

CACTUS

EDITION No. 5

Price 2p



EDITORIAL

A man and a woman were sitting in a broken - down car, in Epping-Forest. The man went to get assistance and told the girl to remain where she was.
After 3 hours he hadn't RETURNED!!! Consequently she was getting anxious. Suddenly she heard a scraping on the roof followed by a dull thud. Thuds resounded for over an hour, until the whole area was lit up with police headlights.

"Open the car door and run as quickly as you can towards us, but don't look behind."
The terrified girl cautiously opened the door and ran, but disobeying the policemans order, she looked behind and saw a man with an axe, playing with her boyfriends head on the roof of their car!

ON the more serious side we would like congratulate Tony Bryant on having done a good job as Head Boy and wish him a lot of success for the future.

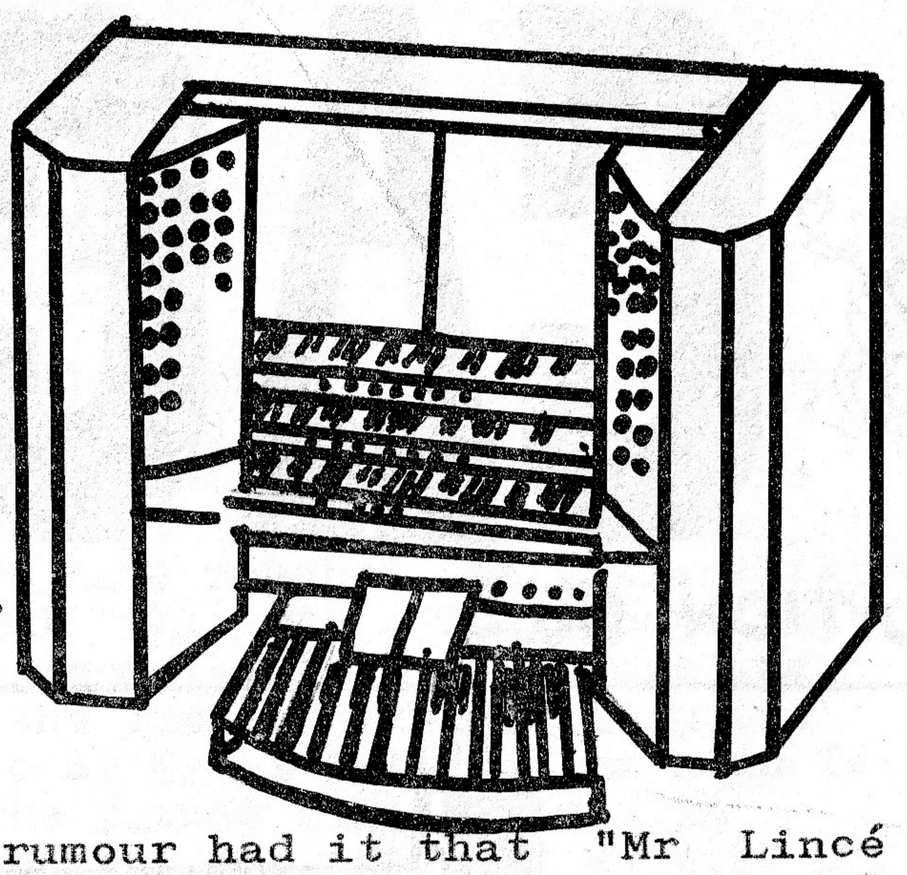
signed,

Miss Spelling
Glottal Stop
Mustapha Gossip
Gladys Grunt-futtock (deceased
Scotch Clutchp-enny
Wel lbe for-Head Boy
Mrs Dyslexia.

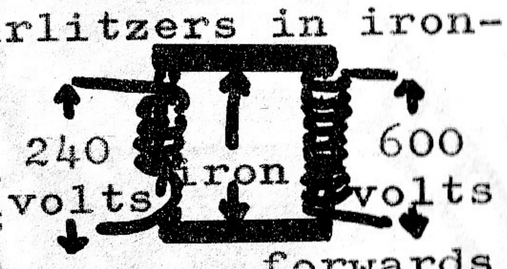
INSIDE THE ORGAN
FACT NOT RUMOUR

by

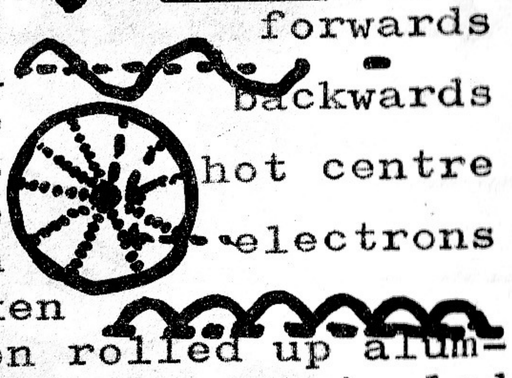
Martin Lincé



In Cactus Number Four rumour had it that "Mr Lincé ventured too far into the organ and got caught by the Wurlitzer."
Well, in fact, I nearly did. I certainly did get inside the organ and found all sorts of things there, including Wurlitzers like this:
But let me begin at the beginning.
The fact that so few peope knew that we even had an organ at all is largely your fault - or the fault of previous generations of Wandsworthians. It used to be used every morning to accompany the hymn which formed part of assembly until Mr Ian Cobb, seated at the console, realized that I was the only person singing.
The other villain of the piece was a little invention known as the transistor. When the organ was built in 1960 transistors were small and unreliable. Their work was still being done by old-fashioned things called valves, of which the organ had over 80 and which only people over 50 understood. So when the organ began to give trouble there was no one who knew how to repair it,- except me. Three years ago we decided that it was a pity not to have the organ in working order, so I had to set about finding my way around the 3·5 kilometres of wire, the eleven tone generators the 46 tone filters and the rest.
The first stage is the power supply. The 240 volt AC mains is converted by a couple of wurlitzers in ironic embrace like this into 600 volts.



