

# York grad pieces championships together

by Anton Katz

**T**he game of chess conjures up specific notions. The classical picture is one of two opponents, seated opposite each other, moving pawns and queens. Ed Allenby, a York political science graduate and current worker in the university bookstore, begs to alter that image. On a regular basis, Allenby complements his participation in regular matches by engaging in postal chess.

His interest in chess has served him well. Allenby is a member of two Canadian organizations — the Chess Federation of Canada (CFC) and the Canadian Correspondence Chess Association (CCCA). Through playing in and organizing tournaments he has discovered that chess has widespread popularity.

When it comes to correspondence chess, a knowledge of the postal service is of great importance. Rules constrain players to 30-day limits to submit 10 moves. As Allenby explains, "That sounds like a long time, but most of the delay is due to the postal service."

Postal chess differs from the traditional format in a few key ways. Over-the-board chess requires quick responses and allows no recourse to outside help. However, through playing by mail, Allenby can improve his efforts by consulting published games and newspaper articles. Often, he refers to a respected Yugoslavian publication called *Chess Informat*.

Allenby's chess exchanges are not hindered by language difficulties. In correspondence chess, pieces are depicted on boards

labelled A-H and 1-8. Players send one move at a time, then await response before advancing. This is not always the case, though. To speed the opening of the game, some players send whole series of moves and hypothetical responses. Allenby mentions a Russian opponent who sent him eight moves in the first two days, allowing 28 days for contemplation of the remaining two moves.

Correspondence chess is Allenby's preferred way of planning. The delay defends against hasty mistakes, allows a chance to practice openings and eases pressure. Allenby has had a lot of success playing correspondence chess: four years ago he won the preliminary round of the Canadian Open and had also finished competition in the World Cup preliminary round — a feat requiring three years, 20 opponents and plenty of thinking. In over-the-board chess he tied for fifth place in the 1974 Toronto Open, with a record of 5 and 1. These accomplishments have given him career earnings at \$125, a sum which Allenby says "does not compete with (World Champion Gary) Kasparov, who took home \$500,000 in Seville."

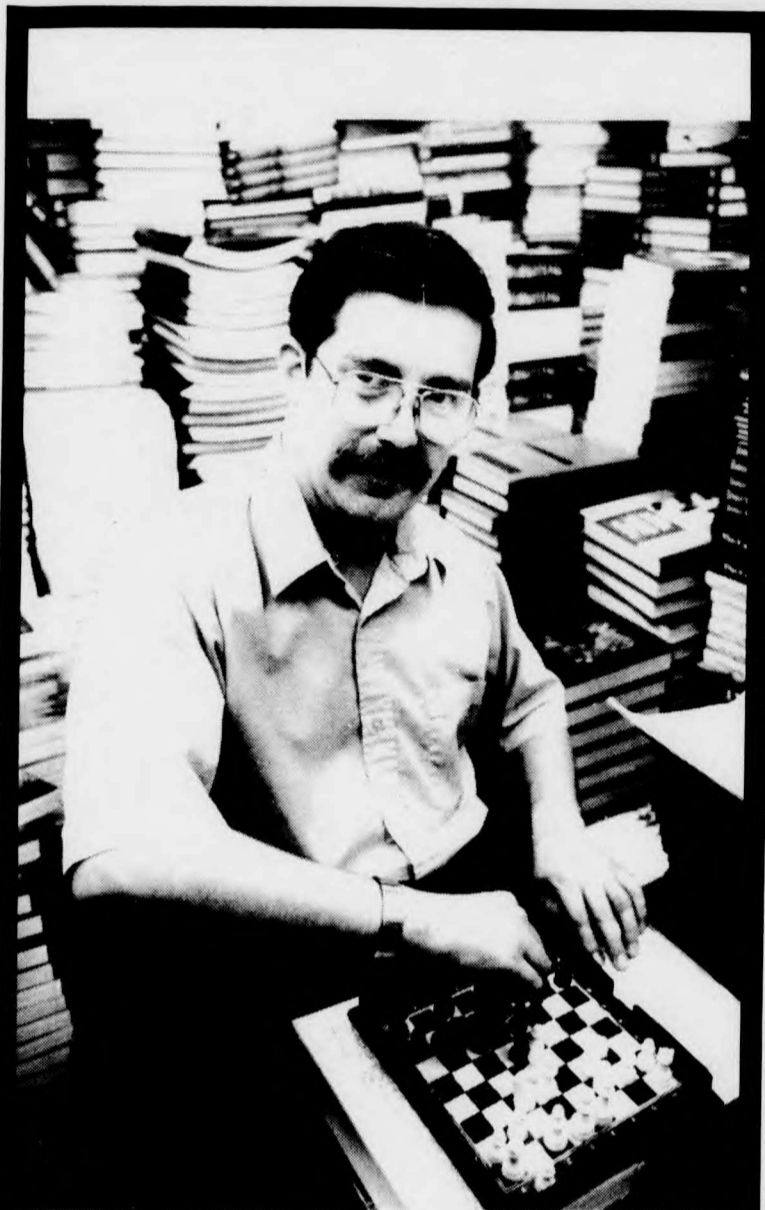
Allenby also has other non-monetary achievements in which he also takes pride. One of these is the publication of his particularly good games. More enduring are the friendships he has developed over the years. Opponents often attach personal letters in their correspondence, facilitating fraternity. Allenby has learned that throughout the world, players "have the same hopes and fears as we do in Canada. We think of acid rain — the same

