

'OUR VOICE IS RESPECTED IN MEETINGS'

# Students Get Roles in Hunt for New Coll

By RAY DIDINGER

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SWARTHMORE - College presidents are not hired through classified advertising or "Help Wanted" signs.

At least not at Swarthmore College.

The college trustees have named a 12-member committee to decide on the man who will succeed Courtney Smith when he leaves in September after 16 years as president.

Two members of the selection committee are students, Michael Schudson, 22, of Milwaukee, Wis., and Margaret Kohn, 21, of New York City.

The surprising part about their seats at the discussion table is that no student protests preceded their appointments.

The "over 30 generation" made the move on their own.

"I guess they (the administration and trustees) knew it would be wise to let the students have representation in a decision that is this important," Schudson said.

"The people who are picking the next president want to know how the undergraduates feel but they cannot see our points of view as well as we can."

At the committee's first meeting, the members listed the attributes they desired in a campus leader. The two students and the administrators agreed on one man who was very qualified but very unavailable.

"The only man who filled our original bill was Jesus Christ," Schudson said. "We all said we wanted a scholar, an administrator, a teacher, a man with nobility of purpose and sensitivity. However, Christ is not within the realm of possibility."

Yet someone who is within the realm of possibility will take over the leadership at the college this year and the committee is working to narrow down the names.

The group has been working on the project since October

with bi-weekly Saturday meetings that often last six or more hours.

"We've made progress," Miss Kohn said. "It seems to both



MARGARET KOHN

Mike and I that the panel is closing in on what we want."

There is no official deadline set for the committee to arrive at a choice to recommend to the college trustees.

"Just so long as he is in by September," Schudson said.

The two seniors, both majoring in sociology and anthropology, have talked with other Swarthmore students and many have submitted names for possible consideration.

Schudson said the people who have been suggested by the other students have been "very reasonable."

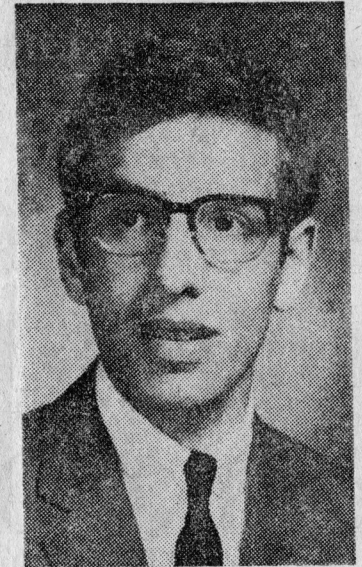
"I've been pleased with the choices they have proposed," he said. "I think they are very good since the students are in no position to know what the possibilities are."

Miss Kohn said she and Schudson and the rest of the committee are looking for "basically the same thing" in their president.

"We all want a man who has a background in teaching,

someone with a strong, honest concern with education on an undergraduate level," she said.

"Hopefully, we can select someone who is able to



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# College President

understand the student's concerns and see the goings-on from their point of view."

Schudson, who eventually aspires to go into college teaching, wants to search for an individual who seems interested in the student.

"It is becoming imperative for a president to be sensitive to the individual needs," he said. "With all the student unrest you see in the nation the matter is becoming more vital all the time.

"The modern student is now asking more and more of his education."

The rest of the committee, headed by Robert Browning, chairman of the college's board of managers, has been impressed with the contribution of the two students.

"They've been constructive participants, bringing us the benefit of some direct student views," Browning said. "We have found that they have basically the same criteria for a president as we do."

Browning said he and Alumni Association President Thomas Darlington are members of the committee which includes four members of the trustees, four members of the college faculty and the two students.

"I think all of us want a person with strong interest in the school and strong involvement," he said. "The students seem to stress a good teaching background."

Both Schudson and Miss Kohn said they had some doubts about how seriously their roles in the selection process would be taken. Now they know their opinions count.

"I had some misgivings about how we would be accepted but they have not been borne out," Schudson said. "They've been terribly interested in what we have to say."

"I guess I had my doubts, too," Miss Kohn said. "However, just as Mike said, our voice is respected in the meetings."

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