

Flailing fencers

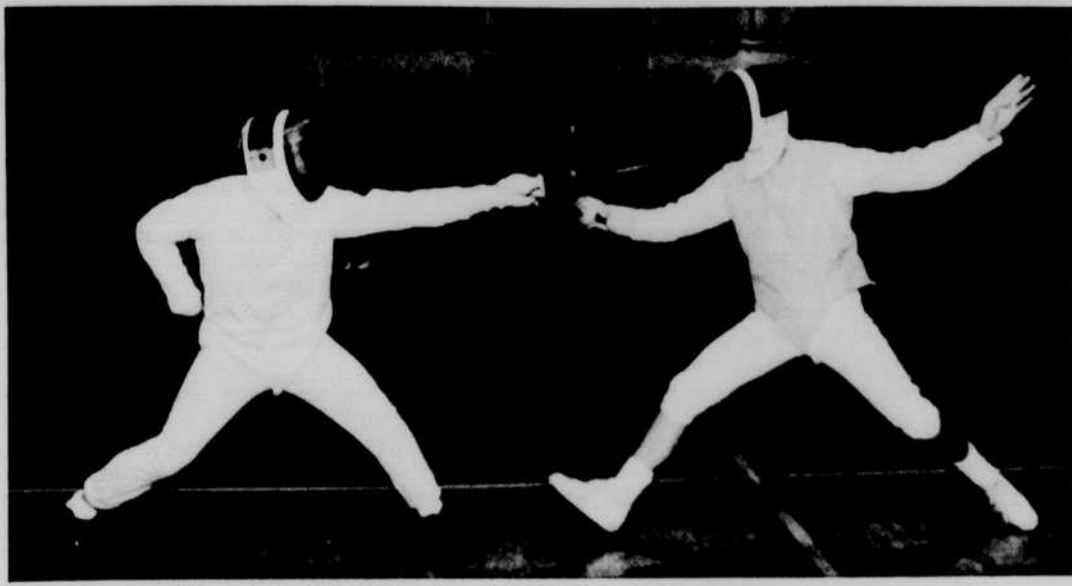


Photo by Michael Shindler

Joel White (left) and Ian Valentine duel with their foils, one of three fencing weapons used in the sport. The Fencing Club meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6:30 p.m. in Gerlinger Annex.

Poll: Bush likely to win in fall

NEW YORK (AP) — Three in five registered voters expect President Bush to win re-election, NBC News said Wednesday in reporting a poll that also found Bush's job approval down 8 points from last month and 40 points from a year ago.

The NBC News-Wall Street Journal poll of 1,000 voters showed 45 percent approval for Bush's overall performance as president. But when asked who will win the November election, 61 percent said Bush and 26 percent said the Democratic candidate.

The poll was taken Friday through Monday, a period when the Democratic candidates and Patrick J. Buchanan were unleashing fierce attacks on Bush to win support in Tuesday's seven-state round of primaries and caucuses.

The poll showed former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas and Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton in a close battle for most-favored status among the 571

Democrats and independents polled. Tsongas had 28 percent, Clinton 26 percent, and the only other Democrat in double digits was former California Gov. Jerry Brown at 11 percent.

The margin of sampling error was plus or minus 4 percentage points for all voters, and 5 points for the Democrats and independents. Also in that group, 16 percent were not sure and 8 percent said they favored none of the five major candidates, making for a very unsettled race.

A majority, 55 percent, said they would not have serious doubts about Clinton due to allegations that he sought to avoid the Vietnam War and had an extramarital affair. But 42 percent said they would have serious doubts, NBC reported.

The telephone survey was conducted by Democratic pollster Peter Hart and Republican pollster Vincent Breglio.

FEES

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lot of factors that we're dealing with."

Two of those factors include a large graduating class and additional recruitment efforts, he said.

"We're within a couple of days of a number," Spradling said, adding that it will probably be a conservatively low estimate for financial planning purposes.

This year the University lost about 1,500 students, and Lerma said she expects to see at least that many go next year.

"It's hard to determine how IFC actions are going to affect the student body without enrollment estimates," Masat said. "Cuts need to be equal to the drop in enrollment, but the IFC has been kept in the dark about figures."

Each year the IFC approves budgets for student groups then divides the total by the number of students enrolled to come up with annual incidental fees needed to support those programs. Fees are also modified to reflect summer enrollment and dropout rates.

So far, the IFC has cut 19 budgets and increased 13, for a net increase of about 2 percent.

If the IFC continues to increase budgets at the present rate, incidental fees will go up at least 2 percent — and fees

will go up as enrollment falls off.

At this point, Masat said he has no doubt that fees will go up next year.

Lerma and Masat said anticipated cuts in large upcoming budgets, such as the EMU and the athletic department, may offset several relatively small increases that have already been granted.

However, Lerma said this approach undermines the larger groups' chances for a fair budget hearing.

"Across the board cuts are the only fair way to go," Lerma said.

"We have to keep the big picture in mind in every individual case," Lerma said. "Little increases lead to more cuts. Groups at the beginning have a greater advantage."

"Instead of every group taking a small cut, some groups are going to have to take tremendous cuts."

Lerma said she does not believe the majority of the committee members have taken the "big picture" into consideration.

"I thought we had determined that we wanted to keep student fees at the same level," Lerma said.

"I've been taking these figures into consideration since day one," Lerma said. "I will continue pushing and pushing for cuts."

DUCK CALL

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to find the problem.

The Tuesday night shutdown was fixed more quickly than the Thursday night one because no backup files had to be used to restore the system. Last week, all registrations completed Feb. 26 and 27 had to be re-

covered from backup files before Duck Call would work again.

Cherock said one person, the University's database administrator, did most of the work fixing both problems. The University did not have to pay anything to get the system working again either time.

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