Bok: no federal aid to Harvard non-registrants

By Barry S. Surman

Harvard University will not provide financial aid to replace federal funds denied students who do not register for the draft, President Derek Bok said last week.

"In our view, the university should be reluctant to offer assistance and encouragement of any kind to students who violate the law," Bok stated.

"One can appreciate the courage of those who are willing to live by their principles," he said. "But individuals who choose to stand on their convictions and disobey the law must normally bear the consequences themselves."

MIT announced last month that it also will obey the US Department of Education regulations stemming from the Solomon Amendment, a law denying federal grants and loans to non-registrants.

"This is the law of the land," President Paul E. Gray '54 said, "...and MIT will enforce it."

Enforcing the law entails collecting statements from all students receiving federal aid, certifying that they either have registered for the draft or are ineligible.

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Professor prompts sweetener use cut

By Diana ben-Aaron

Efforts by an MIT professor have led to a voluntary decision by the Coca-Cola Corporation to reduce the levels of a new artificial sweetener it is planning to introduce into its diet soft drinks.

Respected University. Richard J. Wurtman, M.D., MIT professor of neuroendocrine regulation, suggests that aspartame, a product of the G. D. Searle Corporation, can affect neurotransmitters in the human brain.

This spring, Wurtman sent letters to the Food and Drug Administration, Searle, and others detailing his laboratory findings and calling for more study of the sweetener's effects on human subjects. He also submitted filing a formal objection against the sweetener, but decided not to alter hearing the Coca-Cola company's announcement.

"The soft-drink industry decided on its own to be more concerned with what I was saying than the FDA was," said Wurtman. "The letters produced no change in the FDA approval of aspartame for unlimited use in soft drinks, which was issued July 1, ten months after it was sought by Searle and almost two years after aspartame was approved for use in foods.

Aspartame, 170 times sweeter than sugar and twice as costly, is now used as a substitute and an additive in instant drink mixes. (Please turn to page 2)

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MDC to replace Harvard Bridge

By Barry S. Surman

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) is developing plans to replace the Harvard Bridge without disrupting pedestrian traffic, an engineer for the state agency said yesterday.

"Definitely we're going to replace the bridge," said David Lenhardt, senior civil engineer for the MDC. "Our main concern is pedestrians; it's easy to divert motor traffic." Lenhardt said the commission hopes to begin construction of a replacement bridge spanning the Charles River at Massachusetts Avenue within two years. The project would then take about two years to complete.

Replacing the 236-foot, 3-foot-high bridge, which is more often measured in Sones, would cost "somewhere around $20 million," Lenhardt said.

The two outer lanes of the four-lane bridge are already closed to all traffic, and the remaining lanes closed to trucks and buses. After MDC inspectors found cracks in steel pin supports the structure.

Their inspection followed the collapse into the Mystic River of a section of a similarly-constructed bridge on Interstate 95 in Connecticut. The June 28 accident killed three people and seriously injured three others.

Current plans call for preserving a strip of the old bridge for pedestrian traffic while the replacement is under construction, Lenhardt said.

The new Harvard Bridge will not look substantially different from the low, green span it replaces, he said. "We're going to provide as much of the old character as possible."
WE CANNOT look far into the future. We cannot tell what buds of genius may be unfolded in these columns. But even if genius does not bloom; even if the beauties of rhetoric and poetry are not developed here; even if this paper becomes, like the school it represents, only a field for plain honest work — we shall nevertheless be sure that the efforts we make are stepping stones to further attainments, helping us all to the higher and nobler uses of our lives.

The Tech
Volume 1, Number 1
November 16, 1881

Since 1881, The Tech's news, sports, arts, and editorial departments have been known and respected not just at MIT, but across the country. But the fact that we have all that tradition behind us doesn't mean we're content to live in the past.

Our recently-installed electronic newsroom, with text-editing terminals which connect to the phototypesetting equipment in our state-of-the-art production shop, is the most advanced editing and production system in use by any college paper today.

