

American



January/
February 1986

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**The 1985 World
University Games**



Professor B. Bertrand, 1889

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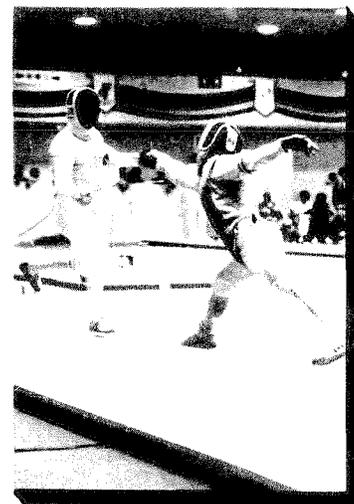
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On The Cover
 Michael Marx (right) vs. Loguin (USSR) in men's foil at World University Games. Photo by John Friedberg.

The USFA Nominating Committee endorses the reelection of our present slate of officers for the next two year term. We think it is about time for our organization to show more stability than in the immediate past by keeping its administrative officers for longer than two years before booting them out. However, we would like to see more complete reports to the membership-at-large on fiscal and policy matters from a responsible administration. We would like to know what our leaders have in mind before they spend large sums of money on what may turn out to be a personal pet project or a great idea that needs more kicking around. We rely on our Board of Directors to ask the right questions, although they, too, sometimes have inadequate information. If there were some formal requirement for officers and committee chairmen to make annual written reports to the membership on their stewardship, we would even be in favor of four year terms for our elected officers.

Many thanks for the overwhelming support for our new look. Although glitches always seem to appear, we feel we are heading in the right direction. It is a more costly production than in the past, but we believe that a larger share (about one-third, so far) of general membership dues should be devoted to this publication.

While we want our readers to become better acquainted with the leaders and athletes of our sport, our publication is member supported and is open to debate from all parts of the country. So continue to send us your results, letters of commendation or indignation, and interesting articles. It is one of the most effective ways to let the Board of Directors know what you are doing and thinking. We may not be able to publish everything we receive, but we read it all and pass on that which is not published to where we think it might best be listened to and acted upon.

The personality profile for this issue shines on Wilbur Wheeler, a young man with a future. Our thanks to Scott Knies, chairman of the Junior Development Committee, for his contribution.

An enthusiastic, almost blow-by-blow account of our participation in the World University Games starts on page 12. Team Captain Carl Borack has heard enough about Americans being left behind on the world fencing scene and adopts a refreshingly positive attitude toward our recent accomplishments.

To keep an eye on developments elsewhere, you



The U.S.F.A. Nominating Committee Recommends for the 1986 to 1988 term of office:

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For Vice-President: George G. Masin

For Vice-President: Colleen Olney

For Secretary: Fred G. Rhodes

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will find in this issue some accounts of our experiences in other parts of the world: William Gaugler writes about coaching in Europe and Miklos Bartha contributes an account of a trip to a Junior competition in Canada.

Whatever happened in Point-a-Pitre? You may recall that the first Junior Pan-American Championships were scheduled for last July in Guadeloupe. The story, by Phyllis Elliott, appears on page 11. The official championships were held at a later date and we hope to have a follow up report on that one.

Our next issue will contain complete information on the U.S. National Championships, scheduled for June 14 to 21, 1986.

--MTH

Calendar

USFA National Calendar: 1986

*Check with National Office
for confirmation of Circuit
dates and entry forms.*

MONTH	DATE	WEAPON	EVENT NAME	CITY
Jan.	3- 4	WF	Circuit #3, Michel Alaux	New York City
	4- 5	MF	Circuit #3, Michel Alaux	New York City
	10-12	4 Weapon	USFA Collegiate Open	Chapel Hill, NC
	11-12	ME	Circuit #3, Centennial Epee	Colo. Springs, CO
	12	WE	Circuit #3, Centennial Epee	Colo. Springs, CO
	12	MS	Circuit #3	Chapel Hill, NC
Feb.	8- 9	ME "A"	"Ciudad de Caracas"	Caracas, Venez.
	8- 9	4 Weapon	"Ottawa Shield"	Ottawa, Canada
	14-15	MF "A"	"Coupe Cuba"	Havana, Cuba
	15-16	4 Weapon	"Steven Lazar"	Vancouver, Canada
	15-17	4 Weapon	USFA Nat'l. U-20 & U-16	St. Paul, Minn.
March	1- 2	WF	NCAA Regional Champs.	NCAA Regions
	8- 9	MFSE	ECAC Championships	Naval Academy, MD
	15	WF	NIWFA Collegiate Champs	Hunter College, NY
	18-19	MFSE	NCAA Championships	Princeton, NJ
	20-22	WF	NCAA Championships	Princeton, NJ
	22-23	MS "A"	New York Sabre	New York City
	27-31	4 Weapon	WORLD U-20 Champs	Stuttgart, W. Germany
April	5	MS	Circuit #4, Mardi Gras	New Orleans, LA
	5- 6	4 Weapon	"Governor General"	Ottawa, Canada
	12-13	MF	Circuit #4	San Francisco, CA
	12-13	WF	Circuit #4	Philadelphia, PA
	13	WE	Circuit #4	Philadelphia, PA
19-20	ME	Circuit #4	San Antonio, TX	
May	3- 4	MF, WF	National H.S. Champs.	Portland, OR
	23-24		FIE Congress	Paris, France
	24-25	WF "A"	"Coupe Buenos Aires"	Buenos Aires, Argentina
June	14-21	5 Weapons	USFA National Champ.	New York, NY
July— Aug.	25—3	4 Weapons	WORLD Championships National Sports Fest.	Sofia, Bulgaria Houston, TX

World Cup Events "A" 1986

Women's Foil			Men's Foil		
18-19 January	Budapest	HON	25-26 January	Paris	FRA
8- 9 February	Goppingen	ALF	14-15 February	Havana	CUB
1- 2 March	Turin	ITA	1- 2 March	Venice	ITA
22-23 March	Leipzig	RDA	14-15 March	Paris	FRA
10-14 April	Minsk	URS	12-13 April	Budapest	HON
26-27 April	Paris	FRA	3- 4 May	Bonn	ALF
10-11 May	Como	ITA			
24-25 May	Buenos Aires	ARG			
Men's Epee			Men's Sabre		
8- 9 February	Caracas	VEN	24-27 January	Moscou	URS
22-23 February	Paris	FRA	8- 9 February	Budapest	HON
8- 9 March	Londres	GBR	1- 2 March	Hannovre	ALF
22-23 March	Berne	SUI	22-23 March	New York	USA
5- 6 April	Heidenheim	ALF	11-12 April	Varsovie	POL
10-11 May	Poitiers	FRA	17-18 May	Abano Terme	ITA
24-25 May	Legnano	ITA			

Wilbur Wheeler, the Perpetual Boutster

by Scott Knies

Wilbur Wheeler has spent the last six years trying to fence as many bouts as possible, whenever and wherever he could. At local and national foil tournaments Wheeler was there, entering both junior and senior events and sometimes the epee competition, too. He reasoned that to be a good fencer, one had to fence. Hard bouts. On the strip. In every tournament.

The abundant bouting has paid off for the 18-year old Cleveland native. As reigning Under-19 and Under-20 Men's Foil Champion, he has proved himself the best in American junior competition. He now focuses his sights on goals beyond the junior events: increased consistency in the North American Circuit, NCAA tournaments and, of course, more bouting. He realizes these next years of bouting will include his toughest matches ever, fought in the international arena of world championships and Olympic Games.

Wilbur Wheeler is a young man who understands his relationship to fencing.

"This is an individual sport and it takes a lot of discipline," he says. "In the end, it's not the system or program that makes you, it has to be the person."

Throughout his junior fencing career, Wheeler has been his own person. Early success has not tarnished his refreshingly sincere and self-effacing manner. And few foilists reinforce the perception of fencing as a gentlemen's sport more than Wheeler. Yet even though he is a nice guy, he is also a fierce competitor.

"A young man—primed for the next hurdle."

In 1979, when he was 12 years old, Wheeler started fencing in a community beginning class taught by his coach William Reith. Two years later he won the first of his two U-16 crowns. Two U-19 and one U-20 championships would follow. The key to his rapid development then and now is constant participation in competitive events.

"I fence all the age group and senior events," Wheeler relates. "If you fence enough tournaments, you don't get shocked into the next level; you're able to build enough confidence to step up sooner."

Thanks primarily to this commitment, Wheeler is primed for the next hurdle.

"I plan to really go for the seniors," he says. "I am ready to step in with some sort of confidence. I look forward to achieving my goal of making the 1988 Olympic Team."

Whereas some champions let the pressure of being on top alter their perspective, Wheeler has not changed his graceful style—either on or off the strip. He accepts the responsibility that comes with winning.

"I consider it an honor to be an example to other juniors," he says.

Wheeler insists on the importance of athletes setting per-

sonal goals. "I have one major goal (the 1988 Olympic Team) and certain goals leading up to that involve moving up in points."

"Points" refer to the practice of selecting USFA national team members by their point rankings. Certain competition results earn corresponding points which are totaled several times a season. The highest point holders in each weapon ranking are then selected to national teams. Wheeler favors the current ranking emphasis for juniors earning points at senior events.

"Before this season, rankings depended too much on the junior tournaments. You could make the Junior World Team just on the JOs (Junior Olympic Championship



Photo by Hal Wells

Wilbur Wheeler *(Continued)*

results) and the juniors would only go that far to get points. The new system is an incentive to work harder and strive for results at the senior events."

To Wheeler, hard work is a given. He practices three times a week, four hours a day. His training includes one hour of calisthenics, one hour of footwork and two hours of bouts. He takes three individual lessons a week and credits his club, Alcazar, with helping in the routine rigors of practice. "We try to take it (training) seriously. By practicing in a group, we can pull each other up. If you train alone, you don't have that push."

The practice time and incessant bouts furnish their rewards. Wheeler is already known as one of the best fighters in the country, aided by his slight target and quick reflexes.

The soft-spoken duelist begins his college fencing campaign this season as a freshman at Cleveland State University. He is majoring in business management.

"We've got a ways to go."

