



A Look Back



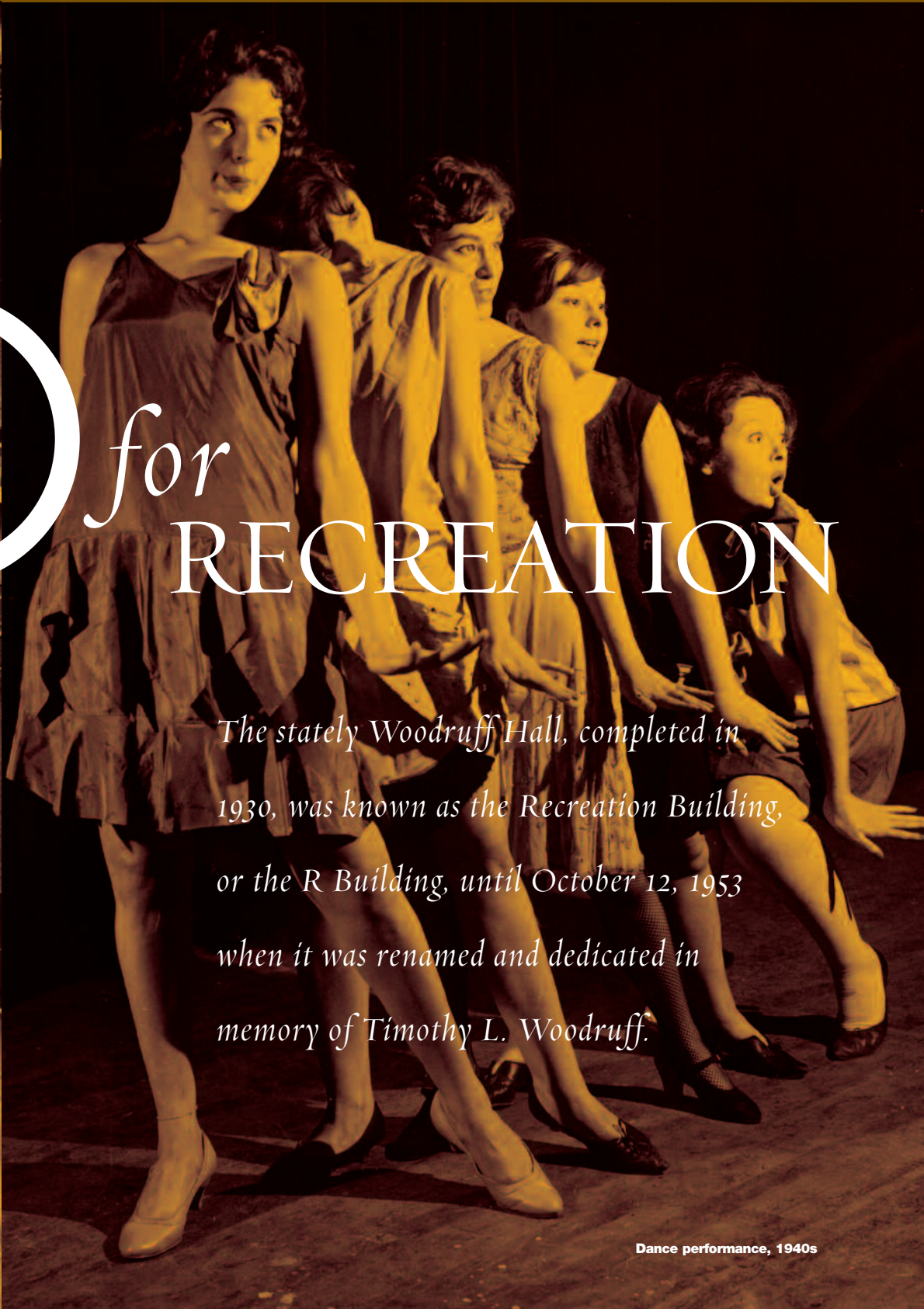
Men's basketball game, circa 1950s



Women's physical education class, 1960s



Dance class



Dance performance, 1940s

R

for RECREATION

The stately Woodruff Hall, completed in 1930, was known as the Recreation Building, or the R Building, until October 12, 1953 when it was renamed and dedicated in memory of Timothy L. Woodruff.

Designed by the renowned architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White, the stately Woodruff Hall, completed in 1930, was known as the Recreation Building, or the R Building, until October 12, 1953.



& RE-CREATION

No building on the Adelphi campus has experienced as many uses and been the venue for as many events. While designed primarily as a gymnasium with the normal athletic facilities—a basketball court, a running track around the balcony, a swimming pool, squash courts, exercise rooms, locker rooms and the like—the R Building was at one time home to the theatre and music departments and to the Adelphi Children's Theatre, and it still houses the dance studios and the Department of Health Studies, Physical Education, and Human Performance Science, as well as the athletic department's recreational, intramural, and individual exercise and fitness facilities. At one point, the College infirmary was even located there. Since its construction, the lowest depths of the building have housed the boilers and other associated equipment that provide heat and hot water to the entire campus, except for New Hall.

For many years, the R Building was the locus for virtually every campus-wide event: convocations; weekly chapel (at which the seniors were required to wear caps and gowns); commencements; presidential inaugurations; banquets; luncheons; lectures; concerts; formal student dances and other social events; and performances of theatre, music, and dance. A pipe organ, installed near the stage

on the gym floor, was dedicated in 1942. (No one seems to know when or why the organ was removed.)

While the interior of Woodruff has been altered considerably over the years, its striking classical exterior has remained essentially unchanged, except that the minaret-like caps on the smoke stacks were removed, probably some time in the 1950s. (The story is that one fell off, and the other was removed for the sake of symmetry.)

When the new centers for performing arts, recreation, and sports are completed in 2008, the well-worn, well-used, and very crowded former R Building will be completely renovated to provide classrooms and offices for academic programs in the areas of health studies, physical education, and human performance science, as well modern and commodious facilities for a wide range of recreational and personal fitness opportunities for faculty, staff, and students. We must bid adieu to the grand old building as generations of Adelphians have known it. But at the same time we will welcome its transformation into a wonderful new facility at the revitalized Adelphi. **A**

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