(That is where I nearly got caught.)
The current is now going backwards and forwards like this, and the next stage is to stop it going backwards by passing it through a valve, which only allows current to flow in one direction, because the centre is heated, and electrons don't like the heat. The current is now coming in jerks like this. These jerks are taken up by a very thin insulating layer on rolled up aluminium; now the current is ready for use. It is led off to four amplifiers, which send the sound to four pairs of loudspeakers suspended on the wall at the front of the hall.



A similar rectifier supplies current for the eleven tone generators for the eleven different notes of the scale. These consist basically of a wire wurlitzer with just enough turns on it to delay the current long enough to catch up with the next lot of current coming out of a brief visit to a capacitor helped along by a valve, so that it comes out in jerks - 256 times a second for middle C.

TO BE CONTINUED

Glad's column



Characters from history.
William Duke of Normandy
r. 1066/1087.
William's main claim to fame is his invasion of Britain in 1066 after bringing his army over in axload of mouldy old barges and falling off his horse in 1087.

DEAR BUTTER, (as opposed to Marge)

Dear Butter,
When up before a magistrate I was accused of being extremely crooked. What should I do about it?

signed,
Repentant.
(4U)

Butter says: Try using as a splint.

Dear Butter,
I am absolutely teetotal and am now embarassed at constantly having to turn down invitations to go to the pub. What should I do.

signed,
Exception (6Q)

Butter says: Go along and only drink Watneys it will not break your habit.

IF A CACTUS WITH...



As you have noticed, Cactus has reached its 5th. edition. This makes us the longest running Wandsworth School newspaper. This is all very nice, but the question is; will we reach the 6th? As some of you have no doubt noticed, this issue is a week late. This is due to a number of reasons and one in particular. That reason is STAFF. Most of our staff are 6th-formers; and at the moment a lot of their time is occupied with exams. Therefore they are too busy to work for Cactus, and after the exams are over they will be leaving the school. On top of this Miss Szeja, (our editor and guide), has a lot of extra work to do involving the Silver Jubilee. Therefore, if you wish Cactus to continue we need your help! Firstly, if any of you would like to work on the paper then see one of the Cactus staff or come to the Cactus office . We desperately need your help. Secondly, how about writing or drawing something for us? Most things that we have received are now printed so don't think it is a waste of time writing ; everything is useful one way or another. Please place all articles in the box in the Library or give it to one of the Cactus staff.

Finally you can help by continuing to buy every issue. Cactus is your paper, so don't let it die. Every Cactus needs a little watering now and again and ours is no exception!

Scotch Clutchpenny.

Gag Time

Q. What's black and shriveled and hangs from the ceiling?
A. An Irish electrician.

Q. How do you sink an Irish submarine?
A. Knock on the door.

— · —

There was a young man from Japan
Whose limericks never would scan.
When someone asked why
He said with a sigh
Its because I always attempt to get
to many words
In the last line as I possibly can.

— · —

Another young poet from China
Had feeling for rhythm much finer
His limericks tend
To come to an end
Suddenly.

MUSIC



by J. Beaton, M. Chennell, P. Hawkins & D. Hawkins. 3 omega.

part 1 SOUL

Soul which is very popular at the present time originated from the blues as blues came from slavery days with the church and the songs on the plantations. The fans of soul singers are thirteen year olds upto nineteens who goto soul clubs and out at night to enjoy the good sound. America is one of the places for lots of soul groups like the Isley Brothers, [redacted] The Brother Jonson, Tavares, War [redacted] and Sweet City. These are some groups which have top soul albums in U.S.A.

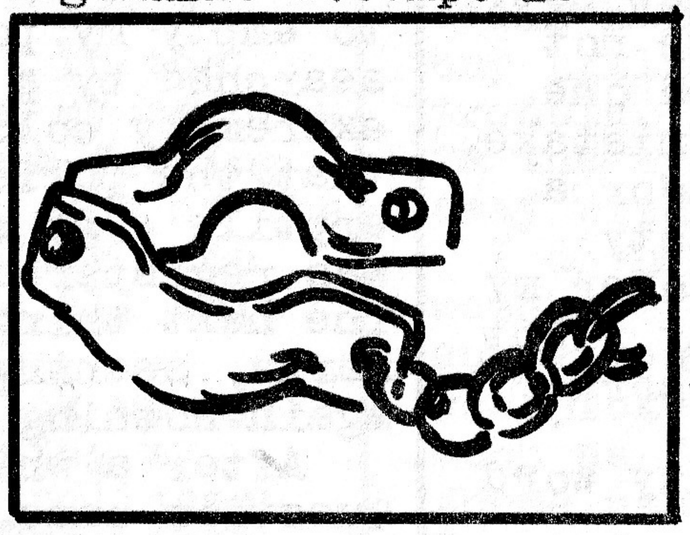
~~These are some groups~~
Then we have the Funky Soul which is very heavy and loud. Take this group Kool and the Gang, which is a group you would expectto hear heavy soul from. These are not all that very popular in Britain but will be as time goes on.