In his six years of experience, Wheeler has seen a gradual improvement in the quality of U.S. junior fencing. "The number of good fencers has increased, so there is more depth in the ranking. It used to be just the top three were good; now it's distributed throughout the top 10. But," he quickly adds, "We've got a ways to go." Real improvement in U.S. fencing won't be measured by Wheeler until "we start getting international results."

He has well-conceived ideas on the subject. "We have to start now by sending juniors to 'A' (international) tournaments. At least one junior should be on the Senior World Championship Team. Give them the experience now," he reasons, "It will help more in the long run."

It is the same concept, Wheeler points out, as having U.S. juniors fence the senior circuits. "Only one 'A' event a year (Junior World Championships) is not enough. It's like taking a test without studying."

He explains further. "The fencers are so much more intense in Europe because there is such a depth of good fencing. We seem to lack that extra action to beat them."

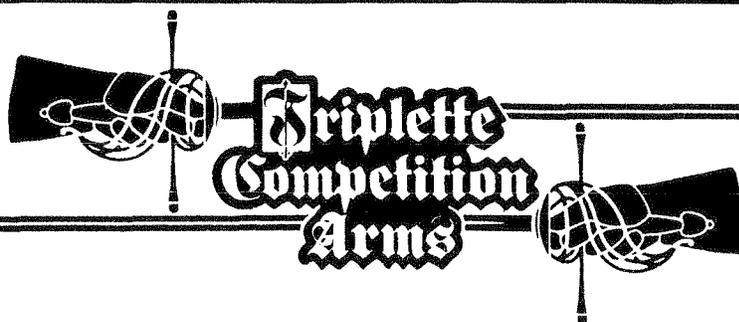
What would the perpetual boutster do to find the extra action? "I would go to France," Wheeler responds. "There are lots of tournaments there."

In the meantime, Wheeler has an observation for improving fencing at home. "We need to start the kids younger. The talent in potential fencers is there, but not the coaches."

Wheeler's advice to beginning coaches and fencers deals with a main problem confronting American fencing: finding and keeping young athletes. "You must work hard to get the basics down first, but this creates a difficult situation because the kids want to have fun and go with the blade right away. And if you go with the basics and footwork for a year, it's hard to keep the kids around."

But if you don't work hard and develop sound basics and footwork, "You're just wasting someone's talent," he acknowledges.

Fencing's Catch 22? Not if you are a self-motivated individual with personal goals who bouts all the time.



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European Preparations For The Future

by William M. Gaugler
Director, Fencing Masters Program
San Jose State University

In June 1985 I visited well-known fencing salles in Austria, West Germany, and Italy, observing training methods, and discussing technical matters with the fencing masters, who were more than generous with their hospitality. Since developments in Europe will have direct bearing on our own future success in the international sphere, I want to share with our colleagues in this country my impressions.

At Salzburg Maestra Doszy-Gundisch, working with an assistant master recently arrived from Hungary, gives lessons in the traditional manner of the Italo-German School, with its exacting technical method and great mobility on the fencing strip. Throughout the lesson a state of alertness is maintained by interjecting rapid parry riposte, counter-parry riposte exercises. The sabre drill Madame Doczy-Gundisch's associate gave one of her young pupils was especially impressive. She ran the entire gamut of actions from simple attacks to second intention. Watching the young fencers in Salzburg at work suggested to me that Austria will do well in the years to come.

If the accomplishments of junior fencers in Austria are striking, then the progress West Germany and Italy have made in this respect is even more remarkable. Both the number of young fencers and the support the junior program receives in those countries provide clear evidence of intent.

Tauberbischofsheim and Mestre, two of the most significant fencing centers in Western Europe, are prime examples of what strong local and national support can achieve. Tauberbischofsheim, with a population of about 12,000 inhabitants, has 400 of its children involved in the fencing program, and is the home of fifteen of the twenty fencers who represented West Germany in the world championships at Barcelona in 1985. How is this possible?

Organization, funding, and hard work appear to be the answers. Fencers train throughout the year in the most up-to-date facility in the world. They follow a rigorous training schedule alternating fencing lessons and free fencing with calisthenics, road work, and exercise on weight machines. Each fencer's attendance and performance is carefully logged, and he or she is given specific quotas of lessons and competitive results to meet, depending upon level of accomplishment. An absence, or fewer victories than required, must be made up at a subsequent session. In preparation for major competitions, participating fencers are obliged to take four fifteen-minute lessons daily, and to fence in at least three thirteen-fencer round robins. The training program is regarded with the utmost seriousness, and the authority of the fencing master is viewed as absolute.

Ten masters are engaged to train the competitive fencers and gifted juniors, with teaching assistants to instruct the children. Three full-time teachers are available for the sixty or so young interns, and an additional sixteen local instructors are hired on an hourly basis to provide help in special areas where children have difficulty with their academic studies.



Epee lesson at Tauberbischofsheim, W. Germany.

Tauberbischofsheim is also a center for developing fencing teachers. The teaching assistants are, in fact, in this program, and acquire a portion of their practical experience while helping the young. At Tauberbischofsheim the master's candidate undergoes three levels of carefully planned instruction encompassing fencing methodology, sports medicine, biomechanics, statistics, and sports psychology before entering the final phase of his professional education at Cologne. With the successful completion of examinations given at each level, a professional license is awarded.

Typical of the system of instruction developed by Maestro Beck, and his associate Maestro Peltzer, is emphasis on actions on the blade, such as, in foil, change of engagement from fourth to third (French sixte), feint to the low line, and disengagement to the high line. In epee, three consecutive hits to varied target areas are common. If the master parries the final action, the student executes a counter-parry riposte along the blade to the body. Throughout the lesson the pupil is kept moving up and down the fencing strip so that he maintains complete mobility. I watched Maestro Pezsa, who arrived from Hungary only seven months ago, give a superb sabre

European Preparations For Future

(Continued)

lesson. He followed the traditional Italo-Hungarian method, including attacks and counterattacks with the point, and many actions on the blade such as transports, beats, and pressures. The precision of movement and sensitivity of touch were a pleasure to observe.

The building at Tauberbischofsheim was constructed over a period of years in three steps, beginning in the early 1970s, with the federal government paying seventy per cent of the cost, the state government, thirty per cent, and the city government contributing the land. The structure contains two large fencing rooms with thirty-four electrical fencing strips and two television cameras, dressing rooms, showers, sauna, swimming pool, weight room, conference rooms, offices and reception area, a kitchen and dining room, apartments for guests, and an outdoor track and tennis courts. The edifice is heated with natural hot water from the ground, and has a conventional oil heat back-up system.

The organizational skills, determination, and energy of Maestro Beck and his colleagues at Tauberbischofsheim have resulted in a fencing center that now serves as a model for other Olympic training centers in West Germany.

In certain respects, the success story at Tauberbischofsheim has a parallel at Mestre, where Maestro Di Rosa transformed a modest fencing club into one of the most renowned centers for fencing in Western Europe. First local, then national support provided the financial base necessary for developing a strong program. As at Tauberbischofsheim, the training of juniors is given paramount importance. While less elaborate than the Tauberbischofsheim building, the new salle d'armes at Mestre offers the serious fencer everything he or she needs in a modern facility.

I was invited to watch one of Maestro Di Rosa's assistants give foil lessons to two children, a boy and a girl. Although the two young people had only been fencing for a few months, they were kept moving up and down the strip, alternating attacks with parry riposte, counter-parry riposte drills. The lesson took the form of a simulated assault, with the teacher presenting openings to prompt an attack or counterattack.

Maestro Di Rosa explained that as a student of the celebrated Livornese master, Beppe Nadi, he had already found the gap between the traditional lesson, with its stress upon correct form, and competitive fencing, difficult to bridge. In short, the ability to take a beautiful classical lesson did not guarantee success in fencing competition: it merely provided the fencer with the mechanical means to achieve results. As a consequence, Maestro Di Rosa devised a system of instruction based on a less formal and more natural approach to fencing. Instead of insisting on a classical guard position and a year or more of training prior to combat, the pupil was permitted to adopt a comfortable guard, and to participate in competitive fencing within the first few months of instruction.

At the heart of Maestro Di Rosa's pedagogical method is the aim to develop in his students the fencing intelligence necessary for practical results on the fencing strip. Correc-

tions are made by using the Socratic system, asking questions, so that the young fencer arrives at the answers himself. Without undue emphasis on the mechanics of fencing, the pupil is gradually led to understand the principles of swordplay; time, measure, and velocity. Flexibility and imagination are the qualities Maestro Di Rosa and his associates cultivate in their fencers. Nowhere was this more evident, in my estimation, than in the final bout of the Olympic Games at Los Angeles in 1984, when the brilliant young fencer from Mestre, Mauro Numa, overcame Matthias Behr's seven to three advantage to win the gold medal in foil.

The most conspicuous feature of Italian fencing today is the youth of the competitors. At Padua the Polish-Italian sabre master, Zub, has a veritable army of young people who are making a mark on both the national and international levels. The community of Padua, like Tauberbischofsheim and Mestre, provides strong backing for its club. Fencing is taken seriously, and the young are encouraged to train hard and compete well. In return for its support the community expects results.

In Rome, at the Club Scherma and the Accademia Aurelio Greco, the stress is, again, on youth. At the Club Scherma I observed Maestro Di Naro giving a foil lesson to Olympian, Lucia Traversa. His parry riposte, counter-parry riposte exercises were indicative of how the traditional Roman-Neapolitan lesson has been transformed into something dynamic and mobile. No longer were the parrying actions performed from immobility; parries were executed sometimes in retreat, other times with an advance.

But the most remarkable foil lesson I saw anywhere was given by Maestro Bicchi at the Accademia Aurelio Greco to an eleven-year old boy. The child's form was elegant, his precision outstanding, and his timing and speed truly extraordinary. In the final phase of the lesson I watched Maestro Bicchi provoke a feint in time by slowly attempting to engage his pupil's blade in fourth; the boy responded with a tiny feint by disengagement in time, sword arm fully extended, and eluded his teacher's countertime circular parry of fourth with a minute deceive and lunge.

Discussing pedagogy with Maestro Musumeci Greco, I learned that at his school young fencers are not permitted to enter competition until they have had at least three years of lessons, and a progressive introduction to free fencing. The degree of mobility on the strip is increased as the fencing technique improves.

