**MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper**

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**Friday, February 20, 2004**

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**Students Describe the Ideal President**

By Lauren E. LeBon

MIT students gave a varied and often controversial view of who the next MIT president should be at a recent town hall meeting held by the Student Advisory Group to the Corporation. Many, however, agreed the next president would need to improve its communication with the student body.

This consensus was not present in other issues, including gender, race, and professional background.

In addition, students expressed concern about the future of the Institute, culturally, economically, and academically.

**Student communication essential**

A total of about 30 students attended the two recent town hall meetings this past Wednesday and last Thursday. Students were enthusiastic about having more student-administration interaction, and especially stressed the importance of having a president that would focus on communicating with students and addressing their concerns.

The “most important quality is that he or she is accessible to the student,” said Dexter W. Ang '05. “Communication is important if the students hope to influence change later,” he said.

Many other students present concurred with Ang’s opinion. “I want a president that cares about student opinions,” said Clifford Choate '04. “Student input is a must. I don’t know exactly what direction this school should go in, but it needs leaders who recognize that they have to pay attention to student life,” Choate said.

**Undecided on race and gender**

Students considered the idea of a minority or female president noted that it would set an important precedent.

Those advocating a female or minority president noted that it might be a positive move for the school.

MIT always “represents[ed] the future of the country,” said Hector C. Hernandez ’81. “Think of the message MIT would send if they try to get” a woman or minority president, he said.

President, Page 18

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**Ban Approved Despite Student Protests**

By Lauren E. LeBon

MIT will implement the recommendations from the flag committee to ban flags, banners, and other items to the exteriors of dormitories, said Dean of Student Life Larry G. Benedict.

The ban was approved just a day after undergraduate students staged a campus-wide protest against the ban by hanging assorted banners and other items outside of their windows.

**Housing group approves plan**

Benedict heads the housing strategies group, which includes Chancellor Phillip L. Clay and Dean of graduate students Isaac A. Colbert. On Wednesday, the group reviewed the flag committee proposal, which was adopted by the committee in December.

The new policy clearly bans the hanging of posters and other items on the outside of dormitories. Benedict said the second portion of the policy urges house governments to "develop their own guidelines for materials that may be displayed within their residence," according to the original flag committee proposal.

The new policy is not much different from the existing policy, but this new policy is written in clearer language and aims to ensure that the regulations are "consistently enforced," said Benedict.

The original housing regulation read, "The use of flammable decorations, including natural evergreens, in any room, corridor, stairwell, lounge, dining hall, lobby and other public areas is expressly forbidden by Massachusetts fire laws. The use of non-flammable decorations must be approved by the House Managers."

**Students protest proposal**

On Tuesday morning, several undergraduate students expressed their disagreement of the proposed policies by hanging banners and other items from their windows.

A large banner protesting the recently instituted ban on flags and other items hanging outside dormitories spanned Briggs Field Tuesday morning. The banner was suspended by a wire running from the 16th floor of MacGregor house and the ninth floor of Simmons Hall.

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**Course IX Library To Close**

By Jenny Zhang

The Schering-Plough library of Neurosciences and Biomedical Imaging, located in building E25 near MIT Medical, will close at the beginning of this summer.

Most of the Schering-Plough materials, primarily books and journals, will be transferred to the science library, said Mary Jane Miller, director of development for MIT libraries.

The move comes as a direct result of the decision not to move the library into the new brain and cognitive sciences project, anticipated to open in 2005.

Originally the move was to be scheduled to occur when brain and cognitive sciences project opened, but the date was moved up to this summer primarily to cut operating costs, said Howard J. Silver, associate head of the science library.

As of now, no decision has been made for how to use the space that Schering-Plough will vacate, but it is likely it will be converted into office space for those who currently have windowless offices in the basement, said director of libraries Ann J. Wolpert.

**Library users give feedback**

Many of the library users appreciate its current location in E25 and believe that it is the ideal location.

"I think it is the essential source, and anything you could want for course nine is at that library and not the others," said Nasheed I. Jamal '05, a Brain and Cognitive Sciences major.

"It's very convenient because I'm an [Health Sciences and Technology] student and it's closest to the [Engineering] station," said Hui S. Nam G. "I come here at least one time a day on weekdays. I'd prefer to have it as a library, but I understand the need to have something for the other students, so I think this is a good decision.""
Pakistan's Military May Have Aided In Smuggling Operations
By David Kohde and Eric Lichtblau

Interviews with Pakistani businessmen and new court documents filed in the United States suggest that Pakistan's powerful military may have played a role in the smuggling of 66 high-speed electrical switches from the United States to Pakistan last fall. The switches can be used as triggers for nuclear weapons, according to U.S. officials.

Mohammad Khan, the Pakistani businessman whose office address was the final destination for the triggers, confirmed in a series of interviews here that he and his father have been suppliers of the Pakistani military in the past twenty years. But he denied playing any role in the smuggling of the American-made triggers to Pakistan.

Khan said he sent the switches to the American military, which had purchased it from a Canadian company. "I know my address and everything is pointing to me and my company," Khan said as he sat in the offices of his firm, Pakland P.M.E., located a mile from Pakistan's parliament building. "Frankly speaking, I want to deal with those things I would never be so stupid as to use to my own company."

Yet documents presented by Khan in his own defense as well as court papers filed this week in Washington suggest that he is deeply involved in covert efforts to supply the Pakistani military.

Election Commission Ruling Allows Groups To Use Soft Money
By Glen Justice

The Federal Election Commission said on Wednesday that advocacy groups that were established to get around fund-raising restrictions in the 2000 election may continue to spend unlimited donations for television commercials and other communications, though they must do so under far more restrictive rules.

The commission's ruling, on an appeal called "527 committees," could have profound effects on the 2004 election by helping Democrats, who have been far more aggressive than Republicans in creating these committees to help the party compete with the Republicans' overall 2-1 fund-raising advantage. None of this money winds up in the candidates' hands but can be used to raise issues and attack other candidates by name.

