Almost 200 delegates from 98 colleges and universities will participate in an intercollegiate conference entitled The Urban Challenge at MIT next week. This conference offers two opportunities for the MIT student body and community. The first opportunity is to attend the conference lectures in Kresge and hear any or all of the 12 speakers who will be discussing transportation, urban renewal, and the future metropolis. Speakers will include Professor Robert C. Wood, Course XTV head and former Federal Director of Housing and Urban Development; Congressman F. Bradford Morse; Edward J. Logue, administrator of the Boston Redevelopment Authority; Dr. Robert A. Nelson, director of the Commerce Department’s Office of High-Speed Ground Transportation; Professor James Q. Wilson, director of the MIT-Harvard Joint Center for Urban Studies; and General Rush V. Titcomb, Jr., general manager of the MBTA.

The second opportunity presented by the conference is that of sending the 200 delegates away with a respect for the fundamental and hospitality of the Institute, and a determination to help them win the real challenge to the Institute’s academic capabilities.

Most of you remember that the first contact with the physical maze we go to school was in frustrating and bewildering. So be both patient and helpful if you come into contact with lost or confused delegates next week.

You can get information on the conference lectures at The Urban Challenge booth in the lobby of Building Ten. We hope you don’t have to get information on how to be a good host Wednesday through Saturday.

Good Teachers

The Tech has received several suggestions of worthwhile subjects for a feature we hope to do on the Institute’s good teachers. However, we suspect that there are some very good teaching professors who haven’t been noticed, particularly in the smaller departments. The only gimmick here is our desire to recognize professors who serve students with superior teaching. If you have suggestions, contact us.

Suicide service

To the Editor:

The Tech published a thoughtful letter in its March 25th issue expressing serious concern for the prevention of suicide at MIT. This concern is well founded.

Much time and effort continue to go into developing and evaluating new procedures for suicide prevention. The letter suggested that we have a facility similar to Rescue Inc., with a phone number listed in the Student Directory.

Indeed, any MIT student in any emergency can call Ext. 110 and will be immediately referred to the appropriate service. Since 1960, when such a service was available as a 24 hour basis for any emergency, a large number of calls have been received during this period. The statistics, with very few exceptions, have been individuals who have made contact with either the Psychiatric Service, the Medication Department, or any other counseling service. This is to the experience elsewhere.

In addition to 24 hour availability of the Psychiatric Service, the Medical Department and the Disney-Humphrey Counseling Center, there are 24 hourimestone and night day. The house masters and tutors, as well as the religious counselors, are also available and have often been most helpful in the last minute counseling. The Tech has shown a high degree of responsibility, and when emergencies have come to their attention, responding immediately and then calling to a psychiatrist when appropriate.

The suggestion to print the phone numbers in the Student Directory is a good one. Robert B. Ryan, M.D., Psychiatric Intern in Chief

6.02 backtracks

To the Editor:

Re your Problem No. 34 (Mar. 15, 1966) concerning the major prerequisite for all 6.04-602 lecturers (viz., left-handedness), I would like to call your attention to the fact that this prerequisite has been interpreted with extreme care when it is applied to a foreign lecturer. For example, the Chinese write from right to left instead of from left to right as the Americans do. Therefore, a Chinese is to be a 6.04-602 lecturer, he must be written with his right hand.

I am a Chinese. I write with my right hand. Therefore, I am to give the second half of the 6.02 problem to you.

Just to prepare for the possibility that I may someday become a U.S. citizen in the future, I am in the process of learning to write with my left hand.

Thomas S. Huang Assistant Director of Electrical Engineering

Teaching awards

To the Editor:

With reference to your editorial, "The Teaching Quip" in the March 15, 1966 issue, I would like to add, for the record, that the Department of Electrical Engineering presents annually for "excellence in teaching" to junior staff engaged in teaching undergraduate Course VI subjects. The awards were first given in 1962 and have numbered between four and six per year. Each award consists of $500.

The committee gives a great deal of weight to student enthusiasm and response to a particular instructor. The awards are eagerly sought after by the junior staff.

Dean’s Office are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to 24 hour availability, the following phone numbers in case of emergency should be noted:

In the event of a psychiatric emergency, the approach to the problem should be one of direct one-to-one contact between the individual in trouble and the most immediately helpful person. This may be a counselor, friend, or roommate. However, in more serious cases, the Department feels that their professional staff are available and often have been most helpful in the last minute counseling. The Tech has shown a high degree of responsibility, and when emergencies have come to their attention, responding immediately and then calling to a psychiatrist when appropriate.

The Tech has received several suggestions of worthwhile subjects for a feature we hope to do on the Institute’s good teachers. However, we suspect that there are some very good teaching professors who haven’t been noticed, particularly in the smaller departments. The only gimmick here is our desire to recognize professors who serve students with superior teaching. If you have suggestions, contact us.