Second Pool a Central Part of Athletic Complex

Pool, from Page 1
received makes it likely that the plans will proceed to fruition.

Demand for pool high
Director of Planning O. Robert Simha MCP '57 said the number of people needing athletic facilities on the west side of campus will greatly increase in the coming years, as more students will be housed there. Plans for the eventual addition of new housing for 1,200 undergraduates around Vassar Street and 1,000 graduate students on "the other side of the railroad tracks" mean that the new swimming pool "plays a central role in all of our planning," Simha said.

About 20 students attended the visiting committee's meeting to express their support for the second pool.

Gregory V. Shank '94, a member of the water polo team and an MIT Athletic Association representative, expressed his desire for central, first-rate athletic facilities. "We [the water polo team] lose our competitive edge by practicing in the small Alumni Pool, he said, and likened it to forcing a basketball team to always practice half-court free moments," he said. The new pool could be available to the MIT public all day nine months of the year and still be able to accommodate all the competitive-aquatic teams.

Money remains a hurdle
The consensus among speakers at the visiting committee meeting was to proceed with the first stage of the plan and build the pool and adjoining locker rooms at a cost of $15.4 million.

Flinn was optimistic that the remainder of the money would be raised through other gifts. If this money is raised by June, the pool should be ready for use by June 1995, according to Simha. Committee chairman Howard W. Simonides pointed out that despite the overwhelming success of the Campaign for the Future, the money raised has been earmarked for other uses. However, he agreed that the administration views the plan for the new pool as viable.

The Alumni Pool, opened in 1940, has a large and varied clientele, including varsity and club teams, researchers conducting experiments in the water, children in various programs, students in aquatics classes, and the increasingly heavy casual user demand, Simha said. He noted that MIT has traditionally focused primarily on "maximum participation" by members of the MIT community rather than on the promotion of intercollegiate and other organized sports teams.

John A. Benedick, head swimming and water polo coach, said that even though the Alumni Pool is open to the MIT community rather than on a first-come first-serve basis, the pool could be available to the MIT community for at least 13 hours a day, many people are deterred from swimming there by the crowds and because the time set aside for recreational swimming does not fit into their schedule.

"People need a place [where] they can exercise when they have a free moment," he said. The new pool would be available to the MIT public at all times of the day and the MIT community rather than on a first-come first-serve basis.

A full-scale game of human chess complete with costumes took place in Lobby 7 Thursday.

Volunteer Opportunities
Walk for Hunger Phonathon
Project Bread is an umbrella organization which raises money to distribute to emergency feeding programs in Massachusetts. The 3rd annual Walk for Hunger, sponsored by Project Bread, is the largest one-day fundraiser against local hunger in America. Last year 30,000 people walked 3 miles to raise over three million dollars for the hungry. The Walk will provide food to over 250 local agencies including food pantries, soup kitchens, and clubs for the homeless, and advocacy programs. Join the Project Bread Phonathon on March 30-April 3 from 5-9 pm and call previous walkers and volunteers to encourage them to participate again. Contact Ellen Cazes at 723-5000.

Hunger Cleanup
The eighth annual cleanup organized by the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness is scheduled for Saturday, April 11. The Hunger Cleanup is a work effort to improve the community and raise funds for the impoverished. Raise money by asking friends and others to sponsor your volunteer efforts at a community service project, such as painting a shelter or cleaning a park. Contact Jennifer Cokes at 292-4823.

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THE TECH Page 11

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