

S. HRG. 110-238

**COMMITTEE HEARING REGARDING THE  
INFLUENCE OF GIRTH McDÜRCHSTEIN'S  
SWEET TREASURES UPON FEMALE  
TEENAGE CITIZENS OF LOS ANGELES.**

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**HEARING**

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,  
SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

—  
JANUARY 21-30  
—

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TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW PHILLIPS,  
*ALIAS* GIRTH McDÜRCHSTEIN, RE-  
GARDING THE INFLUENCE OF HIS  
CHARITY UPON FEMALE TEENAGE  
CITIZENS OF LOS ANGELES, CALI-  
FORNIA.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2008

U.S. SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION

*Washington, DC.*

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2 p.m., in room 253 Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Matthew Carter, Chairman of the Committee, president.

Present: Senators Rockefeller, Kerry, Lott, Dorgan, Bailey Hutchison, Boxer, Snowe, Nelson, Smith, Cantwell, Ensign, Lautenberg, Sununu, Pryor, Carper, Vitter, McCaskill, Thune, and Klobuchar.

Chairman CARTER. Good afternoon, ladies and gentleman. The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee will now proceed to the inquiry into allegations of musician Matthew Phillips' involvement in the sharp moral decline in Los Angeles area teenage girls as a direct result of visiting the headquarters of a charity called Girth McDürchstein's Sweet Treasures.

Girth McDürchstein is, of course, the stage name and alias of the musician Phillips, who has performed under that moniker since 1992.

Some background on the charity. Founded on September fifth of last year, its primary goal, according to a press release issued to announce its founding, is to give disadvantaged teen girls with potential a second chance. It is currently located at 10775 Ventura Boulevard in Studio City, California, at the site of the notorious Den Himmel abortion clinic.

On December the sixteenth of last year, the *Los Angeles Times* printed an article in which Los Angeles Second District Council-

woman Wendy Greuel stated: "Some of the more popular girls [in schools] visited the clinic and, upon receiving advice that was inherently bad but which match these teen girls' worldview, decided to promote this service from the top down. Its popularity spread quickly."

It is my understanding that Mr. Phillips has a statement that he would like to read. Mr. Phillips, please proceed.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. My name is Girth McDürchstein. This is my attorney, Harcourt Abimelech Feinstein from Los Angeles—can you hear me?

Chairman CARTER. If you could speak very directly and clearly into the microphone, I would appreciate it.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. My name is Girth McDürchstein. This is my attorney, Harcourt Abimelech Feinstein.

The statement that I prepared, that I sent you 100 copies of, is five pages long, so I have shortened it down and am going to read a condensed version of it.

Certain things have—I've listened from outside the hall and I have to ask, why am I here? Have I committed a crime of any kind? If so, shouldn't I be charged by authorities and—

Chairman CARTER. I think you had better concentrate on your testimony, rather than asking questions.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. But—

Chairman CARTER. Nobody answer his questions. Nobody answer his questions!

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. OK, thank you.

The first thing I would look to do, because I know there is some foreign press involved here and they might not understand what the issue is about, one of the things the issue is about is the the First Amendment to the Constitution, and it is short and I would like to read it so they will understand. It says:

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.*

That is for reference.

These are—

Chairman CARTER. Mr. Phillips—

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. McDürchstein—

Chairman CARTER. Mr. Phillips, if I may interrupt you for a moment to correct you on a few points. First, there are no members of the foreign press here. Look around, and you'll find there are no members of the domestic press, either. Several Los Angeles reporters are watching a live feed of this hearing in an alternate room, but I assume many of them are familiar with the First Amendment.

[Laughter.]

Chairman CARTER. Point number two: this is not a First Amendment issue. With the exception of mild finger-pointing in a newspaper article and a general distate for your religion, nobody has impeded your ability to express your religious convictions. Nobody has infringed upon your rights to freedom of speech or your right to petition the government for a redress of grievances —

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. But when I asked a question just a minute ago, you —

Chairman CARTER. Don't interrupt me. Mr. McDürchstein, we are here today because of the corruptive influence of your charity, Girth McDürchstein's Sweet Treasures. Again, we are not infringing upon your rights to free speech, but we *will* make note that your charity organization has no legal or ethical right to advise girls under the age of 18 to copulate, partake of illegal narcotics, start pornography websites starring themselves to earn an income, or any of the many other lewd suggestions that came from your charity operation.

If you wanted to stand on a streetcorner, begging for attention, and say these words to young girls, nobody would bat an eyelash. Your charity organization is regulated by state and federal laws, Mr. Phillips, and oh, let me count the ways in which you regularly violate and sodomize these laws.

Beyond the free-speech issues, which is a slippery slope that I have no interest in tobogganing down, the reason we have brought you here today is rather simple: fraud.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. Can I read my statement now?