Reporters type in and revise their stories on computer video terminals. When they're finished, the stories are instantly sent to the departmental editors, who do further editing. Finally, the text goes to our production shop, where it's phototypeset and pasted up into the issue.

Whether your experience is in news, sports, arts, photography, or graphic design -- or even if you have no prior newspaper experience -- we invite you to experience... Stop by our booth at the Activities Midway, or visit our offices (4th Floor of the Student Center) anytime during R/O Week. Enjoy the rest of the summer!
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Enforcing the law entails collecting statements from all students receiving federal aid, certifying that they either have registered for the draft or are ineligible for registration.

Friday was the deadline for MIT students to return the completed statement forms to the Student Financial Aid Office to retain their eligibility for federal aid.

Leonard V. Gallagher '54, director of student financial aid, said his office will send letters and duplicate forms to MIT students who have failed to submit the required statement.

The letter will inform these students that the Institute "is essentially backing off on our commitment on each of the [federal financial aid] programs," Gallagher said. MIT's billing system will allow many students to file their statements as late as registration day — Sept. 12 — without penalty, Gallagher said.

Bok, in his written "Statement to the Harvard Community," expressed "doubts about the constitutionality" and "questions the fairness of the Solomon Amendment."

Harvard students who lose federal aid, Bok said, will be eligible for unsubsidized loans and normal campus jobs.

The federal aid programs affected by the Solomon Amendment include: Guaranteed Student Loans, Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students, National Direct Student Loans, Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and College Work-Study.

Professor prompts sweetener use cut

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The Harvard Bridge has been partially closed to motor traffic since inspectors found cracks in support pins.

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Whale, whale

As eager whale watchers look on, a pair of humpback whales (right) feed in waters about five miles off the coast of Gloucester, Mass. Above, another pair, perhaps less concerned with the spectators, sounds nearby.
Professor prompts sweetener use cut

(Continued from page 1)

desserts, and other foods under the trade name of Nutra-Sweet, and is sold as a tabletop additive under the trade name of Equal.

Wurtman originally testified at FDA hearings in favor of aspartame, successfully disputing Washington University of St. Louis Professor John Olney’s assertion that aspartame was similar to monosodium glutamate (MSG) and that both could damage the human brain. “I think neither has any significant harmful effect on the brain,” Wurtman said, “and neither does aspartame at moderate levels—such as those in foods.”

Because the FDA has no labs of its own, it relies on manufacturers’ tests and the findings of independent researchers like Wurtman and Olney. While it requires of the manufacturer standard tests for toxicity and carcinogenicity, it does not require testing for effects on the brain. Wurtman stressed that “the field of nutrition and the brain is a very new one.”

Aspartame has been used in soft drinks in Canada, where saccharin is banned, for almost two years. Soft drinks in Canada, where saccharin is banned, for almost two years. Where in the United States it is only recently licensed and is sold as a tabletop additive under the trade name of Equal.

Aspartame is made up of two amino acids, one of which, phenylalanine, is toxic to the brain at very high levels. “One important research question will be to determine the minimum level of toxicity exactly,” said Wurtman. He added that the level of toxicity would be much lower for carriers of the gene for phenylketonuria, a disease whose victims are unable to metabolize phenylalanine.

Aspartame elevates the level of some amino acids involved in making brain chemicals affecting the blood and heart. At the same time, it lowers the level of the amino acid precursors for serotonin, a neurotransmitter important in sleep, pain sensitivity, appetite control, and mood.

“We have shown chemical changes in human experimental subjects at aspartame studies” that are very likely associated with behavioral and bodily changes,” said Wurtman.

"Nevertheless, I believe that it remains of utmost importance that laboratory and clinical studies be continued to determine the levels of dietary aspartame—taken alone or with a carbohydrate—that are absolutely safe,” said Wurtman in his most recent letter to the FDA.

