



The Quasiquicentennial is here

Let the birthday party begin!!!

The MIT celebration of its quasiquicentennial—or 125th anniversary, if you will—begins in earnest this weekend with three events:

—A festive black-tie optional Quasiquicentennial Ball.

—A symposium on the world economy.

—A concert by the Gospel Choir.

It was 125 years ago, on April 10, 1861, that Massachusetts Governor John Andrew signed the "Act to Incorporate the Massachusetts Institute of Technology." (It is lost to history who first used the acronym MIT). Two days later, confederates fired at Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charlestown, S.C., marking the start of the Civil War and a four-year delay, until February 20, 1965, in the start of classes at MIT's first quarters in Boston.

The weekend quasiquicentennial events will herald a year-long series of commemorative activities.

Two of them will take place this spring.

The Quasiquicentennial Road Race, sponsored by the MIT Community Service Fund, will be run on Saturday, May 3, on a route that circles the Charles River Basin. Quasiquicentennial T-shirts will be provided to all runners; a clip-out entry form appears on the back page.

On Technology Day, Friday, June 6, when MIT alumni return to the campus for their reunions, a morning quasiquicentennial program focusing on the Media Laboratory will be followed by a luncheon and alumni parade to Killian Court, where a ceremony will mark the 70th anniversary of MIT's move from Boston to Cambridge.

But first, the weekend activities:

—THE BALL—

At least 3,000 students, faculty, staff and employees are expected to attend MIT's birthday ball—the principal commemorative event of the anniversary year—on Saturday (April 26) at the Athletics Center ice rink.

A special attraction in the lobby will be a laser sculpture installed by George Numrich, a candidate for the master of science degree in visual studies at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies. The sculpture uses helium neon lasers, prisms and crystals to project moving light patterns across the walls and ceiling of the lobby.

Starting at 9pm, music for dancing will

be provided by Dick Johnson's Swing Shift and by MIT's own Intermission Trio Plus, a musical group founded by Professor Warren and Mrs. Townley Rohsenow, led for several years by Professor Roy Lamson and now under the leadership of Samuel Jay Keyser, associate provost and a member of the Quasiquicentennial Planning Committee.

Champagne and pastry are included in the price of the ticket (\$4 for students, \$8 for others). Tickets remain on sale through Friday at 5pm in the lobby of Building 10 and in the Information Center.

—THE SYMPOSIUM—

On the afternoon of the ball, from 1:30 to 3:30pm in Huntington Hall (Rm 10-250), Professor Franco Modigliani, winner of the 1985 Nobel Prize in Economics, will chair a symposium on the world economy bringing together economists and business leaders. It is sponsored by the Sustaining Fellows, individuals whose financial assistance and commitment to education provide critical support to MIT.

Participants, with Professor Modigliani, are Rudiger W. Dornbusch, Ford International Professor of Economics at MIT; Hendrik S. Houthakker, Henry Lee Professor of Economics at Harvard University; Samuel W. Bodman III, president and chief operating officer of FMR Corporation; and Alexander V. d'Arbeloff, chairman and president of Teradyne, Inc.

—THE CONCERT—

On Saturday evening, preceding the ball, voices of choirs from three universities will rise to celebrate the richness and history of Gospel music in a special concert hosted by the MIT Gospel Choir, at 7:30pm in Kresge Auditorium.

The Gospel concert is expected to last until about 9:30, allowing plenty of time for audience members planning to attend the ball to walk across to the ice rink.

Admission is \$2, \$1 students/seniors. Guest choirs will be the Princeton Gospel Ensemble from Princeton University, and the Voices of Inspiration from Brown University.

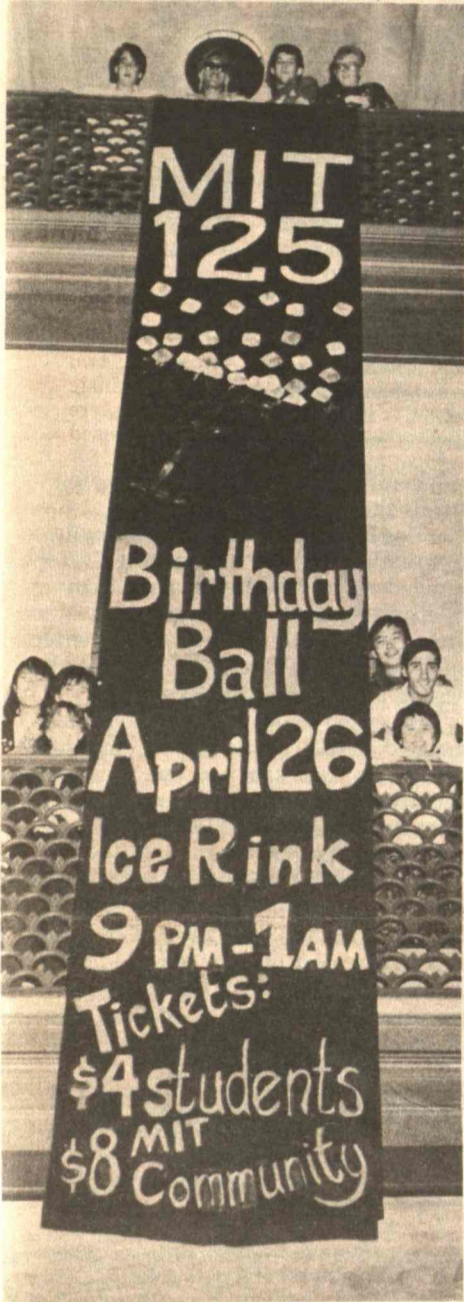
This MIT Choir numbers 30 members this year. Brown University is expected to send some 60 members of its 100-voice

choir and Princeton is expected to send about 30 voices.

The program will be in three sections, beginning and ending with songs from the MIT Gospel Choir. The guest choirs will present their selections in the middle section, which will close with a presentation by the combined choirs.

The title and theme of the concert is: Glorious is the Name of Jesus: A Celebration of Gospel Music. Musical director is Jerry Payne, Class of '74.

Among the songs on the program will be: Let Mount Zion Rejoice, Wipe Your Weeping Eyes, Go Down Moses, Delivered, Glorious Is The Name of Jesus, Power Lord Yes Power and Let It Fall.

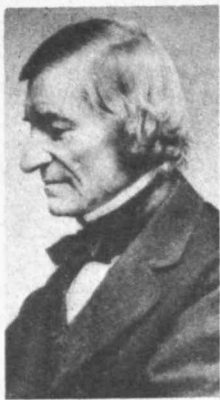


Coordinators of student volunteers working on the 125th anniversary ball are, from left at top, Billy Gordon, Michael Petro, Michael Scoen and Carolyn Beer; at right, front to back, Rosanna Chiang, Bill Hobbib and Bernie Teh; at left, Alice Kwak, Karen Gold, right, and Amy Bourassa, on railing.



The MIT beaver has left its den to exhort members of the community to attend the 125th anniversary ball on April 26. The beaver will be surfacing at several points on the campus reminding folks that tickets are on sale in Lobby 10 and in the Information Center through Friday, April 25.

—Photos by Paula M. Lerner



W.B. Rogers
1862-70, 1879-81



J.D. Runkle
1870-78



F.A. Walker
1881-97



J.M. Crafts
1897-1900



H.S. Pritchett
1900-07



A.A. Noyes
1907-09



R.C. Maclaurin
1909-20



E. Thomson
1920-23



E.F. Nichols
1921-22



S.W. Stratton
1923-30



K.T. Compton
1930-1949



J.R. Killian
1949-59



J.A. Stratton
1959-66



H.W. Johnson
1966-71



J.B. Wiesner
1971-80



P.E. Gray
1980-

You may think it peculiar that Paul Gray is the 14th president of MIT yet there are 16 pictures above. That's because two reluctant members of the faculty—Arthur Amos Noyes and Elihu Thomson—were pressed into service for about three years each while presidential searches were conducted. Mr. Noyes, a

member of the Class of 1886 was a noted chemist who went on to become a founder of the California Institute of Technology. Mr. Thomson, a pioneering electrical engineer, is said to have been second only to Thomas A. Edison in the number of patents issued.

The way it may have been. . .

On the very first day fifteen of them got together and stayed together all day long in a single rented room of a four-story building on Summer Street in downtown Boston.

They had come from hotels, gentlemen's clubs and the homes of relatives.

All were almost certainly wearing black frock coats, seamed in at the waist with "skirts" that reached to their knees. Their high-collared shirts were white, decorated with various arrays of "chitterings" or frills made of ruffles and tucks in the front.

They had arrived at the building that morning on foot or in horsedrawn carriages and they took off their tall top hats as they stepped through the front door downstairs.

It was February 20, 1865 and no one knows whether it looked like rain that sets Institute of Technology. But if it did the most urbane of the 15 students would surely have brought long black carefully-rolled umbrellas because it had just become socially acceptable for men to carry them without being considered effeminate.

On the very first day it was not unlike a one-room schoolhouse. Mr. Rogers, the founder who had turned 61 just three months previously, was the physics teacher and five other faculty members taught mathematics, civil construction,

chemistry, French and free-hand drawing.

Not all the young men had been able to meet the admission requirements: arithmetic, algebra, plane geometry, English grammar, geography, and the rudiments of French. That was one of the reasons Mr. Rogers decided to start this first term in the middle of the school year.

These were to be catch-up days for some and look-ahead days for everyone.

Back in the 1840's Mr. Rogers and his brothers, all considered to be brilliant scientists, had begun sketching plans for a new kind of education that would "provide directive power to utilize the new knowledge of science and supply the higher technical skill and the leadership needed for this new industrial society."

He and his brothers had grappled throughout their adult lives with meanings and issues arising from the Industrial Revolution which—having begun in England in about 1760—was still in its early days when they were born at the turn of the 19th century.

The most robust of the 15 students had to be Robert H. Richards, a young gymnast/athlete from a prominent family in Maine, known up to that point for being able to lift 600 pounds and for having difficulties with his studies.

Since facial hair had become an enthusiastic fashion of the decade, he almost certainly already wore what were to become his trademark muttonchop whiskers or "burnsides," a fringe of beard worn low on the cheeks.

Richards' obvious delight in what must have been a sense of both discovery and

at-long-last-belonging are apparent in words he wrote later:

"We found ourselves bidding goodbye to the old *learn-by-heart* method, and beginning to study the facts and laws of nature. . . We listened to lectures on chemistry where the lecturer told how things were made. . . I myself handled the apparatus. . . My eyes were opened to the wonderful labyrinth ever widening in all directions, of the department of nature. . . Experiments happened before my very eyes. . ."

Three days before school opened the Union Army had taken Columbia, South Carolina. Twelve days later President Lincoln delivered his second Inaugural address to a silent and deeply thoughtful audience. Tears were reported in the eyes of many as the president referred to the Biblical admonition, "Judge not, that we be not judged."

He was concerned later about how the speech was received, although he thought it was one of his best. Among the deeply felt phrases were these:

"With malice toward none. . . with firmness in the right. . . let us strive on to finish the work we are in. . . to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans. . ."

On April 3 the war was over. On April 14 Lincoln was assassinated.

On the following December 18 the Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution abolished the status of slavery.

A few weeks before, MIT had rented more rooms in the Mercantile Library Building because 70 students had signed up for the beginning of the second term in October.

When the students went for evening strolls they must have looked out at the Charles River, much wider in those days. Across the way they would have seen the wooded shores of Cambridge, with many inlets and marshlands, many of them too unstable for walking even by the venturesome Mr. Richards who found great pleasure in both rowing and exploring.

Talk at the school was all about the days when they would move from rented rooms into their own new building, under construction on Boylston Street. That happened in the fall of 1886, a full year later than expected.

A quick look at history does not tell us whether any of the students or faculty dreamed that the school would cross the river in the next century to build on the filled-in marshlands of Mr. Richards' youthful explorations. —China Altman

As MIT began

In the first year of school at MIT (1865) writer Rudyard Kipling, poet William Butler Yeats and composer Jean Sibelius were born. Lewis Carroll wrote *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Eduard Manet painted *Olympia*. Swinburne wrote *Atalanta in Calydon*. British explorer Edward Whymper climbed the Matterhorn.

The German mathematician Julius Plucker invented line geometry.

Friedrich Kekule propounded the ring theory of the structure of benzene.

Joseph Lister began antiseptic surgery by using carbolic acid on a compound wound.

The first mechanical dishwasher was introduced.

Karl Ludwig devised the kymograph for recording blood pressure.

The first railroad sleeping cars appeared in the US and the first train holdup took place.

Free delivery of mail began in Boston and all other cities with populations of at least 50,000.

The first fire department with paid firemen was established in New York City.

John Wesley Hyatt won \$10,000 in a competition to invent a composition billiard ball to replace the ivory balls formerly in use.

There was a tremendous surge of interest in baseball, with 91 clubs registered in the nation.

There were 1,081,540,514 dollars in circulation, more than double the number in 1860 since the federal government had inflated the currency to pay costs of the War.



Robert H. Richards, then MIT's oldest alumnus, took a turn at bat at the 1909 Alumni Reunion. He was the first president of the Alumni Association, serving from 1885-90.

**MIT COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND
SIXTH ANNUAL ROAD RACE**

In Conjunction With
MIT'S QUASQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

**4.0 miles
Saturday, May 3, 1986**

All Donations Benefit the MIT Community Service Fund.

Please print clearly

REGISTRATION FORM
Return to 5-208

Name _____ Sex _____

Address _____ Age on race day _____

Telephone _____ Living Group _____ T-shirt size _____ S M L XL

RELEASE FORM (Mandatory)

In consideration of accepting this entry, I, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound, hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all claims for losses and damages I may have against the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the City of Cambridge and all other parties and their representatives, successors and assigns for any and all injuries suffered by me in said event. I attest and certify that I am physically fit and have sufficiently trained for the completion of this event. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all foregoing to use photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any purpose whatsoever.

NO ONE MAY ENTER THIS EVENT WITHOUT SIGNING THIS OFFICIAL WAIVER.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

If under 18, signature of legal guardian is required.

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