Protests force Busch team changes

By Mike McNamee

Controversy over MIT's involvement in a beer company-sponsored intercollegiate canoe race continues to grip the campus. Last week's Interfraternity Conference of- ficers to back down on their original plans for selecting and organizing MIT's team for the race.

A committee of IFC officers and fraternity representatives has been named to select 24 undergraduates — 12 fraternity men and 12 women — to go on an all-day canoe trip to Los Angeles and row in a 72-hour canoe race sponsored by brewer Anheuser-Busch.

The committee was named after pressure from fraternity presidents, MIT women, and other undergraduates forced IFC officers to modify their plans for selecting the "MIT Team," which originally was to have included women from other schools and men selected arbitrarily by the IFC officers.

Under the new procedure, Director of Women's Athletics Mary Lou Sayles will nominate 15 women for the 12 spots on the team (any interested MIT undergraduate should contact Sayles, beginning April 1st), and each fraternity will submit two men for the team. The committee will make the final selection on the basis of current and past athletic experience and campus-wide activity.

The "Fourth Annual Great Budweiser Canoe Race," a publicity stunt staged to advertise the Budweiser beer, involves canoe teams from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), the University of Southern California (USC), and MIT paddling around a three-quarter mile course at Busch Gardens, an amusement park near Los Angeles. Although the race has been run three times before, this year's contest is the first to draw Eastern teams.

The controversy arose when Anheuser-Busch contacted Mark Suchon '76 (DU), chairman of the IFC, and asked him to organize an MIT team for the race. The company "has found it makes practical sense" to pick one group on a campus to organize a team, according to Joseph Finnigan, an Anheuser-Busch spokesperson.

"IFC was one of a number of groups we considered," Finnigan said. "We talked to people on campus — I can't remember who — and got a list of groups. We worked our way down the list, and IFC was the first one we reached with the organization and interest to handle this.

Suchon, Joel Mandelbaum '77, Rusty Saunders '76, and IFC President Chairman John Thain '78, all members of Delta Upsilon fraternity, compited a selection committee to pick the team. Six of MIT's 30 fraternities were represented among the 12 men chosen; women from the Boston Conservatory of Music and Simmons, Boston and Wheelock colleges were being considered for places on the MIT team. One male member of the team was quoted as saying, "The only reason I'm going is because I'm a good friend of John Thain's."

Mandelbaum told The Tech that Anheuser-Busch had not originally specified that all members of the team had to be MIT students. Protests by MIT students led to a call to race organizers, who told the selection committee that team members' MIT identification would be checked at the race site.

The selection committee then agreed to select MIT women, but refused to reconsider the selection of the remaining Eastern teams.

Small college profits on MIT land discard

By Mike McNamee

A small Bible college in Eastern Kentucky is $1 million richer this year, thanks to a $100 investment and three Eastern universities which literally sold away a coalmine.

Cumberlands College in Williamsburg, Ky., recently announced the sale of coal rights on 8,000 acres of Kentucky land which the college bought from MIT, Harvard, and Princeton Universities for $100 in 1953. The college has received a $1 million advance payment, with more royalties to come if the coal yield exceeds expectations.

As a result, while MIT's tuition hits $4000 and Harvard and Princeton's fees skyrocket over that amount, Cumberland's 1600 students won't have to face an increase in their $1200 tuition. And while MIT's deficit continues to climb, Cumberland is out of the red, having paid about $500,000 in coal royalties to pay off old debts.

The land, which is located south of Williamsburg along Interstate 75 in eastern Kentucky, was donated to the three colleges by New York industrialist Henry Clay Frick sometime prior to his death in 1919. Frick's notable philanthropic gifts include establishment of the Frick Collections and Frick Art Reference Library in New York City, substantial gifts to Harvard, and a $5 million-plus bequest to the University of Pennsylvania (although "most of Frick's estate was donated to Princeton," according to an archivist there).

What were MIT, Harvard, and Princeton, bastions of the Eastern Establishment, to do with 8,000 acres of undeveloped Kentucky wilderness? The three schools apparently asked themselves that very question when the Roaring Twenties gave way to the Great Depression. (Please turn to page 3)