"Obviously, with FDA approval, we're satisfied with the safety of aspartame,” said Tony Torsor of Coca-Cola's consumer division. He called the schedule for the introduction of aspartame into Diet Coke “privileged information” and discounted a rumor that Coca-Cola had introduced Diet Coke expressly as a vehicle for aspartame. The diet soft-drink market is worth an estimated $3 billion annually, and sales of aspartame are expected to net Searle hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

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World

French troops to defend Chad against Libyan rebels — Following the retreat of Chadian government forces to the outskirts of the country at the hands of a former president of Chad and his Libyan allies, French officials planned to deploy paratroopers to the front lines of the battle.

Mexico's president warns Reagan against military demonstrations — During a six-hour visit to Mexico, President Reagan was cautioned by President Miguel de la Madrid against "a show of force" in Central America. De la Madrid recommended "respect for the law and the institutions of the parties involved and the furthering of 'a balanced, realistic, and constructive political dialogue' as the best means of avoiding further conflict.

Solidarity march broken up by Polish police — Riot police with helmets, shields, and rubber clubs brought an abrupt end to a march of 1,000 people on Sunday, the third anniversary of the Lenin shipyard strike. Workers in the Gdansk, Poland, shipyards are planning a national work slowdown on August 23 unless the Communist government agrees to accept former Solidarity leader Lech Walesa as a bargaining partner and negotiate with him for the revival of free trade unions.

Nation

Beavers do engineers' job — Dams built by beavers are slowing the current of creeks in Wyoming, reversing the destruction wrought on their shores by years of erosion and drought. Government land management experts and biologists trapped the animals on ranches and deposited them downstream with supplies of timber and, in one case, a foundation of old truck tires. Bruce Smith of the Federal Bureau of Land Management, estimates the beavers have saved the government tens of thousands of dollars. "It's a lot cheaper and makes a lot more sense than trying to artificially control the environment," he said.

Sports

American runners gold medalists in Helsinki — Oregon runner Mary Decker placed first in the 3,000-meter run last Wednesday and the 1,500-meter run on Sunday at the world track and field championships in Helsinki, Finland. American runners won a total of twenty-four medals during the eight-day meet, and Decker and sprinter Calvin Smith of Missouri, a triple medalist, have emerged as favorites with Olympic handicappers.

The following living groups also need representation:

- Biology
- Electrical Engineering
- Architecture
- Civil Engineering
- Planning
- Computer Science
- Linguistics & Philosophy
- Economics
- Aeronautics
- Astronautics
- Management
- Nutrition & Food Science
- Nuclear Engineering
- Linguistics & Philosophy

The following living groups also need representation:

- Aihdow Organization, Tang Hall, Green Hall.

Graduate students

The Graduate Student Council is concerned with all aspects of graduate student life at MIT. We have open monthly meetings and several standing committees which work on various long-term projects. In addition, the Council sponsors the Graduate orientation each Fall and Spring and helps to oversee the managing of the Muddy Charles Pub, as well as publication of The Graduate Student Council. If you would like to voice concerns about improved graduate life and education, BECOME INVOLVED NOW! For more information please contact Anne St. Onge, Graduate Student Council.

System Specifications:

- Processor: 8080 CPU 16-bit 4.77 MHz socket for 8087 numeric processor.
- Memory: EPROM 12K.
- RAM: 128K to 1MB 250 ns.
- Interfaces:
  - Floppy disk controller supporting two double-sided, double-density floppy disk drive or 12MB hard disk.
  - Parallel printer port.
  - Centronics compatible.
- Display interface: 640 x 200 B & W, 80 x 25 characters
- Power consumption: 100 watts.
- Weight: 25 lbs.
- Dimensions: 14 x 20 inches.
- Power consumption: 100 watts.
- IBM-PC compatible.
- IBM-PC compatibility.
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The Columbia MPC:

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Memory:

EPROM 12K.

RAM:

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Interfaces:

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The Columbia MPC:

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Sri Lanka: social and political strife

Robert E. Malchman

"Those advocating any division of the island are clearly unable to talk about it even in a foreign language," said a surveyor who pulled them on their return to Sri Lan-
ka. - Ranasinghe Premadasa

"It's vrai. This is supposed to be a democracy." - Unnamed Sri Lankan civil servant

This is a story about social and political strife in Sri Lanka, the island nation off the coast of In-
dia, known as Ceylon during its colonial period.

