

# American FENCING

February/March 1978

Volume 29, No. 3



# American FENCING

Volume 29  
Number 3

Official publication of the Amateur Fencers League of America, Inc.

©1977 Amateur Fencers League of America, Inc.

Dedicated to the memory of  
JOSE R. deCAPRILES, 1912-1969

Second Class Postage  
paid at Berkeley, CA 94704  
and at additional mailing offices

Editor: Harriet King  
Art Director: Patt Keefe  
Business Manager: Eleanor Turney  
Production Manager: Peter J. Kahn  
Policy Board: Irwin F. Bernstein, Chairman; Harriet King, Ralph Goldstein (Editor Emeritus), Howard Goodman, W.L. Osborn, Eleanor Turney

Send all contributions and correspondence to:  
American Fencing  
1250 Ellis #11  
San Francisco, CA 94109

President: Irwin F. Bernstein  
Secretary: Eleanor Turney, 601 Curtis St., Albany, CA 94706

Send all returns and changes of address to:  
AFLA, 601 Curtis St., Albany, CA 94706

Published bi-monthly. Subscription for non-members of the AFLA is \$4.00 in the U.S. and \$5.00 elsewhere. Opinions expressed in signed articles do not necessarily reflect the views of American Fencing or the AFLA.

Copies of American Fencing in 16 and 35 MM Microfilm are available from University Microfilms, Inc. 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106. Prices on request.

CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE: Articles, results of competitions, letters to the Editor, photos and cartoons are cordially solicited. All manuscripts must be typewritten, double spaced, on one side of the paper only, with wide borders. Photos should be glossy finish and with a complete caption. Unsolicited manuscripts cannot be returned unless submitted with a stamped self-addressed envelope. No anonymous articles accepted.

## DEADLINE FOR 1977-78 ISSUES

| Issue Date | Closing Date For Copy | Mailing Date |
|------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Mar/Apr    | Feb. 10               | Apr. 1       |
| May/June   | Apr. 10               | June 1       |
| July/Aug   | June 10               | Aug 1        |
| Sen/Oct    | Aug 10                | Oct 1        |

## Table of Contents

| Article:   | Page: |
|--|-------|
| From the President<br><i>by Irwin Bernstein</i>              | 4     |
| Under 19 Nationals<br><i>by Mary Huddleson</i>               | 5     |
| It's Not "What If" Any More<br><i>by Sheldon Berman</i>      | 6     |
| You Don't Have to be Good<br><i>Emily B. Johnson</i>         | 9     |
| Bulletin on USOC Meeting                                     | 10    |
| Directors Clinic Extract<br><i>U.S. Directors Commission</i> | 13    |
| Fencing Glossary<br><i>Rob Handelman</i>                     | 16    |
| Technical Talks<br><i>Joe Byrnes</i>                         | 19    |
| Semyon Pinknasov<br><i>Eugene Blanc, Jr.</i>                 | 22    |
| Halberstadt Fencers Club<br><i>Jack Adams</i>                | 27    |

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT & CIRCULATION

Date of Filing: October 1977  
Title of Publication: American Fencing  
Frequency of Issue: Bi-Monthly  
Location of Known Office of Publication: 601 Curtis St. Albany, CA 94706  
Location of Headquarters: 601 Curtis St. Albany, CA 94706  
Publisher: W.L. Osborn, 33 Leland Ave., Pleasantville, New York, 10570  
Editor: Harriet King, 65 Cleary Court, San Francisco, CA 94109  
Managing Editor: Eleanor Turney, 601 Curtis St. Albany, CA 94706  
Owner: Amateur Fencers League of America Inc., 601 Curtis St., Albany, CA 94706  
KNOWN BONDHOLDERS, MORTGAGES, AND OTHER SECURITY HOLDERS OWNING OR HOLDING ONE PERCENT OR MORE OF TOTAL AMOUNT OF BONDS, MORTGAGES OR OTHER SECURITIES: None

|                           | Average No. of Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months | Actual No. of Copies of Single Issue Published |             |
|---------------------------|---|--|-------------|
|                           |   | Nearest to 12 Months                           | Filing Date |
| Total No. Copies Printed  | 7,580   | 7,100  |             |
| Paid circulation          | 0   | 0  |             |
| Mail subscriptions        | 6,534   | 6,638  |             |
| Total Paid Circulation    | 6,524   | 6,538  |             |
| Free Distribution By Mail | 200   | 200  |             |
| Total Distribution        | 6,725   | 6,833  |             |
| Copies Not Distributed    | 856   | 262  |             |
| Returns From News Agents  | 0   | 0  |             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>7,580</b>  | <b>7,100</b>                                   |             |

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Eleanor Turney

## AN EDITORIAL

by  
Harriet King

I am very grateful for all wonderful letters that have been written to me and only regret that I simply don't have the time to answer them all. Please continue to submit articles and photographs, comment about articles that have been published, and send me letters suitable for publication in American Fencing. Please address them to AFLA, 1250 Ellis #11, San Francisco, Cal. 94109.

If you haven't been receiving your magazine or wish to change your address, write directly to Eleanor Turney, AFLA Secretary, 601 Curtis Street, Albany, CA. 94706.

Be sure to let us know your change of address as soon as possible because it takes time to put you on the computer or to change the computer, particularly early in the fencing season. If you have suggestion to make about AFLA projects in general write directly to the AFLA President, Irwin Bernstein, 249 Eton Place, Westfield, N.J. 07090. If you are concerned about the Junior Olympic program write directly to Mary Huddleson, 2201 Bywood Drive, Oakland, CA. 94602.

If your question deals with equipment problems write to Joe Byrnes. His address is at the end of his current article. If your question deals with an interpretation of the rules of directing write to Jack Keane, AFLA Directors Commission, c/o Connie Latzko, Secretary, 215 79th St, North Bergen, N.J. 07047. If you send your letter to the correct address it will be much easier and quicker for all of us.

## FENCING PHOTO CONTEST

Send in your best fencing photograph for entry in American Fencing's photo contest. Photographs must be at least 4"x6", preferably larger, black and white, and the contest closes on April 1, 1978. Be sure to include your name, address, division. Photographs will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The best photograph or photographs will be printed on the cover of American Fencing and may be used in the magazine.

Dear Editor:

The last issue of the magazine had letters from people suggesting spending \$20,000 to improve fencing in the United States. The suggestion was good, but I believe the way to better programs and fencing as a whole is to get more people to the sport.

I am the public relations chairman of the Westchester Fencers' Club and our membership was low until last year. I suggested a strong public relations program. Since then we have had a sharp increase of so many people to the gym in which we fence has been small. All the publicity that we received was exactly \$0.00. Public relations should be handled at the club level quite simply. All clubs promoted then fencing would be well known in the U.S.

The biggest promotion for the coming Olympic game will be the coming Olympic game. A million people will be watching the national network, NBC. Last year's coverage showed approximately 35% of the population were viewing. If fencers would take the time to write letters to the network since this is the time at which NE uling the events to be covered could possibly get more coverage and thus give more people an opportunity of fencing.

These suggestions I have made are to work to complete efficiency unless you participate. This program would be effective and would not require the \$20,000 but would cost only a stamp.

Sincerely,  
Daniel J. Zoghby

## From the President by Irwin Bernstein



Looking back over this column in the past few issues of American Fencing one might get the impression that our organization is solely concerned with developing successful international fencers. We have been reporting on the dramatic new programs in the area of long range development as well as in accelerating the training of current internationalists to improve their chances for medals over the next few years. Many of our new programs are made possible by significant new levels of financial support from the United States Olympic Committee which has the creation of better Olympic Teams as a prime objective. With the impetus of these funds, the AFLA President, Treasurer, and other key officials find themselves spending increasingly more time on projects and decisions in this area and similarly much of the business of the AFLA Board of Directors relates to policies in this area. Despite all this emphasis, this is only the more visible portion of a much bigger picture and it would be well to discuss this in order to keep our perspective in balance.

The vast majority of the members of the AFLA will never compete on an international team. The reasons are many but include talent, physical capability, commitment of time, expenditure of money, desire, and just luck. Aspiring to this lofty level is a very worthwhile goal that motivates many fencers to invest more of themselves in training and competing and I heartily recommend that everyone who can pursue this goal do so with an unqualified commitment. At the same time I implore the fencers who realize they cannot achieve this goal, or who were at this level but can no longer remain there, to stay in fencing for all the benefits it can provide to the non-international fencer.

The American public is increasingly being educated to the health benefits of active sports. Racquet sports are proliferating in indoor as well as outdoor modes, jogging is becoming almost a religious pastime with many, adult sports leagues are being formed, and publications are starting up devoted to participative sports. It appears as if millions of Americans are coming to realize

what we as fencers have always known — it is far better to be participating in active sport than to watch a professional athlete do your exercising for you. Then when we learn the results of the early studies of fencing by the sports medicine experts, we find that the cardio vascular demands (and thus the benefits) in fencing are unusually high. This tells us that the time spent in active fencing should be more productive in a long term health sense than the same time spent in many other sports activities. Thus it is clear that our active training and competing is very worthwhile even if we don't qualify for international teams. But there's much more.

