

REPORTER

Thursday Afternoon, March 10, 1977

SCHWABACH WINS!

SHB DISMISSES CHARGES SCHWABACH RETURNED TO BALLET

"NOT GUILTY" FOR WILLIAMS-HARTZFELD, BUT THEY LOSE ON RECOUNT

After a much contested campaign and election, Craig Schwabach was named president of Student Association last night. He will take office Saturday March 11 at the SA inaugural banquet. Mr. Schwabach, a transfer student and a third year printing major, earlier faced charges that he violated election groundrules laid down by the Election Board of Controls (EBC).

In an unprecedented decision by the Student Hearing Board (SHB), all charges filed against Mr. Schwabach and his running mate Mr. Tim Ferris were dismissed. The Board also ruled not guilty on similar charges filed against Mr. Jeff Williams and Ms. Deb Hartzfeld the Row A candidates and the team previously announced as the winners.

Mr. Schwabach showed signs of relief that the ordeal was finally over, "I'm in shock, but I'm very pleased with the outcome." He says that he feels no animosity towards those who filed the charges against him, "I feel that they were just exercising their rights as outlined by the EBC constitution."

Mr. Schwabach continued to say that he "would like to commend the EBC chairman (Gregg Hitchin) for all his

work and for the effort he put into getting a fair election."

Mr. Schwabach's victory was by no means a landslide. Mr. Hitchin said the election was "very close" when he announced the results last night. Of the 1361 votes cast, Mr. Schwabach's Row B received 540 merely 45 beyond his Row A competition. Row C candidates Paul Hill and Cory Youmans received 287 votes. The election was also just barely valid by EBC standards. The EBC required 1260 votes minimum be cast to declare the election valid. The 1361 votes cast was just 101 votes over the minimum.

Mr. Hitchin said that the controversy surrounding this year's election procedures will have a definite effect on the future of the EBC constitution. He said plans are already being made for the rewriting of the document. "It will be looked at by a committee consisting of myself, members of the student judiciary, and the SA lawyer before it is sent to the Senate for approval."

Mr. Hitchin continued to say that a stricter definition of terms will be sought in the new document as well as more clearly defined penalties for breaking any of the ground rules.

Mr. Schwabach also expressed his intentions to rework the constitution. "I have had first hand experience with this document," he said, "I'd like to rewrite it eliminating the vagueness." He did disagree with Mr. Hitchin, however, on the makeup of the committee saying that Mr. Hitchin will have little if anything to do with the rewriting. "He (Hitchin) knew nothing about the document," said Mr. Schwabach, "this needs to be looked at by a lawyer, someone with a legal mind."

On the whole, Mr. Schwabach feels that he was not mistreated by the election process. He expressed only one complaint, he feels that the announcement of the winners (unofficial as it was) should never have been made on February 11. He terms this announcement "unethical and unwarranted." He claims that since his team had filed a challenge prior to the announcement, no winner official or unofficial had been determined. **R**

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