Strikers: MIT won't talk

By Scott L. Hooper

Licensed by what he calls MIT's "torturous" negotiation directly, Edward Snowden, president of the striking local 254 of the Service Employees International Union, and chairman of the Strike Committee predicted the strike could last "at least a month."

MIT's obstinance in refusing to bargain "in good faith" directly with the union, Sullivan asserted, was the primary factor precipitating last Thursday's walk-out.

"MIT threw its offer on the table," Sullivan told The Tech, and said, in effect, "take it or leave it." There was no talking with the union -- that is the main problem."

Sullivan's charges were denied by an MIT administrator who claimed that negotiations with the union had proceeded up until two days before the strike, when union members voted to reject a proposed 7½ per cent wage increase for the second time.

Union members, interviewed while picketing in front of Building 77, agreed with President's evaluation of MIT's stand. One picketer quoted the boundary they just give us to -- no meetings, no talk. This time they offer us 7½ per cent -- next time it might be 2 per cent. If we don't bring them around to bargaining now, how are we going to then?"

The strikers also noted their dissatisfaction with the 7½ per cent offer made by MIT. Many tend to prefer a uniform increase in 50 cents per hour.

The picketers, regardless of the form the wage settlement takes, should meet the changes in the cost of living.

A union union member added: "There's one easy way for this thing to end -- if both sides will just have some respect for each other. I think this thing happened because people on both sides and in between -- they just don't respect each other. He concluded, "If MIT could just put their cards on the table -- talking honestly and thinking -- there's no reason this can't be worked out."

Meanwhile, union members have picketed daily outside several entrances to the Institute, with a few MIT faculty and students joining the lines occasionally to march with the workers.

Although MIT Campus Patrol and Cambridge Police have been observing the picketers, no incidents of interference with traffic in and out of the buildings or disturbances involving strikers have been reported. One memo from the office of President for Administration and Planning John M. Wyne and the Department of Physical Plant have detailed the curtailments in services normally supplied by members of the SEIU.

Approximately 750 alumni attended the conference -- nearly twice as many as in any previous year -- and celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Alumni Association.

Alumni positive on MIT

By Storm Kaufman

MIT alumni express a strong positive feeling about the quality and character of the Institute, with 97 percent saying that they would attend the Institute again if given the chance, according to recent survey conducted by the Alumni Association.

The program, which began with a cocktail reception at the President's House Friday afternoon, was marked by picket lines outside the Service Employees International Union Local 254. The conference dinner of alumni was held at Walker Memorial, was moved to the Stata Center due to building security and maintenance as a result of the strike.

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Custodial services curtailed by strike

By Mike McNamee

Custodial and maintenance services at the Institute have been sharply cut as a result of the strike called last Thursday by Local 254 of the Service Employees International Union, MA.

Service, maintenance in dormitories and academic buildings, telephone services, and shipping are among the areas where MIT is trying to fill in for the striking workers with temporary measures while negotiations continue on a new contract for the union.

Meanwhile, union members have picketed daily outside several entrances to the Institute, with a few MIT faculty and students joining the lines occasionally to march with the workers.

Although MIT Campus Patrol and Cambridge Police have been observing the picketers, no incidents of interference with traffic in and out of the buildings or disturbances involving strikers have been reported.

Mail for dormitory residents, which is delivered to the Institute houses by the U.S. Postal Service, will be handled in the normal fashion. Student labor is usually used to sort this mail.

Some of the effects of the strike are indirect, such as the loss of telephone maintenance. Although the MIT Telecommunications Office employees who install and maintain MIT extensions and services in the country's strongest faculties and do not belong to the SEIU, they are honoring the picket lines and refusing to work while the strike is on.

Most members of the MIT community will find themselves inconvenience by students' due responsibilities for building security and maintenance as a result of the strike.

Alumni Association president, William S. Edgerly, who keynoted the conference dinner Friday night, said that the response indicated that MIT alumni have faith in the future of the Institute and many feel that MIT has one of the country's strongest faculties and "an extraordinary student body."

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Donald P. Seaver, executive vice president of the Alumni Association (far right) receives the Bronze Beaver award for service to MIT from William S. Edgerly, number of the Corporation and Alumni Association president. Photo by Tom Klimowicz