

Marshall University

Marshall Digital Scholar

The Cutting Edge

The Society of American Fight Directors

1-1994

The Cutting Edge, January/February 1994, Vol. 5 Issue 1

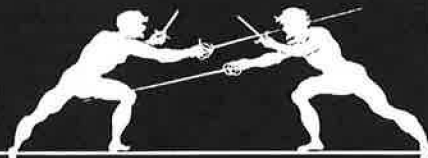
The Society of American Fight Directors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://mds.marshall.edu/cutting>



Part of the [Acting Commons](#), [Other Theatre and Performance Studies Commons](#), [Performance Studies Commons](#), and the [Theatre History Commons](#)

The Cutting Edge



Newsletter for the Society of American Fight Directors

Volume V, Number 1 Jan./Feb. 1994

F Y I

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MTG

A meeting of the North Central region (MN, SD, ND, North WI, and North MI) will be held on February 13, 1994 at 7:00 p.m. at Nikki's Restaurant in Minneapolis. This meeting is open to all SAFD members.

CENTRAL REGION MEETINGS

A meeting of the central region (IL, MO, IA, South WI, and South MI) took place Jan. 10 in Chicago, with 47 people attending. Eight new members joined the SAFD and three future meetings were scheduled (Feb. 7, March 7, April 4). For further information call David Woolley at (312) 489-6484.

WEAPONS OFFERED FOR SALE

As part of a four-year plan to refurbish the NSCW weapons, the SAFD is selling much of the current NSCW weapons stock. The following weapons are for sale to SAFD members:

Seven AFS Single hand
Broadwords.....\$100.00

Six Mark Haney
Broadwords\$75.00

There is a shipping & handling charge of \$5.00 per weapon.

For information, or to place an order contact: Drew Fracher (606) 366-5549

REGIONAL REPS: THERE FOR YOU!

The Regional Rep. positions were created five years ago by then-President J. D. Martinez. Put your regional rep. to work! Call him or her. Let your rep. know who you are. Ask some questions (hard ones) and share ideas. Find out when the next meeting in your region is and be there! The SAFD needs and wants *your* input.

Let's Organize the Organization

J.R. Beardsley (Regional Rep. Liaison)

Greetings to you all! I would like to invite all interested members to give service to the SAFD. I am assisting our new regime in developing a Society that is "User Friendly." I will call upon all that want involvement these next few years to create a strong backbone that will support and propel the SAFD. Only our hard work will help to develop the SAFD and make it more accessible for everyone. I am extremely excited about having a chance to get to know all of you better.

Setting the Goal

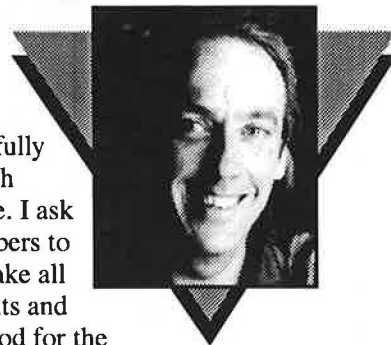
The goal is to help each other, to become further organized, to make this art form better recognized by the public, and to open the SAFD to the eager and waiting talent. I want each of us to use stage combat as more of an art form and allow it to take a more prominent place. Although I do know some of you, there are those that I don't know and I would like to hear how you might aid the SAFD.

To help with organization and to become more productive, the SAFD has recently formed several committees (*see page 2*). The chair of each committee is in charge of communication with committee members, then expected to present information first to their advisor, then to me, and I will present the finished product to the officers. The chair of the committee may choose to add people to their committee. I would like to keep correspondence to letter writing as much as possible. We are also open to ideas for future committees.

A Term of Change and Growth

I do hope this will be a term of change and growth for the SAFD. This can only happen if we as a group, can help each other grow, support each other, and the art form. I believe this is possible, but communication is a major factor. I have already shared these ideas with our president, Drew Fracher and now I want to share them with you, I welcome input from all of you.

We must be patient and painfully clear with everyone. I ask all members to try to make all judgments and goals good for the whole. Less me and more we. Let us try to remove as many hidden agendas as possible.



If any member wants to contribute or would like to be on a committee, contact the chair of that committee. When you have a thought, share it with the committee chair so the thought may be considered. These people will only stay on these panels if they are productive. If there is no response from a committee, they will be replaced. All committees include an advisor (usually, though not always, a fight master). We do not limit committee members to Regional Representatives.