My evenings in Rome ended pleasantly at dinner with Maestro Perno, President of the Italian Fencing Masters Association, and Maestro Di Paola, retired director of the Fencing Masters Courses at the National Institute of Physical Education. Both men are graduates and served on the faculty of the famous Military Masters School at Rome. They spoke of times past, and of present-day fencing. Like their French and Hungarian colleagues, they deplored the current fad for bent-arm attacks in foil, and simultaneous attacks in sabre.

What conclusions did I come to after my visit to Europe? Given the financial limitations and lack of public interest in

(Continued on next page)

The Canadians Are Coming!

by Miklos J. Bartha
Maitre, Salle Santelli, N.Y.

Salle Santelli New York received an invitation from Montreal to the Competition D'Oriola for the very young, held on 27 October 1985. We all know that in Canada in recent years very intensive work has been done in the development of young fencers with excellent results.

At Salle Santelli New York we have held the "Santelli Junior Open" competitions in the past four years for about the same age categories, with an average participation of 40-50 fencers yearly. Naturally, I was interested to see the "Grassroot Movement" in Canada.

This was also the last chance for our Ben Atkins to compete at his age level in an international atmosphere. We entered him in the "Benjamin" category (for fencers born in 1971-1972) with some apprehension that the competition might be too small and not worth the expense of attending.

We arrived at the competition to check in at 9:00 a.m. and there I was surprised by a beautiful sight. The large fencing room of the Sport Complex Claude Robillard was swarming with children. I learned later that there were altogether 140 participants in the Atome (1975-76), Moustique (1973-74), and Benjamin (1971-72) age groups.

Everything looked like our J.O. competitions, only the fencers were much, much smaller. They were dressed in clean, well fitting fencing uniforms (miniature fencing pants even for the smallest ones). The discipline was excellent; they were very serious about their fencing. The fencing was very good for that age level, and also very aggressive. I noticed quite a few fencers performing above the average. We can expect to see them a few years from now.

The competition was organized and smoothly run by the Club d'Esclime D'Oriola of Montreal, managed by Mme. Fleurette Campeau, a former member of the Canadian National Women's Fencing Team. The fencers came from Montreal, Quebec, Magog, Ottawa, and Laval. Altogether 14 clubs were represented.

It was a great experience, especially for Ben, who was first in his age group in a field of 35 boys, winning all his bouts in two preliminary rounds, a direct elimination of 16, and a final of 8.

Well! I say *This is grass roots development*. We keep talking, planning, writing about it for years.

The Canadians are doing it!

European Preparations

(continued)

our country, it is doubtful, in my opinion, that we can hope to compete successfully against either the West Germans or Italians by attempting, on a reduced scale, to emulate their training programs. The kinds of facilities and support that exist in those two countries are beyond our current means. They succeed in competition against one another by employing the appropriate tactical measures. Each international championship offers the basis for developing countermeasures. In other words, the winner is always one step ahead of the loser.

While hours of conditioning, such as the West German and Italian fencers enjoy, are unquestionably important in the overall makeup of a well-trained athlete, mechanical skill can still be a decisive factor. More specifically, good point control is far more significant than the ability to fence for hours on end. Maestro Aldo Nadi once confided that he was not able physically to undergo the intense training program his brother, Nedo, did. Maestro Nadi's modus operandi was to train to the maximum degree possible, conserving energy on the fencing strip whenever feasible, and exploiting all his opponent's weaknesses.

This may also be a clue to solving our own problem: if we try to compete with European fencers on their own terms, we are at a disadvantage; but if we concentrate on improving our mechanical skills, we can take advantage of the many technical errors they now commit. These include advances executed with the sword arm bent or with the point of the weapon in the air, wide and slow arm movements, twisting the body to avoid hits, and rising from the guard position when distance has been closed.

To compete effectively in international fencing I would

recommend: 1) that we take steps to enlarge our junior program; 2) that we increase the number of professionally-trained fencing teachers; 3) that we insist that our fencers employ tight blade actions and a fully-extended sword arm; and 4) that we develop a sophisticated generation of young competitors capable of using the full range of fencing actions from simple attacks through counterattacks, counter-time, the feint in time, the arrest in countertime, and second intention.

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Treasure Island

by Phyllis Elliott

France has three possessions in the Caribbean: Guyane, Martinique, and Guadeloupe. It is as if little pieces of France itself had broken off and drifted southwards, growing warm and lush, but retaining the language and style of the mainland.

Do the Guadeloupians resent their status as a "department" of France? I was told that it was indeed cumbersome to be ruled by a government eight hours away by plane, but all but a handful of the 320,000 inhabitants were resigned to the situation because of practical and economic considerations.

I was shortly to experience first-hand how delicate that relationship is.

I had gone to Guadeloupe in the company of my fencing master, Ted Katzoff, and another of his students to train local personnel to staff the first Junior Pan American Fencing Championships. We had been invited by the presenter because of our experience on the competition staff of the Los Angeles Olympics, from which we had developed a training methodology based upon simulation of all the problems we had encountered on the competition floor during the Games.

Fencing in Guadeloupe is surprisingly strong for such a tiny, remote place, thanks to the indomitable efforts of Robert Gara. France's current national junior foil champion, its junior epee team champions, and its junior bronze medalist in epee are all Guadeloupians—and France has some 20,000 junior fencers, while Guadeloupe has about 100.

While the program and the Pan American Youth Championships were both the results of local efforts, they had the full support of France's Fencing Federation, its Ministry of Youth and Sport, and its Director and Associate Director of National Training—not to mention that of the International Fencing Federation, whose current president is conveniently French.

"We thought it prudent to end training for the day."

Our initial meetings with our personnel went very well, as it was a comparatively easy matter to train young fencers who already spoke French.

On the third morning, however, only half of our forces were present. We were told that the others were "blocked" and could not get to the Palais des Sports; those present lived nearby or had come on foot. Nonetheless, we began our practice, pausing only a moment at the sound of something like cannon fire outside the venue. Soon tear gas began drifting in and through the open doors we glimpsed a few people running.

We thought it prudent to end training for the day and set a tentative schedule for the following morning. We returned home and divided a sumptuous bag of Trader Joe's deluxe snack mix between us.

What had happened was not a revolution at all, but a confrontation between the forces of order and 600 to 1,000 people who had barricaded the streets of Point-a-Pitre. Determined that no one be injured, the police were

attempting to clear the barricades by using tear gas. This was not really effective: the demonstrators merely retreated 15 or 20 yards and threw up another barricade, using old cars, trees, scrap metal, billboards and boulders to effectively keep the streets closed to vehicles.

At issue was the case of Georges Faisans, who was on a hunger strike in a Paris jail, where he had been moved because Guadeloupe's jail did not have the facilities to care for hunger strikers. Faisan had cut a teacher on the arm during a scuffle—a three month offense for which he had been sentenced to four years because of his position as head of a militant separatist party. On appeal, the sentence had been reduced to three years; and in the traditional Bastille Day amnesty, Faisans had been passed over. Guadeloupians seemed to all agree that France had erred in dealing so harshly with the case—but they felt varying degrees of regret, dismay, and shame over the strike and the unaccustomed confrontations.

The confrontations themselves, which took place little more than a block from where we were, were unarmed, consisting of stones thrown by one side against tear gas and lots of noise on the other. We purposely kept a low profile, but the abrupt postponement and reorganization of the fencing tournament (and the search for something to eat) drew us into the streets each day. Although obviously foreign to the island and its trouble, we were never accosted or spoken to, even while climbing over the barricades.

"Guadeloupe is a place to return to."

By the third day, a promised review of the case brought calm to the city. (Faisans was subsequently freed, having served more than the three months term for his offense.)

Meanwhile, from the ashes of the cancelled Pan American Youth Championships rose a two-day fencing party, the "International Tournament of Friendship." Only three teams (U.S., Canada, and Mexico) had flown home; that left young people from nine countries, who met, fenced, and won medals to take home with them. The Holiday Inn management graciously donated a banquet room and two corridors along the pool for the bouting to take place. There was shouting and cheering as the fencers finished their bouts and congregated in and around the pool; you knew there would be a lot of dancing once the medal ceremonies had ended, regardless of the fatigue of a hot and humid day's exertion in masks, padded jackets, and lame vests.

There was still concern on the part of the Committee about the "moment of instability."

"If you received an invitation to an event in Guadeloupe, what would you think?" we were asked.

"Je viendrais," I replied. "I would come. Because I know it would be beautifully presented and beautifully run."

In our eyes and, I am sure, in the eyes of the presidents of all the participating federations, Guadeloupe is a place to return to.

The 1985 World University Games

Captain's Report

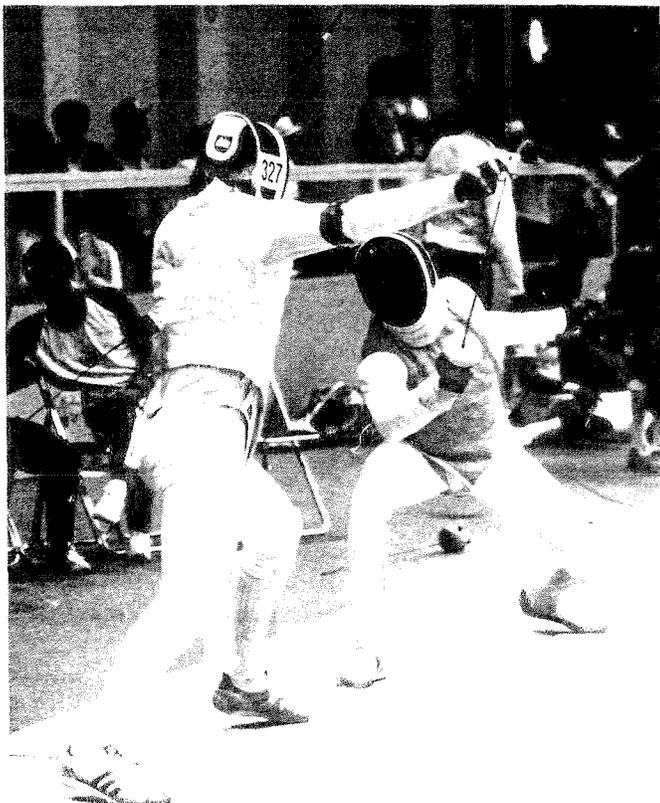
by Carl Borack

Riding the crest of American Fencing's "high" over our fourth place 1985 World Championship Epee Team, the 1985 U.S. World University Games Team served notice on the rest of the world that American Fencing is on the rise. Twenty athletes, two coaches, a manager, armorer, and captain descended on Kobe, Japan, with great expectations.

