

The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts

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The Region 5 Regional Black Belt Test for 2006 will be held on September 16 in DesPlaines, IL. Master Earl Weiss will preside. Instructors, contact Mr. VH fmvh@execpc.com for more details. Students, your contact should be with your instructor.

Big Dog will march in the Cascade Township 4th of July parade.

The Special Needs Academy of Martial Arts held a gup level test on May 19 at which Mr. Luke Mattias, Mr. Brian Nusslock, and Mr. Harley Pals presided. Tony Mattias handled corner duties.

Mr. Harley Pals has been promoted to the position of Senior Assistant Instructor at the Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton. The appointment took place three days after his 82d birthday, whereupon it was observed that he certainly qualified as Senior.

Put aside the week end of July 15, 16, 17 for a big TKD Week End in Madison. Sponsored by the Region and AAMA, promoted by AMAC Middleton. Friday night: USTF Referee Course. Saturday: Regional USTF Tournament. Patterns, Free Sparring, Team Patterns. Saturday evening, Black Belt Blitz Workout with Mr. VH for Second Dans on up. Saturday night schools owners' dinner and distinguished guests (informal). Sunday, "Strategic Free Sparring" Seminar with Mr. Jeremy Kempka (5th Dan, NC). Sunday afternoon, AAMA Awards Picnic, all you can eat short of a thermonuclear event. Madison is an outstanding place to spend the week end with the family. Contact Mr. Kevin McDaniel, KmcDaniell1@tds.net. for hotel information or call 608-831-5967. Check out www.ustf-region5.org/events.html

Referee Course: a USTF Referee Certification will be taught on Friday July 15 (evening course, intensive program) by Mr. Kevin McDaniel in Middleton WI. Check out www.ustf-region5.org/events.html or contact Mr. McDaniel at 608-831-5967.

The **Fourth Annual USTF West Virginia State TaeKwon-Do Tournament**, originally scheduled for Saturday May 20 was moved to June 3. Tony Henderson was Promoter.

The Region 5 USTF Regional **Tournament** is on Saturday July 16 in Waunakee WI. Patterns, Sparring, Team Sparring and Team Patterns. Check out www.ustf-region5.org/events.html or contact Mr. McDaniel at 608-831-5967.

On June 24 a Ho Sin Sool Seminar will take place in Utah. Call USTF HQ for more info.

A test was held on May 6th at the Academy of Martial Arts Sheboygan. Presiding were Mr Marc Mikkelson and Mrs Caren Johnson. Mrs Jacqueline Karpinsky acted as Corner.

A gup level test will be held at the American Martial Arts Center, Middleton, on June 10.

The USTF-AAMA Annual Awards Picnic will be held on Sunday afternoon, July 17. Contact Mr. Kevin McDaniel KmcDaniell1@tds.net. or call 608-831-5967. Fun, games for kids, all you can eat. Centennial Park, Waunakee, Wisconsin.

The Academy of Martial Arts Sheboygan demonstrated their skills for the crowds at the Road America Family Tailgate Party on May 20th.

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Mrs. Caren Johnson wins her confrontation with Mr. Dan Kelly. Far in the background (for those of you with loupes), terrified civilians flee!

Sir--
I wanted to take an opportunity to pay my respects to the Grafton Academy of Martial Arts. I am not a student of the U.S.T.F. although I am trained in the Chang-Hon forms. My connection to the Academy is through Dr. Rick Bauman, IV Dan, whom I met many years ago when we trained at another TaeKwon-Do dojang in Shorewood, WI.

According to General Choi's book on TaeKwon-Do, the section dealing with the Student/Instructor Relationship is quite clear when it states "Students should be encouraged to visit other dojangs and study other techniques." (Choi, p. 44)

Unfortunately it is also true that some studios are strict to forbid this practice. I am fortunate that in Grafton there was an open door for an outsider like me!

Since the first time I came as a spectator I was so impressed at the strong work ethic of the students as well as the bond between student, Black Belt, and Instructors. Eventually I was invited to take part in some classes so that I could be exposed to the "Sine Wave" style. Also I had an opportunity to learn from Mr. Van Hecke and get his feedback.

Because of this warm welcome I received, I have left an invitation to the Grafton students to attend classes and/or assist at testings of my TaeKwon-Do program in Milwaukee. On one occasion Mr. Luke Mattias, III Dan, was a judge at one of my classes' testings. It was a pleasure to have him there because Mr. Mattias is a truly devoted teacher and martial artist. We began by demonstrating side-by-side, the forms Chon-Ji and Hwa-Rang to allow the students to appreciate the similarities and differences of our styles. We also demonstrated this in our dress suits versus a traditional dobok to represent one is a TaeKwon-Do practitioner at all times, and not just for a couple hours a week when you have a colored belt around your waist.

To refer again to General Choi's Encyclopedia under the section entitled Tae

Kwon-Do And Mental Effect, "Through severe training classes, one learns to communicate with the obvious result that racial barriers are stripped away. The harmonious exchange of Taekwon-do between races certainly helps to eradicate the unfortunate lack of understanding that often exists between people." (Choi, p.39)

The term Sa Bum (Instructor) shares a similar root in the Korean language with the word Sa Bu, which refers to one's parents. The TaeKwon-Do dojang is, in fact, a house of discipline or home where everyone is a member of a family. It doesn't matter the race, age, sex or religion of the members because we are all relatives of the same team. Because of the opportunities to share experiences with the other dojangs, the student (and we are all forever students!) has the exposure to diversity and yet can also embrace what we have in common.

