

The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts

Volume XIV, Number 2. The Flash is published by the Academy of Martial Arts, Inc. Your letters, contributions and articles are welcome. Offices at 752 Lake Shore Road, Grafton WI 53024. E-Mail: fmvh@execpc.com. Check out our website <http://geocities.com/amatkdf/>.

A demonstration will be held at Woodview Elementary School on February 15. Any and all students from any and all schools are invited. You may call Mr. VH for information at 414-963-8990.

Maj. Todd Welsch reports that his I.T.F.-style TaeKwon-Do classes in Korea are keeping him hopping.

Welcome to the Academy of Martial Arts, Huntersville! Chodan Janet Barnes leads classes at the Tumble Time Gym, 16315 N. Cross Dr. #A, Huntersville NC.

There will be a Demonstration at St. Paul Lutheran School in Grafton on March 15. You can call Mr. VH for information at his number above or email to fmvh@execpc.com.

Wisconsin TaeKwon-Do Seminar February 23 at 11:00 a.m. at the Academy of Martial Arts--Sheboygan. Taught by Mr. VH. This is your chance to ask those pesky questions, and maybe even get answers! Cheap and, historically, fun.

There will be a test in Grafton on February 4.

There will also be a test in Sheboygan February 9.

On January 26 a test was held at the new Academy of Martial Arts, West Bend. Presiding were Mr. Paul DuKatz, Mrs. Jacqueline Karpinsky, Mr. Dwight Drescher and Mr. VH. A total of 16 students tested. Mr. Ryan Kraemer and Mr. Zachary Groh were named to Deacon. Congratulations to Mr. Kraemer and Mr. Groh.

Franco's Street-Fighting Secrets, a review by F.M. Van Hecke

1001 Street Fighting Secrets: The Principles of Contemporary Fighting Arts by Sammy Franco (Paladin Press, 1997) continues our series of reviews. The author, depicted on page 211 (one assumes he's the one on the viewer's right in the picture), has a resume that doesn't quit, primarily skewed to the law enforcement instructor's side of things.

In the Preface, the author somewhat immodestly states: "1,001 Street Fighting Secrets is an

exhaustive compilation of axioms and principles of my system of combat, Contemporary Fighting Art (CFA). This book will prove to be the most in-depth, detailed, and complete collection of street fighting secrets every compiled."

Contemporary Fighting Arts, according to Mr. Franco, has no "obsolete rituals", no tournaments or katas, and does not "adhere blindly to tradition for tradition's sake." In short, it's about fighting, the need to debunk those who learned fighting in different ways, and, of course, and perhaps of some importance, the opportunity to get your picture taken a lot in action poses with muscle T-shirts and great hair.

Mr. Franco has structured his work around the idea that there are nuggets of information, "secrets", which can help you out in a dangerous situation on the street. When the book winds down toward the end, the secrets really boil down to single-sentence aphorisms, such as: "868. Revenge can be an honorable trait. 869. When

The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts

your mind, body and spirit fuse into an efficient and unemotional weapon, you will become a warrior. 870. Keep your combative secrets to yourself. A close friend today May be your enemy tomorrow." And so on through the fortune cookies.

The book is also the teeniest bit pretentious. It opens with a Table of Contents, a quotation from Henry Ward Beecher (where is G.B.S. when we need him?), an Author's Note, a lengthy Preface, Acknowledgments, a Dedication, an Introduction, all before Chapter One, and finishes with a Glossary ("Accuracy--The precise or exact projection of force. Accuracy is also defined as the ability to execute a combative movement with precision and exactness." through "Zoning--A defensive maneuver designed to negate your assailant's stick strike through strategic movement and precise timing....etc."), a Suggestive Reading and Viewing list, and the aforescribed About the Author.

With all of this, can the

book be any good? The answer is, "yes."

Mr. Franco has put together a reasonably comprehensive and practical summary of what "street self-defense" is about, is largely crammed into the first 867 secrets. And those secrets are by and large things the mature martial artist almost instinctively understands but often forgets. For example, Secret 1 is "Don't Blink." Secret 2 is "Breathe." Secret 3 is "Relax." Secret 4 is "Employ efficient tools and techniques." And each is expanded in a paragraph of discussion, usually quite good.