Perhaps the best known of these groups, America Coming Together and MoveOn.org, gained widespread attention when George Soros, the philanthropist and international financier, pledged millions to each.

Conference Debates Ways To Confront Anti-Semitism In Europe
By Elaine Sciolino

Prominent Jewish figures and European officials agreed on Thurs- day that anti-Semitism is a troubling phenomenon in Europe, and called on European Union countries to forge a common strategy to deal with it.

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Although council members have not decided yet how new members would be selected, several council members agreed that it would be important to demonstrate independence from the American government in order to win the trust of the Iraqi people.

The move to extend the govern- ing council's rule for several months is an important step in the Bush administration's vision for a quick transfer of power. As late as this week, American officials were still clinging to an agreement, signed with Iraqi leaders in November, that called for the governing council to be replaced on June 30 and a new Iraqi government to be selected by nationwide elections.
Israel Pullback Not To Replace Peace Roadmap, Sharon Says

By James Bennet

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel issued a court-sponsored statement today that said his government would not resume a peace process with the Palestinians "until...dismal engagement" from the Palestinians, saying that it would not "settle" for anything less than a "serious" and "intensive" peace process, as the road map had been and the time for the "peace process" was running out.

But, he continued, "I would like to stress that the path to meaningful and lasting peace between the two peoples will require the willingness of the Palestinians to join the peace process and to make the necessary steps to fulfill the road map's conditions." The road map, which was released by President George W. Bush in November, is part of an effort to achieve a "two-state" solution in the Middle East.

Sharon said that the Palestinian Authority, led by President Mahmoud Abbas, was not "serious" and was not following its obligations under the road map. "We will not wait for them forever," he said.

Sharon's aides had previously said that a road map for the Middle East, as proposed by the Bush administration, was "unsatisfactory." But, he said today, "The time is running out for the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians." He added that the road map had been "discarded." He said that it was "unsatisfactory" and that it was "unsatisfactory" for the Palestinians to reject the road map.

Sharon said that he was "unsatisfied" with the Palestinian Authority's "failure to abide by their obligations under the road map." He said that the road map was "unsatisfactory" and that it was "unsatisfactory" for the Palestinians to reject it.

Sharon's statement was made after a meeting with President Bush at the White House.

By David W. Dunlap

Washington -- The farm bill, the largest and most powerful of all the federal programs, is due to expire on April 28, the day after the Bush administration's budget is submitted to Congress. The administration has said it wants to make the bill more efficient and accountable.

But, in the face of a new Congress, the administration has been forced to abandon its plans to rewrite the bill. The House Agriculture Committee has already approved a reauthorization of the bill, and the Senate Agriculture Committee is expected to follow suit.

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New Data Supports View That Black Holes Can Destroy Stars

By John Noble Wilford

Astronomers have found evidence that a black hole may have wiped out a star that was once much bigger than our own Sun.

The star, called V404 Cygni, is located about 40,000 light-years away in the constellation Cygnus. It is known for its strong magnetic field and its large size.

The astronomers found that the star has lost about half of its mass in a few years, which is consistent with what would be expected if a black hole had swallowed it.

The discovery was made by a team of astronomers using the Hubble Space Telescope.

The team's findings support the idea that black holes can destroy stars, which is a common occurrence in the universe.

The astronomers are now planning to continue their observations of the star, which may help to shed light on the process by which black holes destroy stars.

The study was published in the journal Nature.

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When the justices of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled by a 3-3 margin that civil unions fail to grant homosexual rights the rights entitled to them by the state constitution, they began an important chapter in the legal and social history of the United States. The SJC should be adored for its adamantine conviction to upholding the principles of civil rights enshrined in the nation’s founding, but a true resolution of the gay marriage issue can only occur when the Supreme Court issues a nationwide dictum allowing homosexuals the full benefits of marriage. Certain gay rights activists have compared the recent struggle for homosexual marriage recognition to the civil rights movement. While the federal government has been too far (advocates have not been jailed or physically attacked by law enforcement during rallies), the legal histories between race and homosexuality in America are indeed striking. In 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Defense of Marriage Act (DMA), ultimately claiming that states can decide what the words ‘marriage’ and ‘spouse’ mean for federal purposes, a marriage is only a union between a man and a woman. Thus, 1,469 federal marriage benefits, as well as state benefits, are available only to heterosexual couples. The decision was essentially an analysis of the policy of popular sovereignty seen leading up to the Civil War, in which states via popular election, were allowed to choose whether or not to adopt slavery. The U.S. government should have realized not to make the same mistake twice. Not only is Clinton’s argument the discredited one still applied, but even to state that separate states and the national agencies hold jurisdiction over a human right is preposterous. That law led to the non-enforcement across the country seen today. Thirty-nine states declared defense of marriage acts of their own, Vermont adopted a civil union policy which grants gay partners some benefits but marriage benefits, three make registries for same-sex couples that do not necessarily imply any state benefits, and the rest remain undecided. As a result, advocacy groups have tried to go from state to state to overturn bans on same-sex marriages or establish them as legal. The same tactic was taken in the 1950’s with the NAACP when attacking the “separate but equal” policy. Originally, legal teams took districts to court and proved that funding for black schools were inferior and that the effort was too exhaustive and ineffective, the strategy changed with Brown v. Board of Education, which argued the very conclusion.

Massachusetts has now made a similar move. By demanding that the state must recognize same-sex unions as marriages, they demand that they receive both state federal benefits, which runs counter to the federal DMA. This incoherence has already forced the state legislature to debate the issue, but before anyone runs conclusions, we need to learn to end there. Before all is said and done, the issue should have its day in the highest court in the land, and the fate of same-sex marriage stands on the world stage.

We applaud the Massachusetts SJC’s ruling for its leadership in the battle of equality and for challenging the traditional definition of marriage, like many things, is not static; in fact, views on what is right and wrong on marriage have changed over time. In America’s past, marriages between people of different faiths, ethnic backgrounds, and races sparked controversy. In fact, many states outlawed intermarriages until the 1960’s. Virginia is one of them. Over the years, controversial marriages have become gradually integrated into legal and social frameworks. It is only natural that marriage, like any other institution, be adapted to suit the situation. According to Massachusetts Chief Justice Margaret Marshall, the state constitution “forbids the creation of second-class citizens based on the identity of the local laws.” As the debate amendments designed then the ruling by allowing only common unions. By preventing homosexual couples from marrying, the Massachusetts SJC makes a decision that is clearly not one of our citizens, and it is time for the Supreme Court to follow suit.

Letters To The Editor

Most significantly though for the readers of The Tech, I believe that there is an academic “sacred” meaning to a faculty member of Professor Brody’s stature to inject his own political ten- 

tant a home is to the Palestinians who have to be homeless and stateless.” If his “the play is a reminder of what it means for any people to be dependent and stateless.” It is difficult to perfectly understand how the political agenda were not clear enough already, he concludes that he hopes the play might “help the people who were not understood how a great state is to the Palestinians who have been left out of the experience of despair by historical circumstance.”

The moral implications of that statement are disturbing enough, of placing the onus on the Israeli people for the suffering of the Palestinians. The statement does not go far enough to address the unbearable burden of shame which lay upon the shoulders of the world community of having to confront the Holocaust. I also realize that it would probably not prove fruitful to begin a discussion on the utter callousness of erecting Israel’s policies of self-defense to the murderous genocide committed by the Nazis, an appreciación of Professor Brody’s statements clear to anyone who has had dealings with the Middle East in the last decade.

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, in chief, managing editor, opinion editor, and editors. Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board, and they either publish their disapproval or the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions must be addressed to The Tech, 8 Moulton Pk., P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the author’s signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become the property of The Tech, and will not be returned. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

To Reach Us

The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-5141. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure as to whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. Please send press releases requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to newso@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech is available online at the World Wide Web at http://the-tech.mit.edu.
Adam Kolanski offers what appears on the surface to be a dispossession argument against marriage based on the legal principle that the protection of a given minority group must further a compelling state interest.

Letter To The Editor

The Economic and Social Case for Homosexual Marriage

Sean Safford

February 20, 2004

THE CHICAGO MARATHON

1. Adam Kolanski’s article makes an argument that gay marriage is not justified by the economic and social gains that it brings. How does this argument challenge the traditional view of marriage as a societal institution?

2. Kolanski argues that the economic benefits of marriage for gay couples are exaggerated, and that the social cost of allowing gay marriage is significant. How does he support these claims?

3. Kolanski cites studies showing that gay and lesbian couples are raising children in families that are as equal as possible to those with heterosexual parents. How does he argue that this supports the traditional view of marriage?

4. Kolanski makes the argument that marriage is a social institution that is based on procreation. What evidence does he provide to support this claim?

5. Kolanski suggests that allowing gay marriage will lead to a decrease in the number of heterosexual marriages. How does he support this claim?

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Every fall for over a century, a select group of MIT students have been going back to school carrying an extra notebook.

HERE’S HOW YOU CAN JOIN THEM.
We’re *The Tech*, MIT’s oldest and largest newspaper, and this fall we’ll have openings for freshmen, upperclassmen, and graduate students in the following departments: News, Sports, Arts, Opinion, Photography, Production, and Business. Previous experience is welcome but not essential.

BUT WE’RE MORE THAN JUST A NEWSPAPER.
*The Tech* is also MIT’s oldest student activity, and that means organized (and disorganized) events like Sunday night dinners, annual Talbot House retreats and banquets, and movie premieres, as well as a generally fun place to hang around.

SO WHY NOT STOP BY?
If you think you might be interested, or even if you just want to see what we do, visit our office at W20-483 on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday night, or e-mail join@the-tech.mit.edu. We are looking forward to meeting you!
FEATURES COLUMNIST

By Mark Liao
February 20, 2004

thing. “Ew, what’s that? I don’t eat pork. Is
whined and griped about everything and any-
types of chi-kan. We have sweet sour chi-
ever. (“Ooooooh we have many different
you’ll ever meet. He pledged an “Asian frat,”
shall call “Nameless.”

However, as with most things, the older I got,
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need to know what it’s called; they show it to
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I’m too busy” is actually a reason or an
Carter. I dare you. The automated response
answer urgent and emergency emails immedi-
response. I will read email frequently, but only
email is important, there may be a delayed
answer all the email I receive. Even if your

Do you know anybody who looks like
Aksheezy, Nope. Just sits there and emits large

Nope. Just sits there and emits large
despite the utter lack of Lederhosen.” And
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We all run across people whose sheer exer-
counts for their work inspires us to find
our own callings. We wish we could hear how
they struggled with their career decisions.
Although we learn more about that piece when
they composing the work that intrudes us, we
can still glean some transferable knowledge from
others’ experiences. However, we must ask first.

By Ian Ybara

Preserved Duck Egg Congee (pei dan sau yau tso) — Congee is
an Asian porridge with a fine, porridgelike texture. It
may be served with a variety of condiments. If you have
never tried it, you are missing something.

Preserved Duck Egg Congee

I am grateful for your patience.”

It begins, “It has become impossible to
answer all the email I receive. Even if your
email is important, there may be a delayed
response. I will read email frequently, but only
if your email is important, there may be a delayed
response. I will read email frequently, but only
next time you use that as
Your own personal phone book. I don’t even
know who Constance Marie
Marie? I don’t even know who Constance Marie

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Sex and the SafeRide
Be that Sexy Bitch

By Tiffany Kosolcharoen

In the world of MIT, fashion is often amiss. Style is hap-
risked at best, with little effort going into a student’s wardrobe, grooming, and accessorizing choices. On the social scene, this puts us at a disadvantage. We are already stereotypically viewed as nerdy and, heck, a lot of us are. But that doesn’t mean it should be obvious from a first glance. There are times when nerdy is a good thing, for instance, in academia. However, in life, nerdy tends to hurt us.

