

Recent Behrend speaker in trouble



After debating Bob Beckel two weeks ago at Behrend, Ed Rollins is debating with federal authorities on whether he violated any criminal laws during the recent New Jersey gubernatorial election.

by Hal D. Coffey
News Editor

Two weeks ago, Ed Rollins came to Behrend to answer questions during a debate, but this week, he will answer questions during a more negative D-word activity -- a deposition.

Along with Rollins, Webster Tod Jr., Governor-elect Christie Whittman's brother and ex-campaign manager, and attorney John Carbone, who worked for the GOP state committee, will have to answer to allegations during depositions by lawyers from the New Jersey and Democratic committees.

Rollins is accused of dragging that the Republicans paid \$500,000 in "street money" to some black ministers and Democratic workers to help keep down urban turnout. He later recanted.

However, U.S. District Court Judge Dickinson Debovoise said Rollins' original statement "has an aura of admission."

The Democrats are seeking to overturn the Nov. 2 election that incumbent Gov. Jim Florio lost by less than 27,000 votes.

State and federal authorities are also looking into possible criminal charges.

There is no question that the pay off of voters and political officials is illegal, but some experts believe that Florio, not the Republicans, lost the election.

Voter turnout in the cities and statewide was nearly the same as four years ago -- and about average for New Jersey gubernatorial elections.

Florio simply didn't get as many of the votes cast in the cities as he did in his 1989 romp over Republican candidate Jim Courter.

This problem may have stemmed from the significant drop in the number of registered city voters -- the pool from which Florio might have drawn.

If the allegations of suppression of the black vote are true, "they (the GOP) were aided by an uninspired electorate," Rutgers public policy professor Henry Coleman said.

Interest in the election was low because "there wasn't a significant effort to embrace or pay attention to the African

American -- by either candidate," he said.

Meanwhile, the Florio campaign failed to heed pleas from party officials in urban areas to mount a traditional voter registration drive.

In Newark, for example, voter turnout rose from 42.9% in 1989 to 48% this year, but voter registration fell from 107,000 to 90,000.

Also, Florio failed to score big in suburban counties. In 1989, he wracked up a plurality of more than 100,000 votes in Middlesex and Mercer counties alone. In 1993, it was barely 3,000.

"The irony of this whole thing is that Ed Rollins could have simply said the Republicans did a better job getting out their voters," said Steve Salamore, a professor at Eagleton who helped the Whittman campaign target voters.

There are now two questions to be decided by a federal judge: If the GOP did suppress votes, should the elections be redone and should criminal charges be brought against the party officials involved?

Faculty Profile of the Week

by Terry Rucker
Collegian Staff

Dr. Chester Wolford is an English/business professor who believes "the most important job each of us have is to become a better person."

His belief is derived from a quote from George Washington Carver, which is his personal favorite. "You are the handicap. You must overcome."

Originally from Tyrone, Pennsylvania, Wolford received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland which awarded him a football scholarship.

He went on to Georgetown University to earn his master's degree.

Wolford received his Ph.D. from Penn State using Stephen Crane, author of "The Red Badge of Courage" as the subject of his thesis. Wolford went on to write two books dealing with Crane.

Wolford teaches a business communications course and an advanced business writing course for senior business majors.

Next semester Wolford will teach a course in classical literature and leadership.

Prior to his college teaching, Wolford taught a gifted class of sixth graders in Holidaysburg and a high school class in Tyrone.

He advises students to establish their priorities early.

"Your undergraduate career

"If the students ever feel they are caught up in their work, then their university is doing them a disservice."

should consist in choosing two of the following: eating, sleeping and studying."

Wolford believes that "If the students ever feel they are caught up in their work, then their university is doing them a disservice."

Along with his books about Stephen Crane, Wolford has co-authored a book on business

communications.

He is presently working on a book dealing with classical literature and leadership.

As for the future, Wolford wants to develop the literature and leadership course here at Behrend.

He also wants to figure out how to get students to study as much as they should because "there are hard times for bad boys in the university."

Wolford doesn't see himself leaving the educational business any time in the foreseeable future.

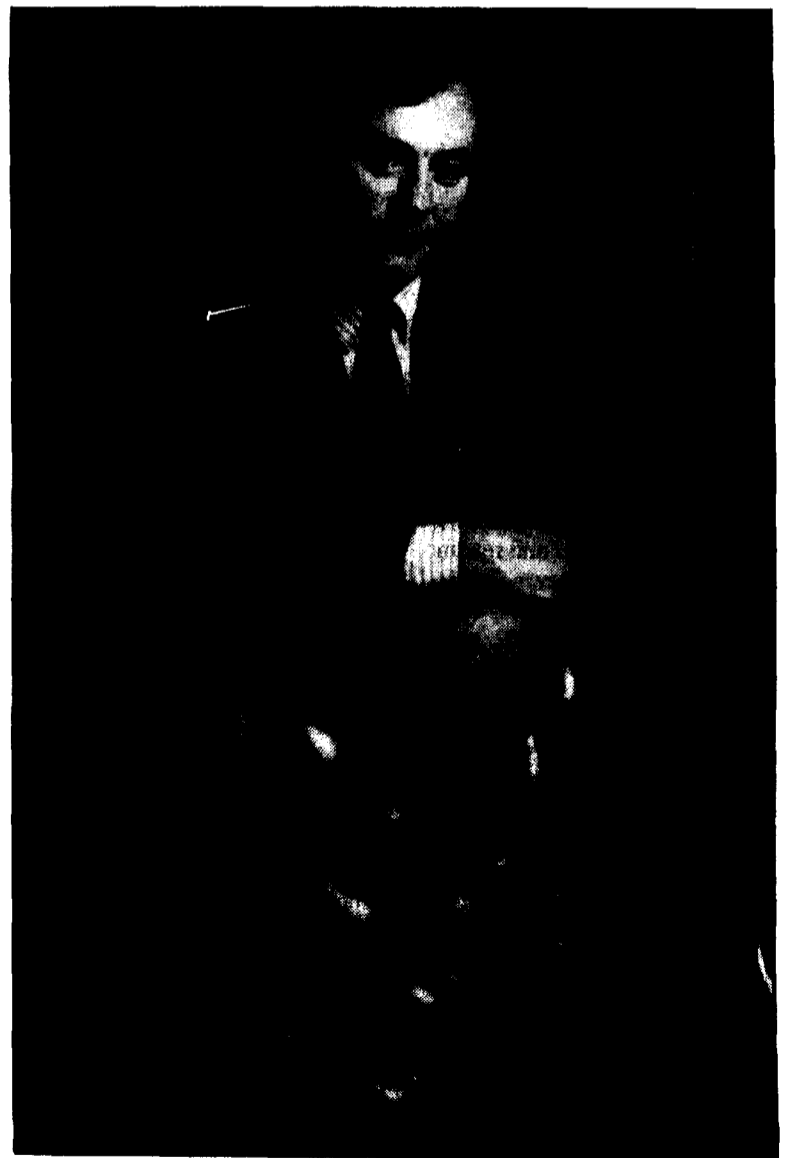
"I enjoy teaching too much to think about retiring," Wolford said.

His wife Gretchen is a lecturer of technical and business writing at Behrend.

They have a son who is enrolled in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown.

Wolford said that Georgetown is "Bill Clinton's alma mater... which causes me a modicum of distress."

Wolford's hobbies consist of hunting, fishing, sailing and golf.



Dr. Charles Wolford, this week's Faculty Profile of the Week recipient, not only holds down an associate professor position in the School of Business, but he also is an associate professor in the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences.