The unions presently negotiating with the Instrute are Local 254 of the Maintenance and Custodial Workers' Union, Local 26 of the Hotel, Restaurant, Institutional Employees and Bartenders Union, the independent Research, Development and Technical Employees' Union; and the Lincoln Laboratory guards' union.

Local 254 members voted yesterday on a contract proposed by a federal mediators committee. Voting ended at midnight, and results are expected sometime today.

"We were at an impasse," explained Culliton, "and the union leader suggested this. We hoped it would prove a breakthrough, and time will tell whether it was or not.

The main issue in Local 254 contract negotiations was medi- cal cost-sharing, according to Culliton. MIT offers union em- ployees a choice of four medical plans, and under the proposed contract, MIT will split the rate increases this year and next year with the workers.

The most expensive of the plans, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Master Medical Plan, will cost $215.26 per family next year. MIT would pay $175.53 of this, including $14 of the $28 increase from last year. The employees would pay the remaining $39.73, including the other half of the rate hike.

By law, MIT must pay $175.53 of the cost of any other plan the worker chooses. "What you contribute to one plan, you must contribute to another," Culliton said, noting that this makes the least expensive plans, a multi-group health plan, virtually free. The MIT Health Plan and the Harvard Community Health Plan are also available to MIT employees.

Culliton called the negotiations "an attempt at containment of medical costs." He described MIT's position as "trying to offer an attempt at containment of medical costs." He described MIT's position as "trying to offer a plan that's reasonably affordable." He described MIT's position as "trying to offer a plan that's reasonably affordable." He described MIT's position as "trying to offer a plan that's reasonably affordable." He described MIT's position as "trying to offer a plan that's reasonably affordable." He described MIT's position as "trying to offer a plan that's reasonably affordable." He described MIT's position as "trying to offer a plan that's reasonably affordable." He described MIT's position as "trying to offer a plan that's reasonably affordable." He described MIT's position as "trying to offer a plan that's reasonably affordable." He described MIT's position as "trying to offer a plan that's reasonably affordable." 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