This was a team that possessed heart, courage, and fight and they were willing to put in the time to generate great results. Their enthusiasm and energy were matched by the two coaches, Aladar Kogler and Emanuel Kaidanov, who brought a professional approach to the team. Their leadership, fellowship, and talent prepared this team for maximum results.

The World University Games are considered a major international event and the quality of the teams in Kobe justified that reputation. The Soviet bloc takes these games very seriously, particularly because they were not at the L.A. Summer Games. The quality of fencing is strong, but the numbers are not as great; consequently, from the first round this is a very intense competition.

Men's Foil—Michael Marx, Peter Lewison, and Ed Kaihatsu were our foil fencers. Lewison and Kaihatsu both advanced fourth from their first rounds, with 1 clear victory and 2 of their 3 defeats at the score of 5-4. In their second rounds, Lewison advanced second from his pool, with 2 victories and 2 defeats (both again 5-4 losses). Kaihatsu was eliminated with a 1 victory, 3 defeat record. In the third round, Lewison was eliminated, losing all of his matches. Peter ended up ranked 23rd and Kaihatsu was 30th.



Peter Lewison (right) vs. Ibragimov (USSR) at the World University Games. Photo by John Friedberg.

Michael fenced consistently well throughout the tournament. During his progress through the first three rounds, he defeated top world cup point holders Groc of France, Cipressa of Italy, Betancourt of Cuba, as well as an array of others.

In the direct elimination, seeded eighth, Marx drew Szekeres of Hungary and defeated him 10-8. He then drew Shimokawa of Japan and defeated him 10-7, thereby making the final. His first bout in the finals, against Omnes of France, was a tremendously intense bout because of the officiating and Marx had to overcome three terrible calls, where touches were called against him that should have been his (Fini of Italy tells me there were only two bad calls). However, Michael kept his composure and proceeded to defeat Omnes 10-7. He fenced with great imagination, control, variety, and "smarts". He knew what he was doing and controlled the bout. His next bout was again against the Frenchman Groc. Michael's game seems to work well with the French fencers, for he overwhelmed Groc 10-6 with the same style of fencing that won him the first bout in the finals.

His bout for the gold medal was against Robak of Poland, who had defeated Bandach of Poland and Ibragimov of Russia. Marx describes Robak as "the kind of fencer who, when he is hot, is impossible to beat, but also he is inconsistent." This was one of those days when Robak was on and his less classical style did not work as well with Marx's game. Michael seemed tired when he was defeated by Robak 10-6.

Michael's winning the first American fencing medal in the history of our involvement in the World University Games is a milestone for our sport. So that you may fully understand the caliber of fencing in the finals, one should note that four of the eight fencers, Numa and Cipressa of Italy, Omnes and Groc of France, finished this season ranked in the top 10 of World Cup point standings.

Words cannot describe how tremendously proud all of us felt at Michael Marx's result. He made the final exciting with a brilliant tactical and physical display of foil fencing. Michael was clearly in control of his game and fenced in a way that all of us for years had hoped he would achieve. Every facet of his game was working on a high level and he out-thought and out-fenced his opponents.

Women's Foil—Marx winning the medal made everyone realize that an American can achieve a result! You could see determination in the faces of Jana Angelakis, Sharon Monplaisir, and Katy Bilodeau as they took to the piste for their event. From the first round, Monplaisir and Angelakis moved up. Katy drew the toughest first round with only three other fencers in the pool. Her only victory came against Zallaffi of Italy, one of the top women fencers in the world. This put Katy up third and put the Italian out. In the second round, Sharon advanced first with 3 victories, 1 defeat; Katy advanced second with 3 victories, 1 defeat. Jana needed to win her last bout to advance to the next round. She lost 5-4 against Sparaciari of Italy, which eliminated her with a 0-4 record and ranked her 30th in the tournament.

Monplaisir and Bilodeau emerged from the third round seeded seventh and fifth respectively and advanced to the tableau. In her first bout, Bilodeau defeated Guzanu of Romania 8-6. Sharon lost 8-1 to Soboleva of Russia. In their second bouts, Bilodeau lost to Gandolfi of Italy 8-3 and Monplaisir won 8-2 over Missi of Germany. Then the most unlikely thing happened: Sharon and Katy drew each other in the final repechage round, the winner advancing to the finals. Katy was to be our finalist, winning the bout 8-7.

It was unfortunate for Sharon that she had to draw her team-

Captain's Report *(Continued)*

mate, Katy. She had fenced well over both days with consistent, hard fighting, sometimes accompanied by moments of sheer brilliance. Her ninth place is a tremendous result.

In the finals, Katy drew Gandolfi of Italy, to whom she earlier had lost poorly. However, this time she came very close to beating Gandolfi, losing 9-7. Katy is a joy to watch. She has one of the best competitive dispositions I have ever witnessed and she truly has fun when she fences. After the trauma of a very sticky first round, she breezed through the competition, beating some of the best women along the way. Her result of sixth place gives us great hope for our women's program.

With a 6th and 9th place in the women's event, Katy and Sharon now know that they can beat the best. They can proceed with the refinements in their games that are going to make them consistent in their results.

Sabre—The level of the competition in sabre was world class quality with very few entrants; the going was rough from the start.

Michael Lofton and George Gonzales-Rivas both advanced from the first round. Brian Keane was eliminated from a "killer" five man pool with 1 victory, 3 defeats. The second round saw Lofton eliminated with 2 victories (over Bujdoso of Hungary and Marin of Italy) and 3 defeats. Rivas was also eliminated with 2 victories (over Etropoliski of Bulgaria and Csongardi of Hungary).

Epee—Steve Trevor went out in the first round (on indicators to a Chinese fencer) with 2 wins and 2 losses. His misfortune in the individual proved to be the good fortune for the epee team, later. Chuck Michaels was eliminated with a 1 victory, 3 defeat record. Rob Stull advanced second from his first pool and fourth from his second pool. He advanced third from the next round, beating Mazzoni of Italy and Suziki of Japan. In the DE, he lost 10-7 to Merencio of Cuba, who ultimately took third place. Stull then drew Strohmeyer of Austria and lost 10-9. Stull ended up 16th, Trevor 31st, and Michaels 34th.

Rob Stull is a very talented athlete. He went from the World Pentathlon Championships to the World University Games, surviving three rounds of fencing and fell slightly short of advancing.

Team Events—The men's and women's foil teams benefitted from the good performances in the individual events and had good seeding. An interesting array of talented, seasoned performers experienced early elimination from the individual events; consequently, the team events were highly charged and motivated, with many surprises in store for some of the higher ranked teams.

Our men's foil team, ranked sixth, drew Russia and Indonesia, with two teams advancing. We defeated Indonesia 9-1. Then the



Michael Marx (right) at World University Games 1985. Photo by John Friedberg.

Russians beat Indonesia 9-0. In our next match, the Russians seemed to take us lightly at first, but when we jumped to an early lead, you could see a tone of seriousness overtake them. The final result was that Russia beat us 9-5; Marx and Lewison had 2 victories each and Kaihatsu 1. Wilbur Wheeler had no victories, but this catharsis seemed to light his fuse for the rest of the team event. To earn a berth in the final tableau of eight, we defeated Austria 9-4. Marx had 3 victories, Wheeler 3, Lewison 2, and Kaihatsu 1.

Ranked eighth in the finals, we drew France, to whom we lost 9-3. We lost the next match against the Russians 9-5. In this match, we spared a tired and bruised Michael Marx and fenced the other four. Wheeler avenged the indignity from his prior encounter with the Russians and went undefeated with 3 victories. In our final match against the Germans, we lost 9-6 and our men's foil team placed eighth overall.

Our women's team had good seeding and was ranked fourth because of the individual results. Once again, top individuals being eliminated in the early going made the team event a hotly contested competition. For instance, Russia, Italy, and France were in the same pool, with only two advancing.

Our first team match was against Korea, whom we defeated 9-4. We then lost to Romania 9-1. In the DE, seeded fifth, we drew a strong Italian team. We lost 9-2, with Monplaisir and Angelakis each contributing 1 victory. (The Italian team went on to defeat Germany and Russia and take 1st place). We then drew Poland and were defeated 9-6. Sharon and Katy each had 2 victories, Jana and Lisa Piazza each had 1. Our final match was against China, who defeated us 9-1, thereby placing us eighth.

The individual event took its toll on both Sharon and Katy. In the future, we will have to pay more attention to putting our fencing in the type of international competitive environment that has them competing in both a team and individual event, back to back. We don't want strong individual results to lessen the chances of our teams, so we must prepare for this phenomenon—it's a nice problem to have.

The men's sabre team, seeded eighth in a field of 11, drew Italy, Bulgaria, and Korea, with two teams going up. The Bulgarians destroyed us 9-1. We had five 5-4 losses and Lofton won the only victory. The Italians then defeated us 9-3, with Lofton winning the 3. The final match against Korea was for our dignity, which we won 9-4. Lofton had 3 victories, John Friedberg 3, Keane 2, and Paul Friedberg 1. It's difficult to comment on our sabre team's performance. They went up against two of the top teams who ended up second and third. Our team ended in seventh place.



Michael Marx (right) vs. Patrick Groc (Fr.) at World University Games.

The epee team experienced the same fate as the sabre team, with difficult seeding. However, they rose above their individual results and, of all the team events at the Games, this was the most exciting and most fun.

It was interesting to observe the visible reaction to our team's result in Barcelona. It was first evident on the training pistes, where the Russians and other top nations asked to fence with our epeeists. (This is a rare occurrence!) Their coaches watched Koglar give lessons. As our team rose through the competition, so did the interest of other delegations that visited our piste.

The excellent result of our World University team preserved our new found image and gained further respect for our epee teams. You should be aware that the make up of this team was different from the team that was announced and that traveled to Japan. Two members of the team, Jim O'Neil and David Roskoph, were replaced on the team by Mike Marx and Peter Lewison.

