New infirmary complex planned

By Michael Ries

MIT is making tentative plans to build a new infirmary and to consolidate the Medical Department into one complex to be located in the Ames and Carlson Street area.

According to Larry Bishoff, head of the Medical Advising Board, the complex is expected to be constructed adjacent to a proposed Health Science and Technology (HST) research and teaching center.

Bishoff indicated that this move is necessary as a matter of convenience and improved medical care for the students of the MIT community. The Medical Department presently is separated into various sections, located in different buildings around the Institute. By consolidating the department into one complex, the Medical Department is expected to operate more efficiently and offer more conveniences.

Due to its structure, the MIT infirmary does not meet the requirements set forth by Medicare in order to receive aid for patients treated in the facility. A new complex, Bishoff noted, would meet those requirements. A modern infirmary could also operate at a higher efficiency than the present one, by putting down on the number of beds, and consequently lowering some of the operational costs.

However, before any construction can be started, MIT must obtain approval from the Massachusetts Public Health Council. This means, essentially, that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will have to decide whether a new medical center is actually necessary. The reason for this is that a policy is developing on a federal level, to cut down on the expansion of unnecessary facilities in order to defray the increasing costs of modern medical care.

In other words, it would be considered impractical to construct such a complex at MIT if the same facilities could be provided at a hospital, such as the Mount Auburn Hospital, which is located relatively close to MIT.

The process for the determination of such a facility is public and subject to review by the entire Cambridge community. According to Bishoff, there are reasons, which MIT will present, in support of the proposal, and since the MIT Medical Department serves the special community, Bishoff maintained that the proposed complex would not compete with existing hospitals in the Boston-Cambridge area. One factor that he brings up involves the care of psychiatric patients. Cases treated at MIT, which are generally of a nature different than those found at a more general hospital, can be expected to conform to this policy of development.

The Medical Advisory Board expects to submit a proposal for a complex to the Massachusetts Public Health Council generally takes at least a month, although it may be longer due to the nature of the proposal.

The new infirmary complex is proposed for the block between Ames and Carleton Streets, on the eastern end of the MIT campus.

Fall blood drive nets 1,689 pints

By David B. Koretz

The Fall-MIT Red Cross Blood Drive closed Friday with a grand total of 1,689 pints of blood collected, the highest for an eight-day drive in four years.

The drive closed strong with 282 pints on the last day. In addition, the fraternity system finished well, topping the dormitory system 503 pints to 475.

Interfraternity Conference (IFC) had challenged residents of dormitories to donate more than fraternity members. In the living group categories, the Beaver was appraised by its editor

By Jordan Hollander

This is the moment of truth.

This is my end.

--- Ellen Plauksy

Collegian

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Sigma Phi Epsilon (246) led the fratremnities with a 100-percent turnout, while Russian House showed the way for the dormitory living groups with 92.5 percent of its members donating.

In the fraternity context, kegs of beer were awarded to 26E, second-place Delta Upsilon (97.2 percent), and third-place Beta Theta Pi (96.4 percent). Nu Delta also won a keg of beer from the IFC as the most improved fraternity (with a jump from 6 percent last year to 93 this year).

In the Delta Directory-council-sponsored contest, first-place Russian House was the most improved dormitory living group (up 62 percentage points), to runners-up German House and Burton Third were joined by fourth-place McCormick Fourth-West for the legs of beer.

Drive chairman Lucy Everett '78 thanked the community for "showing it. It is a great deal of community spirit," she declared. "We're all happy about it --- there were a lot of people working on it."

The big improvement was in the dorms, Everett continued. "We got really good employee and faculty support; they always turn out well." Did the IFC challenge spark the dorms? "I really can't say," Everett said. "The freshmen are more enthusiastic."

Everett was pleased that the drive had been "increasingly steady" over the last few months. This year the drive was to some extent derailed by the availability of beds and nurses.

The drive's success has steadily increased since 1974. In the preceding years the totals had dipped to barely above 1,000, down drastically from the 1970-71 highs of 2,100 to the 1,000-for-the-sand-trip drives.

The Beaver is appraising our production staff, too. Besides the use of their facilities Thursday is also taking The Beaver's production staff which is totally inexperienced. They (Please turn to page 3)