Let us begin with the basics. Here’s a simple color rule: Black and brown do not go together. Far too many times have I seen a student walking down Amherst Alley on the way to an interview wearing a black suit and old, dirty, brown boots. If you spent the money on a nice suit, you should not ruin it by wearing brown shoes. I don’t care if you only have one pair of shoes; that is a problem in itself. This also applies to belts and jackets. In casual situations, this rule car-

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Mardi Gras!

Sunday, February 22nd
6:00 – 9:30 pm
Walker Memorial

Tech Catholic Community

Sponsored by ARCADE funding
Fascist Popsicle Stand
by Saurabh Asthana

Trio
by Emezie Okoafor

Ruth Perlmutter approves of this comic
by Brian Loux

February 20, 2004
The Tech
Page 10
Fun Pages
Events Calendar

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at http://events.mit.edu

Friday, February 20

10:00 a.m. - Varsity Women's Swimming NEWMAC Championships. Free. Room: Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center.
10:00 a.m. - Teaching with Technology. Free. Sponsor: Usability at MIT.
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - International Mother Language Day Celebration. Free. Room: Student Center; Coordinator. Presented in conjunction with "Son et Lumière". Free. Room: List Visual Arts Center, E15.
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Focus On the Arts: Elena Rieu. Presentation by Music and Theater Arts Lecturer Elena Rieu. Admission: Free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - TBA.
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - IYH Spring 2004, Ludwig von Prandtl derived a criterion for separation on no-slip boundaries of two-dimensional boundary layers. Free. Room: 3-370. Sponsor: Mechanical Engineering Dept.
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Writers Group.
6:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Varsity Pistol Competitive Sectional. Free. Room: Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center. Sponsor: Varsity Pistol.
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Pasta Night. Come enjoy some Free kosher pasta. Free. Room: W11-452. Sponsor: GSC Funding Board. Contact: kensliwo@mit.edu
7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Dance Perfomances by MIT Natya. Free. Room: West Lounge. Sponsor: MIT Hindu Students Coordinator. Free. Room: W31-106. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship, GSC Funding Board.
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. - TechTime: PDA Synchronization Quick Start. Room: N42-206. Sponsor: N42 House.
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Teaching and beginners' dances from 8 to 9 p.m. A mixture of all skill levels from 9 to 11 p.m. We shall not be held liable for any loss-
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Writers Group.
6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Mardi Gras. Free. Room: 1-190. Sponsor: GSC Funding Board, Club Coordinator. Contact: kensliwo@mit.edu
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Lost in Translation. $3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - WENO Limiters. Free. Room: 33-206. Sponsor: AeroAstro.
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - The Vagina Monologues. For V-Day, a worldwide movement to stop violence against women and girls. Free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.
8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. - Lost in Translation. $3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.
10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - Long Night's Journey. Free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.
10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. - International Flava! MIT Dance Expo and International Party. Free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: GSC Funding Board.
10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. - Lost in Translation. $3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Soldier Design Prizes Awarded

By Lauren E. LeBon

The final judging of the first annual Soldier Design competition this Tuesday drew young MIT inventors, representatives from the United States Army, and a handful of war protesters.

The Soldier Design competition invited MIT students to come up with solutions that American soldiers face in everyday combat. The contest was sponsored by the Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies (ISN) at MIT. Over $10,000 in prizes were awarded to the nine finalist teams.

First prize and $5,000 went to Team "TacShot," comprising Peter K. Augenbergs '05, Chris R. Pentacoff '05, Andrew Heafitz S.M. '01, and Frederick S. Gay '07. The team invented a rocket that, when launched, takes reconnaissance snapshots of the terrain and transmits them to a nearby base station.

The ISN, established in 2002 with a $50 million grant from the United States Army, is a group working to create a high-tech battle suit that caters to the needs and comfort of a soldier.

Teams create military gadgets

Team Surreptiles, a group of five sophomores, all majoring in Materials Science and Engineering, took the second place prize with their hand-arm communication system. The wearable device allows a soldier to communicate about directions, commands, and other information to fellow soldiers by using a series of hand-signals.

David D. Lin '05 said his team-mates and he came up with the idea while punting a problem set. Third place prize went to Matthew R. Carvey '05 and Benjamin D. Smith '05 and their automatic parachute release mechanism. The device is designed to measure the acceleration and trigger the opening of a parachute accordingly.

Other projects included a compact cutting tool that can cut through chain-link fences and is 75 percent smaller than other tools of its kind. The tool was made by Dennis D. Dillon '05, Patrick L. Kuhl '05, and Chris Maitrebergen '06. Cameron A. Dube '06, Conor P. Lenahan '07, and David Petman designed an LED flashlight that extends the battery life of the device and changes from white to red light.

Thomas praises competitors

Competition judges came from the United States army, engineering and management departments at MIT, and manufacturing companies.

"Devices from this competition could easily end up in soldiers’ hands in the near future," said ISN director Ned Thomas in a press release. "These are real problems we’re addressing, and if a team comes up with a great design, the Army could certainly move it forward."

"We see dramatic examples in the news every day of how much danger these guys face in Iraq and elsewhere," Thomas said in the press release. "I’m excited so many MIT undergraduates, in particular, have come out for this competition and demonstrated some amazing engineering."

Some protest the contest, ISN

The competition drew some criticism from some students around the MIT campus. MIT’s Refuse and Resist group hung posters around campus with slogans such as "Want to waste your talent? Join us at the ISN!" and "Is $10,000 really worth it?"

Sebastian Raupach G, a visiting physics graduate student from Germany, attended the competition, saying that he felt troubled by the "one-sidedly advertised military research without commenting on moral questions." He cited the Soldier Design competition and the Lincoln Labs as two major examples of the focus on military research on campus.