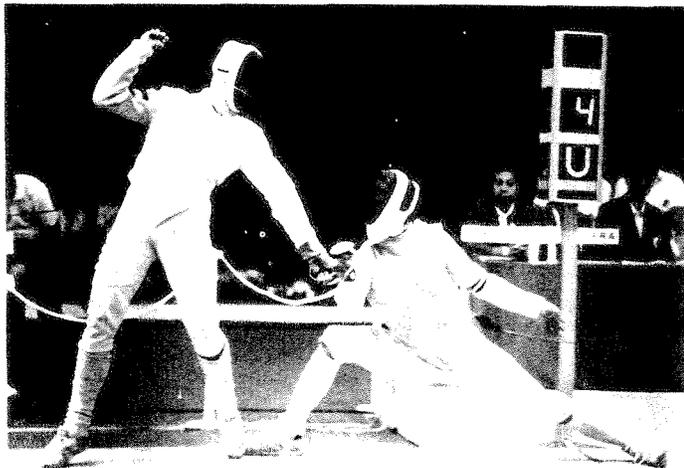
Our first round pool was a killer! Romania (European Cup champions and the same team we defeated in Barcelona), China (the team we lost to in the Olympics), and Switzerland, a seasoned and dangerous team. We were seeded twelfth and not expected to survive the pool. We won a tough match against China 9-7.

This was a terrific team win and set the tone for a comradeship that pervaded the rest of the competition. While we were beating the Chinese, the Romanians were trouncing the Swiss 9-3.

We then faced a very hungry Swiss team, to whom we lost in a grueling match 8-7. It was a tough match to lose, but the team did not despair. While we were losing, the Chinese were being dismantled by the Romanians 9-3.

The Romanians now already had two match victories and the U.S. needed many bout victories (perhaps even a win: the U.S. had beaten this same team in Barcelona).

While we fenced Romania, the Chinese proceeded to trounce the Swiss 9-4. While they were doing their job, we were doing ours, giving the Romanians a great match, in fact leading them,



M. Marx, USA (right) vs. P. Groe, France, at the World University Games, Kobe, Japan. Photo by John Friedberg.

making them fence us, and play catch up. Trevor had 3 victories, Marx, Stull, and Michaels each had 1. The hard fought match was won 8-6 by Romania; however, we advanced to the finals of eight, seeded eighth and set to fence number one, the USSR.

Though we lost our match against Russia 9-5, it was closer than the score indicates because we had two 5-4 losses and two 5-5 losses. At times in the match we held a lead over the Russians, at which point their whole energy level and respect seemed to pick up as their coaches and team leaders started to "rev the troops." We had our own cheering squad in the form of a group of Japanese school children whom we commandeered to cheer for



Michael Marx (right) vs. Koretski (USSR) at World University Games 1985. Photo by John Friedberg.

our team. Steve Trevor, who was a pillar of strength throughout the team matches, lead the way with 3 victories, Marx and Michaels each had 1. We came very close in this hard fought match. Russia went on to defeat France by the same score as ours, 9-5, and then trounce Cuba 9-1 for first place.

Our next match, against Poland, we won 8-8. Trevor again lead our fencers with 4 victories, Michael Marx, who by now had almost fully made the transition from foilist to epeeist (he was even doing toe shots) took 3 critical victories. He was fencing better and better. Chuck Michaels came through in his final bout and gave us a victory.

Our final match with the Romanians was the battle of the weary. Trevor again lead with 3 victories, Marx, Stull, and Michaels each won 1; the final score was 7-6 Romania.

The Epee team's sixth place was a tremendous end to a terrifically successful World University Games team. We are indebted to Michael Marx and Peter Lewison for agreeing to stay on and join the epee team. Their attitude and presence lead greatly to this fine result.

This tournament was another major breakthrough for American fencing. We can finally rise above the cloud of inferiority that has prevailed. Our international teams now know that Americans can achieve results. We attempted to run this team in a professional way and the results speak for themselves. Both coaches were tremendous. They gave fully of themselves and were instrumental in creating a strong physical presence to give our fencers a solid launching pad into competition. Dan DeChaine was his normal admirable self as our armorer and Bill Goering adeptly handled the managerial chores. The USOC provided us with the service of a trainer, Gerald Bell, who did a fine job and provided us with constant, high quality care. (These extras do make a difference).

I am grateful to the International Committee for selecting me as Team Captain and I am pleased to be able to report such positive results. American fencing is definitely on the rise. We must accelerate the support of our elite fencers and attempt to maintain the momentum of the last 18 months.



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Whatever is the FIE up to? Much rumor, lots of conflicting signs, but only some facts have come down the pike in the last half year. It all goes back to the World Championships in Barcelona, where a French foil fencer encountered a broken blade and was seriously, but not fatally run through the guts, as our dueling ancestors were fond of putting it. Now three years before, you'll recollect, a Russian foil fencer was killed at the World Championships. That produced sincere condolences, a general sense that something ought to be done, and a slow heaving of the FIE dinosaur. Some proposals for new equipment (mostly still to be fully developed) were generated, this equipment to be required in 1987.

Kill a Russian; wound a Frenchman; these are two different things. Behold what happened in muggy Spain. There was an immediate summoning of the FIE movers and shakers and there was an instantaneous rule change, making all the new requirements scheduled for 1 January 1987 effective on 1 January 1986 instead. Whee, there's efficiency for you.

I am writing this in the middle of November 1985, using the latest information to have arrived, so that by the time you get to read it, there will have been plenty of time for the FIE to change and rechange things. Word to the wise. Please note, however, that nearly all these "new rules" are to apply at first only to the Junior and Senior World Championships and the "A" category events. Thus **only a limited number of USFA members could be affected for some time to come.**

And then, as it turns out, the FIE can't have everything it wants anyway—at least, not right away. The uniforms seem to be the big problem. Masks are less of a difficulty. (Eventually nearly every one we've now got, including those bought in 1985, will be old hat—sorry about that—and no longer acceptable.) The new blades, since they are made of a steel that only a couple of forges in Europe are currently capable of working, are going to be in short supply and expensive. (Note: if you listen to a French supplier, there's only one forge, in France; the Italians I've heard from agree that there's only one, but it's in Italy, they say. I conclude that there are two.)

So, the FIE has rar'd back and passed a law. Very good. They have had the sense to realize that, with the best will in the world, there isn't going to be enough even of the stuff that can now be made (blades and masks) to go around at all levels. Thus the requirement applies only to the top world-class events for the present—and it will be difficult enough to secure what's needed for them. Any Americans planning European expeditions in 1986 should bring plenty of Travelers Cheques.

In summary, what do the new requirements look like?

BLADES are to be made of a new, fancy, super alloy steel. As noted, they will be expensive, even when supplies open up. Since I have been given to understand that this fancy steel is actually an American invention, though being produced under license in Europe, maybe there's a chance for America to get back into the blade business? I wouldn't hold my breath. Incidentally—the latest amendment—the new steel will not be required in sabre blades until 1 January 1987.

MASKS in the new designs will be all stainless steel mesh (no more hot-tin-dipped types permitted), and will be dunked

in heavy epoxy-type paint, and will have larger, stronger, bibs. Note: **the 12 kilo punch test is the only new mask rule that is in effect for the USFA until further notice.**

“The FIE union suit”

UNIFORMS: Here's where the comedy for errors begins. Last spring the FIE commissions decided to recommend uniform cloth that could withstand 350 Newtons of force on ordinary areas and 800 in the presumably really vulnerable areas. That top figure is almost 180 pounds of force, crudely translated. Then at the Barcelona emergency meeting the demand was made that, instead of putting the protection in the uniform, it should take the form of a full-front undergarment (neck to groin and down the lead thigh). I am tempted to call it the "FIE union suit." Well, that demand didn't last long. Very shortly we got a crude drawing showing a limited two-piece underprotector. The top would cover from the throat down part of the rib cage, with more on the left side (heart, you know), and the bottom be a sort of Jockey-shorts design. This iron pants plus cut-down T-shirt approach would, like all the others, presumably have to be made of many layers of kevlar or some similar material. Maybe they left the midriff bare so that you could sweat?

But wait, what's this looming up? Not another FIE specification/demand? Of course, why not? The latest word is that they are back to square one and trying to get the protection into the uniform proper. However, the manufacturers reportedly can't make the Kevlar-or-whatever behave, even for the regular sort of uniform. The result? It is not likely that the new uniform requirements can be imposed, even at the highest-level competitions, before well into the 1986 year of competition—maybe at the Senior World Championships. Anybody want to bet?

In any case, the FIE commission recommendations call for an "approved type label" approach. The manufacturer submits samples of blades, masks, uniforms, etc., and will be authorized, if they pass, to add an extra label saying that his production items meet FIE standard such-and-so. Most FIE inspection will presumably consist in looking for the labels. It would be a bit of a trick to test uniforms or mask bibs at competition sites, following the test procedures prescribed. They call for a lab-type dynamometer, special test frames, controlled ambient temperatures and relative humidity, with the materials to be inspected stored under such specified conditions for some hours, etc., etc.

There is an American school of thought (and I doubt if we're alone in it) which holds that the FIE's ideas of how strong things need to be are based on inadequate research and are almost certainly too low, and that a lot more research is needed. I believe that such is the real state of affairs. In other words, folks, you ain't seen nothin' yet, as the old show biz formula has it. Maybe something like this will be the future scenario. Two fencers advance on the strip. They are burdened down by layer upon layer of stiff protective gear; they wear helmets like a medieval knights; their footwork will be crab-like; their hand motions molasses-slow. At last, fencing will really be safe.

Officers' Corner

by Lewis Siegel and Carl Borack

The United States is producing yet another upset-minded contender in the world sports arena—the United States Fencing Team. Eight years ago our country's gymnastics, water polo, and volleyball teams began to edge their way into the world's sports consciousness. Today, all are threats for world championships. Now the U.S. Fencing Team is making a similar move, recently producing the kind of competitive results that indicate real upward mobility in the international sports community. In the past 18 months America's fencers have won:

A bronze medal in the '84 Olympic games (Peter Westbrook, Men's Individual Sabre).

Fourth place at the '85 World Championships (The U.S. Men's Epee Team).