BROTHER TO BROTHER

Within the structure of the current educational system one particular topic is regularly debated. That is the attitude of young children from ethnic minorities towards education and the role these children are expected to play as adults in society.

On the educational side Wandsworth School is no different, and like any other large London comprehensive it too has its share of racial problems. Problems which should be tackled now and not just forgotten until somebody happens to raise the point again. We all know the solution will never be total but I do think as do many others that we should at least attempt to find some answers.

I think it is in just such a way that author and researcher Alex Haley intended his very popular 'Roots' T.V. serial to be taken; for it deals in reality and a genuine attempt is



made to put across the undistorted facts. A programme of this nature should appeal to people genuinely concerned for the future.

The effect of the series on the younger children was to shock them into realising the actual suffering inflicted on the blacks through history especially during the Slave Trade. But for the blackman too it is a time to put some common ground between both black and white,, where by working together we can begin to understand each others' problems Also it is important that the past should not be used as an excuse for any lack of effort towards finding a solution.

And finally there should be a sharing of mutual respect between both Black and White, a respect for each others' cultural background and a respect for the society we both have to share.

PEACE, LOVE, HAPPINESS and FREEDOM.

THE ETHNIC REVOLUTIONARY

Quiz

THE FOLLOWING LIST GIVES IN ORDER OF LENGTH THE LONGEST RIVERS IN THE WORLD..... BUT WHERE ARE THEY?

1. Nile. 4145mls. _____
2. Amazon 4050mls. _____
3. Mississippi 3750mls. _____
4. Irtysh 3760mls. _____
5. Amur 2900mls. _____
6. Congo 2718 mls. _____
7. Yangtze 3100mls. _____
8. Hwang Ho 2700mls. _____
9. Lena 2645mls. _____
10. Mackenzie. 2635mls. _____
11. Mekong 2600mls. _____
12. Niger 2600mls. _____
13. Yenisey 2360mls. _____
14. Murray-Darling 2310mls _____
15. Volga 2290mls. _____
16. Madeira 2100mls. _____
17. Parana 2050mls. _____
18. Indus 1980mls. _____
19. Yukon 1979mls. _____
20. St. Lawrence. 1945mls. _____

ANSWERS FOR THIS QUIZ WILL BE IN EDITION No.6.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Fencing Gear for Sale

Foil
Mask
Trousers
Under Jacket
Jacket
Two Gloves.
Foil Cover

all for £20.

Ask for Marc Chennell
3 Omega.
Room5.

For Sale

FISH TANK AND ACCESSORIES INCLUDING PUMP HEATER THERMOSTAT, FILTER AND FLOURCESENT LIGHT FITTINGS. TANK 24"long, 12"wide, 18" High. ALSO STANK STAND £25. See PAUL Stonebridge 6Q

"WE ARREST YOU WI

A normal rainy Tuesday morning and a bursting anus forced me to visit the toilets at Southfields. Descending the stairs I noticed the first two cubicles were occupied by two policemen. They loitered in the doorways of the cubicles for what at the time I knew not. As it was obvious that they were not going to move I tried the third one.

That it seemed was my first mistake, for as soon as I touched the door a big, burly, ~~xxxxx~~ bearded beasty pounced on me. A hand clapped over my mouth and another nearly tore my right ear off. I was muscled into a corner and told

" Not a " he used a very naughty word "sound"

I made a gesture of surrender and was bundled up the stairs. By now the initial shock had passed and the protests began to form.

"What the hell's going on? Lemme go! Oi, gerroff" All of which was ignored. I was put into the back of a nice blue Roverthen asked what I was doing in the toilets.

"I was going to have a borax."

"Why did you go to that one?"

"There were two policemen in the other ones, you cretin!"

"Don't get cheeky."

"Knickers!"

After several such exchanges I was told what I was being arrested for. Suspicion of being in possession of drugs. After that I was handcuffed to the car door. Here I sat smoking until the meat wagon arrived. Two characters were marched out of the toilets and into the back of the wagon.

"Do you know them?" asked Mr. Plod.

"Dunno," said I "the windows were all misted up."

Further questions followed as to whether I was onto drugs or if I had ever had been, and for identification. The answer to the first two questions was no and for I.D. I just handed over my wallet.

A disappointing car journey followed, no siren, no flashing lights and a steady 30m.p.h. all the way. Throughout the journeyI was insisting on a lift back to school a generally annoying our wonderful blue-clad clan of gorillas. Upon reaching the station they took off the handcuffs andd searched the car, discovered I had not hid anything and took me to the Charge Room.

After waiting for 5mins. the two others were brought to see if they knew me. Both said they did not. Iwas then taken to a cell and (no, sorry not beaten up) told to empty my pockets. After this I was searched by a policeman whose hands were extremely cold (which leaves me to believe that the police could be some form of erptile e.g. snake) Great disappointment was registered when no drugs were found. The next thing was a check for needle marks, meaning I rolled my sleeves up. Again nothing. Again disappointment.

After a while the long awaited question came.

"Ever been arrested before?"

"Once for drunken disorderly by unhelpful coppers who,did not give a damn even though I was bleeding badly." Came my reply not being able to resist the gig at the police. After thisI searched several more times, about ten in all, and checked for needle marks.