"While the stress is defensive research, it misses the point that there might be something fundamentally wrong with doing military research on campus," Raupach said.

February 20, 2004

THE TECH Page 13

SEXUALITY, NUDITY, LANGUAGE AND DRUG/ALCOHOL CONTENT

COMING SOON TO THEATRES EVERYWHERE

FROM THE PRODUCERS OF ROAD TRIP AND OLD SCHOOL

NO ACTUAL EUROPEANS WERE HARMED IN THE MAKING OF THIS FILM.
Admissions To Drop As Funding Shrinks

Several departments may have to decrease the number of students they admit this coming year because of a decrease in their funding.

Arthur C. Smith, professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, said he expects the Course VI department to cut back on its admissions from last year because “we have more [students] than we can handle.”

Of the 2,475 applicants received, Smith said he hopes to admit about 165 of those though there is “pressure to admit more.” Smith cited the unusually high yield from last year, over 70 percent compared with the usual 60 percent, and the unavailability of financial support and supervision as reasons for a decline in admissions.

The Department of Material Science and Engineering has seen a decline of about 100 applicants from last year but also expects to reduce the number of admitted students because of a reduction in fellowship money available, said Kathleen R. Farrell, academic administrator of the Department of Material Science and Engineering.

These numbers are not final, however, since Course III is still accepting applications until March, Farrell said.

The Department of Mathematics will also accept fewer students because of a decline in the fellowships available, said Etingof. The number of students enrolled in pure and applied math is expected to be decreased to 107 next fall, while it is usually around 120.

International applicants down
The number of international applicants decreased by more than 1,000 this year.

“The number of applicants are down across the country,” said Danielle Guichard-Asbrook, director and associate dean for international students, mentioning that the result is possibly because of an increase in the number of enforcement of regulations introduced after Sept. 11.

She said that foreigners may potentially perceive the United States as a less friendly environment because of the new regulations, and choose to go to other countries instead for their education. However, “we don’t have the evidence that that’s happening yet,” Guichard-Asbrook said.

The increased difficulties for international students are a result of increased enforcement as well as new laws that were created with the passage of the Patriot Act and the formation of Department of Homeland Security, Guichard-Asbrook said.

She noted several additional procedures that international students must go through to enter and remain in the United States, including fingerprinting and an interview.

The time it takes to obtain a visa has also increased significantly, making it extremely difficult for students to leave the country and return home.

It is unclear what effect the decline of international applicants will have on the diversity of students at MIT. As of November of last year, international students made up 36 percent of MIT graduate students and 25 percent of all students.

Some departments will feel the impact of the international student drop more than others. About half the students in Course XVIII are international.

“We do suffer a lot from these policies,” said Pavel I. Etingof, associate professor in the Department of Mathematics. “We are trying to help [the students] as much as we can” by making sure they can still register and bending the rules to help late arrivers, he said.

While graduate applications are down, Sandra Wellford, academic administrator of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, said that the number of international student applicants for the PhD program are up.

She said a possible reason for this difference is that “a lot of our PhD applicants are already in the United States” because they are currently attending other universities or working.

Effect varies in other departments
The institute-wide applicant decline has affected some departments more than others. The number of applicants to the Department of Mechanical Engineering dropped by 200 from last year, after decreasing significantly in the past two years. This year’s numbers were “pretty standard,” said Joan Kravit, senior administrative assistant in the mechanical engineering department.

According to an e-mail from Barbara E. Lechter, academic administrator in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Course XVI saw virtually no change in the number of applications it received, despite a 29 percent drop in international applicants.

The number of people applying to the Department of Physics decreased by 14 percent from last year, from 707 to 610, with a 19 percent reduction in international applicants according to an e-mail from Nadia Halhoul, graduate administrative assistant in the physics department.

The Department of Architecture saw a decline from 684 to 570 applicants, said Donna M. Beaudry, an administrative assistant in the Department of Architecture. This decline was a result of about an equal decrease in both international and domestic applicants.
Molina Leaving MIT To Establish Center On the Environment

By Julian Villarreal
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Nobel Prize-winning Institute Professor Mario Molina will leave MIT this summer to join the faculty of the University of California at San Diego.

He cited personal reasons as well as a desire to refocus his work on environmental policy issues as reasons for his departure.

Molina moves closer to his work

Molina, a native of Mexico and a professor in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences and the Department of Chemistry, said that his extensive work on environmental issues in Mexico made a move to UCSD attractive.

He said that his environmental science projects in Mexico have put him in a position in which he spends "too much time travelling."

"It's a very hard thing to do," he said, referring to his exhaustive travel schedule.

He said that moving to UCSD would afford him greater proximity to his native Mexico and afford his work more efficiency.

Molina added that it was "an exceedingly difficult decision" to leave MIT.

"MIT has treated me very, very well," Molina said, citing specifically his collaborative work, which he characterized as "very productive."

EAPS regrets loss

Chair of the Faculty Rafael L. Bras, also a friend and colleague of Molina, said, "Mario is a good friend of mine, and it's sad to see him go ... He's an extraordinary colleague and citizen of MIT."

Bras praised Molina for his "generosity and intellectual power." He said Molina's situation of travelling to and from MIT frequently is "not uncommon with many MIT professors."

"MIT tries it's darnedest to keep it's people, but, in the end, it's a personal decision" to leave, Bras said. "Mario and [his wife] Luisa will be missed," he said.

"He [and] Luisa Molina ... will be sorely missed by me, personally, and by their colleagues across the campus," he said.

"We will need to work very hard to recover from this if MIT is to maintain its outstanding reputation in environmental science," he added. "I am confident that we can do that."

UCSD offers new opportunities

Molina mentioned that, once at UCSD, he will establish a center for energy and environmental issues.