The AFLA is a fully volunteer organization. Hundreds of current and former fencers, as well as persons who will never actually fence, perform useful and enjoyable services for us. Coaches and officials are very visible, armorers and meet managers are less so, and committee and board members (and magazine contributors) may never be seen doing their work in public view, but they are all making it possible for the AFLA and the sport of fencing to survive and prosper. Those of us who have made service to the AFLA part of our lifestyle have enjoyed many hours and days of mutual effort and achievement in the company of intelligent athletes participating in a healthy, non-violent, but highly competitive sport. For those who can combine this with continued active competition fencing is truly a lifetime hobby with a full range of varied activities.

We obviously don't have to sell fencing to our long time members, especially those who are already maximizing their opportunities for full participation. But to our newer members, we should urge that your objectives in fencing not be narrow. Don't drop out if you don't make the starting team in high school or if your college does not have a fencing program. For the parents of fencers who joined as associate members without ever having fenced themselves, you should realize that many others before you have entered the AFLA in the same way and have

*continued on page 20*

## THE UNDER 19 NATIONALS

by  
Mary T. Huddleson  
Chairperson, Jr. Olympic Committee

"In the beginning" there was indeed a desperate need for an AFLA national youth program. The need is still pretty desperate, although we have the start of a program. Now, just as both our senior and junior development programs are beginning to get off the ground, wham! Along comes an attack on our junior program, launched in the shape of an article by Carla-Mae Richards in the Sept/Oct issue of *American Fencing*; to wit:

The "so-called" and "faltering" Junior Olympic Program is a "two-headed monster" which once "sputtered and gasped" and now is loaded with "confusion galore." This should be "straightened out once and for all" by first eliminating the National Under 19 Championships (one head of the monster).

Wow! Thus speaks a person who has run several national championships and who has had to cope with the added burden of the Under 19 Nationals at the same time. I know whereof she speaks and it is indeed a hairy experience. I respect her opinions and at one time held thoughts similar to hers. Her suggested solution immediately springs to mind. What could be more simple than to hack off part of the junior program and just not hold all those meets? It would eliminate a lot of headaches.

However, let us not throw out the Under 19 babies with the organizational bathwater. Young fencers (in case anyone had not noticed) develop their skills at a great deal faster than older fencers; they, of course, start at a much lower level. They also seem to disappear from the fencing scene at a higher rate. Given that this is a normal situation, a strong case can be made for holding two youth championship events in the same fencing season.

If the Under 19 Championships did not exist, we would have to create something to take its place. By holding two different championships at different times of the year and in different parts of the country, we are doing more than creating a selection system

for the elite few who go to international tournaments. We are exposing youngsters, for the first time in this area, to a major national tour which they can actually attend; they even have a chance to compete in a division which has hosted one of our youth championships. The event gives to the interest in fencing of young people in the same area.

The Under 19 Championships are ideal in that they are the only ones that provide an ideal national system of working from divisional to sectional to national tournaments. The U19 Championships weight to each qualifying level which cannot be said for the other meets which by-pass, and thus eliminate sectional championships.

The different age specific categories to stay and may become even more important. Other sports with strong youth programs very much into age-grouped categories on a national level. One needs tennis, swimming, and ice hockey. A Race horses celebrate their birth on January 1 of each year (perhaps fencers should do the same).

National programs of any sort remain static and set for all time. Change and adapt with the times. Keep that which is good from old programs, in order to make progress we should split the U19 Nationals from regular Nationals; perhaps we should give them a different name or have different classifications, but let us not do it entirely, for this would narrow the opportunities for youngsters.

The principle aim of the AFLA Olympic Youth Program is to build a numerical base of entering fencers, to provide more opportunities to learn, to compete, and to compete. This aim is helped by the abolition of the Under 19 Championships and its attendant tournaments.

# IT'S NOT "WHAT IF" ANYMORE

by  
Sheldon Berman

In the woods of Maine where tales of Paul Bunyan still abound, you wouldn't expect to see people trading in their rugged axes, chain saws, snow shoes and snow mobiles for a more delicate instrument — the foil. But it's happening. With a bit of ingenuity and a lot of gutsy effort, the newly formed Maine Division has put together a \$21,000 one-year, fencing development program. Two, full-time people will staff a project that intends to make Mainers aware of the sport and initiate six to eight youths' programs in fencing.

The program is an all time first; an experiment that may have the potential for application throughout the country. We've found that people are intrigued by fencing and are eager to experiment with it. What stands in their way is a total ignorance of the sport, few inexpensive fencing programs, and even fewer people willing to take the risk of instructing. For some reason fencers and AFLA divisions have been reticent about large scale promotional and educational programs. We have remained an elite few who pride ourselves on the solemn eccentricity of our sport. Starting with the premise that fencing can capture a wider audience with the right promotional techniques, enthusiastic workers, and technical support to instructors, we developed a plan that will expand both awareness of and participation in fencing.

The program has three foci. The first is a promotional effort through demonstrations at schools and recreational organizations and slides shows promoting and explaining fencing. This part of the project is intended to interest people in taking up the sport as well as giving them the skills to enjoy watching a bout.

The second focus of the project is the heart of our effort. In Maine we suffer from a lack of experienced instructors on the high school and recreational level. Also, at present, there are no fencing masters in Maine. To overcome this the project staff will be training physical education and recreation personnel in how to instruct fencing. In the planning are a series of regional weekend

training workshops and several teacher recertification courses in fencing. At the end of the year we hope to have fencing programs started at six to eight schools or recreational associations taught by people *on their own staff*. This ensures that fencing will continue long after the project itself has ended.

The final focus of the project is to provide a full range of supportive services to ease the pain of starting a fencing program. We will be providing starter packets for instructors that will include everything from exercise suggestions, mobility exercises and drill suggestions to day by day instructional lesson plans to suggestions on fund raising and promotion. We will be providing new instructors with video tapes and film loops on how to teach particular moves, books on fencing, and visits by our staff to lend technical assistance when needed. To aid programs that are financially pressed we have available 20 sets of equipment (masks, jackets and foils) to loan out for short periods. As a final effort we hope to organize a statewide coaches' association and establish a youth or high school league. The Division would offer free officials to this league's competitions to help them get started. We've even discussed sponsoring a Maine Division high school state championship.

The key to pulling off this whole project is our two, full-time, staff members funded through the Federal Manpower program (CETA's LIFE project). We've always depended on volunteers who have only a limited amount of time. Having two, full-time, salaried people to build fencing means that their efforts will be more thorough, more consistent, broader and better planned. Securing the funding for these individuals was a major feat that took three months of groundwork and politicking. To support the project, the AFLA has pitched in \$1,500 for equipment, travel, printing, etc., and the Maine Division pitched in another \$500 as well as providing the supervision and consultation. The project itself will be run by the Maine Division and the Bangor YMCA. The Bangor YMCA is our overall capability as

well as our home base. They have been the institution that has brought all of the minor sports to Maine and are enthused about doing this for fencing.

We've spent long hours planning to make sure the project will be a success, yet as we get started there are numerous problems that we know we will have to face. We hoped to hire a fencing master to head the project but none were available. We've hired two people who are especially capable at promotion and administration. They have received excellent fencing instruction from such people as Ed Richards and Dale Rodgers, yet they don't have the depth of understanding of a fencing master. We hope to overcome this by bringing in national level coaches for our training workshops. Another problem will be financial. Schools in Maine are suffering cutbacks in funds. Convincing them to divert funds towards equipment will be a challenge. Hopefully, loaning them equipment will demonstrate that the interest is there.

The results of this project may have nationwide implications. For years we've debated whether to fund grass roots efforts or support and train our prospective Olym-

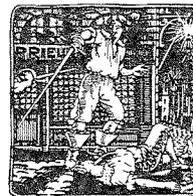
pians with our dues money. For neglected promotional and promotion efforts. Our view in Maine are proud to bring fencing to people as we can interest even absolutely no Olympic potential people we involve the better we

For those of you who are interested in the project, we intend to put together a "did it" booklet that will include our plans, our correspondence, our evaluations of our efforts: may gain from our experience.

A grass roots promotional program does not need to remain a dream. With a magical offer of \$20,000. With a dedicated effort and ingenuity local find the resources to bring them reality. The AFLA Board of Directors ready shown the openness and to support these efforts and respect needs. If we can be of any assistance contact us.



**THE BEST IN EUROPE  
IMPORTED IN THE U.S.A.  
AND HANDPICKED AT THE  
FACTORY BY RAOUL SUDRE  
IN AN EFFORT TO SERVE  
FENCERS A LITTLE BETTER.**



PRIEUR

Send for our catalog and price list.



*Sudre Fencing  
Equipment Company*

5 Westwood Knoll  
Ithaca, New York 14850

## 1978 National Championships

The Florida Gold Coast Division is looking forward to having you join us in the South Florida area for the 1978 National Championships.

We have been fortunate in securing the well known Diplomat Hotel & Country Club, located on the beach in Hallandale, Florida, some 15 miles from downtown Miami, as the site for the 1978 Championships.

The hotel, in addition to making available to us the fencing and meeting areas, is also setting aside their whole West Wing for our use. The daily room rate will be \$28/night, which can be split among several fencers. In other words, if you are willing to share a room, the cost will be reduced proportionally. You may have up to 4 occupants per room. Please be sure to so advise the hotel when you make your reservations. In addition to the fencing activities, there will be facilities for swimming (both pool and ocean), tennis, golf, fishing and a number of other family-oriented activities, so, do not hesitate to bring your family.

Through the auspices of Air & Sea Travel Charters, Inc., the travel agency we are working with, we will also make available to you, at charter prices if enough people sign up, side tours to the Islands and local sight-seeing trips. More information will be forthcoming in the following issues of *American Fencing*. For the Gala Night, we have selected an outdoor setting where you can dine and dance under the famous Miami moon.

All and all, we are planning what may be the best National Championships in which you have ever participated.

We, at the Gold Coast Division, are looking forward to being your hosts for this event.

By the way, Air and Sea Travel Charters, Inc. can assist you with your travel needs, working out schedules to your advantage, including airline travel and transfers to the hotel. All airline tickets can be charged to any of the major credit cards. Their address is:

2501 S. Ocean Drive  
Hollywood, Fl. 33022  
(305) 925-1799

For additional information regarding housing or entertainment please write to me at:

Fred Sharfstein, CLU  
420 S. Dixie Highway 4-L  
Coral Gables, Fl. 33146  
Chairman, Housing &  
Entertainment Committee

There was an error in the article "Foil Fencing — An Overview," in the last issue, page 12.

The correct copy follows:

- A. Parry — can be
1. simple: lateral, semi-circular, circular, diagonal.
  2. composed: (compound) succession of deceived parries.
  3. done with a beat (tac), opposition, or a ceding (yielding) parry.
  4. executed standing still, in a lunge, or coordinated with varied footwork.



## YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE GOOD TO HAVE FUN

by  
Emily B. Johnson

I am referring to fencing, of course.

Shortly after I started fencing in 1957 my coach, Hans Halberstadt, remarked sarcastically that if I kept it up I would probably become a champion - only he pronounced it champignon. Despite the fact that it is somewhat disconcerting to be told that one will turn into a mushroom I persevered and eventually attained an A rating. Over the years I was a perennial quarter and semi-finalist at the Nationals and won an occasional Class A competition. Many comments were made about my left-handed style of fencing, usually adverse, but it was reasonably effective. Eventually I tired of lugging my equipment all over the country and drifted up to the bout committee table except for an occasional local competition.

I responded enthusiastically when women started to fence epee and even took lessons and practiced.

And then, last February, with incredible point control, a meat thermometer broke in my left hand and severed the tendon in my left thumb. Two operations and a variety of casts later I realized that although I could do many things with my left hand, fencing was not among them.

Fencing is not just winning. Fencing is fun. Fencing is great exercise. Fencing is com-

people. Fencing is a marvelous after a tension filled day. Fencing everyone who enjoys it regardless of level of skill.

We all like to win but someone has to. There is only one Number One. You have to start at the bottom and try to work up with years of hard, dedicated work. There is a place for fencers who take one week, free fence for half an hour; the rest of their time gabbing. There is a place for fencers who take two weeks, spend a couple of hours and fencing and the rest of their time bing. There is a place for fencers work at it to become champion; even a place for left-handers who come instant right handers.

With these scraps of philosophy I went to American Fencers Supply a sob in my voice, had all my left handles replaced with right-hand handles. They looked odd with the left hand but it really didn't matter.

With grim determination I started foil lessons with my right hand. I worked and I fenced. I can fearlessly state months of this that I'm awful. Six months later I was awful so I'm improving. And fun.

## International Fencers' Supply, Inc.

Quality Service and Equipment

P.O. BOX 10071, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32302

write for free price list

switch hands. My right hand never did anything in fencing before except hang limply, rotate idly or fly in to cover the target area, so it had nothing to unlearn. I now fence in a beginner's classic style and most of the time my hand points in approximately the direction I had in mind. But my feet...

For twenty years my left foot pointed kind of generally forward and my right foot kind of generally to the side and they see no reason to change at this late date. After several months I could manage to sidle forward and could get along quite well if we snailed up and down the strip but my uncooperative opponent, taking great delight in my pedal dilemma, would take a quick step forward. Left handers step back with their right foot first when retreating, of course. So naturally I stepped back with my right foot and then, of course, I couldn't move my left foot because my right foot was either in the air or on my left foot and there I was teetering and flailing vainly away with my blade while my opponent, grinning maliciously, hit me squarely on target.

Its better now. I can make a cautious, slow short lunge forward - I lunged backwards on several occasions which is somewhat disconcerting. Of course, by the time I finish my lunge my opponent is well out of range. I still can't retreat on the strip without my feet getting tangled up like a double strand of Christmas tree lights. I am now warming up by retreating around the sale which further convinces visitors that fencers are crazy.

Distance is a major problem also. My vision is not identical in both eyes so I see differently when I look over my right shoulder than I did when I looked over my left shoulder. My opponent's arms have lengthened about two inches.

But I'm getting better. When I first started my opponents would charitably give me a touch or two before they beat me. Now I earn those touches before they beat me.

It has its advantages because I can now tell new fencers how great I was before my accident and they have no way to find out differently. In fact, the more I work out with my right hand the better fencer I remember myself as being with my left hand.

Of course, I would rather be fencing left-handed. But I can't. And I don't like to be beaten by every one — who does? But I'm having fun because I love to fence. Every

*continued on page 21*

## BULLETIN ON USOC MEETINGS Sept. 23-25, 1977

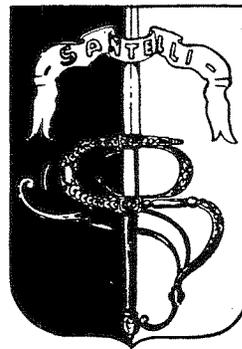
From the Minutes of the  
September Meeting

By Irwin Bernstein

The United States Olympic Committee conducted a series of meetings at its newly established Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado on September 23-25, 1977. The following is a summary of the highlights of those meetings as they relate to fencing.

- I. National Governing Bodies' (NGB) Meeting
  - A. The AFLA was represented by Carla Mae Richards and me.
  - B. There was a presentation on Training Center and Sports Medicine Programs.
  - C. There was a tour of the Colorado Springs Training Center, located on the grounds of the former Ent Air Force Base right in town. Included among the sports facilities that will be available for projects at the Center are impressive gymnasium, track, pool, and other facilities in colleges and high schools within a few miles plus the Air Force Academy about 15 miles away.
  - D. Sometime in 1978, the Center expects to have computer and publication services that can be used by NGBs (such as the AFLA).
  - E. The USOC has revived its National Coach concept by which an NGB designates a coach to work on development on an ongoing basis. This is obviously entirely compatible with the National Coaching Staff structure in the Fencing Development Program.
  - F. There was preliminary discussion of a new Sports Festival to be held every August in non-Olympic years as a sort of US summer Olympics. Tentative plans call for a modest beginning in 1978 on Thursday-Sunday, August 17-20. The fencing phase might be competitions in each weapon among 24 or fewer selected fencers. Essential to this project would be network TV coverage which would serve two purposes:

1. Provide sufficient funds to cover travel and housing of competitors and officials.
  2. Present on network television sports not usually shown (such as fencing) as well as the ones usually favored on TV.
- II. NGB Presentation to USOC Development Committee
    - A. I made the AFLA oral presentation, accompanied by Carla Mae Richards. Steve Sobel is a member of the Development Committee.
    - B. USOC fund raising projections for 1977-1980 have significantly raised horizons for development funding. At the same time, the new Development Committee has instituted far more formal procedures to assure the effective use of funds by responsible leadership in the NGB's. Prior to the individual NGB hearing, we had to answer a questionnaire about the AFLA (ours totaled 18 pages plus By-Laws and latest Financial Statement) and present a detailed write-up of all proposed projects, including itemized total costs, subsidy requested, objectives, and basis for evaluation. Our proposal totaled 34 pages.
    - C. After the oral presentation and answer period, Development Committee awarded the full \$117,600. for sale that was calculated via the (e.g. number of competitors format, status as Undeveloped etc.) — this was a higher amount but 8 of the 32 Olympic spots received. In addition, all of which were approved so that our Development Committee will have the full amount applying the total amount to projects up to a specified ceiling each one. I am indebted to Keane, Dave Micahnik, Sobel for their assistance in our presentation in only one.
    - D. The following are the project ceilings:
      1. Fencing Development Program
        - a. Monthly Regional Events \$
        - b. National Point Competitions
        - c. Coaching Seminars
      2. International Tournament in NY
      3. European Team Training



*Maker of Champions*

*Championship  
Equipment*

GEORGE SANTELLI, Inc.  
412 SIXTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y., 10011  
(212) AL4-4053

## EXTRACTS FROM THE MANUAL "GIVING A DIRECTOR'S CLINIC"

U. S. Directors Commission

A. J. Keane

(Please note that this material is copyrighted and may not be reprinted without permission of the Chairman of the Directors Commission)

### PREFACE

Ignorance of the rules is no excuse. Neither is ignorance of fencing.

The key words in developing excellence as a President of Jury are: FIND THE REAL ATTACKER.

### HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are presented solely to aid in the understanding of our methodology of clearly demonstrating and effectively communicating right of way to an audience. There are, of course, more definitions a director should have mastery of, but they are superfluous to our purpose here.

1. The Attack. The initial offensive action executed by extending the arm and continuously threatening the opponent's valid target. (Amplification: within fencing distance.)
2. The Parry. The defensive action made with the weapon to prevent the attack from touching. (Amplification: it has as its purpose to deny access to the valid target.)
3. Pris de Fer. The seizing of the blade. This may happen in two basic ways: Offensively, by the initiator of the attack. Defensively, when the defender makes the seizure or beat on the initiator's blade and thus takes over the right of way. (NOTE: This is not a parry but an offensive action by the defending fencer.)
4. The Line. It exists when the arm is fully extended threatening the valid surface. Moving forward, backward or standing still does not remove its priority. This is the highest priority action.
5. The Counter-attack. This is an action which is initiated by the opponent after an attack has begun.

nents within which there possibility of a hit. We will distances:

- a. Close or riposte distance. Close extension of the arm.
- b. Advance distance. Forward with extended arm.
- c. Lunge distance. A distance which requires placement of the body over the opponent.
- d. Advance lunge distance. "grand distance" with an initial displacement of the body followed by the attack. Examples: lunge, balestra lunge.

### HOW TO DEMONSTRATE THE RIGHT OF WAY

It is vitally important to bring out actions and reactions that make into a conceptual whole. In the matter of the attack, let it be said that it happens in the way of a real attack. The arm is extended threatening the

ALL ELSE IS PREPARATION. The president is concerned at the recognition of arm extension as the definition of attack.

The simplest and clearest way to demonstrate the attack is to follow these sequences:

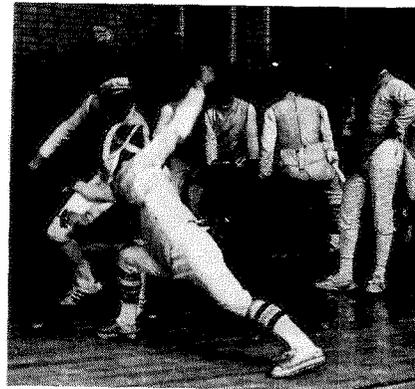
### BASIC SEQUENCE

(No feints)

1. Position an attacker and defender in close distance.
2. The attacker extends his arm and hits the defender who moves out of the way.
3. The attacker works forward from longer distance and stands still with extended arm and the defender makes no reaction.
4. From a slightly longer distance

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 4. Major Team Championships                |           |
| a. World Championships                     | 17,000    |
| b. Under 20 World Championships            | 13,000    |
|  | 30,000    |
| 5. Film Production                         |           |
| a. Directing Clinic                        |           |
| b. Promotional Film                        |           |
| c. Coaching                                | 25,000    |
| 6. Brochures                               | 3,000     |
| 7. Survey of Coaching Resources            | 2,000     |
| 8. Administration of International Program | 3,000     |
| 9. Video-tape Equipment                    | 1,500     |
| TOTAL                                      | \$195,140 |

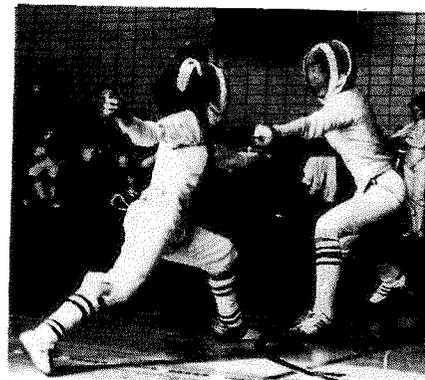
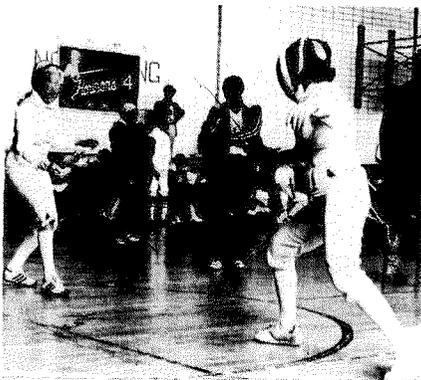
E. Thus on the basis of the unprecedented allocation of \$117,600 from the USOC, plus the AFLA budget of \$27,000, for projects listed above as numbers 1, 3, and 4, we will have a total of \$144,600, with which to work on any or all of the projects listed above. This clearly represents a dramatic commitment by both the USOC and the AFLA towards the future of US fencing.



### HORIZONS-4 INVITATIONAL

The second annual HORIZONS-4 INVITATIONAL meet will be held on February 25, 1978 at the St. John's Recreational Center at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn.

The tournament last year was a smashing success.



This sequence is not as simplistic as it appears. For you have taught the candidates several important ideas.

- A. There are several "distances" from which an attacker can validly work.
- B. There is a certain mandatory sequence of armwork which qualifies the true attack. The arm must start extending immediately.
- C. The element of tempo has been illustrated since it takes somewhat longer to execute the longer footwork before the hit.
- D. The concept of "threat," a real possibility to hit the opponent with the attack, has been reinforced.
- E. The validity of an attack has been shown to have basically nothing to do with footwork, existing in the arm and the "threat," instead.

You will now have to start complicating the situation. But in proceeding you will have a solid base to work from in unraveling the complications.

#### INTERMEDIATE SEQUENCE (No feints)

Repeat each sequence of attacks 1-7 but have the defender execute a counteraction (a stop thrust in foil; a stop cut in saber). Make sure attacker extends arm before any footwork.

Poll the audience on who receives the touch after each of the sequences. You will find that on the long footwork (advance, balestra, etc.) part of the audience will want to award the touch against the rightful attacker. **IT IS NOW TIME TO INSIST THAT NOTHING THE ATTACKER HAS DONE HAS CHANGED AND THEREFORE HE CANNOT BE DEPRIVED OF THE ATTACK.** Nothing about the attack is different. The defender is merely a counter-attacker and has no rights. (Make sure the counterattack starts a fraction of a second late.)

You are now coming toward the most rewarding part of the clinic. If you get your audience over this hurdle, you will have really done a great job in helping build a solid core of knowledgeable future Class 3 presidents.

#### ADVANCED SEQUENCE (With feints)

Repeat each sequence, 1-7, again. This time, have the attacker execute a feint-attack. Have the defender make his counteraction on the final of the attack. Ask the audience each time from each distance who was hit.

Now repeat the sequence again and have the defender make his counteraction on the feint. (You will have to exaggerate the feint a bit to get the action clear). Poll the audience.

#### IT NOW BECOMES CLEAR TO THE AUDIENCE THAT ONLY A COUNTERACTION BEFORE THE FINAL CAN ARREST AN ATTACK.

It is now possible to demonstrate that even against multiple feints no counteraction can gain the right of way unless it occurs before the final of the attack. Challenge the audience by making the feint finer and the counterattack better and better.

It is now time to pause and to advise you that audiences have great difficulty understanding why two pieces of footwork (advance-lunge, balestra-lunge, fleche) do not constitute two tempos. We feel it is because they are not conscious of the overwhelming importance of the distance concept in establishing the clear possibility of a hit by extending the arm and moving to the opponent uninterruptedly.

To clearly demonstrate the concept of distance, follow the following sequence.

1. Have the defender come into line. Have the attacker balestra-lunge onto the point. Attacker hit.
2. Have the attacker balestra-lunge from the same distance. Have the defender drop into line on the balestra portion. Defender hit.

Repeat these sequences. The audience should appreciate that the line must exist before the start of the attack in the distance.

3. Now, have the attacker a) step forward with arm extended b) then balestra-lunge. The defender goes into line on the step-forward.

The audience should easily see that the attacker is hit because he was in a preparatory phase of the attack (out of distance) even though he seemingly qualified as an attacker.

This concludes the basic preparation of right of way. However, you may wish to address some of the complications that occur in actual combat.

An attacker can work at any speed he likes — not just rapidly. It is important to stress that slow movement does not affect the validity of an offensive action if it qualifies in all other ways.

That is to say, a defender may not counterattack or come into line after the attack has started just because it is slow. The attacker retains his rights. Indeed, some top fencers take advantage of the nervous quickness of their opponents with this tactic. The same is true for deliberately executed ripostes, etc.



The Director

In order to take advantage of tempo, the defender must establish superior tempo; that is to say, he is opponent and conclude his act the final of the attack.

#### EXAMPLES:

Saber — as attacker steps forward defender cuts him on arm before step-forward then escapes when finishes step-forward and counterattack. A "tempo within a tempo established."

Foil — as attacker advances stop thrusts, pulls back before advance and attacker continues within a tempo" has been established.

Under no other circumstances counterattack into a straight attack right. (But see special interpretation in sabre in Rules Interpretation.)

Of prime importance, the line established after the start of a lunge is not to be honored by the

*continued in next issue*

*"Don't forget to send in your photographs"*

*See announcement on page 3*

# FENCING GLOSSARY

## PART I

Translation and comments by Rob Handelman

(F) Foil (E) Epee

(S) Sabre (R.I.) F.I.E. Rules Book

The definitions are those of the French National Fencing Commission and are now the international definitions for the terms described. Any disagreement on the reader's part should be forwarded to the K.F.N.C. I have added some editorial notes for clarity. All definitions are meant for a right-handed fencer.

**Analysis:** The thought process that consists in orally describing the phrase d'armes to determine which of the fencers was touched.

**Appel:** To make an appel is to hit (stamp) the ground with the foot. The noise can support a feint, a preparation, or surprise the adversary. Note: The appel is used in the U.S. by fencers on the ship to call time. This is definitely *not true* internationally.

**A-propos:** The instantaneous exploitation of a favorable situation created by the adversary.

**Arrêt:** (Stop) A simple counter offensive action.

**Assesseur:** (F) Assistant to the director (President); duty to determine the validity and materiality of the touch in standard foil and in electric foil to survey the use of the unarmed hand. (E) Called floor judge; duty to determine the validity of the touch. (S) assistant to the President; function to determine the validity and materiality of the touch.

**Attack:** Initial offensive action executed in extending the arm and delivered with a progressive movement (lunge, flèche, etc.). It can be simple or composed, reinforced with actions on the adversary's blade.

**Attaque composée:** (composed attack) The attack is composed when it consists of one or many feints.

**Attack with advance:** One should really say "attack with step lunge" or "step flèche."

**Attack into the attack:** Erroneous phrase used in the place of contre attaque.

**Attack (false):** A simple or composed attack, incompletely developed, meant to make the adversary react and take advantage of his reactions.

**Simple attack:** Offensive action, direct or indirect, executed in a single fencing time and coordinated with the lunge, flèche, or with advance. It is direct when placed in the same line coup roit — straight lunge; indirect when it is delivered from one line into another, going over or under the adversary's blade. (coupé, degagé)

**Avancées:** (E.S.) (advanced target) Term which defines all target situated in front of the head and trunk (hand, forearm, toe, etc.)

**Balestra:** A forward jump, hop followed by a lunge.

**Banderolle:** (chest cut) (S); Specific term which defines the offensive action placed on the upper target opposite the sword arm.

**Battement:** (beat) Action of hitting the adversary's blade.

**Bond Avant:** (forward jump) A sort of forward

jump that finishes with both feet touching the ground at the same time.

**Bond Arrière:** Backward jump where both feet hit the ground at the same time.

**Borsody:** (S) Hungarian master, creator of a defensive system still called the first system. (tierce (3), quarte (4), quinte (5)).

**Bouton:** (tip). Extremity of the blade, flat at the end of the foil or epee; it is folded over on itself in sabre. In the electric weapons, the tip is called the point.

**Bras Armé:** (sword arm) Arm that holds the weapon. Except in the case of accident, the fencer cannot change hands in the course of the same match.

**Caprice:** (S) The circular arc of metal that connects and reinforces the guard to the handle.

**Caver:** (angulated). Attack, riposte, counter attack in-caver is to place the offensive or counter offensive action with an exaggerated displacement (movement) of the hand in the line where the action finishes.

**Cédant:** (ceding parry): Parries uniquely used against offensives by blade takes (attacks, ripostes). A ceding parry consists in diverting the adversary's blade by leading it (without quitting contact) into a different line from that which was intended.

**Changez Battez:** (change beat) A change of engagement that ends in a beat on the adversary's blade.

**Changez coulez:** (glide): Change of engagement that finishes with a glide.

**Changez froissez:** (froissement): Change of engagement that finishes with a froissement.

**Changez pressez:** (pressure) Change of engagement that finishes with a pressure.

**Circulaire:** (circular) Circle parries are called "counters" and take the name of the line in which they are executed. Semi-circular parries are named "half counters" or "half circle".

**Combat Rapproché:** (in-fighting): The fencers are in close distance without body contact.

**Continuation:** An imprecise term that is at times used to designate a prolonged offensive action such as a remise or a reprise (redoublement).

**Contraction:** Formerly, one defined the parry of contraction as a parry taken on a composed attack that goes in the opposite direction to the trompement (deception) executed by the attacker.

describes a circular movement of the adversary's blade into the opposite of the offensive.

**Contres (lesson of):** Exercise of a counter parry of an opponent's. Both attack and defense have been to in advance. Also called counter exercises.

**Contre arrêté:** (E): counter attack on the adversary's counter attack

**Contre attaque:** (counter attack) or composed counter offensive averted on the adversary's attack. Times executed with an advanced body displacement, half lunge or sion of the arm.

**Contre-coupé:** Misnomer designating derobement of a change of engagement of the trompement (deception) or parry by a disengagement.

**Contre degagement:** (counter c) Proper term for the dérobement of the adversary's change of engagement. It is equally the trompement of a circular parry by a disengagement.

**Contre offensive:** Ensemble of hits delivered on the adversary's offensive.

**Contre riposte:** Hit delivered at the parried the adversary's riposte. simple, composed, by blade take with a lunge, standing firm, retreating, in a flèche or with lateral movements. It can be immediate or (temps perdu). The second contre the hit delivered after having parried the adversary's contre riposte.

**Contre temps:** (counter time) which consists of parrying the adversary's counter attack and to then take the

**Conversion:** (of the hand): Action of turning the hand from pronation to supination vice versa. It is used both on offense and defense.

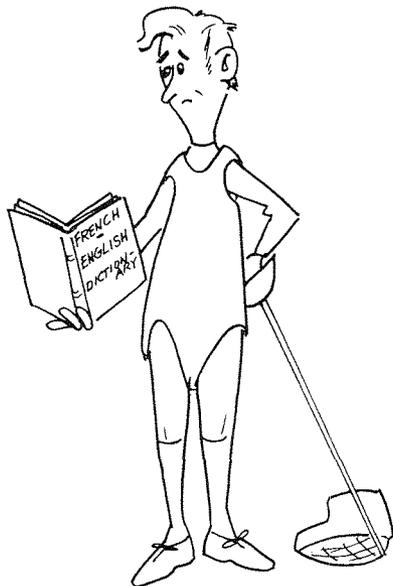
**Coquille:** (bellguard): Metallic part of the weapon, circular and convex to the hand.

**Corps à corps:** Situation in which fencers find themselves after body contact (even transient contact).

**Coulé:** (glide): Action of gliding along the adversary's blade by the arm. It is to prepare the attack in its placement.

**Coup droit:** (straight lunge) A direct attack without changing the

**Coup droit d'autorité:** (straight lunge)



line by opposing the weak (foible) with the strong (fort) of the blade.

*Coupé*: The high line coupé is a simple offensive action accomplished by passing over the adversary's point. It is executed either with or without blade contact. The low line coupé is executed by passing under the adversary's blade.

*Couvrir* (cover): To protect oneself from the adversary's point or cutting edge with the aid of the blade or the guard position or with a movement of the hand, forearm or arm. Covered or closed guard, engagement or covering in the offensive.

*Croisé*: Blade take where one forcibly moves the adversary's blade from the high line into the low line on the same side. It can also be executed from the low to the high line. It is one of four kinds of prises de fer (blade takes).

*Dedans* (inside): The quarte line. The high left line of the fencer (right handed).

*Defensive*: Ensemble of actions destined to defeat the adversary's offensive comprising the parries, esquives (body displacements and footwork).

*Dégagement* (disengage): A simple offensive action which consists of leaving the

line where one finds oneself to touch in another. In high line the disengage goes under the blade, in low line it goes over.

*Dehors* (outside): The line of dehors is the low right line of the fencer.

*Demi-circle* (Half circle) (F.E.): The half circle or high septime or lifting septime is a semi circular parry that is taken from the en garde of sixte (six) (or of tierce) and leads the adversary's blade up.

*Derobement*: Offensive or counter-offensive action that consists of removing (or deceiving) one's blade from the adversary's attempt to seize it. (i.e., deceive an attack on the blade or blade take.)

*Derobement with contact* (E): The blade is left in contact with the adversary's and removed before the finish of the blade take.

*Dessous* (below): The line of the dessous is the low left line of the fencer.

*Dessus* (above): The line of dessus (commonly called six) is the high right line of the fencer.

*Development*: Arm extension coordinated with the lunge.

*Diagonale* (parade): Parry moving from a high line into an opposite low line or vice versa.

*continued in the next issue*

## TECHNICAL TALKS

by Joe Byrnes



I've been thinking epee of late, probably because of the time I spent recently at the Modern Pentathlon World Championships, where the only fencing is with the epee. And seeing so much of one weapon, your impressions are perhaps clearer — perhaps.

Anyway, there are a few reminders about some rules that it won't hurt to pass on, or say again, as the case may be. If you have heard this before, it won't hurt you to hear it again; and in any case, do you follow these rules and enforce them? Have you even thought about them?

Some specifications for the weapon can only be precisely verified on one of those "gabarits" that are in short supply in this country. One result of that is that quite a few people have been getting away with something locally, and for a long time. Until and unless they show up for a national championship or a sectional where all the trappings are available, and used, nobody may catch them with the epee a millimeter too long in the blade. They may not even know it themselves. An extra millimeter can be a great help, and one does find epee blades even longer than that. Now if all epee blades were made the same length, you'd think the problem would be solved, wouldn't you—that is, providing the blades were made the right length to begin with. Alas, it isn't that simple. What is the "right" length? The answer is: it depends. On what? On the guard they are to be fitted into, that's what.

Unhappily, I suppose — though it does keep things interesting — one thing that we have not got in fencing is absolute uniformity of production standards. True, there is a maximum length beyond which, a blade ought not go — must not go: 90 cm. However, a blade machined out to the full 90 cm will almost certainly check out too long, when mounted into just about every epee guard in current use. That particular trouble arises from the almost universal practice, in constructing modern epee guards, of riveting a reinforcement plate to the front of the bell, where the blade comes through. Such a reinforcement is technically not a part of the

guard, and must be measured as part of the blade. That automatically knock meter — more if it's a thick reinforcement the permitted blade length. The fencers of one nation at the Pentathlon Championships were shocked to learn that all the weapons flunked for being a millimeter more too long; they had to make do with the oldest ones and hope they held up. The manufacturer of the blades had allowed for the guards they were mounted in, and those who mounted blades evidently didn't measure them before assembling. Red faces. (No, it's not a sneaky joke; it wasn't the Russians.) If all epee blades were made shorter than the full 90 cm, the problem would be solved for most fencers — for those still using older guards with thicker reinforcements. They need shorter blades.

Another deviation, that is likely to



Mike Burley

Tim

Photo by Nelson

## Score with New Tiger Fencing II



The improved all white Tiger shoes are the lightest fencing shoes available. The semi-ripple wrap-around sole provide the ultimate in traction on all surfaces.

Please specify size and sex. Price per pair, \$24.95 plus \$2.50 shipping charges.

(Calif. residents add 6% sales tax)

## Joseph Vince Co.

15316 S. CRENSHAW BLVD.

GARDENA, CALIF. 90249

TEL: (213) 323-2370, 321-6568

# allstar

## FABULOUS STRETCH UNIFORMS

**ONCE AGAIN AVAILABLE — A FULL  
RANGE OF SIZES AND STYLES.  
THE UNIFORM PREFERRED BY  
WORLD AND OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS.  
YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF!**

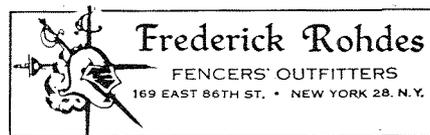
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FENCERS EQUIPMENT CO.  
5335 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, California, 90029**

only locally in weapons that have never been given the full inspection for a national championship or something of the sort, is the guard with excessive cant-back. A look at the diagram on page 47 of the AFLA rule book will show that from the tip of the blade to the farthest back part of the rim of the guard the allowed distance is 95.5 cm. A rough and ready check can be made by using a steady table pushed against a wall. Measure 95.5 cm from the wall, in a straight line naturally, and hold your epee blade parallel to the table, along that line. If any part of the guard falls beyond the 95.5 cm mark, the epee would not pass inspection.

While we're looking at page 47, there's the diagram at the bottom of the page, too. Although it is clearly exaggerated to make its point (and may have misled some people for that reason), it says what it says clearly enough: the curve in an epee blade is limited to one centimeter maximum. There are epee fencers who try to get away with a curve like that fancied by some matadors, to get the sword in over the bull's horns. In the bull ring, OK, I suppose; on the fencing strip, it's a no-no. One quick and dirty check is to rest the weapon gently on a flat table, curve bowing inwards. Then see if a one centimeter

cube (of metal, preferably) will slide under it, like a ship under a bridge. It shouldn't be able to.

I've lots more, but it will have to wait. Incidentally, people who have questions they want to ask me have always been able to write me care of the editor, but it will speed things up if you write to me direct: P. O. Box 283, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07207.



*(Continued From Page 4)*

remained to become important factors in its administration. Fencing truly has something to offer everyone and although the words are certainly not original, one can definitely say that the more you invest of yourself in fencing, the more you will gain from it, as competitor or in any other capacity.

## THE HELENE MAYER GOES INTERNATIONAL

For almost a quarter of a century the Helene Mayer Memorial Competition has been an annual women's foil event in the San Francisco area. Originally started in honor of the Olympic star (1928) and world champion (1937) who also was many times U.S. National champion, this competition is open to all women foil fencers who are members of the AFLA or FIE.

Next to the National Championships, West Coast fencers consider the Helene Mayer one of the strongest of women's meets in the country as it has attracted some of our top Olympic and national competitors. Past winners include Maxine Mitchell, Jan Romary, Tommy Angell, Harriet King, and Stacey Johnson (current champion). The tourney is held in different locations around the San Francisco Bay.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the meet, the tournament committee is transforming it into an international "Pacific Basin" event. With AFLA approval, invitations have been extended to Japan, the People's Republic of China, Mexico, and Canada to send representative women fencers to the next meet on March 5 in the Civic Auditorium of Oakland, California. A festive party, to which all out-of-towners are invited, follows the meet. Many contestants admit that they come as much for the party as for the competition itself. Our first "international party" should be a hummer.

Any amateur woman fencer who is a member of the AFLA or FIE is welcome to participate. Contestants are required to comply with the latest AFLA rules regarding electric foil equipment. All entries and enquiries should be directed to Emily Johnson, 1250 Ellis Street #11, San Francisco, California 94109. Send entries before February 25. State fencing classification and club affiliation with entry. The \$5 entry fee may accompany the entry or be paid on March 5. Make cheques payable to "AFLA Western Area Committee."



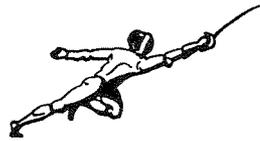
*Photo by Imogen Cunning*

*continued from page 1*

time I improve a little, I beam. Young when you are learning and im have little patience with those who take their ball and go home if they every time. Instant gratification on with something easy to do and fence easy. If you don't enjoy fencing, enjoy winning, it's not a sport for you quit because you are beaten, partic someone who has worked and stu practiced much longer and harder have, you're not a fencer.

Fencing is not just for champic people who want to be champion: just for people who are willing to pr less hours working, practicing lessons, training. It's for everyone w the exercise, the sociability, the ex and maybe never gets a rating. It's fencers and competitors. It's for who takes a weapon in hand.

It's even for left handers wh become involuntary right handers



## SEMYON PINKHASOV

New Coach at  
N.Y. Fencers Club

Who can boast of a coach who started fencing at age 12, won his first competition at age 13, and three years later won the junior foils Championship of the Dynamo Sport Club, one of the most prestigious of all Soviet athletic organizations?

The Fencers Club is proud to be able to make this boast of Semyon Pinkhasov, its coach in foil and epee since September of this year, and to relate, for *American Fencing* and its readers, a most interesting history.

Semyon was born almost exactly 29 years ago on December 20, 1948 in Azerbaijan, the son of a geologist. Shortly after, the family moved to Moscow where he first studied draughtsmanship, and took up fencing. This must have attracted him to physical training and conditioning and the basic knowledge needed, for at the age of 19, he entered the Moscow Physical Culture Institute. He also attended the Moscow Medical Institute. He worked as a physical therapist at the Moscow City Hospital.

He did not stop at his youthful entry into the fencing world. In 1964, he took third place in the Moscow Junior Individual Foil, and won the junior championship of the Dynamo Sport Club. Then he moved into epee, with like swift success, attaining second place in the junior epee in 1967. Two years later, he was selected as a member of the Moscow Senior Championship team.

Semyon's coaching careers began in 1970 at the Moscow University, but he continued competitive fencing as a member of



the 1976 Junior Epee Team which won the U.S.S.R. Championship. He had married Elizabeth Zelmanovich, a graduate of Moscow University in biology. They had a son Michail, born to them in June of 1974.

The family went to Italy in 1976 and obtained their United States visas, Semyon arriving here in January of 1977. Word of his arrival came to the Fencers Club, and shortly it was seen that the connection would be a happy and fruitful one. It was formalized for the season beginning this past September.

Semyon quickly made his mark, not only with the members of the Club, but in good cooperation with Csaba Elthes who generously shares with him his great knowledge and expertise.

Semyon's lessons stress the fundamentals of both conditioning and technique, in which his unique background make him most qualified. In reminiscing about Russian fencing, he recalled that Olympic fencers practice as much as five hours a day, five days a week over a continuous period. When an important competition approaches, this is stepped up to two sessions a day, totalling seven hours for each of the five days. Then, he recounted, the sixth day, the fencers devote four hours to general conditioning and stamina building through other sport disciplines, such as running, swimming and gymnastics, and team games such as soccer and basketball. The product is truly an athlete. Consistent with his medical background, Semyon considers diet, supple-

mented by vitamins A, C, PP, B complex and more importantly, B-15, as an integral part of the training program, not only for fencing, but, in Russia, for all sports. Contrasting the American fencers, who may spend two to three hours a day, at most for five days, Semyon stressed the true amateur status of the Americans in the classic sense.

Fencers Club is delighted to have Semyon as one of its coaches, and looks forward to

great results in advancing the American Olympic teams, and a high level of American fencing and its coaching and training.

Csaba Elthes has been chosen of the National Fencing Coach Semyon has been chosen as one of its tants.

We wish them both all the success they deserve.

### the Fencers

... in this athletic drama  
artists bout:  
body and soul,  
the heart reflexes  
muscles smoothly strain, demand ...  
keen waiting eyes aglow  
human arms legs bodies  
in a fine white gliding blurr

One mind one hand  
reaches spontaneously  
a stop a start  
and the conflict quickens

Two pointed blades softly clash  
and part  
to spurts of action,  
feet skip untimely ...

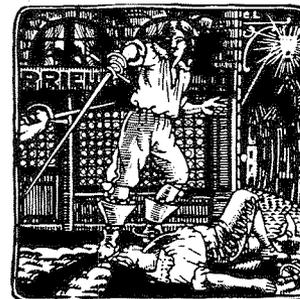
Uneasy breaths chant  
to the rhythm of these dance  
Time is against all,  
speed is an answer  
accuracy and technique a m  
offense defense blend into or  
Tension!  
for the fencers:  
nerves on end  
high spirit abounds  
control sporadic movemen  
settle in white fineness .

but fade  
because of an all so-soon

*poem by f. a. rasp  
the Pittsburgh Fer*

## PRIEUR SPORTS

PARIS



FOUNDED IN 1788

TWO CENTURIES OF EXPERIENCE  
AT YOUR SERVICE

### DISTRIBUTORS

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Sudre Fencing Co.<br>5 Westwood Knoll<br>Ithaca, N. Y.<br>14850 | American Fencers<br>Supply<br>2122 Fillmore St.<br>San Francisco, Cal.<br>94115 | Pelo Fencer<br>3696 St. Ar<br>Montreal, F<br>Canada |
|---|---|---|

Southern California Fencers Equipment  
5335 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, Calif. 9002

OLDEST MANUFACTURER OF FENCING EQUIPMENT  
IN THE WORLD



## 1978 TUCSON GRAND INTERNATIONAL OPEN FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

April 28: 9 AM Men's Foil  
2 PM Women's Foil Begins  
8 PM Mexican Dinner (Place: TBA)

April 29: 6 AM Desert Breakfast (San Xavier Mission)  
7 AM Espada De Honor (San Xavier Mission)  
10:30 AM Men's Epee  
1 PM Men's Handicap Foil  
1:30 PM Women's Foil Concludes  
8:30 PM Gala Night (Rancho Corona)

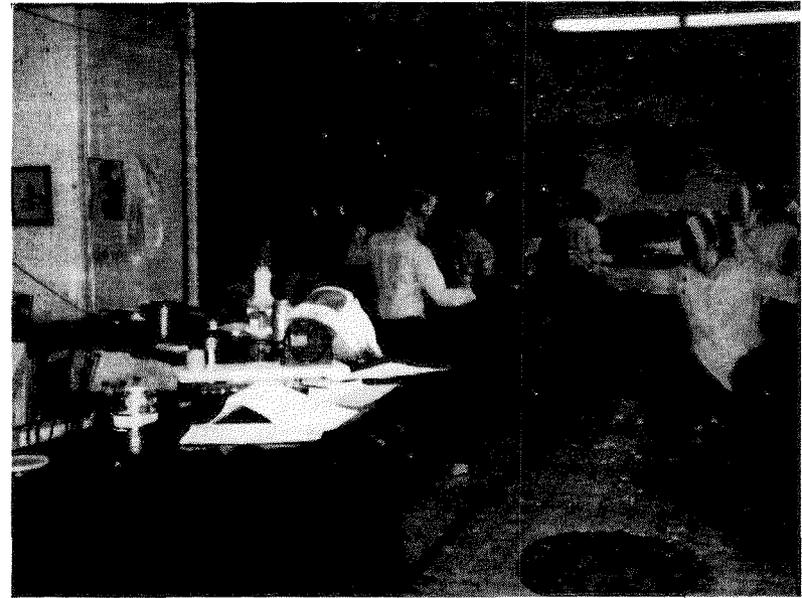
April 30: 10 AM Men's Sabre  
10:30 AM Women's Epee\*\*\*  
Approx. 2 PM Women's Sabre\*\*\*  
7 PM Buffet Dinner (Place: TBA)

\*\*\*Minimum of 10 entries for both Women's Epee and Women's Sabre required. If fewer than 10, Women's Handicap Foil will be held instead, at 11 AM.

Executive Inn (Best Western), 333 W Drachman, Tucson, Az. 85705; (602) 623-5781  
Contact Executive Inn directly for reservations; identify yourself as a fencer.  
Rates per room: Room for 1: \$12.50; 2: \$15; 3: \$17.50; 4: \$20

LIMIT: 60 fencers each event  
FEE: \$20 (Fencing & Social Events); \$15 (Social Events Only)

For entry form write:  
**GRAND INTERNATIONAL**  
P.O. BOX 12771, Tucson, Arizona 85732  
Entries Must Be Postmarked By April 22, 1978)



## Halberstadt Fencers Club

by  
Jack Adams

The Halberstadt School of Fencing, now the Halberstadt Fencers' Club, represents nearly forty years of continuous fencing teaching and competition in San Francisco. It was founded in 1941 by Hans Halberstadt, the German Olympic and international competitor from Offenbach, who came to this country after harassment by the Nazis and a brief internment in Buchenwald.

His fencing career was a solid one. He represented Germany in the 1924 and 1928 Olympics, and in over three hundred national and international tournaments, where he never placed less than third. He had fenced in every country in Europe except Russia.

Upon his arrival in San Francisco, Hans was invited to join the prestigious Olympic Club, and rapidly made a deep impression on Pacific Coast competition. He rather quickly felt that he had better leave amateur ranks and become a professional teacher, particularly after one Pacific Coast championship bout where he had to hit his sabre opponent seven times before the jury could see and award a touch.

Hans founded his own school. Soon after, he was appointed fencer for the Olympic Club, a post he held for some twenty years. Both at his Marina district and at the Olympic Club, Halberstadt's fencers became outstanding in national, Pan-American, even Olympic contention for Olympic team in 1952. This writer recollects Salvatore Dan de la O, Louis Giorgi, Jan Gerard Biagini, and Louis Lataillier as a good many other formidable fencers.

Certainly outstanding in the group was Helene Mayer, the Olympic world champion, whom Hans had known since his Offenbach fencers' club since she was a little girl of ten - a friendship that continued until her death in 1953. Helene fenced for Hans' colors, as did Emily Romain Angell, Mary Huddleson, Eleanor Emily Johnson, Bunny Fratessa, and Nancy Canter. All of these placed well on the Pacific Coast and National Championships. Johnson, Huddleson, and Turney continue as strong competitors. Halberstadt received high regard

T

*"Where The Young Champions Get Their Start  
And Coaches Get Results"*

# ORSI'S

**SANTELLI FENCING ACADEMY**      Founded 1967

*offers:*

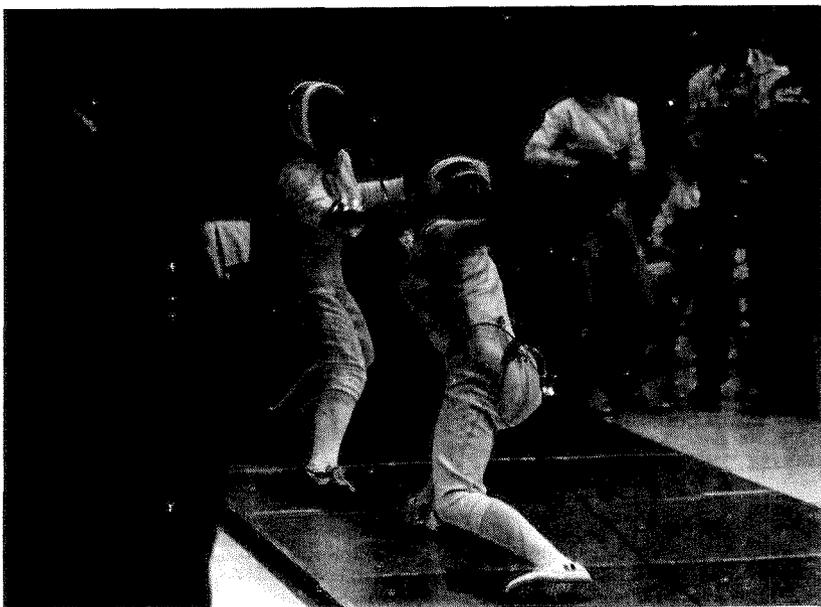
- INSTRUCTION
- CLUB FACILITIES
- INTENSIVE SUMMER WORKSHOPS
- EQUIPMENT SALES

**CONTACT:**  
ANTHONY J. ORSI — DIRECTOR  
395 UNION AVENUE, RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY 07070 TEL. (201) 458-9749

his teaching efforts, and valued greatly his award from the National Fencing Coaches Association, and the decoration received from his native state of Hesse in Germany — the Gold Lion of Hesse.

His death, from a stroke in 1966 at the age of 81, left a gap that had to be filled. A group of his students and friends met and resolved to keep the Halberstadt name and salle alive. The Halberstadt Fencers' Club was formed, and a set of by-laws was established. One of our intentions was not only to develop standards of fencing, but to maintain the pleasant social atmosphere for which our salle was known up and down the Pacific Coast.

In 1971, we moved to the ballroom of a stately old Victorian mansion. A fine dance floor which we restored gave us ample practice space, and a very social ladies's exercise group created two dressing rooms of a truly Hollywood splendor. Unfortunately, after four years we lost our lease. In 1975, we moved into a former night club on Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco. To celebrate, our women's team, led by Harriet King, promptly won the Nationals. Here at our club, we have ample practice space, and for both needed and social refreshment, a forty foot bar.



Womens Epee – Swift vs Absalon. Photo by Nelson

Since Hans' death, we were fortunate to have had several instructors. One of the first was John McDougall, who had worked with Hans for a year or two, then Charles Selberg, who now is coaching at the University of California at Santa Cruz, and Michael D'Asaro, the Pan-American and Olympic fencer and coach who is now teaching at California State University, San Jose. We are now pleased to have with us Rob Handelman, who is a diplomate from the Paris Institut National des Sports, Ecole D'Esgrime.

Part of the ambience of our salle is the great collection of photographs, and the medals, trophies, and diplomas that Hans was able to bring with him from Europe. With them, there are many autographed photos of Helene Mayer, Julio Castello, Aldo Nadi, Ralph Faulkner, Giorgio Santelli, and other nationally and internationally known fencers and teachers. For the fencing buff, they alone are worth a visit. We are open Monday and Wednesday evenings, usually Thursday night, and Saturday afternoons most of the year. We invite fencers and visitors to what must be one of the longest continuing fencing salles in the country.

## WOMEN'S EPEE AND SABRE — A REMINDE

The AFLA Board of Directors at its June 1975 meeting received a report from the Special Committee on Women's Epee and Sabre. The committee consisted of Denise O'Connor, Chairwoman, Patricia Flynn, Lois Goldthwaite, Emily Johnson, and Marilyn Masiero. After some minor changes in wording to aid in clarity, the report was adopted as presented, without opposition. We are therefore pleased to announce the following official AFLA guidelines with regard to women's epee and sabre.

### A. Scheduling of Events.

1. Division will schedule women's epee and sabre events if requested by their membership. (NOTE: The Board intends this to mean that **one** division member can require the division to **schedule** at least one event during the season; the actual **holding** of the event should depend on the division's established policy on minimum entries).

These events should be scheduled on the same day and at the same location as the corresponding men's events.

2. Divisions will schedule events in all 3 weapons if requested by their membership, below the level of division championship. (NOTE: The initiation of at least one event is as above; however whereas the division may hold a championship and or qualifying event in women's epee and sabre, it may not do so in mixed events.)

### B. Growth and Development

1. When a Section's Executive Committee feels that there is enough interest and enough competitors to warrant a section championship in women's epee or sabre, the section shall petition the National Board of Directors for permission to do so.
2. A National Championship will be held in women's sabre or epee the year following the one in which:
  - a. division qualifying rounds are held in at least 15 divisions.

b. the total number of p in the qualifying events 300 in that weapon.

3. The Committee on Women and Sabre will gather and records of women's epee events held in all divisions will provide the with the proper information. Reports may be sent to the Secretary as a separate with the Annual Division to the Committee directly, O'Connor, 21A West 35 onne, N. J. 07002).

### C. Proper Equipment and Rules

1. When women participate in sabre events, all epee rules, including the clothing, and scoring rules, v allowed. (NOTE: Epees w modified; bouts will go to heavier uniforms will be specified in the Rules Boc

## American Fencing Academy

Founded in 1974 in Ithaca, New

THE FIRST AND ONLY SCHOOL  
AMERICAN CONTINENT TO OFFER  
YEAR COURSE LEADING TO A  
IN FENCING.

Now accepting applications. Call  
should write for information to:

Jean-Jacques Gillet  
118 Fayette St.  
Ithaca, New York 14850

### RULES BOOK SUPPLEMENTS

In an announcement made at the September 1976 meeting of the AFLA Board of Directors, the national office reported that a Rules Book Supplement would be mailed free of charge around the end of October to all current AFLA members. The supplement will contain revisions of the AFLA Bylaws and Operations Manual as well as FIE rules changes made since the printing of the 1974 Fencing Rules Book. The distribution of the supplement will extend the effective life of the 1974 Rules Book and all fencers who do not already own a Rules Book are encouraged to order one from the Secretary, Eleanor Turney, 601 Curtis St., Albany, Ca. 94706; the price of individual copies is \$3.

### ORDER FORM FOR 1974 FENCING RULES BOOK

Enclosed is a check or money order payable to AFLA, Inc. in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ copies (@ \$3.00 each) of the 1974 FENCING RULES BOOK. Please send the book(s) to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ENCLOSE A SUPPLEMENT WITH THIS ORDER

MAIL FORM WITH MONEY TO: AFLA, Inc.  
601 Curtis St., Albany, Ca. 94706

### CORNELL OPEN RESULTS

The Cornell Open was held on the 5th and 6th of November at the Teagle Hall Gymnasium at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

More than two hundred participants were registered in the four weapons.

Twenty-two universities and clubs throughout the east and central U.S.A. as well as The Spadassins Club from Ottawa, Ontario, Canada were represented.

#### WOMEN'S

- (A) Louise LeBlanc  
(Ottawa RA)
- (A) Ilona Maskal  
(Fencing Club:  
Hungarian Reform Church)
- (A) Rebecca Bilodeau  
(Cornell University)
- (A) Natalie Blagowidow  
(N.Y.F.C.)
- (C) Debbie Theriault  
(Schenly Park)

#### MEN'S FOIL

- (A) John Nonna  
(N.Y.F.C.)
- (A) Michel Dessureault  
(Ottawa)
- (B) Daniel Budofsky  
(Cornell University)
- (A) William Gelinau  
(N.C.S.U.)

- (C) Larry DiMattei  
(St. John)
- (C) Ed McNamara  
(N.Y.U.)

#### EPEE

- (A) Lee Shelley  
(Salle Orsi)
- (A) Robert Yarrison  
(Salle Richards)
- (B) Walter Dragonetti  
(Univ. of Penn)
- (A) Greg Belok  
(Unattached)
- (C) Tom Tishman  
(N.Y.U.)
- (A) Will Weber  
(Salle Richards)

#### SABRE

- (A) Peter Ott  
(Spadassin)
- (B) Tom Sarikas  
(Unattached)
- (C) Dave Arase  
(Cornell Fencing Club)
- (C) Steve Renshaw  
(Clemson)
- (C) Jay Butan  
(Unattached)
- (C) Dan Tishman  
(N.Y.U.)

## The 1977 Penn State Collegiate Open

The Pennsylvania State University held its 6th annual collegiate open on Saturday and Sunday, November 19 and 20. This joint venture of Beth Cramer (PSU Women's Varsity Coach) and Mac Garret (PSU Men's Varsity Coach), drew 181 entries from 21 schools.

On Saturday, Women's foil again had the largest field with 68 entries representing 14 schools. The final results were:

- 1st Cathy McClellan (Northeastern)
- 2nd Becky Bilodeau (Cornell)
- 3rd Virginia Harrington (St. John's)

Epee had 34 competitors representing 12 schools. The final results were:

- 1st Chris Hanson (Penn)
- 2nd Walter Dragonetti (Penn)
- 3rd Lee Shelley (Princeton)

On Sunday, men's foil had 42 competitors from 11 schools. The results were:

- 1st Jack Tichacek (Penn)
- 2nd Jim Herring (N.Y.U.)
- 3rd Dan Basso (Md.)

Sabre had 37 competitors representing 13 schools. The final results were:

- 1st Stan Schulman (U.N.C.)

2nd Tom Wasley (Penn State)  
3rd Dan Tishman (N.Y.U.)

## OHIO COLLEGE INDIVIDUAL FENCING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sixty entries from six schools at the first Ohio College Individual Championships held at Ohio State on Nov. 20, 1977.

#### Men's Foil:

- 1st Carlo Sangini, Cleveland St.
- 2nd Mike Halliman, CSU
- 3rd Jim Sohl, Ohio State (OSU)

#### Women's Foil:

- 1st Emily Goodman, Oberlin (O)
- 2nd Wilma Friedman, OB
- 3rd Leah Fygetakis, OSU

#### Epee:

- 1st Peter Rozsa, CSU
- 2nd Jeff Spellerberg, OSU
- 3rd Pat Vandemotter, CSU

#### Sabre:

- 1st Joe Fazekas, CSU
- 2nd Tom Deeter, OSU
- 3rd Bill Goleman, OSU

#### Official Strips and Equipment of the:

1976 Olympic Games - Montreal, Canada  
1977 Modern Pentathlon World Championship-San Antonio, Texas  
1978 Balkan Games-Split, Yugoslavia  
1979 Mediterranean Games-Split, Yugoslavia  
ECAC, NCAA, US Nationals, Canadian Nationals

**ziukovic**



**modern  
fencing  
equipment**

77 ARNOLD ROAD WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181, U.S.  
Telephone (617) 235-3324

**The Most Modern Fencing Equipment In The World**  
Complete Line Of Fencing Equipment For Fencers  
And Competition

**Write Or Call For Our Price List**