There are two ethnic groups on the island, the Sinhalese and the Tamils. They have been there since the island was first inhabited 3000 years ago. The Sinhalese are considered the majority, holding 143 of 168 seats in the National Assembly. The Tamils have 25.

The problem is that an extremist group wants to see Sri Lanka set up its own Tamil country in the northern and eastern parts of the island. To this end, they recently abducted and killed 14 Tamils in the capital, Colombo.

Some Sinhalese, somewhat perturbed, accept the fact that the Tamils live on the island for 2500 years. The Sinhalese, perhaps 40% of the population, have lived with each other ever since a war against the Blackouts, sly - for political reasons. It is unfortunate that the political parties, which represent an overwhelming ma-
rity, never implements its pro-
democratic process. It is unfortu-
nately true that the political parties never gains pow-
er, never implements its pro-
democratic process, never becomes an effective part of the government.

At issue is the relationship between the Sinhalese and the Tu-
mils in Sri Lanka. The system of democratic political parties, which immediately subverts the demo-
ocracy, has been traditionally thwarted by the Tamil party ensuring the minority never gains pow-
er, never implements its pro-
democratic process, never becomes an effective part of the government.

Vetter writes, "These kids sat around drinking and dancing and playing baseball," Vetter's portrayal of the typical MIT student is about as realistic as a photograph of MIT's women. In true Playboy tradition, the let paragraphs devoted to-
ded to them is little more than a faulty survey of females' dating practices in Boker House. There's a message here: if you are one of the aforementioned upperclassmen that have gotten a few more of his facts straight.

Although the author made an attempt to get his information straight from the students' mouths, he failed to acknowledge that student opinion may be tainted by the "cynical outlook" he noted elsewhere. Consequent-
ly, when we read about a student saying "There aren't any political movements on campus to speak of," we know Vetter never saw even ten percent of the graduating Class of 1983 demonstrating solid-
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Bunny's eye view of MIT

"They are the chaser, the far-
touched individuals of the high-
scale crowd - or if they can just get through M.I.T. without jumping.

This quote appears in the Sep-
tember issue of Playboy mag-
azine, opening an article titled "Technodarlings." The author, Craig Vetter, "spends weeks on campus at M.I.T. researching this piece," yet the most profound conclu-
sion he can reach is "One thing is for sure. They all plan on making a lot of money."

The editorial staff of Vetter's article is hardly surprising. After all, it appears in a magazine meant to whet the appetites - both sexual and intellectual - of its target readership of young, upwardly mobile sophisti-
cates. Perhaps, they will be properly towed and a bit of Vetter's technodarlings, but I am not. I'm just another MIT student trying to get by, and I take offense at his portrayal.

It seems Vetter's weeks of re-
search involved hanging out at Boker House, observing an elec-
trical engineering lecture, and vis-
ting the top of the Green Build-
ing with the Technology Hackers Association - a fun time I would recommend to any visitor.

If, however, he was interested in uncovering an accurate view of MIT life, he should have vent-
tured a little farther from the center of campus. He should have talked to some underclassman, and, perhaps most importantly, he should have interviewed non-
engineering majors. Had he done so, Vetter would have reached some radically different conclu-
sions about us lovable, optional MIT kids. And he might have gotten a few more of his facts straight.

Although the author made an attempt to get his information straight from the students' mouths, he failed to acknowledge that student opinion may be tainted by the "cynical outlook" he noted elsewhere. Consequently, when we read about a student saying "There aren't any political movements on campus to speak of," we know Vetter never saw even ten percent of the graduating Class of 1983 demonstrating solid-
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MIT aid policy discriminates

Editor's note: The Tech received a copy of the following letter to President Paul E. Gray '54

Dear President Gray,

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, handicap, age, or national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other Institute administered programs and activities.