By leaving MIT, Molina said that he will concentrate less on "basic science and laboratory research" and more on the impact of that research and on communicating science and policy to governments in developing countries.

He mentioned some of the policy issues he intends to work on include "air quality issues, water pollution, and energy usage and its effects on the environment."
Director of Housing Karen A. Nilsson said when she arrived at MIT on Tuesday morning, there were several items hung from various residence halls. By noon, housing had removed most of the items under the existing policy that prohibits items from being hung on dormitory fronts.

Most of the hung items, Nilsson said, were “pretty harmless,” such as stuffed animals and banners. Flags of different nationalities hung from windows of East Campus. Meanwhile, at Bexley Hall, a banner read “Bexley Supports Karen Nilssan[sic]” Nilsson said she appreciated the support, but the banner had to come down according to the policy.

However, not all of the items were harmless. Nilsson said one item had the potential to cause “serious, serious personal damage”: the large banner hung from the 16th floor of MacGregor House to the ninth floor of Simmons Hall.

Nilsson said the banner was hung with wire cabling, which made it very difficult to take down safely. The banner hung over Amherst and Vassar streets, and cutting the wire could “whip back” and hit traffic or pedestrians. Also, the wire cabling could hit high-voltage power lines on Amherst and Vassar streets and potentially knock out power.

Nilsson said the removal process was difficult, “quite expensive,” and involved the MIT Campus Police and the MIT Safety Office.

Still, Nilsson said that the students she talked to throughout the day were “pretty cooperative.”

“I think today was a difficult day for housing,” Nilsson said on Tuesday.

Sam H. Kendig ’06 said he did not directly participate in the flag protest because his window in East Campus does not open fully. He did, however, assist his hallmates in hanging items.

“If MIT wants to say we aren’t allowed to hang flags, that’s perfect—these are MIT buildings,” Kendig said.

New policy considers exceptions

Benedict said that the new policy will not be closed to exceptions. For example, Benedict said a dormitory could have an exemption for hanging a welcome sign during orientation.

Also exempt from the new policy are window air conditioners, said Nilsson.

Window air conditioners, provided they are safely installed and approved by house managers and maintenance staff, may be approved on a case-by-case basis, Nilsson said.

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Library Will Not Be In New BCS Project

BCS, from Page 1

around,” he said.

Christopher Moore, a BCS assistant professor, said that he heard about the decision to move the materials three to four months ago, and “was shocked and dismayed.”

“It’s a tremendous loss,” he said. He said that he found the library very beneficial in terms of both its focus on cognitive sciences and proximity to his office, which is in the same building.

More said that when he heard about the move, he met with Gass, who explained the reasons for the decision. “I understood their arguments, but I think it’s too bad,” he said.

Denny pointed out that in some ways the move might be beneficial, because the science library has much longer hours and the 24-hour study room would be readily available. Currently, Schering-Plough is closed on Saturdays and open from 2 to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

Closing cuts costs

Steven Gass, associate director for public services, said that originally the library administrators had hoped that Schering-Plough would move into the new brain and cognitive sciences project along with the BCS department.

However, the three major groups that would move into the new facility, the Brain and Cognitive Sciences department, the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT, and the Picower Center for Learning and Memory, determined there wasn’t space for the library in the new facility.

Relocation to the science library was originally scheduled to coincide with the opening of the new project to allow easier access, since the Science library is much closer to the building project, but budgeting issues speeded up the decision, Miller said.

“We had a whole series of discussions with the Dean of Science [Robert J. Silbey] and Provost [Robert A. Brown] to handle the reality of budget constraints, Wolpert said.

“We certainly communicated to all of the faculty the intention before anything was finalized,” Gass said.

Wolpert also said that information was provided to the Faculty Committee on the Library System, which has two undergraduate and graduate student representatives.

Faculty were notified in late October, and although some were disappointed with the library closing, Gass said, “I believe that people thought the decision was reasonable.”

Gass estimates that the move will save approximately $50,000 in operating expenses.

Committee to coordinate move

Many of the details of the move have not yet been determined, but two weeks ago a committee was formed to plan the move, Miller said.

Howard J. Silver, associate head of the science library and a member of the committee, said that approximately 2500 books, or 150 shelves’ worth, in addition to 70 shelves of journals or the equivalent of about 70 different titles, would be moved from Schering-Plough. He estimated that 40-50 shelves total of material from Science and Schering-Plough would be moved into storage in off-campus features.

The decision of what to put into storage is made according to usage, Miller said. Materials are routinely put into storage as the libraries need to make room for new books.

The Schering-Plough librarians will still have jobs and work at the Science library instead, Denny said. Library space is lacking

Gass said he thinks the move is only a temporary solution, and there is a much larger concern of lack of space for both books and people. “One-third of our collections are in storage, and relative to our peers we have a low ratio of seats [available in the libraries] to people,” he said.

Wolpert said that having such a large portion of the materials stored off-campus is a costly handicap, since it is both expensive and time-consuming to transport off-campus materials should students request them.

“Several years from now, we hope to have a new science and engineering library,” Miller said. “We are excited about the prospect of a new library” in the future Wolpert said.

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 Simply bring this ad to the offices of The Tech, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Room W20-483, on Sunday, February 22nd between 4:00 & 9:00pm to receive your pass (admit two) to the February 24th 7:00pm screening at AMC Fenway Theatre.

One pass per person. Supply limited. Participating sponsors and their agencies not eligible.
President, from Page 1

Other students, however, stressed the importance of qualifications over gender. “Whoever is best qualified should get the job,” said Stephanie S. Cavagnaro-Wong ‘06. She went on to say that currently, there “more men qualified than women.”

Another point made was that the new president would need to feel that he or she received the job based on her or his own merit. “It could be a bad thing to have a woman if she feels she’s been put there because she’s a woman,” said Andrea L. Crandall ‘04.

