POOL GRANTED!

The news isn't as exciting as it was back in 1937, but a new Olympic-sized swimming pool will be the second phase of the one-year-old Physical Education Building.

James P. Cooper, architect of the center said the architects are still working on the plans but the pool should be completed by 1974. Cooper said the pool will be located behind the PE center and may be accessible from the rear doors of the center as well as the rear doors of the men's and women's locker rooms.

The indoor facilities will be designed to allow sunbathing, but pool designs are still tentative. Cooper said it has not been determined what will be done with the indoor pool on Sumter Street, but he said that at least one group of people has asked that it not be torn down.

The pool was originally built in 1937 and was the largest in the Southeast at the time.

The PE center, which will celebrate its first birthday next month, was designed to be built in three parts "primarily because of funds," Cooper said.

"We are just catching up in our facilities," Cooper said, "and all ready we are finding that we need more space."

During the eight month period between September and April 65,000 persons used the PE center during the free hours of 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. In addition 5,000 pieces of equipment were checked out -- paddle ball rackets, basketballs, weights, etc.

Additional construction includes lighting for the outdoor basketball and tennis courts with a possibility of adding several more tennis courts if feasible.

"We are trying to see where we can add courts now," Cooper said. "You can get on the courts most of the day, except in the late afternoons, but of course that's the best time to play."

He said most of the facility, including the tennis courts and outdoor basketball courts, were experiencing maximum usage.

"Intermural basketball is our peak period, but we try to leave at least one court open after 4 p.m. From 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. classes have the first priority." Cooper said, "but students can play when a court comes open."

He added that while most costs at the university are going up, locker fees by the year will be lower. Last year the locker fee, which included laundered shorts, shirt, supporter, socks and towel, was $10 a semester, but this year the charge will be $18 for the fall and spring semesters or $25 for a full year.

The single semester fee will still be $10.

Cooper said 800 persons used the lockers in the fall of last year and 1200 took advantage of the system in the spring. Any USC member, faculty or staff may rent a locker.

"A lot of students still don't know this center is for everyone," Cooper said. "They think it is just for PE majors, but it was designed for everyone."

The multi-purpose building includes eight basketball courts, a squash court, three handball courts, a room for dance, archery, weight lifting, classrooms, endurance testing, physical training room, and locker room.

Sports equipment may be checked out at the equipment issue window. Users must deposit their ID card and sign for equipment and return the equipment the same day.

Sports and recreation equipment available at a no-charge on loan basis are: badminton, baseball gloves, basketballs, footballs, golf clubs, horseshoes, jump ropes, medicine balls, paddleball rackets, tennis racquets, volleyball balls and weights.

The squash and handball courts can be reserved for one hour at a time, with reservations beginning on the half-hour Monday through Friday. Reservations must be made the day the court is to be used, except for the first hour of the day, which may be reserved the day before. Participants are limited to one hour of play per day.

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