Council closes BSU dispute

By Alex Makowski

The Intramural Council, although failing to resolve the differences among the conflicting parties, officially closed out Thursday night the dispute over participation by the Black Student Union in IM football.

The Council voted 135 to 9 to support the stand its Execu-
tive Committee took in expelling a BSU protest over the officializing in their first game loss to Lambda Chi Alpha. A three-fifths majority of the total vote would have been necessary to override the Executive Committee decision.

The meeting ruled out any possibility that the BSU team might return to compete in this fall's IM football schedule. After the Executive Committee overturned their protest twelve days ago, the BSU announced that it would be unable to participate in this season's IM football program. Team leaders explained that financial protest support could not get a good enough job of refereeing from the officials that they would not compete.

For the moment at least the dispute will be restricted to the football program. Rosters for IM basketball are due by Friday, and several other BSU protests sheets for the members who might want to participate. Fears that the troubles within the IM program might carry over into intercollegiate athletics were not borne out: there has been no indication yet of a movement among black athletes to withdraw from varsity sports.

At least a few IM officers and members were surprised by the Council's action, and some IM officials felt that the BSU position at the Thursday night meeting was not as strong as they had thought it was. The IM officials had pointed out that the responsible Ecumenical Students would be forced to be notified of the referees assigned to handle game. The BSU, however, is not alone in its complaints about the IM officials. The Council's president has also remarked that the quality of the refereeing is often questionable.

Reviews of Executive Committee decisions by the IM council are infrequent, and even more rare are appeals to either the Executive Committee or the IM Council of referees' decisions. The IM Council comprises the managers of each of the more than forty IM sports, the athletic chairmen from each dormitory, and the athletic director from the facility (forming a group with four non-members). Most Executive Committee and Council rules concern eligibility or rules changes.

There is no way to tell now whether the problems with the referees will be resolved in difficulties with other IM sports. Soon after that first game some BSU members were reflecting on the merits of quitting the IM program for the fall and instead focusing on the new All-University sport of basketball, which begins at the end of this semester.

Many BSU members were out for the long weekend; no one can say for certain when they will return. There had been fears that the disputes within the IM program might prompt a re-examination of the program for the fall. Most IM sports are required by the conference rules and the IM Council's rulings, which offer little flexibility in the various politicians' entours. No official requests for a modification of any IM program were received for consideration.

By Peter L. Chu

A chapter of Zero Population Growth (ZPG) has formed at MIT. The nationally based organization advocates a policy of voluntary birth control, and enforces various social and economic incentives to curb the population explosion.

ZPG aims to give both the Institute students and the Boston community a well-informed understanding of the problem. The group has made frequent presentations to the BSU, and it set up a birth control information center for students of the MIT Ecology Action Club, with which ZPG will work closely.

ZPG's founder, Arvi Orata, explained that zero population growth is a global problem and is a subject on which there may be more discussion of this subject. Among the possible future projects of ZPG are: the present Boston area is not enough for the remainder of the United States. The zero population growth would not be as far from reality as it is now. The ZPG group has also been very effective in educating the public about the dangers of population growth.

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ZPG's next open meeting will be held Monday, October 18, in the Student Center. Interested students and residents of the Boston area are welcome.