Challenges for a new president

Students brought up many different challenges that the new president will have to focus on in the next decade. Specifically, students discussed the future of the fraternity, sorority, and independent living group systems. “One of the biggest problems he is going to have to solve is the future of the FSILG system,” said Undergraduate Association treasurer John R. Velasco ‘05.

Another challenge that the new president will have to face is preserving MIT’s distinctive culture. “There is a definite trend away from what MIT has stood for and been,” Cavagnaro-Wong said. “[We] need someone willing to stand up for MIT’s culture and protect it,” she said.

Specifically, some students felt that the new MIT president would need to be more lenient towards hacks. “They’re kind of cutting down” on student hacks, said Brian D. Owens ’07, saying that the current policy appears to be “[if you’re going to do a hack, register it.]”

No decision on alum requirement

Students expressed mixed opinions on whether or not the next MIT president needs an MIT alumnus or alumna. Students arguing against the necessity of a former MIT student as president cited the benefits of a new outlook on the way things work at the Institute. It may be good to have a “different perspective,” said Andrea T. Urmantia ’06. Urmantia did say that the new president “needs[] to understand what the culture is.”

Not all students shared this sentiment. For example, Sanjali Radda ‘04 said she preferred an MIT graduate. He or she would be able “to sympathize with us” and garner “more respect” among faculty, she said.

Other students addressed this issue by suggesting that candidates who have been part of MIT’s faculty for at least parts of their career should also be considered.

Science background encouraged

Students’ opinions were also mixed on the necessary professional background of the new president. Primarily, students discussed whether a scientific background was necessary for the new president, with no uniform opinion presented at the end of the matter.

Some felt it was essential, while others saw it merely as a bonus. Without a scientific background, any new president would face difficulty in monitoring how well the Institute was working according to Barrett S. Mitchell ’06.

However, not everyone agreed. “A science background is not as important as the ability to understand and promote MIT’s core values,” said Alvin M. Lin ’04.

Another consideration voiced was the desire for the new president to have experience in dealing with a population as diverse as MIT. “I’d like to see some experience dealing with racial or diversity issues,” said Alvin M. Lin ’04.

Students seek person of respect

One important quality of the new president, according to the attending students, is that he or she must be able to command the respect of others. “The president’s job includes projecting what it means to be MIT, to the world,” said Anna L. Stevens G.

Overall, discussion on the responsibilities of the president focused on his or her role as a representative of MIT to the world, and of the world to MIT. Recognition at the national and international level was important to some students. The next president “should command an international presence,” Owens said. However, at the same time, the new president must be involved with MIT’s internal affairs. The president should have “credibility and respect within our faculty,” Ang said.

In addition, this respect should be present in “engineering as well as [the Humanities, Arts and Social Science] departments,” he said. “A leader must be able to rally all students together as one unit.”

Interviews to Start in a Month

By Marissa Vogt

The two committees charged with the task of selecting MIT’s 16th president will begin discussions with potential candidates for the presidency within the next four weeks, said James A. Champy ’63, chair of the Corporation Committee on the Presidentcy.

The committee has been meeting jointly with the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Corporation on the Presidential Search since the two committees were formed in January.

“The search committee is very engaged and hard at work,” Champy said. “We are close to identifying people we would like to talk with.”

Champy said that the committee, which right now is meeting every two weeks, is “three to four weeks away from beginning to talk to potential candidates.” As the committee begins speaking with candidates, it will also begin to meet more often, he said. He also said that he expects they will be meeting with students “within two to three weeks.”

Champy said that names of potential candidates are coming from a variety of sources, including faculty, students and alumni.

Search involves interview process

Jerome I. Friedman, chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Corporation on the Presidential Search, said that the committees are working to “understand special opportunities and challenges a president at MIT would face.”

Friedman called the search “broad,” saying that they were considering a wide variety of candidates. Champy said “the committees will start to narrow the candidates to a smaller and smaller pool” eventually, but that point is still “months away.”

Friedman said that interviews with candidates will provide a “good chance to see what that person’s vision is for MIT.”

“There are certainly some fundamental values the committees will be looking for, said Champy, including “a belief in excellence and openness.”

Champy said the committee will also be looking for skills you would expect from a president, such as leadership and management.”

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15th Annual Career Fair
Friday, February 20th, 2004
DuPont Gymnasium
10 am – 4 pm

The entire Boston community is welcome.
Visit: web.mit.edu/ome/www/careerfair
Women to Host NEWMAC Finals

By Victoria K. Anderson

The MIT Women’s Swimming and Diving Team will play host to the 2004 New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Swimming and Diving Championships February 20-22.

The Beavers have finished as runners-up to Springfield College in every NEWMAC Championship since 2001, with the closest contest being in 2002 when the Pride edged past MIT 1078.5 to 1069.5 in the final standings. This year will likely be another two-way battle for first place, as Springfield and MIT boast NEWMAC records of 3-0 and 4-1, respectively, with MIT’s lone conference loss coming from a dual meet with Springfield. The perennial third-place finisher, Wellesley College, also has a 4-1 NEWMAC record, but does not enter the championship with the same dual-meet season strength, as they did not face Springfield and lost to MIT.

In their effort to claim the championship title, MIT will depend heavily on their strengths in the freestyle and individual medley races, in which they hold the top times in the conference at every distance. In the 50, 100, and 200-yard freestyle races, Kathryn M. Duffy ‘04 tops the list, while Katherine C. Thomsen ‘07 holds the top times in the 500 and 1650 freestyle as well as the 200 butterfly. Jennifer A. L’ao ‘05 sits atop the rankings in the 200 and 400 individual medley to strengthen the Beavers’ position going into the meet.

MIT will also depend on stroke races to amass points. For the 100-yard races, Aasia Salemuddin ‘04 is ranked 10th in the butterfly, Melissa E. Dure ‘06 is ranked fourth in the breast, and Erin M. Zoller ‘05 is ranked sixth in the backstroke. Zoller also currently sits sixth in the 200 backstroke while Dore is at third in the 200 breaststroke.