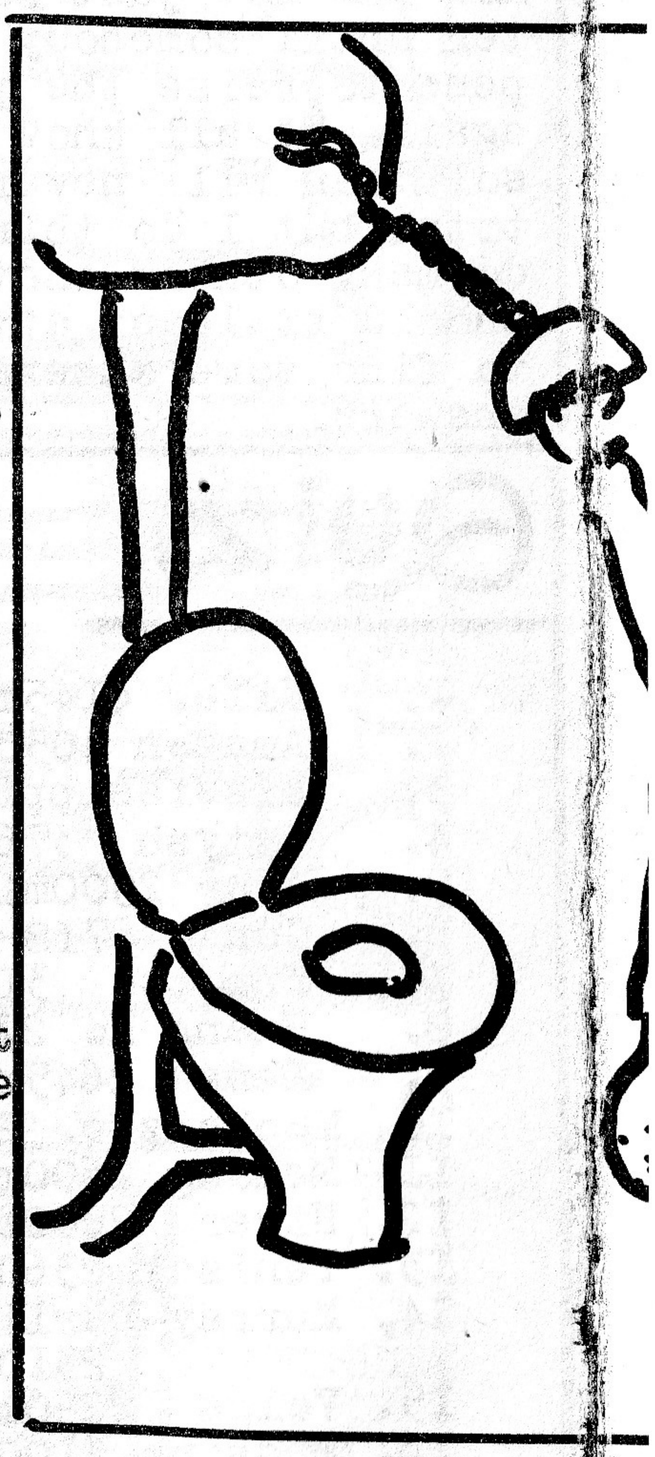
One question kept being asked and that was why I was there in the first place.

" For a bleeding borax!"

A triumphant grin came from the sergeant who .was now asking the questions as he asked, "But why did you go to that cubicle?" Pointing to the two that had arrested me I replied

" Those two were in the others.".

Exist one triumphant smile.



My particulars were recorded on several occasions; age, occupation, height etc. After a while it all got very tedious. About an hour had elapsed since reaching the station and when I reached the big time time and was interviewed by noless than a detective whose features resembled a

TH INTENT TO BORAX"

squashed tomato with hair on. He very politely asked me to walk this way, I tried but my trousers were too tight. he led me to a cell and asked me the same same questions , checked my arms and asked why I had been in the toilets. "For a borax, and I still want one." Iwas allowed to use the toilet in the cell and the place stank after my efforts. I reappeared in the Charge Room feeling very smug and sat down a gain. One of the others who had been pulled at the same time apologised for causing me all this trouble and introduced himself.

Eventually I was told to pick up my possessions. As I began replacing my wallet and cigarettes another policeman told me to empty my pockets. The other



one reappeared and wanted to know why I was not picking my stuff up. I explained and wastold once again to pick it all up and go away. What a surprise, I was being released.

"The dear chap who had originally grabbed meoffered me a lift back if I didn't min d waiting half an hour. I decided to walk and was escorted to the door. I asked what was to happen next and was told I h been written out of it and no charges were being brought against me.

"Nice" I thought, "Considering I only wanted a borax!"

It was added that if the two they [redacted] still had had been in possession of any pills then I would have been in trouble. In other words, I was lucky in the eyes of the police to get away with it that time.

I do not doubt tha I shall be watched for a while due to nasty suspicious minds. The fact that I was picked up does not upset me too much as I can see why and I believe there reasonable grounds for suspicion I was just unfortunate to be where I w when I was.

So , dear friends , heed my warning and watch where you go or better still go before you leave home in the morning.

This is ac true story:not fiction. All of these events took place on an average day in the life of a Wandsworth school sixth former.

John Hichisson is one of the people in this world who always has lots of different and unexpected things happening to him.I'm sure that there must be lots more interesting things that have happened to boys in the school that were either amusing or exciting, we would like to hear your stories and printv them so that all the other boys in the school can enjoy your experiences.

Send your stories to the Cactus office which is open every lunch-time and most evenings after scool.

Please remember...

FACT CAN BE STRANGER THAN FICTION!

HURT JANSON.

Writers: S. Alan & S. Manning.
Artist: D. Synmoie.

He strides from the shadows.

There he is...Fire!

You feel the PAIN....

...but you do not BLEED!

You feel the hate....

...and it erupts in violent...

DEATH

Meanwhile, in a space-ship speeding towards Earth....

Sir, we have the co-ordi--nates...

no visual contact as of yet.

Back at sea...

EEEEEE

YARHHGH

Captain we can't stop him, he...

God! May you writhe in HELL for what you have done.

All DEAD..

You feel the hate dissolve....

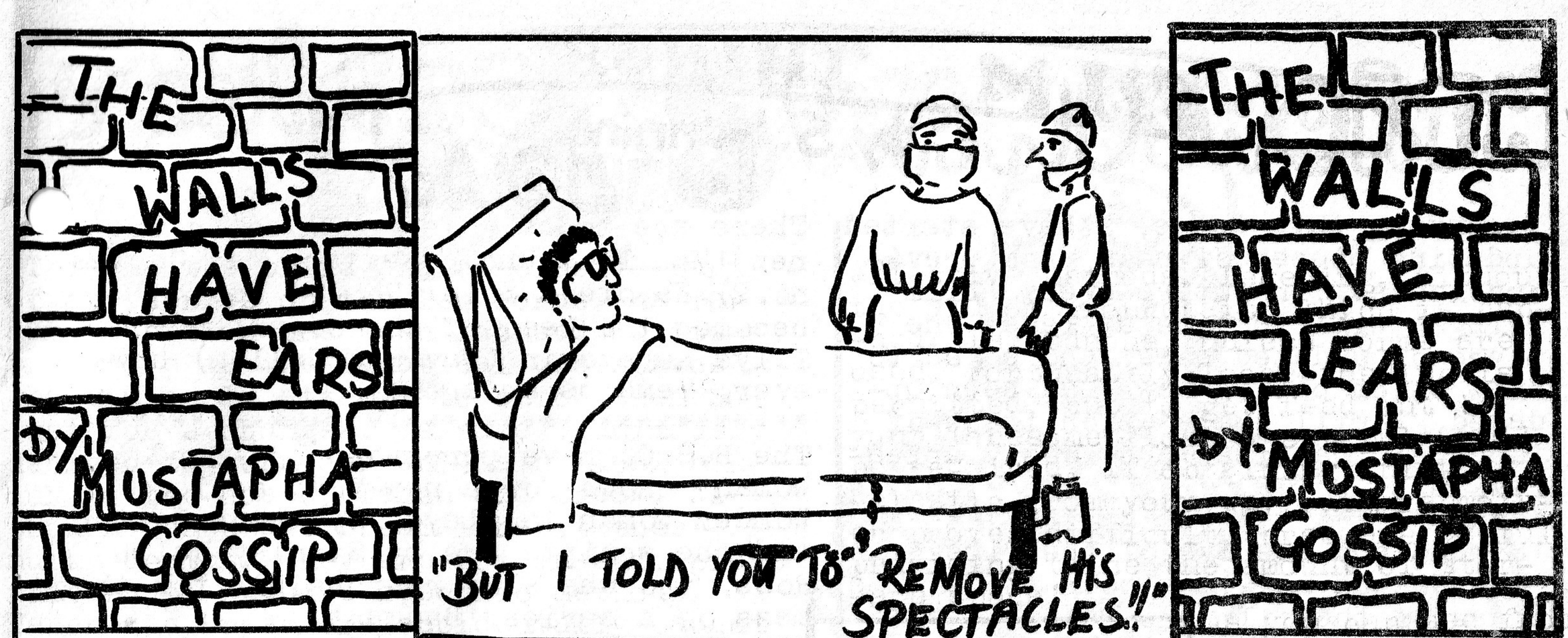
...sadness replac-es it....

...and you cry.

God! Why me?

CONFUSED?

WAIT TILL NEXT ISSUE!



Rumour has itvthat ...

A pair of black fishnet stockings were found in Gym3 changing room after football practice. Malcolm Collins denies any knowledge.

The 'Andy' in Andy Stratton is an abbreviation of Android!

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Tt has reached my ears that the extravagant Mr Buxton is willing to pay up to 10p over cost price in an attempt to obtain a Cup Final ticket!

