

The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts

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Those of you who now hold I.T.F. rank are reminded that I.T.F. Status Cards for 2001 should be applied for soon. The cost is \$30.00. Contact Mr. VH if questions.

All students currently holding U.S.T.F. membership cards should renew for 2001. In December we published that the renewal fee was \$20.00 and several of you responded promptly. Thank you. I was apprised by letter in mid-December that the renewal fee is now \$25.00 for the membership year commencing January 1, 2001. Mr. VH will "cover" from his own pocket those who relied on the December reminder. If you've read this, it's now \$25.00. We apologize for any inconvenience. Contact Mr. VH if questions.

Subscriptions to The Flash are annual and are renewed each January. The cost for the monthly newsletter, now in its 13th year of publication, remains an incredible \$5.00. Otherwise, this is your last issue.

Mr. Earl Weiss, Region V U.S.T.F. Director, Mr. Braxton Miller, U.S.T.F. Illinois State Director, and Mr. VH sat on a testing board in DesPlaines for U.S.T.F.-I.T.F. First and Third Dan Candidates from Illinois and Michigan on December 9.

There will be a testing in Mooresville for High White Belt through High Red Belt on January 20; the test will be repeated for Charlotte students on the 21st.

Mr. VH has recently observed a fair amount of "political" speculation on TaeKwon-Do e-groups. My thoughts: I leave it to those superior to me to get in the way of kicking and punching

On February 17 the Academy of Martial Arts Invitational Tournament will be held at the Charlotte A.M.A., 6445 Albemarle Rd.

Protocol for Black Belts
By F.M. Van Hecke

[This is the continuation of an article begun in the Flash in October of this year (Vol. XII, Number 10) and continued in Numbers 11 and 12.]

CHILDREN. Children are the promise of this Country and of the Art. They are the most important group we teach because the most malleable. They cannot be held to adult standards because they are children. Gratification must be temporally close to work. They require praise. Criticism cannot relate to their persons, but to technique. If you think a kid is a pain, or has a learning problem, meet his parents and maybe you'll learn why. What kind of kid were YOU, after all?

PARENTS. One must be indefatigably polite and not hesitate to consult with one's superiors about difficult parents or complaining parents. Remember, the parents are not sophisticates in the marital arts, but they may (or may not) have superior insight as to their children. Complaints must

be dealt with and noted. Generally parents are prejudiced against young Black Belts and toward older Black Belts with children. This is simply natural, but is no excuse to lose one's cool in dealing with them. Strongly committed parents can be one of the finest assets of a school, and are as good as money in the bank in dark and difficult times.

GENTILITY. Black Belts should not swear or smoke in front of students, use off-color language, or act boorishly. A Black Belt should act the role of a lady or gentleman even when the temptation is to do otherwise.

COOPERATIVE SPIRIT. A superior should not have to request something from a subordinate more than once. Remember, there is a purpose to your superior's requests. If he wants your social security number, don't make him come back to ask again and again. Give it to him the first time. You may not know why he needs it, but provide it anyway; he or she may have enough things to worry about. If he requests you take a night of classes and you agree, do it without being reminded. Every time a dojang is unattended and children wait on the street in cold weather for a teacher who doesn't show, every time the wood isn't there for a test, every time nobody shows up for a demo, the Art suffers and your image as a participant founders. A good leader will allocate work so that no single person suffers on the "many hands" principle.

LATERAL TRANSFERS. One of the truly difficult dilemmas is presented by the Black Belt who is

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new to a school, having come from elsewhere. For Chodan, it is relatively easy, especially if the spirit of these observations generally are followed. But expect jealousy and suspicion from those who don't know you and are of inferior rank and circumspection from those who are of superior rank, who must make judgments critical to their schools and the welfare of their students about you in a world of uneven standards. Do not tolerate disrespect from those of lesser rank, but yield absolutely to the judgment of those of superior rank. They will not be anxious to hear your criticism of their methods, curriculum, students, and plans unless they are offered AFTER you have earned a faculty position. If you outrank a school owner, treat him as though he or she is at least a superior as to his own student body, because that owner brought those people to the Art; you didn't. Arrogance is inappropriate for the lateral transfer; earnestness and eagerness to learn and help are in order.

RESPONSIBILITY. The Black Belt is responsible for the school to which he belongs. It is his duty to report incidents potentially detrimental to the school to his superiors. He should not leave a dojang without ensuring that the premises are or will be secure and safe. He will keep his first aid skills sharp. He will not duck or shirk reasonable requests of his superiors. He will not hesitate to right a wrong, even if avoidance makes him more comfortable. He will ensure that his school is not a pigsty and that his uniform doesn't smell so bad it requires an E.P.A. dumping permit. He will not fail to

make such records as to a class as his faculty position requires of him. He will absolutely NEVER leave a small child alone waiting on the street for a ride from his parents; if necessary, and telephone contact cannot be made, he will himself make sure that student arrives safely at his home and into his door.