A second, two sixth, and a ninth place finishes at the World University Games (Michael Marx, 2nd in Men's Foil; Katy Bilodeaux, 6th, and Sharon Monplaisir, 9th, in Women's Foil; the Men's Epee Team, 6th).

We are very proud of the success of our athletes. It shows that we can break the stranglehold of the European fencing powers and it shows our young fencers and aspiring competitors that their fencing aspirations can far exceed the boundaries of the United States.

Funding remains a major obstacle to the U.S. Fencing Team, as was the case with the U.S. Ski Team 10 years ago. American fencing athletes face tremendous costs, not only for equipment and travel, but in lost revenue. It is difficult for our athletes to train and compete at world class levels while working full time to support their fencing involvement. Still, they are accomplishing the impossible. Over a period of time, however, we cannot keep expecting them to produce positive results without some financial aid. We cannot continue to ask our athletes to sacrifice everything, giving nothing in return.

With even a modicum of funding, we could measurably aid their training and competitive schedules. But in order to guarantee continuity and team experience, we must also find ways to offset their loss of income.

We urge you to make a financial pledge to support our athletes. Your donations are tax deductible and remember every dollar counts! Also ask your friends and those companies you do business with for a little help for our teams. If we are capable of generating the funds, our athletes will generate the results. America will no longer have to be a second-class citizen in the fencing arena and our athletes will be able to garner the same winning results that have been evidenced in other sports.

On another note, we urge all USFA members to try to recruit former fencers back into the sport. We are seeking to lure all those former high school and college fencers back to our terrific sport. If you know where a dormant fencer lies, write to our National Office and give us their address; we'll do the rest. We are designating programs geared to those people who want to compete with their contemporaries. We'll be developing more specialized types of competitions to accommodate different needs. All ideas and suggestions are welcome.

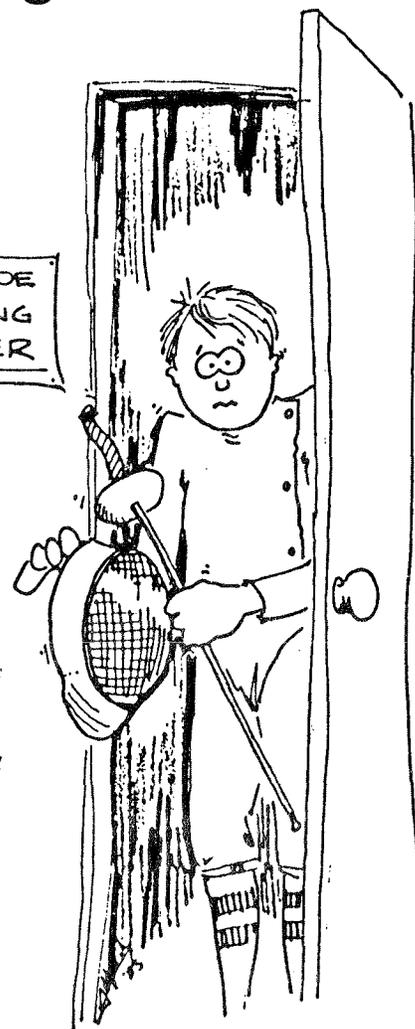
On the publicity front, look for an upcoming article on Jessica Yu in *Seventeen Magazine*, and articles on fencing in *Mademoiselle* and *Deltasky Magazine* (February '86 issue). The recent *Cosmopolitan* article generated 30 inquiries a day into our Boulder office. The **QE-2 Grand Masters** generated articles in *Advertising Age*, *Inside Sports*, *Travel and Leisure*, *New York Times*, *New York Post*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *USA Today*, *AP* and *UPI Wires*, and a few British papers. We are pleased to announce that Cunard Lines has asked us to continue this fencing promotion with the **2nd Annual Grand Masters Tournament**, onboard the June 1, '86, transatlantic crossing from Southampton to New York. All USFA members are entitled to a 10 percent discount on the total fare. Fencing classes and competition between Great Britain, Germany, and the U.S. will once again take place. You will receive more information in the mail.

Until next time—happy fencing!

Learning To Fence

Salle Gascon of Westside Fencing Center in Los Angeles is developing into a hot spot for fencing teacher training. It has held several summer fencing camps

and clinics for coaches. It has now received a grant from the Los Angeles Olympic Committee for equipment and training of teachers in the methodology for conducting basic fencing classes in high schools and it shares another LAOC grant aimed specifically at teaching fencing to kids from the inner city of Los Angeles. This illustration is from a brochure for novice fencers. The text is by Phyllis Elliott, the drawings by Jeff Marsh.



To the Editor

The New Look

I am writing to compliment you on the new design of AMERICAN FENCING magazine. I think the artwork, layout, and striking cover photo are all excellent. Also for the first time I can quickly refer to an article or find tournament results without flipping through every page. It's a publication I can now put out on my magazine table and feel that the grandeur of the sport is adequately represented when one of my friends notices it there. Keep up the good work.

--Steven D. Aguila, M.D.
Spokane, Wash.

Bravo! Congratulations on the best edition of our fencing magazine in 25 years. I found every page of interest, even the artistic front page.

The writer who submitted the paragraph on the Senior Olympics might have added that Aaron Bell typifies the character of individuality that makes this sport interesting. We are lucky to have fencers of such integrity in fencing

and I am sure that this also is true of Mr. Steere, the incidents of competition notwithstanding.

--Weldon Vlasar
Simi Valley, Calif.

Exceptional Sabre Directing

The sabre directing at this year's National Sports Festival was some of the best I have seen in a long time, both nationally and internationally. The reason was primarily due to the efforts of Marty Lang and Jeff Bukantz. These two gentlemen are outstanding foil fencers and foil directors. Not only did they have a keen sense of right of way, but they also had an excellent feeling for the sabre "tempo." This is not always the case when a foilist directs sabre or vice versa. Although the right of way is essential to both weapons, the time difference or "tempo" is different.

Mr. Lang and Mr. Bukantz were able to maintain the order and integrity of the fencing bout by properly enforcing the rules. They gave warnings for poor strip behavior when deserved. Very few world class sabre directors are willing to do this. They were sensitive enough to allow the sabre fencer to vent his feelings and let off a little steam—as sabre fencers will do—but they did not let it get out of hand. When they felt that a fencer was taking advantage of

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To The Editor

(Continued)

a situation, they immediately and properly warned the fencer. In properly applying the rules when necessary, the emphasis was placed on correct sabre fencing and not the antics or misbehavior of the fencers. With this high level of directing, these two directors were able to return the dignity and good sportsmanship to the game of sabre fencing which has been missing for a long time.

I only wish that international fencing directors would be more inclined to enforce the rules to maintain strip order. Only in this way will the emphasis be placed on the beautiful sport of fencing and not on the whims or fantasies of the fencers.

--Michael A. D'Asaro
Ashland, Oregon

Giorgio Santelli

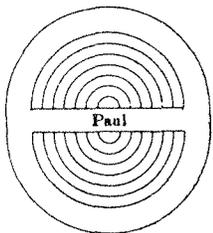
It was sad to learn that our colleague and friend, Maestro Giorgio Santelli, had passed away. To many of us he was one of the last links to a romantic world of fencing that no longer exists, an era of duels and elegant swordplay in which the professional teacher was seen as an artist. Maestro Santelli was a gifted fencer, a remarkable teacher, and a gentleman of the old school, well mannered and charming. To many younger teachers he served as a role model. His behavior embodied the essential characteristics of a fencing master. He was as well known in Europe as in the U.S.

It is as a teacher that Giorgio Santelli has left his mark

in our country. He was, as far as I know, the first master in the U.S. who represented a direct link to the Military Masters School at Rome. His father was a graduate of the masters school, and was trained by Carlo Pessina, regarded by many as the greatest sabre fencer of his time. . . Italo Santelli and the Hungarian master, Borsody, laid the foundations for the modern Hungarian sabre school. The majority of successful Hungarian fencers were pupils of these outstanding teachers. The basic principles and organization of actions in the Hungarian sabre school are based on the method of the Italian Military Masters School. There is, in fact, a straight line in pedagogical tradition connecting Rome and Budapest.

Giorgio Santelli, in teaching his students, naturally employed the system he learned from his father, which is to say, the method of the Italian Military Masters School. Its efficiency can be judged by the success of the Olympic teams he helped guide between 1928 and 1952. During that time period the United States achieved some of its most notable results: a bronze medal in individual epee in 1928; a silver medal in individual foil and bronze medals in team foil and team epee in 1932; and a bronze medal in team sabre in 1948. This is no small achievement when we consider how little support our coaches and athletes received in those years, in contrast to their European rivals. It was the discipline, self-sacrifice, and conviction of Giorgio Santelli and his students that helped bring about those results. To all of us, his death represents a great loss.

--William A. Gaugler
San Jose State University



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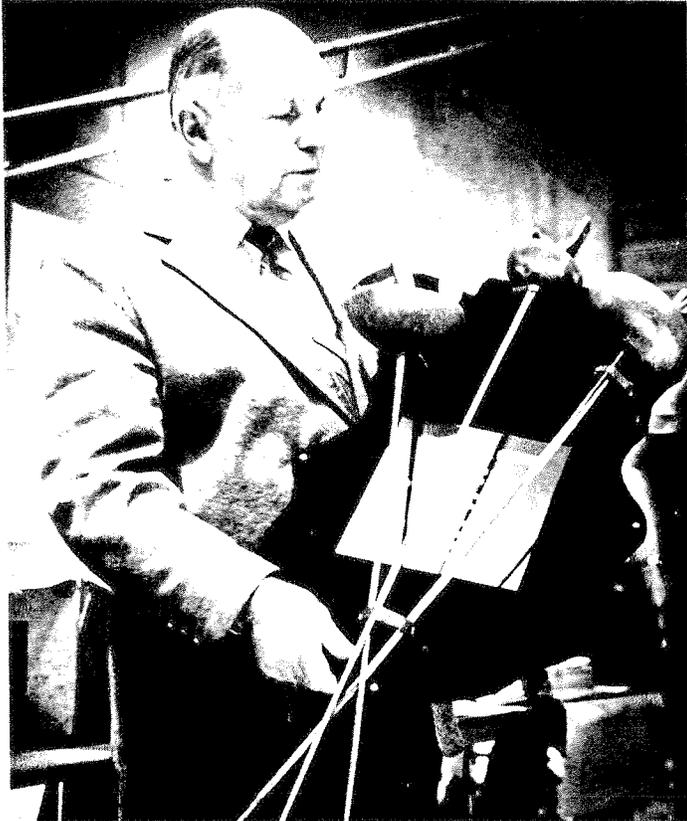
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Bulletin Board

A Surprise Trophy

At the recent Epee Circuit event in Berkeley, California, Dr. William G. O'Brien was surprised to receive from the Northern California Division a special trophy in recognition of over fifty years of dedicated service to fencing. From the many top (and not



Dr. William O'Brien. Photo by Gordon Clark

so top) fencers Dr. O'Brien has coached, the trophy lists three national champions: Heik Hambarzumian (Foil, 1974), Stan Lekach (Sabre, 1978), and Paul Soter (Epee, 1984). Dr. O'Brien's constant presence and support at competitions and at the Letterman facilities in the Presidio of San Francisco have earned him the affection and respect of all fellow fencers.