These words are from MIT's policy on nondiscrimination. In one fell swoop you have managed to make these words utterly devoid of meaning. The action I refer to is the announcement that MIT will abide by the Solomon Amendment and Department of Education regulations which deny federal educational assistance to students who refuse to register for the draft [The Tech, July 26].

The Selective Service System, in 1980, in requiring only males between the ages of 18 and 23 to register, discriminates on the basis of sex and age. Prosecution of conscientious objectors who have been drafted solely against those who have not been drafted is also a violation of our First Amendment rights of free speech. The Solomon Amendment discriminates against those who, because of religious beliefs, are or are thought to be, unwilling to register for the draft. It also affects draft-age women.

One of the things which both-er me most is a statement you made which was quoted in both The Tech and Tech Talk: "It makes no sense to me to couple educational opportunity with beliefs about the military draft and to apply that connection only to those students who happen to be needy males in a particular age bracket. This is the law of the land, however, and MIT will comply with it." Such a denial of the responsibilities of a citizen to uphold the Constitution must have the Founding Fathers turning in their graves. Coming from the president of an institution of higher learning it is particularly abhorrent. It has been one of the traditional roles of universities in this country to try and act as a restraining force when our government begins to stray. A number of universities around this country, including Yale, Dartmouth, and the University of California have promised to supplement the money lost by MIT to the effect that MIT should join these universities in standing up for its students' constitutional rights.

I hope that you will give serious consideration to what I have said.

Michael D. Thomas '86
"This is our time of day. The quiet time, when everyone else has called it a night... that's when we put together The Tech. Outside, lights shine on a deserted street, long after the buses have stopped running. In our production shop, the lights shine upon our staff, sometimes mellow, sometimes screaming, but still putting together MIT's oldest and largest newspaper. Just like we've been doing for over 100 years."

If you think you'd like to learn how we put together a newspaper, join our insomniac crew in W20-477 any Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday night this fall. It's the next best thing to sleep.
The album centers around side one's paired title cuts, "Synchronicity I" and II, both investigations into Dr. Jung's "connecting principle" which links events in time but not in space. The short, choppy phrasing and percussive synth riff of "Synchronicity I" complements the long melodic line and power-trio drive of "Synchronicity II." Sandwiched between these cuts are the Police's first songs not penned by Sting: Summers' "Mother," a 7/8 Arabian raga ravespe with Frendian lyrics ("Every girl that I go out with/Be comes my mother in the end") and psychotic vocals; and Copeland's "Miss Grace," a bouncing tale of intrigue within the KGB. Although the tunes may at first seem to be simple concessions to Sting's compositional monopoly, they provide insights into the contributions made by the band's nonwriting members.

The lion's share of the writing still belongs to Sting, however, and he outdoes himself by penning a set of buoyant, emotive pieces. "King of Pain" and "O My God" deal with the personal anguish thought about by Sting's recent divorce (as does "Every Breath You Take") and both successfully evoke strong emotions — you can feel the anger in "O My God" and the sorrow in "King of Pain."

"Walking in Your Footsteps," with its polyrhythmic drum patterns and African flute colorings, and "Tea in the Sahara" with Summer's shimmering guitar synthesizer washes layered over a pulsing bass, merit Sting's inclusion in the pan-cultural pantheon — he is clearly adept at scaffolding pop songs with a Western feel. Compare "Tea in the Sahara" to King Crimson's "The Sheltering Sky," and see how the same was not true of Paul Bowles's "The Sheltering Sky" — could elicit different musical responses.

Simultaneously (syntactically?) their most commercial and their most challenging album, Synchronicity shows what can happen when the Police take the laws of music into their own hands. The resulting album, a dance floor standard. "Roots" also provides the best indication of Byrne's current mindset: When he sings "I don't mind some slight disorder/No more time for talkin' it over," he's obviously learned how to deal with the world, a far cry from the messengers that spoke with a Zen-like brush strokes.

Speaking in Tongues.

Talking Heads on Sire Records.