CHITCHAT. Words are cheap. Still waters run deep. What message were these sayings trying to get across? It is utterly absurd to watch Black Belts avoid class after class, workout after workout, by spending the vast proportion of their time in idle talk. Obviously, talk is often in order. After all, parents may have concerns, potential students may have inquiry, a point must be made or explained. But to come to the dojang, suit up, and spend all your time in conversation is a waste of your time and also of the time of the person, who may be a part of the conversation merely to be polite, to whom you speak. "Tis better to remain silent and appear the fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt."

GIFTS. Teachers may give gifts to a student at any time to express any appropriate sentiment. However, extremely expensive gifts are only warranted for special service or unusual occasions; a student should not be "bribed". A gift to a student should be appropriate. One does not give edged weapons to children, or highly personal items to a student. Students should realize that many teachers are often uncomfortable accepting gifts, and should probably "clear" any intended gift through some other senior Black

Belt as to appropriateness and timing. Gifts should never be expected by Black Belts; in our materialistic world, we should be willing to stand apart. One gift, however, that is always proper, is one's labor and fealty. Somebody has to clean the windows of the dojang, and it is probably the senior people who routinely do it. If, some day, they find it already done it is a great favor.

DISCRETION. The younger or less experienced Black Belt, in particular, has problems in this critical area. It is very difficult, having worked hard to attain rank or knowledge, to avoid the temptation to show it off. Hook punch is not in the purple belt curriculum for a reason; it is utterly inappropriate to make a point of showing it off just because you know it. They have plenty of repetitions to do just to learn what they must know. We know, for example, how testing fees are generally handled and what the school budget looks like; we could prove we are privy to the secrets of the Big Dogs by letting others (especially the persistent parent or Gup Two) "in on it". But this temptation is like a cancer. The inquisitive put two and two together and "work" different Black Belts for information unscrupulously. They have no hesitancy in sharing with their comrades all that they think they know. Before long, rumor runs wild. Materials given to you in a Black Belt seminar are for you only unless told otherwise. Do NOT copy materials and distribute to be a big cheese; that is the prerogative of the instructor under whose auspices they have been prepared.

[to be continued]

INNER SCHOOL TOURNAMENT

11:00 AM FREE SEMINAR ON SPARRING

12:00 SHARP TOURNAMENT STARTS

\$10.00 FOR 2 EVENTS \$15.00 FOR 3 EVENTS

FORMS, SPARRING, BREAKING

BOARDS WILL BE PROVIDED 1 BOARD PER STUDENT WHITE - GREEN
2 BOARDS FOR BLUE AND ABOVE

TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD AT EASTERN SUN MARTIAL ARTS
1411 MAYFLOWER AVE - NORTHGATE SHOPPING CENTER
SHEBOYGAN WI 53083

FOR MORE INFO. CALL MR. JONES (920) 457-5007

**MEDALS WILL BE AWARDED FOR
1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD PLACE**

GREAT FUN AND EXCELLENT PRACTICES

DATE - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2001

TIME - 11:00 A.M. SHARP

1800ft

**American TaeKwon-Do
Jujitsu Association
FIRST ANNUAL
TOURNAMENT**



EVENT SCHEDULE

9:00 am	Registration Begins
10:00 am	Doors Open
10:15 am	Referee and Judges Meeting
11:00 am	Opening Ceremony
	Action Begins

Important Information

Date: March 10, 2001

Time: 11:00 Sharp

Location: Maine East High School

Divisions: Will be set at tournament. Forms first, followed by board breaking then sparring

Rules: ATJA (Continuous sparring 1 1/2 min. to 2 min. depending on rank. Penalty corner)

Board Breaking Competition: Maximum number of boards.

White, Yellow, Green and Blue belts – 3 boards maximum

Red belts – 4 boards maximum

Black belts – 5 boards maximum

2 points per board / Each technical difficulty per break adds 1/2 point

Deduction: Hesitation Minus 1/2 point deduction / Every board missed One full point deduction / 2nd or more attempts 1/2 point deduction.

Competitors: Open to all martial arts schools with a sportsmanlike attitude!!

Equipment: Foot, Hand, Shin Pads, Groin protection, Head Gear, Mouthpiece. **TOES AND FINGERS MUST BE COVERED TO COMPETE IN SPARRING.**

BOARDS PURCHASED ONLY AT THE DOOR.

Adult boards: \$2.00 / Children's Boards: \$1.50

Note: No spectators on the floor.

Entry Fees: 1 or 2 events = \$30.00 / 3 events = \$40 CASH ONLY = 3 events boards are included with fee
Spectators: \$5.00 / 5 yrs. and under free. CASH ONLY.

Pre-Registration: 1 or 2 events = \$25.00 3 events = \$35.00 = 3 events boards are included with fee.

Pre-Registration must be paid by March 2, 2001

Send cash or Money order to:

American TaeKwon-Do – Jujitsu Association (ATJA)

Mr. John Miller

1743 E. Forest Ave.

Des Plaines Il 60018