One lesson I teach in my classes since it is my responsibility as the "parent" to raise the "children" is that if people would concentrate more on our similarities than our differences as members of the same human race, perhaps we could see the cessation of racism, sexism, and prejudice. Whether we are White Belts or Black Belts we have an obligation to society to teach by example the tenet of Courtesy as well as the Student Oath to strive to build a more peaceful world!

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I wish the best to you and hope that in your lives at home, school and the dojang you will always have "Pil Seung", the faith of certain victory!

*Sincerely,
Mr. Jay Mustapich, IV Dan*

Rosie the Roving Reporter's Fashion Tips

While Mr. Ed Girdaukas demonstrates the effectiveness of middle level double forearm pushing block to Mr. Dan Kelly at a recent AAMA-Sheboygan demonstration, Mr. Marc Mikkelson sports the latest in spring TKD wear, a brown beret, accented by his slimming black pants. (Note, in the background, an obviously interested lady checking out Mr. Mikkelson's ensemble!) And now, fashion fans, you have discovered the very latest in style (although if I see those pants on you guys....Mr. vh) and refinement among haute couture aficionados.



Remarks on Completion of A Black Belt Test in 2002: "Toughness"

By F.M. Van Hecke

Once again we are here to celebrate a coming of age, if you will, of these students advancing in the Art of TaeKwon-Do. I cannot thank you enough for the courtesies extended me in coming here. Without going into detail, I will say that this test does reflect the finest of instruction and effort.

I'd like to talk today a bit about toughness. Now those of you who are parents are saying, "Great! We spend money for four or five years to teach our kids some self-discipline and courtesy, and this guy's talking about a tenet we've never heard of and maybe don't want to see." But if you've noted a palpable difference in those testing for higher rank from those first testing for their first Black Belts, and want to know why, the answer is probably that you saw more toughness in those who've been with the Art longer. I say "toughness," but I'd remind you that being tough and being mean are different things.

We are blest here in the United States. Some of the adults here know exactly what I mean, and I suspect very few of the children here do. I'd like to take you back to another time, not so happy, to make my

point.

We look at ourselves today as living in one country. "One nation, under God" we say during the Pledge of Allegiance. But it was not always so. Our Founding Fathers did not resolve all issues in establishing a central government and did not attempt to address slavery as a social institution; it was a "political third rail" inconsistent with the proposition, "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." The architects of America did not create a single nation, but a government in which the individual States were understood by their citizens to be their country.

We fought a great civil war to resolve these questions, not the least of which was are we Americans or Virginians or Kentuckians? From today's perspective we often lose the sense of the legitimacy, as it seemed at the time, of the Confederacy's view of State independence.

Our civil war was the most devastating imaginable, and cost us more lives on a per capita basis than all other wars in our history combined. Its cost was incalculable, the suffering immeasurable and the bitterness upon its completion could well never have healed.

Never have healed?

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Impossible, you say? We're all Americans today, united in national identity.

But look at recent civil wars in Africa (Hutu vs. Tutsi, slaughter in the millions), those sparked by Communists in Cambodia ("the killing fields" of the Khmer Rouge) and as recently as last week in Nepal), and in other places in the world in this supposedly more enlightened century.

If you think about it, it could have been concentration camps, mass slaughter, rape and torture here in America, too. This was a war so bitter that "waving the bloody shirt" was a staple of political rhetoric for many decades to come.

And don't be deceived into thinking that it was the Christian character of our westernized culture alone that made the difference. Look at the Balkans, look at Germany in this century.

Civil wars do not in Man's natural state resolve themselves in reconciliation. People are just not that forgiving for the deaths of their fathers, brothers, and sons.

One step in our national reconciliation occurred at Appomattox in early April of 1865, when starving skeletons of men, the Army of Northern Virginia, which fought gallantly and ferociously under Robert E. Lee, marched in to

surrender their arms to a victorious Union Army.

These were tough men, among the toughest ever known, who faced down death daily. Those to whom they surrendered were also tough men, and were tough enough, numerous enough, and well supplied and led well enough to win in the end.

On what basis should this surrender be received? How could Grant, a tough man, make the point he wanted to make, that there was a victory for the Union, a defeat for the South, that these men were never again challenge the United States and its authority? And yet, to show them the reverence, they deserved as men and win from them at least grudging respect for the Union?

You saw here today an appreciable difference in the toughness of those testing for more and more advanced degrees of TaeKwon-Do. With toughness comes grace and magnanimity.

"Unconditional Surrender" Grant, that very tough man, had determined to send the men of the Army of Northern Virginia home on their pledge never again to bear arms against the United States, rather than parading them through jeering crowds in Northern cities or putting them in prison.

He let the farmers keep their horses, the officers their

swords. It was a step towards healing and proof that being really tough means more than than we sometimes think.

And as the defeated entered the little town to stack their arms in a pile, they were saluted by General Grant's Union troops as a sign of respect for them as soldiers and as men. "Carry arms".

I congratulate those of you students who tested today, pass or fail, for in testing you have won.

I thank, and they thank, those of you who have supported them in their efforts to become better people.

And I exhort these new Black Belts to be tough, because now it's expected.

Mr. Jeremy Kempka will lead a seminar, "**Strategic Free Sparring**" at Waunakee High School on Sunday, July 17. For information, check out www.ustf-region5.org/events.html or contact Mr. McDaniel at 608-831-5967.

On July 8 a Black Belt test will take place at the American Martial Arts Center in Middleton, WI.

On July 22 Miss Alice Soriano will marry Mr. Wesley Day in Brookfield WI. Chodan Soriano returns after a year in France.