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ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

ASUA ELECTIONS

Bernsen edges Reuben for presidency

Sonn, Hertzog
win VP positions
in record turnout

By Anthony D. Ávila
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The Associated Students of the University of Arizona announced last night Cade Bernsen as the winning presidential candidate in the second-highest voter turnout since 1990.

In a record-breaking election, the total of 4,452 votes was still shy of the 5,241 turnout 16 years ago, but 849 more votes than last year's general election.

Bernsen won with 2,196 votes, 2.6 percent and 111 more than Jacob Reuben, who won the primaries last week by 7.3 percent.

Hundreds of students showed up for the announcement of the ASUA election results for president, executive vice president, administrative vice president and senator positions last night in the Student Union Memorial Center Kiva Room.

When asked if he was surprised with the election, Reuben responded, "Elections turn out in weird ways, but it'll be all right."

Candidates and students involved in ASUA expressed concern about the small margin by which Bernsen won.

Jordan Miller, ASUA administrative vice president, said she hopes Bernsen will take ASUA in the same direction it's going because she is concerned with issues of continuity within the student government.

"We love getting fresh faces in ASUA, but they must under-



ABOVE: ASUA president-elect Cade Bernsen celebrates his election victory with supporters last night in the Kiva Room of the Student Union Memorial Center. BELOW: Runner-up Jacob Reuben congratulates Bernsen on his victory. The election yielded the largest turnout — 4,452 total ballots — since 1990.

stand there is a strong foundation already," Miller said. "They can't just start from scratch."

Bernsen said though many people within ASUA felt threatened by an outsider having a chance to win the presidency, he considers his campaign as a fresh start.

"I'd like to think of our campaign as a breath of fresh air," Bernsen said. "But I'm looking forward to working with the current ASUA administration in the transition period."

ASUA President Alistair Chapman said he is confident he will do a great job preparing Bernsen for next year and the



transition will supply Bernsen with the skills to get students' support.

"I've already told him to be in my office at 7:45 tomorrow morning," Chapman said.

Unopposed candidate Erin Hertzog won 100 percent of her bid for executive vice president with 3,740 votes.

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Emotion bonds all
election campaigns

By Ariel Serafin
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Candidates and supporters who gathered last night to hear Associated Students of the University of Arizona election results were united by emotion and anticipation.

The feelings were visible on the faces of every candidate, campaigner, supporter and onlooker who experienced the power of student involvement first hand.

Applause, cheering, laughter and even sobbing were heard in every corner of the packed Kiva Room in the Student Union Memorial Center during the announcement of the winners of the ASUA election.

There were mixed feelings among students, over whether the election was an overall success and whether it was played fairly.

"I thought it was great," said Kathy Van Voorhees, a journalism sophomore who campaigned for Bernsen. "I laughed, I cried, I cursed. ... It was a good time."

However, not every student in the room thought the election had been an example of justice and democracy in action.

Although screams of elation filled the room upon the announcement of each victor's future position, some students expressed disappointment and anger at the ASUA system, the *Arizona Daily Wildcat* and particular candidates.

"I think they should have more people officiating it," said Cassia Payne, a general biology freshman. "They should have people going around and mediating."

Some felt the *Wildcat's* endorsements and coverage, be they positive or negative, were inappropriate and biased.

"Just reading the paper the last few days, I feel it was negatively swayed toward one candidate," said Tyler Deterville, a business sophomore. "I think Reuben was totally ripped apart,

See EMOTION/10

Drug charges dropped for fraternity president

By Danielle Rideau
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Charges against the president of an unrecognized fraternity were dismissed March 3, giving him an opportunity to have his criminal record wiped clean if he complies with the court ruling.

Jared Letzt, a regional development junior, was charged with drug possession Feb. 25 after police responded to a party at an

apartment complex, 1011 N. Tyndall Ave., reports stated.

Letzt is the president of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, which is not recognized by either the Interfraternity Council or their national organization, according to an e-mail from Jonathan Yulish, the national executive director of ZBT.

Letzt's charges were dropped without prejudice, which means that they will be erased from his

record if he has no other legal problems, according to court documents and Bill Dickinson, deputy county attorney.

When a case is dismissed without prejudice, the case is dropped, but it can be brought back for review if necessary, said Marsha Nugent, special assistant to the county attorney.

Having a case dismissed without prejudice is common, Nugent said, but it does not mean a case

will not come back. If further investigation does happen and anything else comes up, however, the case can be called back and charges reinstated.

Since Letzt is drug-court eligible, which means he has no prior offences, he can go to drug court for treatment. If he completes the treatment program the charge will be dropped, Dickinson said.

If Letzt does not complete the program, his prior charges will

be processed as a typical felony case, Dickinson said.

"The two advantages of the drug court option is two-fold," Dickinson said, "The person will have no criminal record and if they complete the treatment it will hopefully keep them out of drugs in the future."

Letzt declined comment on the charges being dropped, and his lawyer was not available for comment.