
Tulsa, chief financial officer, RAM-Z, LLC, Tulsa
Charlotte A. Gurley
Idabel, manager, John M. Carr, CPA, Idabel
David Hanigar
Edmond, financial investigator, Oklahoma State
Auditor's Office, Okla. City
Millard R. Harp
McAlester, controller, DCT Incorporated, McAlester
Rowena Hosch
Augusta, KS, manager, Parman, Tanner, Soule &
Jackson, CPAs, Ponca City
Jeffrey G. Hutson
Edmond, staff accountant, Lisle, Compton, Cole &
Almen, LLP, Okla. City
Brenda E. Hyatt
Tulsa, accountant, Christ United Methodist Church,
Tulsa
Melissa N. Orton
Okla. City, senior associate, KPMG, LLP, Okla. City
Ryan K. Parris
Bartlesville, staff II accountant, Ernst & Young, LLP,
Bartlesville
Kerry M. Reeves
Tulsa, internal control analyst, Dollar Thrifty
Automotive Group, Inc., Tulsa
Jon A. Robinson
Moore, assistant controller, Absentee Shawnee Tribe
of Oklahoma, Shawnee
John R. Shoush
Okla. City, director of accounting and auditing,
Barbara A. Ley, CPA, PC, Okla. City
Mattbew R. Sbovanec
Yukon, securitization accountant, Hertz Financial
Center, Okla. City
Carl T. Turner, Jr.
Grove, sole practitioner, Carl T. Turner, Jr., CPA,
Grove
Garland N. Verner
Ardmore, vice president and chief financial officer,
IMTEC Corporation, Ardmore
Joel K. Wilkinson
Duncan, financial consultant, Joel K. Wilson, Duncan
Paul E. Wolfenberger
Norman, audit manager, Gray & Company, PC,
Norman ☺

(WORK from page 7)

Pacific and asked if I could fly to Las Vegas and check out the club for them. *I couldn't hit the reply key on my computer fast enough!*

Las Vegas, here I come!

Then I had to explain to my wife why I needed to fly to Vegas that weekend.

When I described the situation to her and rationalized why I needed to go to a gentlemen's club, she calmly said, "When are WE going?"

Las Vegas, here WE come. Not only did she want to accompany me to Las Vegas, she wanted to go with me into the club.

When we arrived, we asked our taxi driver to take us by the address so we could see the facility. We asked him if he knew the location. "Sure, that place is one of the classiest strip joints in town," he said.

It was going to be an interesting evening.

Now, I'm not the sort of fellow who frequents gentlemen's clubs, so it was a relatively new experience for the both of us. I would probably have felt a little uncomfortable by myself anyway, but I assure you, I was even more so with my wife sitting by my side.

The place was definitely a strip club. It offered limited food, expensive drinks and beautiful young ladies, dressed only in G-strings, who performed non-stop stage and lap dances, with a VIP room for private dances.

I began my undercover work (no pun intended).

I asked to see the manager under the guise of checking out the club as a potential site for an upcoming bachelor party. I did this to obtain evidence of how and what one could charge on a credit card in an effort to try to explain the charges to the government's card. When I returned to our table after meeting with the club manager, my wife looked flushed. I asked her what had happened and she said the young ladies were constantly coming by and asking if they could perform a lap dance for her. I asked my wife how much it costs and whether it could be put on a credit card.

It was just part of the investigation, but you should have seen her face.