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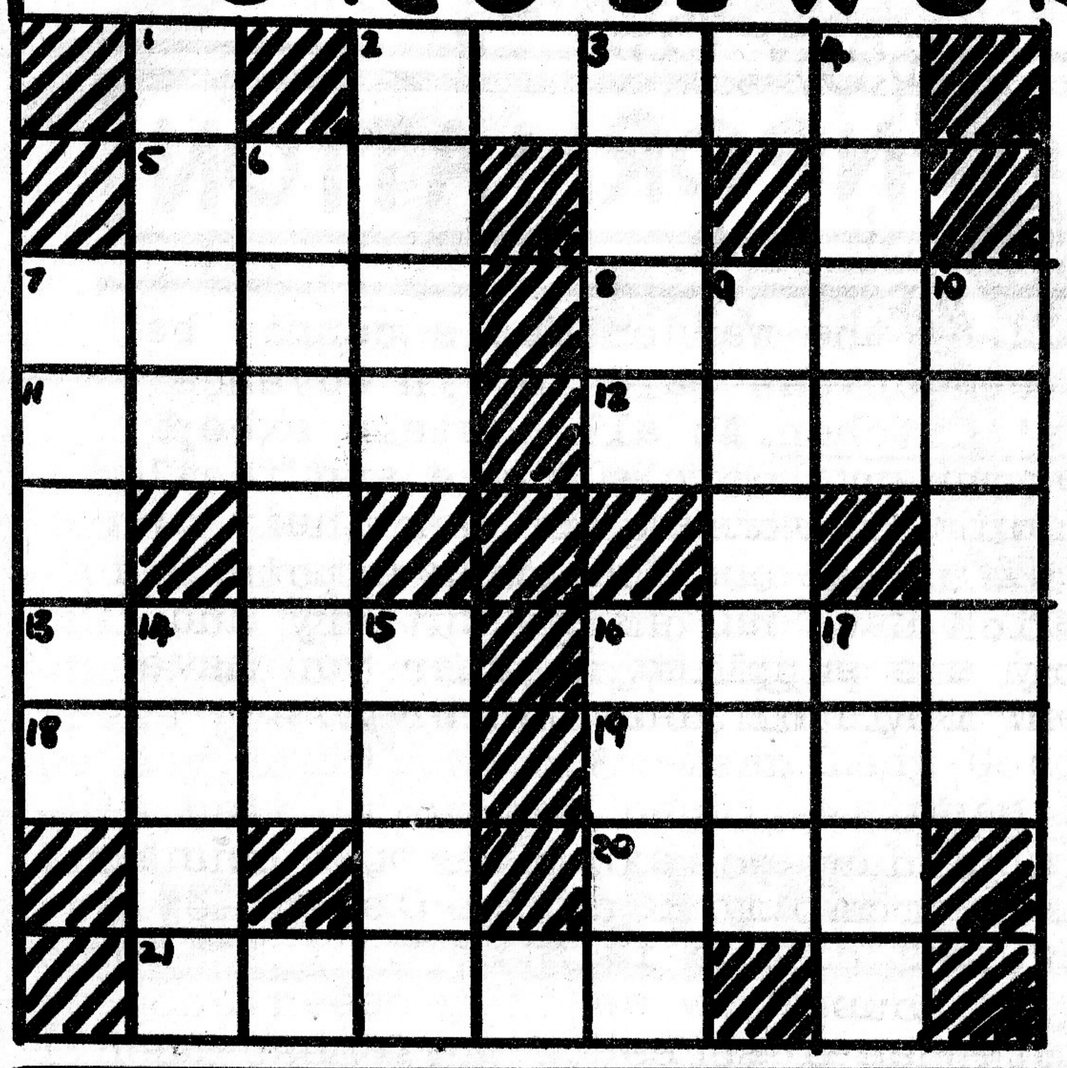
All of us are wondering what Bob O'Farrell is hiding under his fuzz.

Tony Bryant's new casual look is the novel "in" style for ex-Head boys.

— · —

Why does Brian Molyneux call his dog "Butch."

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

2. Vapour is given off when water is heated. (5)
5. Adam's wife. (3)
7. An Italian song. (4)
8. Girl's name. (4)
11. Drinks like a cat (4)
12. For all time. (4)
13. Motor vehicles. (4)
16. Another word for clothes. (4)
18. Irish Gaelic language. (4)
19. Metal bearing substances. (4)
20. The hole in a needle. (3)
21. Comrades, or ship's officers (5) (Anagram of 2 across.

(continued)

4. The female horse. (4)
6. Venomous snakes. (6)
7. She had an adventures in Wonderland. (5)
9. A place where birds are kept. (6)
10. Desert dwellers. (5)
14. A kind of lily (4)
15. A separate body of people. (4)
16. Departs. (4)
17. Give off an offensive odour. (4)

DOWN

1. Girl's name. (4)
2. Vast expanses of water. (4)
3. To relieve pain. (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD in No. 4

Across: 1.adder 4.dip 6.grandee 8.tsar 9.arras 11.yeti 13.immense 15.sot 16.nasal.

Down: 1.algy 2dramatist 3.rod 4.dressings 5.parr 7.ETA 10.rim 11.yens 12.tell 14.men.

FILM THINGS
by S. Manning.

Beginning this issue, I have started updating pieces of news from previous issues. In future every 'Film Things' will include at least one piece of updated news, and so as to show which bit of news has been updated, I will state which issue of 'Cactus' that item previously appeared in.

****

'Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger' (see Cactus no.2) has been filmed. The stars of the film are Patrick Wayne (son of John) as Sinbad, Jane Seymour as Princess Farah and Taryn Power (daughter of Tyrone) as Dione.

The monsters in the Sinbad film include: The Ghouls, the Minatron, the Troglodyte, the Giant Hornet and the Zenobia.

****

Not only is there going to be a sequal to 'Logans Run' (called 'Logans World') but they are now plans to make 'Logans Run' into a T.V. series as well.

There are to be a few changes in the new 'Man From Uncle' series. (see Cactus no.2). Napoleon Solo (Robert Vaughn) becomes the head of the organisation. Illya Kurayakin (David McCallum) however, remains an agent.

****

The B.B.C. have purchased 13 'Wonder Woman' shows for a new T.V. series. Wonder Woman is played by Lynda Carter and the scripts are by Stanley Ralph Ross, who was also responsible for that mess of a series, 'Batman'.

The series is set in 1942 with lots of Nazi soldiers on hand to punch left right and centre.

The pilot film for the series (made in 1975) includes Stella Stevens and Cloris Leachman in the supporting cast.

'Wonder Woman' (The series not the character) is a lot like 'Batman' though apparently a lot better.

****

NEXT ISSUE!!!!!!!

'Close Encounters of the Third Kind'.



← TRAVEL INFORMATION

YOUTH HOSTELS.

Youth hostelling is the best, easiest, cheapest way to explore the countryside. What the Y.H.A. do is provide hotels offering simple and cheap accommodation. Hostel buildings vary from cottages to castles. The hostels are divided into four grades, you pay for the fcilities provided.

Simple.....67 hostels
Standard.....152 hostels
Superior.....29 hostels
Special.....3 hostels

THE HOSTEL.

What you get at the hostel is:

Sleeping. In dormitory, normally with 2-tier beds, mattresses, blankets and pillows, but you take your sheets, sleeping bags or you may have a freshly laundered bag at the hostel.

Washing. Washing facilities are provided.

Common Room. All hostels have a common room. At many hostels this also serves as a dining room.

Meals. At most hostels hot meals can be provided by the warden. Meals cannot be guaranteed unless paid for in advance.

Members' Kitchen. At all hostels except some temporary hostels there are facilities for the members to cook their own meals, including cooking points, pots and pans which have no charge. Cutlery and crockery are supplied whether you have provided meals of your own or not.

HOW TO JOIN.

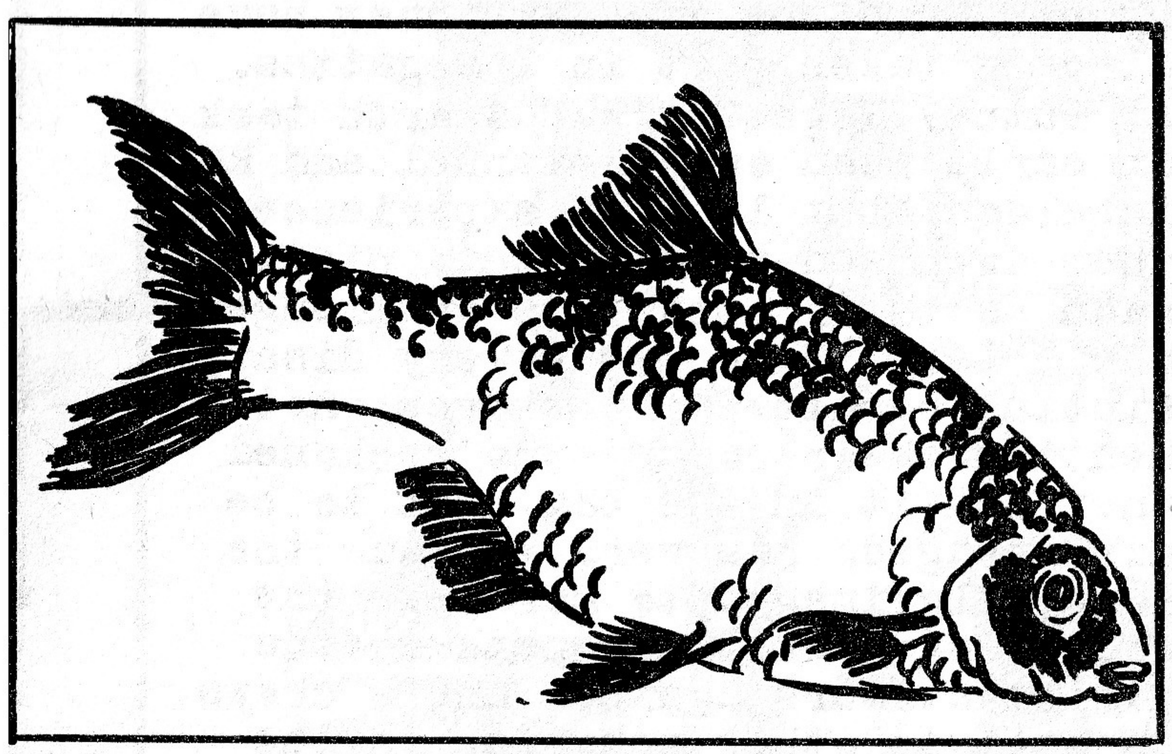
You may join by post or over the counter in person from any Regional Office.
The national office is at:
Trevelyan House,
8, St. Stephen's Hill,
St. Albans,
Herts., AL1 2by

The London office is at:
29, John Adam Street,
London, WC 2N 6VE.
Hours: 9:30-17:00 Mon.-Fri.
9:30-12:00 Sat.

Fishing Around WANDSWORTH

This is the third and conclusive part of our series on the Pen Ponds. So far our attention has been focused on its predators or the fanatical eccentrics who aimlessly attempt to catch them. So just for a change , we have unanimously decided to turn our unique cynical humour to the Roach, Tench and Bream. Although Tench and Bream inhabit these murky depths, they are not in sufficient numbers to require specific methods. Tench and Bream are accidentally caught while fishing for Perch, Roach ordissappearing Ugandan Ministers.

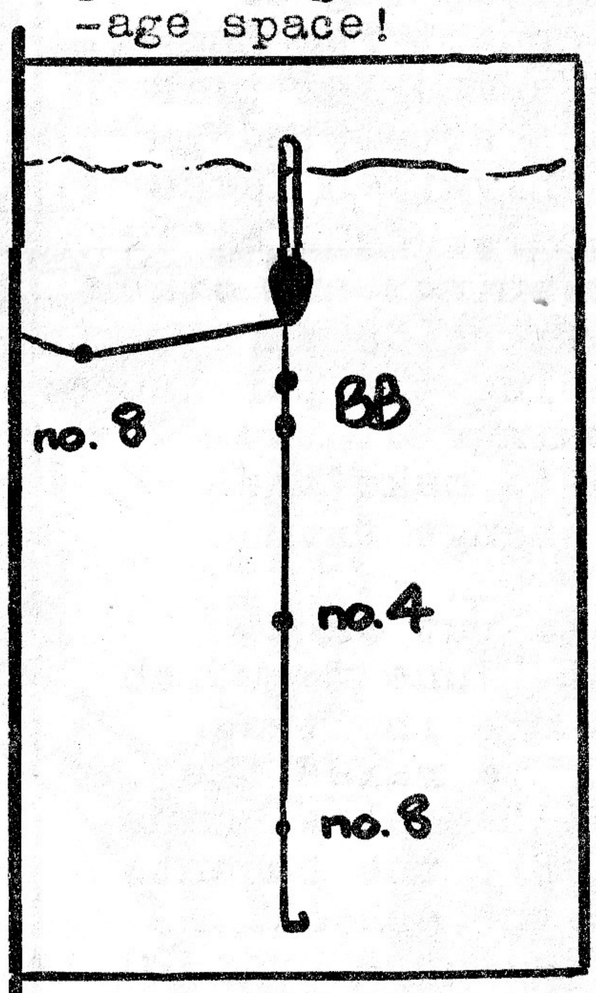
ROACH.



"Jaws" tackle will not be required, as these comparatively miserable creatures do not exceed 1½ lbs. Unless light tackle is used, the chances of catching anything apart from trees greatly decreases. Mind you when we say light we don&t mean Lady Godiva's hair (from her head), we mean 11b line and size 20 hooks. We will now receive irate replies from our reader convicting us as fish killers. But there is good reason; if we were to fish with lines resembling N.Sea cables, we would be fruitless in our attempts to catch fish.

Traditional baits i.e. maggots or casters are the successful. Unfortunately Hempseed has been banned, following an enquiry after Hempseed was discovered to originate from the same plant as the sacrilegious drug Canabis.

Despite livebaited Zander being recommended by a renown angler in 4K, we have decided that long-range float fishing or swimfeeding are the most effective methods. Legering, without the aid of groundbait, which is banned, is arduous, unless worms are used. Fortunately loose-feeding is permitted, but to get feed out to your lonesome float a catapult will be required. If obtaining knicker-elastic from your way out granmother proves difficult, bras are useful, providing twice the amount of storage space!



As you can see from our diagram, the float used is an antennae. This is to cope with the distances that have to be achieved in order to overcome the fish's natural wariness.

The split shot positions vary. The shot above the float buries line beneath the surface to avoid drag. The shot nearest to the hook varies in size depending on how bad weather conditions are. Finding the exact depth is essential as it gives the angler an idea of where the fish are likely to be. Plumbing (!) is the obvious solution. Swan shots cause the least amount of disturbance and are the most suited to the job.

On some days bites will come extremely slowly, this is usually in a long period of changeless weather e.g. in a drought. Nothing can be done on these days apart from shooting the occasional deer. To avoid such happenings only visit this particular water on days, where there is a distinct change in weather.

With the rising price of maggots we have decided to breed our own. If there is a large demand for these 'orrible creatures we will be willing to make them available to you. The price will be less than those in the shops, and because they are home bred they will be of better quality.

Glottal Stop & Atilla the Nun.

SPORT

FENCING

After a rather disappointing result at Brentwood last week, there is still a lot to look forward to inthe remainder of the season, not the least, the Sports Holiday which is held at Amersham during the last two weeks of the school term. There are boys from school who are able to mix with over 50 boys and girls from other schools who are all attempting to reach a higher standard at Fencing. Not only fencing but as many as possible of other games are attempted in the endeavoir to not onlywiden ideas but also to teach fitness. Fencing is usually kept to the mornings and other games played in the afternoon and evenings - not forgetting the parties and discoes in the evening. at the weekend which all goes to make the holiday an enjoyable change from school fencing.

We are also hoping to put on a fencing display on 4th. June to which both boys and parents are invited. Our intent is not only to raise the interest in the school but also among the parents, particularly the parents of boys who fence for the school.

When one remembers that the Under20 Fencing Club of Great Britain was originally formed by parents from Wandsworth School boys and that at one time supplied four out of six fencers in the World Under 20 Championships you can see that we are rightly proud of our past history and are still trying to maintain the same standards.

Our success at both local and national level, in the past few years are still in the same tradition. Last year the school produced two Senior boys who both fenced for Great Britain and also three fencers reachedthe Under I4 finals.

This yea although our Seniors have left school no fewer than I4 boys have reached the Nationalx~~Fixm~~ Final this year. This means that the schoolwill have 7 competing in the last 50 fencers from the whole of Great Britain, no mean feat.

The finals will be held in Manchester on 2Ist. May we wish all the boys taking part the best of luck.

ROWING

The rowing season is well advanced by now, and the 5th. yr. crew have already taken part in 2 regattas. At Putney Regatta, Wandsworth took an early lead over Emmanuel and KCS Wimbeldon, but lack of experience let them down and they went to pieces as soon as their opponents challenged their lead. This was a very disappointing result for the crew, not to mention their coach, who reckoned they had it in the bag. Not to be discouraged, however, we made the long pilgrimageupto Mortlake the following week to compete in the Novice's Fours against men's crews as well as other schools. In the first heat we beat City of London Sch. by I½lengths but narrowly lost to Twickenham. In the repacharge, the crewwent well to beat a crew of students from London Hosp. coming from behind to win by over a length. Our next competition is at Putney Town Regattain which we will race for the honour of the Boroughin the famous, annual "Putney v. Fulham Race."

CAPTAIN CACTUS

