

**The Decree**  
 OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF  
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### Top Ten Things Dr. Finney and Dr. Smith did during their missing years

- 10) Appeared on the "Chevy Chase Show" to promote their books.
- 9) Acted as political advisors to the Dominican Republic.
- 8) Gave selected readings from class lectures to force Manuel Noriega from his sanctuary during Operation Just Cause.
- 7) Aided in the covert training of Nicaraguan Contras.
- 6) Acted as stunt doubles for Danny DeVito and Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Twins."
- 5) Conducted research to find out exactly how many licks it takes to get to the center of a Tootsie Roll Pop.
- 4) Worked as undercover FBI agents investigating the Jimmy Hoffa disappearance.
- 3) Attempted to set up NCWC Extension school in Havana, Cuba, each contributing "in excess of \$100,000" each.
- 2) Co-authored Smith and Finney: *The Missing Years*, an upcoming autobiography.
- 1) Answer to be revealed in upcoming episode of "The X-Files" to be aired during Sweeps Week. (Remember: "Don't watch it alone.")

—Compiled by Ken Leonard and Patrick Brannan



*Butler was loyal but empty*

## Self-knowledge important

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

I read a novel recently which I cannot quit re-thinking. I am both attracted and repelled by the main character and his story, but I am haunted by Kazuo Ishiguro's majestic writing in his 1989 *Remains of the Day* (a movie based on the book is currently running in theaters).

In 1956 Stevens, butler of a British estate (now owned by an American), is tentatively driving toward Miss Kenton, who 20 years earlier also worked at Darlington Hall but left to marry.

During the three-day drive, Stevens remembers dramatic meetings which the late Lord

**Dr. Steve  
 Muses**

Darlington arranged between Nazis and British statesmen — meetings in which Stevens was always present but was such a loyal non-entity that it was of no consequence that he overheard state secrets. So loyal, in fact, that he scurries to pour wine while his father (an ex-butler) is dying in some backwater part of the house.

One night during his trip, Stevens finds himself listening to an argumentative rural man who states, "That's what we fought

Hitler for, after all... We won the right to be free citizens ... so that you can express your opinion freely... that's what dignity is really about."

That leads Stevens to his most pitiful memory. One of Lord Darlington's guests quizzed the butler on some complex issues

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### *Finney gets credit for too many years*

Dear Editor:

I don't know whether to laugh or cry (probably the latter), but I have ascertained from the caption on the back page of your last issue that I have been enveloped in some sort of time warp. Although I joined NCWC in 1973, I have been credited with 25 years of service. Am I five years older than I thought I was? Have I really been here five years longer than I remember? Can I quit my practicing for absent-minded professor of the year? Did I win? Does NCWC owe me in excess of \$100,000 in pay I never collected for those five years? Am I eligible for another sabbatical?

Kenneth V. Finney

*Professor of History and Cohort of 73-74*

(Editor's note: The Decree incorrectly identified Dr. Finney and Dr. Leverett Smith as receiving 25-year service awards rather than the correct 20-year service awards. The Decree regrets the error.)

## Rollins was tripped up by own ego

By KEN LEONARD

**Opinion**

In New Jersey, there is an allegation of political corruption. This one is very intriguing.

Ed Rollins, a long-time Republican political advisor who has worked for Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Ross Perot, and NJ's own governor-elect Christie Whitman, has come out and said that he helped pay off certain black ministers to not encourage their congregations to vote.

For years, the Democratic Party has accused the Republicans of buying off the black vote. It's never been proven, but it is a regular post-campaign event.

Now, it was a Republican who said it.

Briefly, Rollins has renounced the statement, but not until after the damage was already done. The New Jersey Democratic Party is filing suit, and so is a confederation of black churches. What is most interesting is the response from the churches. They are not suing the Republican Party for the charges. As of this writing, they have said that their target is the man who slandered them —

Ed Rollins. No preachers have come forward to verify being approached, and the money Rollins claims to have spent cannot be found.

The Democrats want to declare a fraudulent election, and have Whitman's election nullified. This step would be appropriate, of course, if vote-tampering could be proven. In this case, it has not been. There are no reported victims.

Let us assume that the preachers are telling the truth. Rollins lied about his involvement in vote-tampering. Why? Why on earth would a man as intelligent as Rollins issue such a foolish

challenge?

If I gave Rollins more credit than I do, I might think that it was an ingenious plan to force the Democrats to put up with a thorough and full investigation of the charge, only to find nothing. Their credibility next time they made the charge would be somewhere between nil and none.

As it is, it seems more likely that this whole thing is another of Rollins' plots to get on the front page of America's newspapers. Remember that he worked for Ross Perot only to quit the campaign when it would make a big

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