N&O coddles John Edwards

Media Meditations

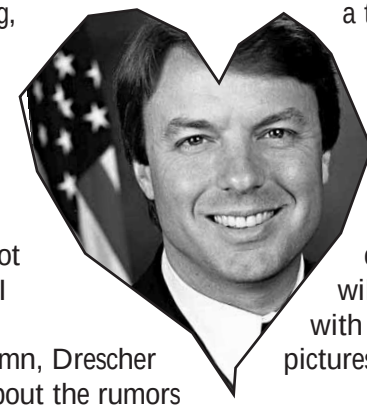
by R.L. Taylor

The News & Observer stumbled a couple of times explaining why they were so late getting the John Edwards sexual escapades in the paper. Late in July it took three long days after the story broke before the N&O even admitted there was a story.

Personally I saw it as just another N&O ploy to protect Edwards who had become the most important North Carolina political figure ever. More important, Edwards is also a Democrat and the N&O never speaks ill of any Democrat candidate. I figured they just sat on the story hoping it would go away.

But it only got more intense. In his Sunday column, poor Ted Vaden tried to explain why they had ignored such a juicy story. The National Enquirer, identified as a supermarket tabloid, broke the story, so it was not worthy of the N&O. Yeah, yeah. Sure, sure. It was a vague hint the N&O did not know about it and could not run it.

But Executive Editor John Drescher admitted in his column the N&O did know but waited until after the story broke before he posted it on the paper's website. For some reason he did not publish it in the newspaper. That's like saying, "The dog ate it."



By that time, I was having a ball accusing him and Vaden and their editors of refusing run the story only to protect Edwards, an art they have perfected for Democrat candidates. They did not respond and I don't blame them. I would not respond to me either.

On the following Sunday column, Drescher finally admitted he had known about the rumors since last October and got them from Edwards himself. He said Edwards called him personally, saying there was a rumor and begged him not to publish it because his loving wife Elizabeth was in her home and would be devastated by it.

Drescher said he complied out of concern for Mrs. Edwards. That is hard to understand because Mrs. Edwards was not sealed in a sound proof room alone with the Holy News and Observer.

Surely that multi-million dollar mansion has a telephone, radio and television set.

The entire Edwards episode was as much about media protection as it was about John Edwards slipping around in hotels at three in the morning.

Did the News & Observer learn anything? I predict that before the cock crows during the autumnal equinox it will try to protect yet another Democrat with front page headlines, news stories and pictures. They just can't help it.

R.L. Taylor is a regular contributor to Chatham County Line. He has been a newspaperman for more than 50 years, working as a reporter, editor and publisher. He has also been an advisor to newspapers in Slovakia, Romania and Russia.

DENVER

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fight with women from Code Pink.]

Walk to and through inner security gate just outside to Pepsi Center: *15 minutes* [Pass 3-story building rumored to have been bought by CNN to be as close as possible to the Convention Center.]

Walk through outside courtyard to entrance lobby of Convention Center: *20 minutes* [Goose bumps elicited by carnival-like vibe, friendly and helpful volunteers, sunny blue skies, cotton candy white clouds born on light breeze, and "Hope Sculpture" by Robert Indiana]

Loiter past various media tables, score hard-to-find lanyards and acrylic sleeves for passes, await next contact with passes that will get us on the floor, watch people: *60 minutes* [While waiting we see Karl Rove, NC Speaker of House Joe Hackney, a guy dressed up as a pirate and dozens of random people who "look familiar."]

Meet contact, score "Honored Guest Passes," look for decent food but find none, see Asian guy from TV show "Lost": *60 minutes* [Hear that Spike Lee, George Clooney and Susan Sarandon are there.]

Watch speakers (Sebelius, Pena, Casey, Warner, Strickland, Patrick, Schweitzer, & H. Clinton) from great seats reserved for the Jimmy Carter family "until they show up": *2 hours* [As Carter sits down the way a few seats and enjoys food that looks like hot wings during the speeches, we get to stay in our/his seats!]

Next day we have breakfast and run out to buy as much Obama campaign and convention paraphernalia as we can afford: *2 hours*

Catch shuttle back to airport and board plane: *2 hours*

Lesley Landis is an independent graphic designer who counts Chatham County Line among her clients. She is also married to Pittsboro Mayor Randy Voller.

FOSTER PARENTS

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about the child. "You have to be the adult here, to separate initial emotions and reactions from the child's needs. It is all about the child. They need to know there is always going to be food. Sometimes that has not been a reality. They need to know that their immediate needs are going to be taken care of. Then there is that whole emotional level of being secure for them and being unflappable and taking care of their emotional needs. Some of these children don't know how to make conversation with adults. Any kind of correction they take so personally because they have never had that," Connie said.

She said foster parents need to know that building an emotional connection takes work and a long time: "These children are survivors. Foster parents can't expect these kids to be vulnerable for a very long time. So consistent caring and giving are what the child needs. There is a moral imperative to take care of the children that are around us."

Deborah R. Meyer is a Chatham writer. She can be contacted at 942.3252.

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