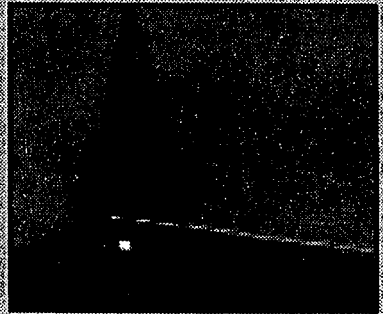


the MEREDITH **herald**



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"CORN"
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Political Mudslinging

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Staff Writer

Politicians are known for nasty mudslinging during campaign season, but what happens when the elected officials step into office and have not cleaned off their mud? Politicians of late have been in major trouble for not fully reporting fund donations, accepting gifts of value, and for having others benefit from patrons. Here in North Carolina, several elected officials have been caught in the act of abusing of their power.

Ty Harrell of the North Carolina General Assembly resigned from office on September 22, 2009. He attributes the reasons to turbulence in his personal life. However, his fiscal documents are going under review because his expenditures from the campaign fund have been unusually high for a non-election year. It is absolutely crucial that a politician carefully record every expenditure involved in their careers so that donors are aware of what their money is supporting. It is also necessary that politicians prove donors are not funneling in "gifts" in return for favors. North Carolina requires that gifts of at least \$200 be recorded and that no one may give a politician more than \$4,000 in

Harrell is not alone in his examination; former Presidential nominee John Edwards has been caught in a dirty situation which

October 25, 2009. Easley is being reviewed for using funding in inappropriate manners. An \$11,000 bill for repairs to the Governor's

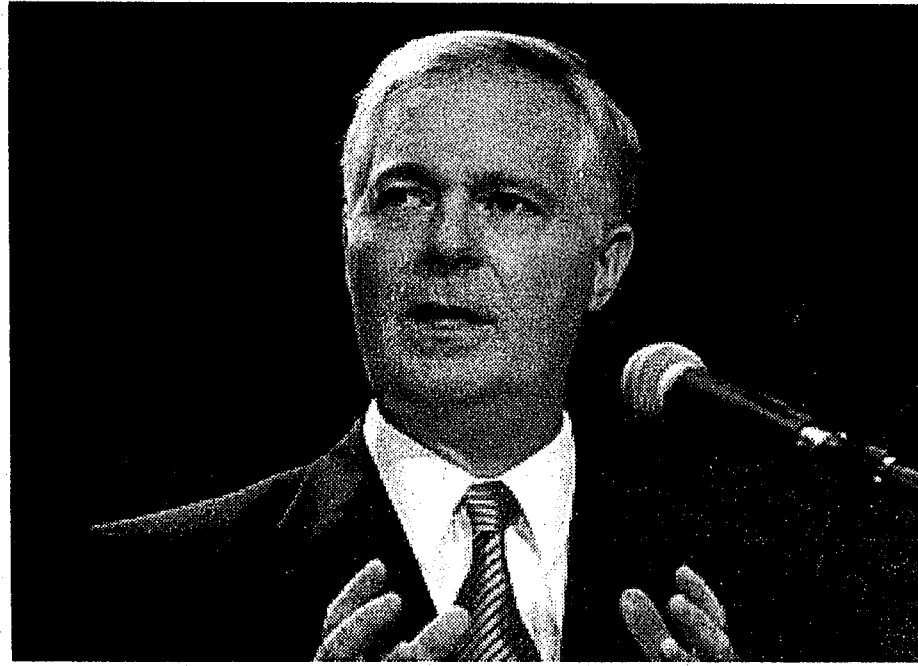


Photo courtesy <http://www.bankforeclosuressale.com/images/mike-easley.jpg>

could possibly end his career.

Edwards is currently under review for his extramarital affair with Hunter Rielle, and for Rielle's child, who many believe Edwards fathered. There is speculation that Rielle was paid "hush money" by patrons of the Edwards campaign.

Mansion is under review. Easley supposedly used campaign funds to pay for the repairs. Former Governor Easley has been accused of not properly recording flights he took during his term as governor and for taking flights and not recording them. The aircraft company who flew Easley reported there was an \$87,895 bill over a five year period. Two lies which intertwined have now come together. How could Easley ever have known all this would catch up to him?

Many people also believe that Governor Easley's wife, Mary Easley, was given a position at NC State University that was created especially for her.

When asked about her feelings about the issue of politicians abusing tax money, Meredith College freshman Karen Chung replied, "I think it is a complete disgrace to the politicians and very disappointing that they do not hold themselves to a high standard."



Photo courtesy <http://letustalk.files.wordpress.com/2008/07/john-edwards.jpg>

a given political year. Candidates can be fined for accepting overly generous gifts or making extreme mistakes in their record keeping. Harrell's report includes various tabs for restaurants with little or vague explanations, \$235 spent in children's clothing store, and \$191 spent in a luggage store.

Aside from monetary gifts, she was given a BMW and a large home as incentive to keep quiet about the affair and the child.

Former Governor Mike Easley is also under speculation for abusing powers while in office. The hearings for Easley have been ongoing during the week of

Green Tip for the Week of November 4

Save trips out by completing all your errands in one round. Also try seeing if a neighbor needs anything while you are out and have them do their errands along with yours.