Honor for Henri Gordon

On November 4, Haverford College President Dr. Robert Stevens dedicated a new fencing room, named after Henri Gordon, who recently retired after fifty years as Haverford's fencing coach. Gordon started fencing as a varsity sport at Haverford in 1933. His many accomplishments included a 5-0 record against arch-rival Swarthmore College and 26 medals and trophies won by his fencers in the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Fencing Association Championships. His successor is James Murray.

Twentieth Tucson Espada

The Tucson Fencing Center announces its 20th Espada will be on Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and 2, 1986. Men's Open Foil and Women's Open Foil are scheduled for Saturday. Men's Open Epee and Women's Open Epee for Sunday. Preregistration closes on February 28. For more information, call or write William Johnson, 5640 W. Belmont, Tucson, AZ 85743. Tel: (602) 744-3446.

Opportunity For Qualified Fencing Instructor

The Westside Fencing Center in Los Angeles is seeking to expand its staff of trained fencing instructors. This is an excellent opportunity for a new instructor in the area to gain teaching experience and to build a solid base, either vocationally or avocationally, in the art of teaching fencing.

Qualified instructors, preferably with experience in all three weapons, are invited to send a resume to Theodore Katzoff at the Westside Fencing Center, 8735 Washington Boulevard, Culver City, California 90230.

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Results

North American Circuit #1

Chicago Challenge Men's Foil

November 16, 1985 (135 entries)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. M. Marx, Auriol | 13. B. Giasson, Canada |
| 2. G. Massialas, TFC | 14. G. Nonomura, Mori |
| 3. P. Gerard, Auriol | 15. J. Bukantz, NYFC |
| 4. E. Kaihatsu, Csiszar | 16. P. Apsimon, Canada |
| 5. L. Rocheleau, Canada | 17. P. Bennett, NYFC |
| 6. P. Lewison, NYFC | 18. B. Landry, Canada |
| 7. D. Jarman-M., Auriol | 19. D. Valsamis, Unatt. |
| 8. S. Angers, Canada | 20. P. DesGeorges, Auriol |
| 9. F. Fox, Mori | 21. Y. Kovacs, Israel |
| 10. D. Littell, Csiszar | 22. E. Rosenberg, NYFC |
| 11. W. Wheeler, Alcazar | 23. J. Burg, GLFA |
| 12. J. Demarque, Unatt. | 24. A. Feldman, Unatt. |

Chicago Challenge Women's Foil

November 15, 1985 (91 entries)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. L. Modaine, France | 13. H. Bourdages, Canada |
| 2. J. Angelakis, TCFC | 14. MJ. O'Neill, Unatt. |
| 3. M. Cormier, Canada | 15. J. Hall, Unatt. |
| 4. M. Sullivan, Unatt. | 16. L. Maskell, Auriol |
| 5. J. Poirier, Canada | 17. K. Coombs, Unatt. |
| 6. S. Monplaisir, NYFC | 18. C. McClellan, TCFC |
| 7. C. Bilodeaux, Unatt. | 19. L. Clark, Halbers. |
| 8. M. Philion, Canada | 20. M. Nagy, SSNJ |
| 9. M. Miller, Mori | 21. A. Matuszewski, Chey. |
| 10. D. Stone, SSNJ | 22. R. Samet, Bardakh |
| 11. S. Marx, Auriol | 23. T. Malmstrom, N. Colo. |
| 12. M. Verhave, NYFC | 24. Y. Chouinard, Canada |

Chicago Challenge Men's Sabre

November 17, 1985 (72 entries)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. JP. Banos, Canada | 13. B. Keane, Unatt. |
| 2. JM. Banos, Canada | 14. M. Sullivan, NYAC |
| 3. P. Friedberg, NYAC | 15. R. Cottingham, Unatt. |
| 4. M. Lofton, NYFC | 16. P. Brand, TCFC |
| 5. P. Westbrook, NYFC | 17. D. Anthony Jr., NYFC |
| 6. G. Gonzales-R., NYAC | 18. S. Mormando, NYFC |
| 7. J. Friedberg, NYAC | 19. E. Sukunda, Canada |
| 8. G. Rodriguez, NYFC | 20. W. Goering, FAM |
| 9. J. Edwards, Unatt. | 21. D. Powell, Unatt. |
| 10. W. Balk, Canada | 22. R. Maxwell, Csiszar |
| 11. M. D'Asaro II, Un. | 23. D. Johnson, Unatt. |
| 12. V. Ferretti, Canada | 24. A. Consoli, Unatt. |

William G. O'Brien Men's Epee, Berkeley, Calif.

November 16, 1985 (102 entries)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. D. Perreault, Canada | 13. J. Cardyn, Canada |
| 2. J. Chouinard, Canada | 14. G. Masin, NYAC |
| 3. L. Shelley, SSNJ | 15. N. Fekete, Canada |
| 4. R. Marx, Auriol | 16. R. Vidor, Lettm. |
| 5. R. Stuil, USMPA | 17. R. DePommier, Canada |
| 6. S. Trevor, Unatt. | 18. D. Wells, Veysey |
| 7. J. Moreau, Cinco | 19. I. Bramall, Canada |
| 8. C. Michaels, Cinco | 20. M. Phillips, Unatt. |
| 9. S. Mahmoud, Bardakh | 21. L. Siegel, NYFC |
| 10. D. Nowosielski, Can. | 22. J. O'Neill, Unatt. |
| 11. C. Schneider, FAM | 23. A. Messing, Bardakh |
| 12. H. Farley, NYAC | 24. A. Salem, Gascon |

Western Women's Classic Epee, Berkeley, Calif.

November 16, 1985 (32 entries)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. C. McClellan, TCFC | 13. K. Dunlop, USMPA |
| 2. J. Littmann, CSCFC | 14. J. Fowler, USMP |
| 3. K. Thompson, Veysey | 15. K. Loscalzo, NYFC |
| 4. A. Reid, Unatt. | 16. K. Tabori, Mori |
| 5. A. Klinger, Auriol | 17. S. Armstrong, Halb. |

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 6. E. Erdos, Lett'mn. | 18. V. Nestrack, Unatt. |
| 7. M. Adrian, Unatt. | 19. E. Wagner, Unatt. |
| 8. M. Holly, Bardakh | 20. E. Ishii, Falcon |
| 9. M. Annavedder, TCFC | 21. C. Lewis, Csiszar |
| 10. A. Ezzell, FAM | 22. C. Morris, Parkw. |
| 11. S. Selig, Otto | 23. L. Rotunni, Borrak. |
| 12. J. Gilbert, Unatt. | 24. K. Patterson, Borr. |

The 1985 Asgaard Tournament

Spokane, Wash., Sept. 28 & 29

Foil (25)

1. M. Stasinis, BYU
2. J. Taylor, BYU
3. M. Callao, Boise FC

Sabre (9)

1. M. Stasinis, BYU
2. D. Lewis, SFU
3. S. Aguilu, SFU

Novice Foil:

1. T. Anderson, WHP
2. S. Rude, WHP
3. J. Mrzygod, SFU

Epee (13)

1. S. Aguilu, SFU
2. R. Griffiths, SFU
3. M. Callao, BFC

Women of Excellence Equinox Epee

Boston, Mass., Sept. 21, 1985

At this first annual event there were 30 women epeeists representing 10 states.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. M. Adrian, Gr. Lakes | 5. J. Littmann, Col. F. |
| 2. C. McClellan, TCFC | 6. J. O'Donnell, Boston FC |
| 3. D. Camarra, UC Davis | 7. M. Holly, Bardakh |
| 4. CK Lewis, Csiszar | 8. M. Szabunia, Csiszar |

Giorgio Santelli Open

November, 1985

The 9th annual Santelli Open assumed an added dimension this year as it followed, by two weeks, the death of Maestro Santelli. The large number of participants who are directly affected by him, and who are now sharing their skill with others, was one of many reminders of the legacy he has left to American fencing.

Men's Foil

1. Lewison, NYFC
2. Wheeler, Alcazar
3. Hunter, Alcazar

U-19 MF

1. Begue, SSNJ
2. Liu, Unatt.
3. Quattroccio, RFC

Men's Epee

1. Shelley, SSNJ
2. Evans, Cornell
3. Urban, SSNJ

Women's Foil

1. Monplaisir, NYFC
2. Nagy, SSNJ
3. Stone, SSNJ

U-19 WF

1. Jones, PRC
2. Jaenigen, Germany
3. Weitzman, SSNJ

Men's Sabre

1. Mormando, NYFC
2. Fonay, Canada
3. Tykodi, Unatt.

Leon Auriol Cup

Seattle, Wash., Oct. 12 & 13, 1985

In Maitre Auriol's fourth annual tournament, 71 fencers competed.