Mapping Out the Game Plan

Please do some homework and bring something rewarding to each committee. I would like to receive a game plan from each committee to present the officers in July. Again I leave the final composition of committees up to the chair, who may add or subtract members as deemed best for reaching the committee's goals.

So far I've received some very nice beginning research from the committees. I also have received some information and ideas from several of the Regional Representatives. Thank you. I encourage more input from everyone, it is exciting to think of all the possibilities of growth with a society that is working together. There is plenty of room for everyone to show support in an art form we all clearly believe in.



John Robert Beardsley

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CODE OF ETHICS COMMITTEE

Chair: Larry Henderson
(510) 444-2949

Steve Vaughan,
Greg Hoffman,
Advisor: Eric
Fredricksen



Report by Larry
Henderson:

The SAFD has grown a great deal in it's first 16 years and as we become a larger and more sophisticated organization, our responsibilities to individual members and to the performing arts community as a whole become more complex and subject to scrutiny. If we wish to be taken seriously we must exhibit exemplary behavior in all aspects of our organizational operations.

From the president to the newest member, we, each and every one of us, are the SAFD and we need to be aware that our individual and collective actions will define the SAFD in the eyes of the community.

The July/August edition of the *Cutting Edge* contained an outline of the process by which a grievance against members may be brought. The code of ethics will help to clarify when such a grievance is warranted. As a beginning to this process, we reprint the Voice and Speech Teachers Association guidelines of behavior. Look them over and send me your comments on how the SAFD code of ethics might better address your needs.

Please address your letters to:

Larry Henderson
750 Rand Ave. #4
Oakland, CA 94610

VASTA Statement of Principles

The Voice and Speech Trainers Association advocates that its members:

1. Offer instruction, advice and guidance based on their ongoing pursuit of the best information, thought and practices available in their respective specialization.
2. Acknowledge teachers and colleagues who have contributed to their work.
3. Present accurately the nature and duration of their training and experience.

4. Respect the right of colleagues to advocate approaches with which they may not agree and encourage students' freedom to choose practices which may best meet their needs.
5. Take responsibility for the emotional climate in their classrooms, fostering an atmosphere conducive to their students' optimal growth.
6. Refer a student to a specialist (physician, psychologist, speech pathologist, singing teacher, body alignment expert, voice and/or speech teacher, etc.) whenever the need arises.
7. Maintain confidentiality regarding their students, except in cases where doing so could be detrimental.
8. Give students ongoing, objective assessments, as well as informed opinions of their abilities and progress.
9. Acknowledge the director's primacy in matters of interpretation, addressing any questions or differences with the director in private.
10. Dedicate their teaching and practice to enhancing the art of communication, nurturing individual creativity in all its differences, developing empathic abilities as an essential component of voice teaching, and going beyond facile standards of right and wrong, correct or incorrect in assessing the human voice.

(These principles were presented by Bonnie Raphael as a replacement for the Code of Ethics.)

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Chair: Linda McCollum
(702) 895-3662

Michael
Kirkland,
Dale Girard,
Charles Conwell,
and Brad Waller.
Advisor: J.D. Martinez



Report by
Brad Waller:

I've been talking with the administration at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts during the last year and they have been very supportive of the Patrick Crean Stage Combat Library. They would like to house the library in their center. I think that such a library could best serve with

several branches, the Kennedy Center housing the historical and technical branch. The Globe Fighters have already assembled a sizable collection of texts including some rarer prints of historic fight manuals. I am interested in seeing an accessible network providing a variety of useful knowledge. The Folger Shakespearean Library has agreed to have me design and execute an exhibit concerning the historical combat and the history of stage combat in the Great Hall of the library in the Summer of 1995.

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Chair: Gregory Hoffman
(415) 321-8794

Dan Carter, Susan
Evanston, Tim
Carrier, Colleen Kelly,
Jack Young, Linda
Mccollum, Bob Walsh,
Mark Guinn, David
Woolley.



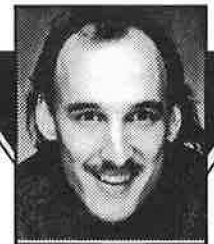
Advisor: Jeff Koep

Gregory Hoffman reports that he has his committee on line and ready and is working with the officers on getting the necessary documentation.

COMPUTER COMMITTEE

Chair: David "Pops" Doersch
(612) 823-8028

Bob Walsh,
Mark Guinn
Advisor:
Richard Raether

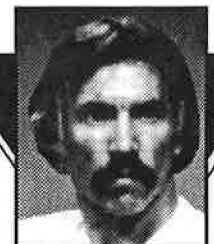


David Doersch is investigating the feasibility of the SAFD subscribing to an on line service.

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS COMMITTEE

Chair: Bob McDougall
(206) 522-2201

Michael Donahue,
Mark Olsen,
Michael Hood.
Advisor: David Boushey



No report at
this time.

Foreign Fight Directors Guest Instructors in U.S.

1993 SAW TWO WORKSHOPS THAT featured instructors from the Society of British Fight Directors (SBFD) and Fight Directors Canada (FDC).

In May the Minnesota Academy of Stage Combat Skills (M.A.S.C.S.) sponsored the first *Swashbuckling Across the Pond* workshop which featured SBFD Chairman Jonathon Howell and SAFD Certified Teacher David "Pops" Doersch teaching advanced and beginning weapons.

In September the Patrick Crean Workshop in Washington D.C. became a meeting place for the leaders of the SAFD, the SBFD, and FDC. Certified Teacher Brad Waller and his Globe Fighters organized the event which featured such stage combat notables as Patrick Crean (fight director SBFD, FDC & honorary SAFD), Henry Marshall (founder, SBFD), Jonathan Howell (chairman, SBFD), Drew Fracher (president, SAFD) and J.D. Martinez (past president, SAFD).

The world of stage combat is small and the more its members unite the common cause of safe and effective stage violence the stronger we all become.



WORKSHOP INFO.

United Stuntmen's Association
presents

STUNT WORKSHOP

June 6-25 ♦ Seattle WA
Contact: David Boushey
(206) 542-1649



Webster University
presents

WEBSTER MOVEMENT INSTITUTE

July 6-26 ♦ St. Louis, MO
Contact: Theresa Mitchell
(314) 961-2660 ext.17503



UNLV and the SAFD
present the

NATIONAL STAGE COMBAT WORKSHOPS

July 11-29 ♦ Las Vegas NV
Contact: Linda McCollum
(702) 895-3662

◆◆◆ REGIONAL REPORTS ◆◆◆

FROM MINNEAPOLIS

ON NOVEMBER 28, REGIONAL REP. David "Pops" Doersch organized a regional meeting in Minneapolis. Six SAFD members were in attendance. SAFD Policies and Procedures were discussed and in particular the policy for retesting and testing in individual weapons. To keep members abreast of events, it was decided that Pops would mail a copy of any workshop or class info. in the region to area members.

It was suggested that members need to remember to promote the SAFD as a huge academic resource, not just a "sword fighting clique." There was inquiry about a combat bibliography and videography. [SAFD Certified Teacher Michael Kirkland is currently working on this project. Ed.]

Pops suggested a weekend membership drive to be held in the Spring. There will be classes and a re-up workshop for actor/combatants.

It was also suggested that the SAFD appoint a national PR officer who would be responsible for getting word out to all universities about SAFD activities.

It was suggested that the regional SAFD members look for ways to create offices or jobs for local individuals and that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting. This would facilitate further organization and creating more of a long-lasting and dynamic regional hub of activity.