It must be a great temptation to repeat a successful experiment, if only to assert your newfound proficiency. This seems to be the reason why the new Talking Heads album isn't the tremendous surprise its predecessor, Remain in Light, was. The band, revisited after a three-year hiatus filled with solo projects, has compared notes on their relative successes, chosen to produce themselves (thus terminating a long-standing relationship with producer/members Brian Eno and reworked Remain in its own image. The resulting album is a cross between Remain and Talking Heads 77, a combination of assured musicianship and an almost childlike pleasure taken in being able to "Make it up as we go along" from the ground up in the sky.

The blueprint for Remain was clearly My Life in the Bush of Ghosts, the collaboration between lead David Byrne and Brian Eno, but the blueprint for Speaking in Tongues is another Parliament/Funkadelic's Uncle Jam Wants You or James Brown. It builds on the "jammin' on a groove" format than on Remain's extended polyrhythmic drum breaks and call-and-response vocals, consequently, the Heads seem to be emulating funk masters rather than creating another new musical form. The album's lesser impact is to be expected — American audiences are much more familiar with Stone and Wilson Pickett than they are with King Sunny Ade and Prince Nico Mbarga.

The African elements are still very much in evidence, especially on the opener, "Burnin' Down the House," in which thundering drums underscore Byrne's tale of urban apathy. "I can't believe they work/Why do I want what you want/What's the rush?" At the end of it all, it's easy to predict Beyonce's future. "Baby, what do you expect/Gonna burst into flame." The music is full of accents — squawking synths, tam-tams, shouted vocals — that act as mini-solos, personal comments that are not meant to disrupt the overall flow, a small departure from a pure African groove in which one can focus on one or all the instruments. The Afro groove gives way to expertly played dub in "I Get Wild/Wild Gravity," out-and-out gospel testifying in "Slippery People," and a true photo-buster bounces in "Pull Up the Roots," a tune destined to become a dance floor standard. "Roots" also provides the best indication of Byrne's current mindset: When he sings "I don't mind some slight disorder/No more time for talkin' it over," he's obviously learned how to deal with the world, a far cry from the messengers that spoke with a Zen-like brush strokes.

"This Must Be the Place (Naive Melody)," a ballad about the joys of being able to come home. Home — is where I want to be. When I was a boy I used to come home — she lifted up her wings. Guess that this must be the place. How can I tell you from the other side? Did you find me? Did you find me?

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Robert E. Malchman

George Brett Pine Tar Game, or, AL's MacPhail strikes out

It was a hot July day in Yankee Stadium. The Yankees and Royals were playing their last regular-season game for 1983. Two out in the top of the ninth, New York was leading 4-3. With one man on base, the go-ahead run in the form of superhitter George Brett was at the plate. The Yankee faithful were cheerful, nonetheless: Relief ace Goose Gossage and his 95-mile-per-hour fast ball were coming into the game. The fans knew it was all over.

Brett had other ideas. He launched a pitch deep into the left field stands, putting the Royals ahead 5-4. A television camera focused on Gossage as the mustachioed fireballer emphatically pronounced an Obscenity. Things suddenly looked repulsive to me. Pine tar is a sticky substance rubbed on the bat handle to improve the batter's grip.

There is another rule that says a batter using an illegal bat, upon proper appeal, shall be called out. The Yankees made a timely appeal, before the next pitch was thrown, and the umpire properly enforced the two rules by calling Brett out.

The Royals appealed the decision football. The fans go wild. The Yankees were leading 4-3. With one man on base, the go-ahead run in the basemen's part.

There is a rule that says one cannot have more than 18 inches of pine tar on a bat. Why anyone would need even that much is a mystery to me. Pine tar is a sticky substance rubbed on the bat handle to improve the batter's grip.

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Supid as it is, though, the decision — the American League's dumbest since it permanently approved the designated hitter rule — stands. The game will resume Thursday with the Royals leading 5-4. It is unlikely Brett will be ejected from the game, though well he should for his attack on the umpire.

The Yankees will be forced to miss a day off, so they will have to play baseball on 31 straight days. The Royals will have to fly into and out of New York for four outs of baseball.

Four outs. I'll stick to exhibitions.