Men's Foil:

1. M. Marx, Auriol
2. P. Gerard, Auriol
3. D. Radke, Vanguard

Women's Foil:

1. S. Marx, Auriol
2. A. Klinger, Auriol
3. L. Maskell, Auriol

(Continued)

Results *(Continued)*

Epee:

1. R. Zuchowski, Unatt.
2. R. Griffiths, Spokane
3. S. Aguilu, Spokane

1985 Fall Foliage

U. of Tenn., Knoxville, Oct. 5 & 6

Men's Foil (18)

1. G. Ramsay, Varang. Gd.
2. W. Murphy, AFC
3. R. Garrett, Var. Gd.

Men's Sabre (7)

1. K. Cunningham, DRAFT
2. W. Bowman, Lexingt.
3. J. McBride, Baylor Sch.

Women's Epee (4)

1. M. Tipton, Var. Gr.

Sabre:

1. K. Holt, Silver St.
2. L. Power, Silver St.
3. C. Collier, W.Wa.U.

Men's Epee (18)

1. K. Cunningham, DRAFT
2. K. Hyder, Var. Gr.
3. R. Garrett, Var. Gr.

Women's Foil (6)

1. L. Watts, U. Tenn.
2. L. Underwood, U. Tenn.
3. D. Weisman, DRAFT

Women's Sabre (4)

1. L. Watts, U. Tenn.

Palmetto State Games

Columbia, S.C., undated

Men's Foil

1. V. Marsh, PFS
2. A. Ouzts, PFC
3. S. Brewer, Duke

Men's Epee

1. A. Ouzts, PFS
2. D. Banks, Unatt.
3. V. Marsh, PFS

Women's Foil

1. J. Littmann, PFS
2. N. Hudnall, Woff.
3. K. Howze, Woff.

Women's Epee

1. J. Littmann, PFS

Men's Sabre

1. J. Lawrence, Charlest.
2. V. Marsh, PFS
3. A. Ouzts, PF

Beach Blanket

St. Simons Is., GA, undated

Men's Foil (18)

1. G. Gettler, AFC
2. T. Manzon, Charl.
3. M. Childs, Unatt.

Mixed Sabre

1. A.J. Keane, AFC

Women's Sabre

1. J. Littmann, PFS

Women's Foil (14)

1. N.L. Le, UNC
2. M. Russik, Charl.
3. S. Kramer, Va.

Sabre-In-Surf

1. R. Starr, AFC

Boise State U. Invitational

Boise, Idaho, Nov. 9-10, 1985

Women's Foil

1. K. Anderson, BYU
2. T. Warnic, BYU
3. H. DasGupta, BSU

Men's Foil

1. M. Stasinos
2. M. Robbins
3. S. Acree, BSU

Men's Sabre

1. M. Stasinos
2. M. Callao
3. C. Rears, Auriol

Men's Epee

1. M. Callao, BFC
2. M. Robbins, BYU
3. M. Stasinos, BYU

U-14 Foil

1. T. Bidwell, Pierce
2. T. Woitkowski, BSU
3. M. Learned, BSU

Novice Foil

1. S. Crandall, BYU
2. P. Good, Pierce
3. D. Aviles, BSU

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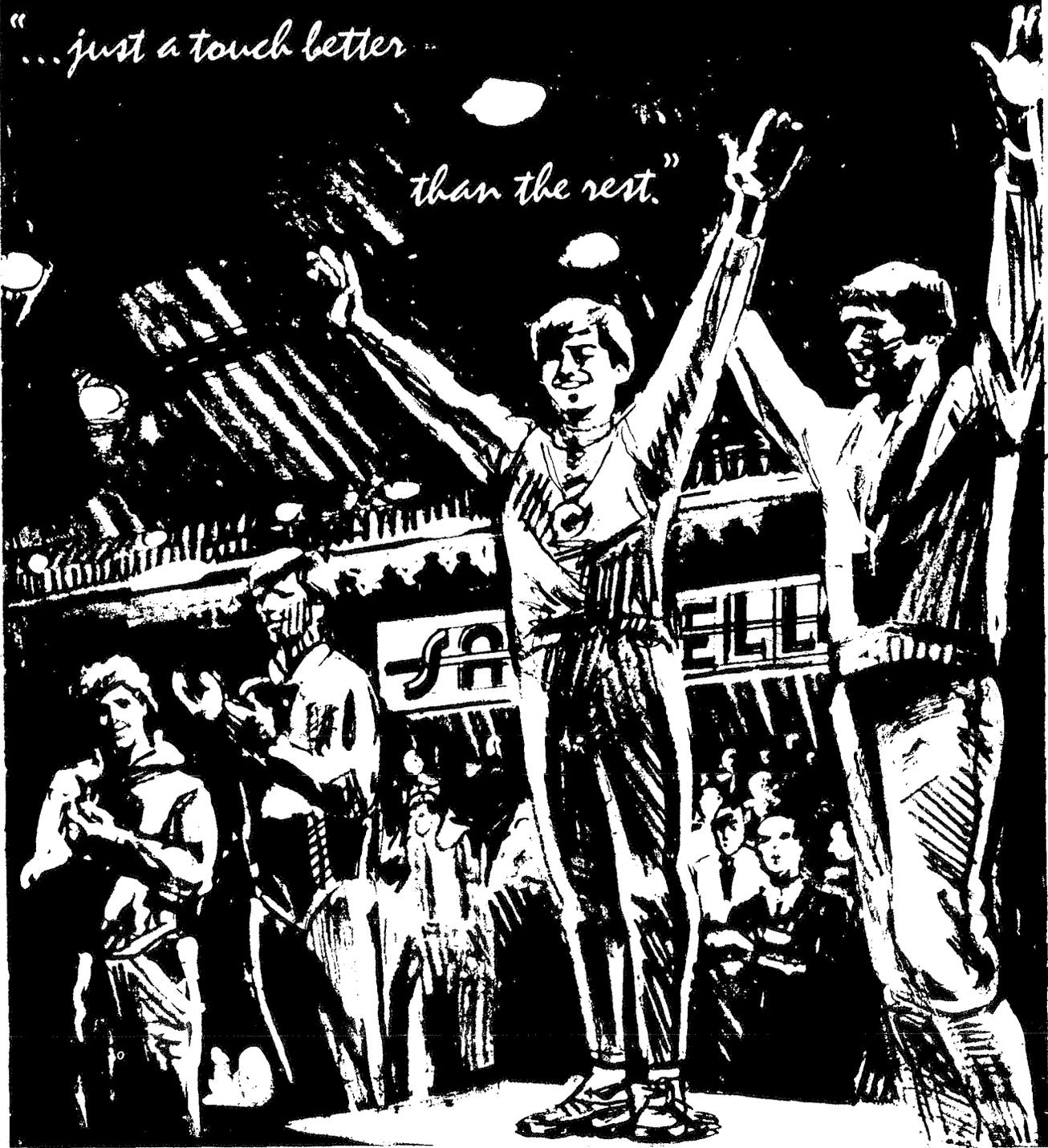
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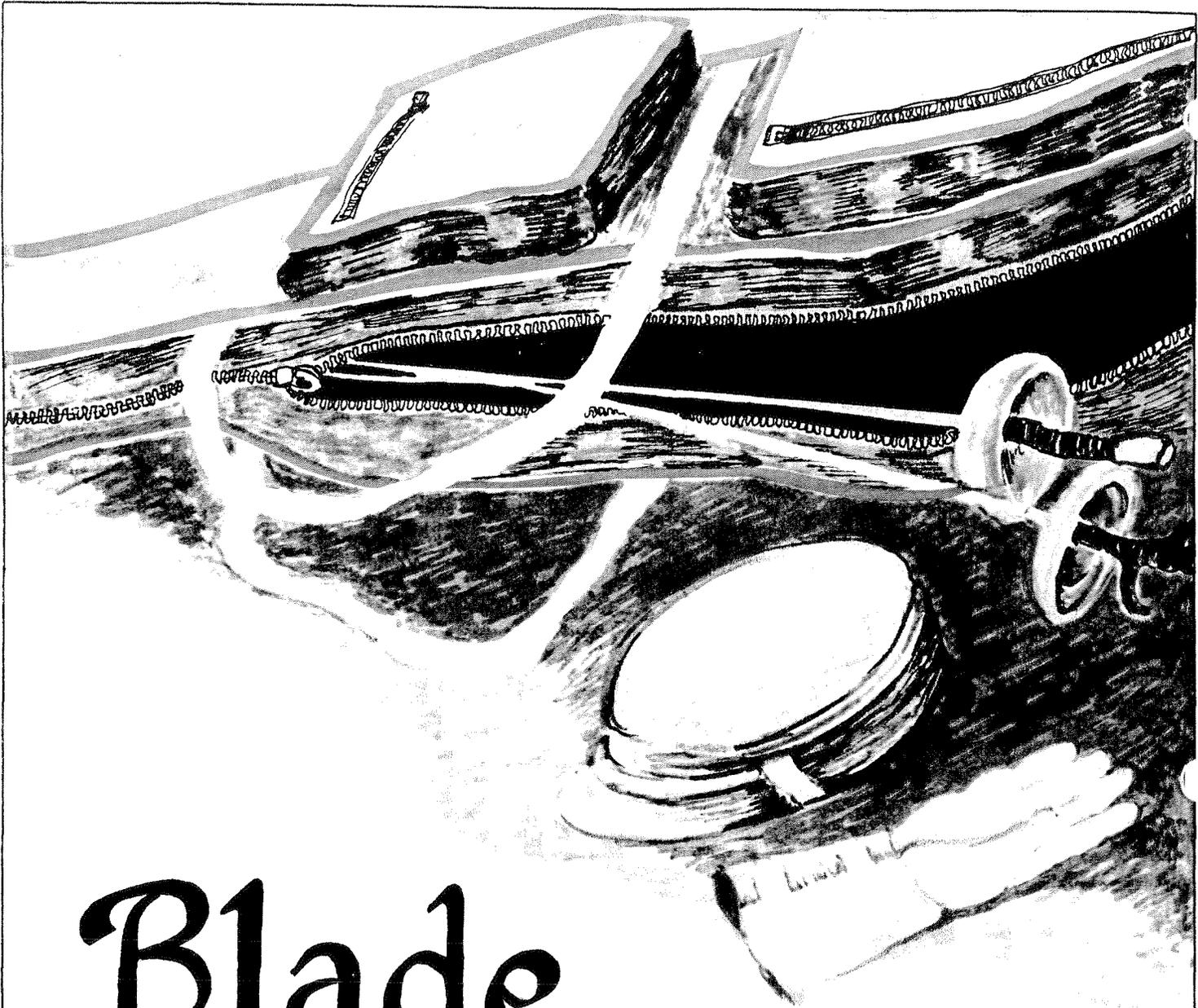
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