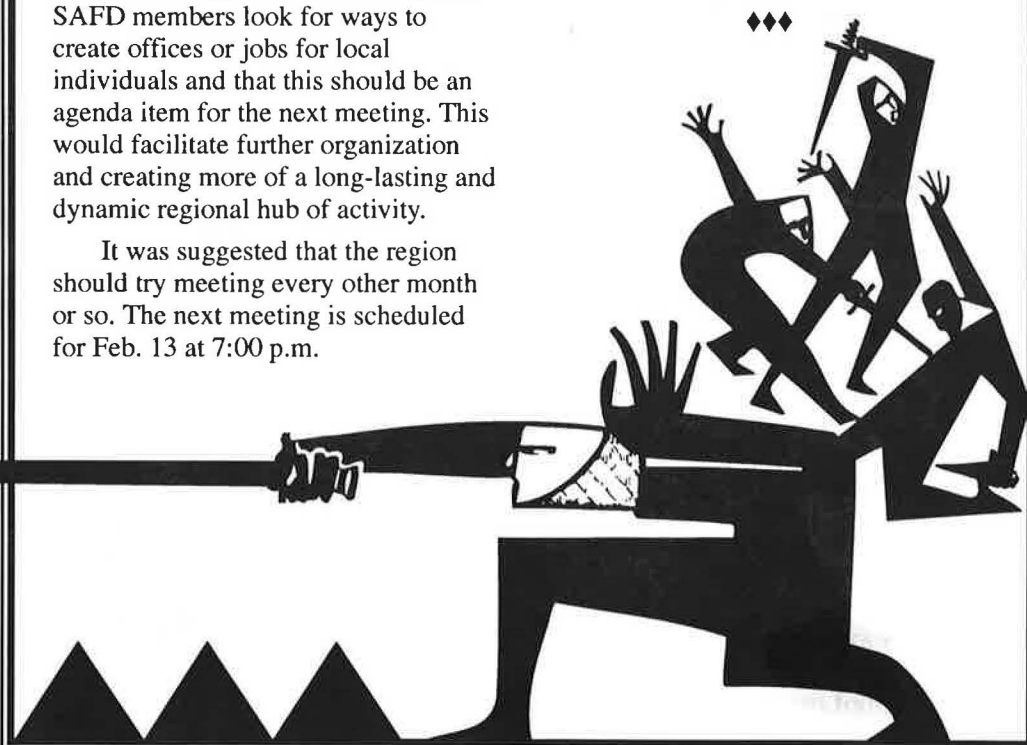
It was suggested that the region should try meeting every other month or so. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 13 at 7:00 p.m.

FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

SAFD ACTOR/ COMBATANT SKILLS Proficiency Testing is available through Regional Rep. and Certified Teacher Brad Waller's classes at the Shakespeare Theatre.

The Globe Fighters are a subset of the Shakespeare Theatre that meet weekly in D.C. to train together. They are comprised of local theatre students, actors, armourers, choreographers and scholars. They promote stage combat in demonstrations and lectures for the Shakespeare Theatre, the Folger Shakespearean Library and most recently at the Southeast Theatre Conference and the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

The Globe Fighters do an average of about twenty-five such demos per year. They also pool their resources to do a great deal of historical research. Finally, they arrange for unique learning experiences such as the recent *Patrick Crean Workshop*. Mr. Waller hopes to expand the roles of the SAFD and its members as we begin even more interaction among ourselves, with the dramatic community and with the general public.



A Message to Regional Reps.

from Drew Fracher, SAFD President

J.R. BEARDSLEY HAS AGREED TO BE THE head liaison between yourselves and the officers. My friends, I would like to inspire, urge, badger, plead with you all to please take this appointment seriously. He is the head honcho and it is to him that I would like you to direct your correspondence.

Take a few moments to at least drop a line and let us know that you are alive and well and swamped for the moment and are going to be getting things together just as soon as you can.

I realize that each and every one of us is very busy trying to survive in a business that is virtually impossible to make a living at. I also realize that all of us have a life outside the business and the SAFD. None of us is getting paid for any of this and the prospect of give, give, give to the SAFD without recompense is enough to make us run screaming into the night and throw the rapier in the river en route. Enough said.

Please take a few moments to evaluate your place in the organization as a Rep. and if you feel that you cannot find the time to have some input then simply let us know. It's not a strike against anyone if you simply don't have the time or inclination; honest, no sweat. We just need to know so we can find someone else to fill the post.

Those of you that have responded please continue to do so and thank you for your input so far. If we haven't heard from you, please let us do so. I am counting on you all for your wisdom and energy to make major strides right now. Thanks for everything in advance. Keep up the momentum and we all benefit. Be well and fight safely. Peace.



The Cutting Edge

is concocted bimonthly by
Margaret and Richard Raether

The Cutting Edge
is a publication of the
Society of American Fight Directors

Submissions should be sent to:
Richard Raether
1834 Camp Avenue
Rockford, IL 61103



T H E C U T T I N G E D G E



1834 Camp Avenue
Rockford, Illinois 61103

Non-Profit
US Postage
PAID
Rockford, IL
Permit No. 434