The relays, which have generally been a strong suit for the Beavers, will likely parallel the overall competition, with MIT and Springfield racing for the top spot in each of the relays. Springfield holds the top seed in all freestyle relays, and MIT is seeded second in the 200, 400, and 800 freestyle relays as well as the 200 medley relay.

The meet will start off with the trials for the 200 freestyle relay at noon today, with the finals for the events contested at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday trial sessions will begin at 11 a.m., while the finals sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. Diving trials will start at 2 p.m. today and at 1:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Above: Maria E. Hidalgo ‘04 drives to the hoop around a Babson College opponent during the varsity women’s basketball match Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Right: Karen A. Kirneman ‘06 leaps for control of the ball amidst traffic. After a very close first half, MIT eventually lost to the Babson Beavers 43-65.

Photography by Peter R. Russo
The Tech
February 20, 2004

SPORTS

MIT Men’s Hockey to Semifinals

By Andrew C. Thomas

MIT’s Varsity Men’s Hockey team, coming off a strong 10-1-0 regular season against NorthEast Collegiate Hockey Association opponents, continued their domination into the playoffs as they easily handled their opponents from Endicott College in quarterfinal action, ensuring a place in semifinal play on Saturday afternoon in Winchester.

Top: Men’s varsity hockey coach Mark O’Meara looks on as an Endicott College player moves the puck up the ice.

Bottom: MIT center Adam Vokac’06 puts the puck down to ice.

Men’s Volleyball Has Record Week of Wins

By Paul Dill

The Varsity Men’s Volleyball Team had it’s best week this season going 4-1-0 to give the team a record of 7-6 overall, and 6-4 in conference play. The Engineers got the better of Newbury College, Johnson & Wales University, Elms College, and Lasell College, and only came up short against nationally ranked Roger Williams University.

Against Newbury College, MIT got off to a slow start losing the first game, but quickly got on track behind the offensive power of Robert M. McAndrew’03 and Michelangelo A. Raimondi’06 who led the offense with 21 and 12 kills respectively. Raimondi also led the team in digs with 11 and added two blocks to help his team to a 3-1 victory. The match against Johnson & Wales started much the same way as the previous match as the Engineers took the first game to warm up before taking control of the match winning 3-1. Kabir Muddakood’05 led the way with a .500 hitting percentage. His 8 kills, 12 digs and 3 service aces were instrumental in the win. Bob Gao’06 also played with consistency to the effort with a perfect 1.000 blocking percentage for a .500 hitting percentage.

Over the weekend, MIT hosted a number of matches against Rivier College. The Elms match was only won by one point as everyone was able to contribute to the 3-0 win. McAndrew again led the way with a .500 hitting percentage, but strong role play by Alex Borscovich’06 with 4 kills and David Bermejo’07 with four digs key was the victory.

Against Rivier, MIT was pushed hard. As the #6 ranked Division III program in the country, already being bitten easiest in an earlier tournament, Rivier came into the Maison de Vue to win, but didn’t want to learn a lesson from this and not open its presents before they are wrapped. The Boston public loves big news, but there is a right time to play the cards actually news to be given. What the Yankees did shock the baseball world because nobody saw it coming until it was too late. Perhaps Epstein will learn to go quietly off into the sunset searching for the perfect batter or pitcher (well, at least the one that’s still available).

That brings us to another point. Now, Epstein will be forced to look for talent instead of just plopping down mega-bucks for it. He will have to use his head, just like Theo Epstein did when he brought in Scott 75653 and Bill Williamson, despite the Yankees’ obvious needs for those pitchers. Epstein might just land Eric Chavez next, or even resign Nomar Garcia, despite the Yankee lineup: pretty much the same way as the previous match as the Engineers just bring out the best in the Red Sox.

In fact, what the Yankees have done is simply taken advantage of the fact that they play in Major League Baseball, unlike many of the other sports, does not limit monopolies! Steinbrenner can afford a player, who’s wrong for his team, it’s not like you can’t trade a tickets a little? After all, the A-Rod deal was a sudden strike of unimaginative retaliation, that sounds like the military tactics of George W. Bush and Microsoft. And while Bush and Microsoft were beneficial to the US in some ways, they could also be unmanageable. Only time will tell if the Yankees follow in that suit as well.

Amidst the Fuss, Yanks Keep the Game Thriving

By Yong-ki Zhu

The Yankees are good for baseball. I may sound a bit sacrilegious living in Boston and tooting the Evil Empire’s horn, but hey, I’m no Yankee lover by any stretch of the imagination (I happen to be a National League kind of guy, but that’s beside the point). All I know is that what’s good for the goose is good for the gander, and what’s good for the Yankees is good for baseball. In fact, what’s good for the Yankees may even be good for the Red Sox on that later.

The biggest benefit of having a blockbuster player (A-Rod) dealt to a blockbuster team is that it generates blockbuster media. Just think, did we hear anything about anything else this Sunday in the land of sports? The Yankees managed to overshadow the NBA All-Star game, the Daytona 500, the Conference of Duke and the NCAA and the first PGA tour win for only in nine years. It was almost as though this were sweeps weekend and all the different sportstes fueled cash in with their biggest episodes. But none of them could beat baseball, not even President Bush and Air Force One.

Don’t get me wrong, the rest of baseball may not openly say that they like what the Yankees have done, but did everyone forget about luxury taxes and revenue sharing? I’m sure that the small market teams like the Devil Rays and the Mariners hate the fact that George Steinbrenner must pay them millions more because he has a Rod. No, nobody likes money nowadays. Oh, by the way, the small market teams that have struggled against the Yankees will still struggle, and that’s what don’t still because you can bet on that. (If the Marlins, Angels or Diamondbacks are given a Rod, again, they will win even if the Yankees have nine A-Rods.

Okay, so some call the A-Rod deal sickening and some call it fantastic, but after all is said and done, the deal was absolute genius. Did anybody have a clue