problem (is addressed by people) in Germany and Russia."

An avid chess player such as Allenby gains knowledge of opponent styles. Russians, he explains, generally play a game of counterattack, waiting for opponents to commit themselves. Canadians, on the other hand, tend to employ abstract openings in their matches while his Yugoslavian opponents are "very disciplined and studious." His matches have introduced him to some of the sport's all-time greats. Among the opponents he reveres are Duncan Suttles of Canada and Geza Fuster, former Hungarian and Canadian champion. He has played Bent Larsen of Denmark as well as Boris Spassky of Russia and France, a former world champion who lost to another icon, Bobby Fischer. A somewhat easier match for Allenby is Chessmaster 2100, the computer chess game he has beaten twice.

Allenby is 40, the age at which he says most players peak. Players can promote longevity in two ways, he offers: by learning new moves and by keeping a healthy mind in a physical fit body. Allenby tugs at his mustache and explains that his inspiration for enrichment comes from former Green Bay Packers football coach Vince Lombardi. "Lombardi told his players that no one's perfect," said Allenby. "Only in striving for perfection can excellence be reached."

For Allenby, excellence in 1990 means qualifying for this year's chess World Cup to commence November 1. On that date, chess enthusiasts hope to see the return of Ed Allenby as a championship chess player.



André Souroujon

Letter man: York grad Ed Allenby

# New coach molds young fencers

by Riccardo Sala

**T**he York fencing programme, rumoured to be near its death at the beginning of the year, demonstrated its vitality at the York Fencing Invitational held over the past weekend.

A large field of schools competed in epee and foil for both men and women along with men's sabre. The overall winner of the weekend's battles was Western followed by Queen's and Trent.

In men's epee, the York "A" team of Gord Smith, Rob Schieda,

Raffi Dmerjan and Gary Burlakoff wound up in 13th spot, behind Queen's "A" team, followed by the Kingston Fencing Club and Western. York's "B" squad fell two notches to 15th spot.

In men's foil, the Yeomen fared slightly better. UofT won that event, with Western placing second and Trent's "A" squad coming in third. York's "A" team, captained by Darren Osborne, wound up in sixth spot. Osborne, with four years of Yeoman experience behind him, is close to becoming a quasi-institution in York fencing.

York's foil "B" squad, with

returning fencers Neil Winston, Steve Markwick and Glenn Ng fought to a 15th spot finish.

Held the same day, the women's epee was the debut event of York's new women's squad. As first year fencers, the quattro of Shirley Li, Shari Goldenberg, Monica Jacobs and Susan Awong put up enthusiastic performances to finish in sixth spot. The first three positions went to Trent and the "A" squads of RMC and Queen's.

Sunday started with the women foil fencers. The York squad was made up of the epee fencers who had fought the day before, with

the exception of Tami Tesseyman who took Susan Awong's place for the competition.

After the dust of combat had settled, team with top laurels was Western's "B" squad, followed by UofT, York finished in 14th spot.

Men's sabre was the last event of the competition with the Yeomen putting out two teams. The first team included Scott Davis, Adam Clayson and Chuck Gauthier, while Arjun Chatterjee led the second team, which also included Gary Burlakoff and veteran Paul Piatkowski who had seen action in epee the day before.

McMaster and Windsor took the first two spots in men's sabre, while the York "A" team ended up in eighth with its second team slightly behind.

This has been a pivotal year for the York fencing programme. It has seen the departure of long-standing coach Richard Polatynski, and his temporary replacement by Christian Vidosa. Vidosa, an internationally ranked fencing judge, hopes to become the programme's full-time coach.

Back also in some ways is Mourad Mardikian, a long-time Yeoman fencer who helps out with the team.

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