Chairman CARTER. Mr. Phillips, if you interrupt me again, I will fine you for contempt of court.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. But, um — this isn't a court, is it?

HARCOURT ABIMELECH FEINSTEIN. No, it isn't.

Chairman CARTER. Silence!

HARCOURT ABIMELECH FEINSTEIN. I will *not* calm down!

Chairman CARTER. Fraud, Mr. Phillips. Fraud. Last year, you were in a great deal of trouble in Europe. When a court clerk perished in a bomb blast, they were forced to drop charges. You stole money, Phillips. You founded a phony charity so you wouldn't have to return it *or* pay taxes on it, and while you could argue that your charity is functional and therefore *not* phony, we have credit card receipts, cell phone bills, and bank statements suggesting that you've illegally embezzled charity funds for personal use. Sloppy, Phillips. Sloppier, still, to document this mismanagement — subtly but clearly — on your Internet weblog. Now, are you still interested in reading your statement?

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. Yes. Ready?

Chairman CARTER. The anticipation is killing me.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. You really gotta be that much of a dick?

Chairman CARTER. Yes.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. Fine, here we go.

I love children. I have not done anything illegal with any child besides my daughter at any point. I, and my wife and daughter, have given advice we feel is sound. If America's youth misunderstands or misrepresents that advice, I can't help it.

Furthermore, I stole money from Nigerians. It's a victimless crime. Besides which, I *wanted* form a charity. It was my idea all along. Giving back to a country that has given me so much. Also, I had very little to do with the bomb blast that killed that court clerk. I also had, at best, minor involvement in the deaths of 35 French prison guards. And I certainly didn't witness my wife kill a restaurant waitress. That was...a joke.

Chairman CARTER. Yes, yes. Very humorous. Allow me to read something purportedly written *by you* on your Internet weblog.

This is a quotation from your attractive publicist, Lacey Greenwood. "*And you have to donate the rest of the money to charity, after you've paid your bills – including mine.*" Personal use. That money technically was spent before founding the charity, and therefore it should be subject to U.S. tax law.

Quote, *She gave me that hard stare again, her enraged eyes boring into my skin like twin lasers.*

"*Can't I just say I'm donating it to charity?*"

*Lacey shrugged. "I don't see why not. Just keep it quiet."*

"*Will do,*" *I said.*

Explain this.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. Are you an asshole? We're talking about *donating money* to charity here. So, behind closed doors, undocumented on my apparently infallible and all-knowing blog, I changed my mind. Not only would I *not* defraud the federal government with a fraudulent donation write-off, I would put all of that money, very legitimately, into an authentic charity I founded.

Chairman CARTER. That is a suspiciously good answer. I suppose you've brought the requested evidence to verify that.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. No.

Chairman CARTER. Of course not. Because, as you wrote yesterday, in a conversation between you and your wife, Margo Atwater,

"*Girthy, what's wrong?*"

"*The Senate has subpoenaed me. I have to testify tomorrow, or...send a lot of documents I don't have.*"

"*Like what?*"

"*Monthly financial statements for Sweet Treasures, something resembling a business model or mission statement.*"

Documents you don't have? Why, perchance, not?

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. I am an unimaginably poor businessman. Surely you've heard about my record label, which I single-handedly ran into the ground with an unmatched combination of shady business practices, mismanagement, and imprudent spending. Surely it's not a crime to keep bad financial records.

Chairman CARTER. It is when you're running a charity.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. Is that true?

HARCOURT ABIMELECH FEINSTEIN. Yes.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. Oh.

Chairman CARTER. We are willing to strike a deal with you, however.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. Is that so?

Chairman CARTER. Disband your charity, apologize officially to the city and county of Los Angeles for the horror you've wrought, pay the proper taxes on your \$830,000 windfall, and perform 80 hours of community service in a manner that will benefit the community, not destroy it.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. That's bullshit, man. You're not a judge. I haven't been charged with a crime. I am subject to due process!

Chairman CARTER. Read the USA PATRIOT Act.

HARCOURT ABIMELECH FEINSTEIN. I'm afraid Senator Carter is correct. He *is* the law, not unlike *Judge Dredd*.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. I love that movie! Rob Schneider is so fun—

Chairman CARTER. Silence! Do you accept these terms?

HARCOURT ABIMELECH FEINSTEIN. On behalf of my client, yes. Yes, we do.

Chairman CARTER. You are excused, Mr. Phillips.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. Suck my big fat cock, Senator.

Chairman CARTER. I will if I ever get access to an electron microscope and an unicellular condom.

MATTHEW PHILLIPS. Well played. Well played.

Chairman CARTER. Thank you very much.

We will adjourn at this point.

[Whereupon, at 3:40 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]