UMOC competition grosses $7000

By Kent Pitman

This year's Ugliest Man on Campus (UMOC) competition raised $7,273.69, more than doubling the previous record of $3,083.83.

The winner of the contest was the Hump (Larry DeMar '79 and David Brown '78), who amassed a total of $1,678.89. On the basis of funds raised, the Hump is not only the Ugliest Man on campus, but the ugliest man in the history of UMOC competition at MIT. His total surpasses the record of $1,985.76 set by Count UMOC (Brian Hughes '77) in 1974.

Leo (Leo Harten '77) finished second with $1,223.31 collected — also surpassing Count UMOC's 1974 record. Leo was followed by the Fonz (William Lasser '78), who collected $1,188.65 and by Count UMOC who collected $753.81.

The top four candidates each receive a dinner for two at a local restaurant, and the top five contenders will each receive ten free beers at a St. John's Bar, the biweekly mixer held in the Sala de Puerto Rico by the Student Theatre Guild.

By Herbert Tzendzak

The Technology Community Association’s eighth annual Fall Blood Drive ended Friday after collecting 1,523 pints of blood. 156 pints less than the amount collected last fall.

"This year we were hit by the swine flu shots," said Blood Drive chairman Shannon Maher '78. Potential donors were required to wait 24 hours after receiving flu shots before giving blood.

Maher also blamed the low amount of blood collected on the fact that Draper Laboratories in the Northeast, not only by Draper employees are "usually members of UMOC.

By Kate Muloney

A bill which would decriminalize the use of marijuana will be debated by the Massachusetts state legislature when it convenes next year.

John O'Donnell, state coordinator for Car National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), said he was encouraged by the sponsorship of Representative Paul Barrett '75 who said he would "be a sponsor of the bill".

That apathy was evident at a Halloween "Banish Bush" on Oct. 31 at the Student Legal Services. O’Donnell described the turnout as “disappointing”, adding that the fear of public identification frightened many people away.

NORML has already succeeded in decriminalizing marijuana in eight other states and has obtained legal referrals for persons convicted of minor marijuana offenses. “We like to think that we are a humanitarian and educational force as well as a political group,” said O’Donnell, adding that the group has therefore “had some effect on national justice.”

NORML supports President Carter’s desire to decriminalize marijuana on the national level.

In Massachusetts, NORML hopes to organize a strong group to lobby for the decriminalization of private possession and use of marijuana. O’Donnell explained that “there is no reason why we should not use it in our own houses since this poses no social or medical dangers.”

The passing of the proposed state legislation would make the private use of marijuana a civil instead of a criminal offense. Public use and the sale of marijuana would still be criminal offenses.

O’Donnell said that NORML now has the support of Middlesex county sheriff John Buckley and an estimated twenty to thirty members of the state legislature. He stated that NORML feels that the bill has a good chance of being passed since this is right after the election, and the legislature will have a year to rectify any disagreements with the public that they had over this bill, so they can get reelected.

At the moment NORML does not have the funds it needs to put the bill through. O’Donnell said that any money the group gets now will be used in a “communication” effort. The group plans to educate the public about marijuana and encourage citizens to write to their state senators and representatives in behalf of the decriminalization effort.