Now, the foregoing may sound terribly simplistic, but the fact is that the less experience we have in street confrontation the more need we have to review very fundamental concepts. Moreover, Mr. Franco covers a very comprehensive range of principles and thus presents a relatively complete system.

Some of the principles are obvious, "Employ low-line kicks," "Don't use probing

techniques," "Never throw a knife," and so on, but others are less obvious and are definite contributions. Examples are: "Perfect the de-escalation stance," and the "Tap-Rack-Bang" drill for cartridge delivery or discharge problems in your automatic pistol. (Somehow "Tap-Rack-Bang" didn't make the Glossary.) This reviewer's personal favorite? In the section on pepper spray, number 480: "Know which direction the wind is blowing."

As the reader can perceive, CFA encompasses not only fists, feet, etc., but also guns, sticks, knives and so on. It is, then, a comprehensive system. Mr. Franco has done a very good job, in the end, in summarizing it in his "secrets", and the book is a contribution to the safety of those who read, absorb, understand, and use its principles.

Now is your chance to become a published author in martial arts! Submit your article to [The Flash](#). We will help you with editing and make your article something to be proud of!

Area men and women test for black belt at recent meet

On Dec. 8, a United States TaeKwon-Do Federation Regional Black Belt Test was hosted by the Association of Academies of Martial Arts at the Still Waters Community Methodist Church in Jackson. A total of 28 men and women from four states tested for various degrees of Black Belt before a panel consisting of Seventh Dan Master Paul DeBaca of Aurora, Colo., vice president of the U.S.T.F., and Sixth Dan Earl Weiss of Skokie, Ill., U.S.T.F. Region Five Director. The test was conducted under the authority of the International TaeKwon-Do Federation, Gen. Choi, Hong Hi, founder and president, and of the U.S.T.F., Grand Master C.E. Sereff, president. It was the largest I.T.F.-U.S.T.F. sanctioned Black Belt test ever held in Wisconsin.

Thirteen students tested for their First Degree Black Belts. They were Riz Refugio and Peter Auld of Illinois, Erin Graff, Alice Soriano, Sam Van Hecke, Ginger Oestreich, Mark Brudnak, Teresa Brandt, Dan Shwerin, Jarvis Klassy, and Luke Allen of Wisconsin, and Andrea Zagata and Jeremy Duke of Michigan.

Testing for their Second Degree Black Belts were Richard Mann of Illinois, Paul Schneider, Roger Barts and Caitlin Madden of Wisconsin, Ray Peleux, Dave Christie, and Joel Miller of North Carolina, and James Alger of Michigan.

Mary Lubner and Steve Warnke of Wisconsin, Otto Precht of Illinois, and Steve Osborn of Michigan tested for Third Degree Black Belt.

Mike Van Pietersom of Cedarburg tested for his Fourth Degree Black Belt and is now eligible to receive International Instructor status.

U.S.T.F. Wisconsin State Director P.M. Van Hecke tested for his Sixth Degree Black Belt along with Illinois State Director and School of Classical TaeKwon-Do founder Braxton Miller.

In attendance were spectators from six states. Also in attendance and participating in the activities were North Carolina U.S.T.F. State Director Fourth Dan Jeremy Kempka, Second Dan Instructor Doug Kehl of Cadillac, Mich., Third Dan Jason Cram of Wausau, and students and instructors from Academies of Martial Arts and U.S.T.F.-affiliated schools in Sheboygan, Grafton, Merrill, Jackson, and Mequon, and Island Lake, and DesPlaines, Ill., Charlotte and Mooresville, N.C. and Cadillac, Mich.

Third Dan Tom Minesal of Grafton served as Corner (Master of Ceremonies) and Second Dan Jacqueline Karpinsky as Head Table



Testing participants in the U.S.T.F. Black Belt meet on Dec. 8 in Jackson.

Photo submitted



Photos submitted

(Top) Natalie Crandall carries out her assignment of removing broken boards.

(Left) Alice Soriano of Grafton breaks wood in mid-air. #24

(Bottom) Erin Graff of Port Washington smashes her boards with a knife hand.



