

# The T.K.D. Flash

## A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts

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**Don't Delay! Registration deadline coming up on June 20! USTF Nationals** will be held in Waunakee, WI on July 20th and 21st of 2007. Come see the Best of the Best compete. And if you would someday be among them, don't just see, but compete. The Sunday after competition their will be a picnic with plenty of activities for the kids, a relaxing atmosphere for the adults and food for all diets. If you have any questions please give the Promoter, Mr. Kevin McDaniel, a call or drop him an e-mail (608) 831-5967 / [kevin.mcdaniel@amac-tkd.com](mailto:kevin.mcdaniel@amac-tkd.com).

Master Earl Weiss has been certified to teach official USTF Ho Sin Sul courses. Master Weiss never fails to open minds and find innovative approaches. He would be available throughout the Region and the country for your next seminar. Contact [eweisstk@aol.com](mailto:eweisstk@aol.com).

Put aside October 13 on your calendars for **tournament action**. Dr. John Butitta will

host the annual **A.A.M.A. Fall Classic** in Neenah WI.

The U.S.T.F. Regional Black Belt Test for 2007 will take place in Green Bay, Wisconsin, on November 3. Instructors who are interested contact Mr. Van Hecke, [fmvh@execpc.com](mailto:fmvh@execpc.com) or 414-852-9229. Students who are interested, contact your instructors. We have the great fortune to announce the probable presence of Grand Master Charles E. Sereff and Master Renee Sereff.

On Saturday June 9 Master Earl Weiss will host a U.S.T.F.-sanctioned Black Belt Test at Skokie IL.

Camp TaeKwon-Do, NC, will be held this year starting on June 11. Details to follow.

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[Editor's Note: The following excerpt is from Culture & Terror, (2003, Xlibris), by Dr. Karen A. Larson, Professor of Cultural Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Studies, Gustavus Adolphus College (and Martial Artist.) It seems singularly timely, given recent events at Virginia Tech. The jackal is used as a metaphor throughout the work for the terrorist. Note its consistency with the purposes of community service and Gen. Choi's philosophy of the TaeKwon-Do practitioner as "doer."]

"Everyone has the ball in (his) possession. Individuals can revive their sense of being able to do something in America by doing it. Support a problematic classmate, and perhaps prevent the next

domestic jackal from emerging. The classmate will have support either way. Take any American horror story on the news, and do what can be done to prevent something like it from happening in your neighborhood. Insist that positive stories also appear on the American news. Educate children about safety. Offer help to someone who is mentally or socially troubled. Instruct tomorrow's leaders about ethics. Make your social surroundings into a neighborhood. A sense of community will begin to emerge from any of these acts."

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A gup level test will be held at the Society of Traditional TaeKwon-Do in Crystal Lake IL on June 2.



Proud papa Wes Day and mom Chodan Alice Soriano Day proudly introduce you to Lexi Marie Day, born on Wed, May 9, 2007 at 8:52pm. Lexi Marie weighed in at 8lbs and 1 oz with a height of 20 inches. No word yet on reach.

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On May 16 a gup level test was held at the Academy of Martial Arts in Grafton. Three students tested successfully for Gup 9. Presiding were Mrs.

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Mary Lubner, Mr. Harley Pals, whose 84th Birthday is on the 18th, and Mr. V.H. Miss Jordan Watson cornered capably. Congratulations to Chrissy Luick, Matthew Thur, and Dan Bader on a job well done.

Lone Wolf Taekwon-Do, Liberty Taekwon-Do, and the Cadillac Area YMCA Taekwon-Do united to raise funds for the Oasis Women and Children's Shelter. Oasis provides safe lodging and services to women and children who must find safety from domestic violence and other forms of abuse. The three Michigan schools raised money through collecting returnable bottles and cans, asking for donations, and by receiving pledges for kicks. Students totaled over 24,000 kicks in just under an hour to raise \$2,300 for Oasis



Rhonda Weathers, Executive Director of Oasis, receives checks from Dr. Steve Osborn.

A White Belt test was held at A.M.A.-Grafton on May 30. Four tested, Mr. V.H. presided, Mr. Shircel cornered.

After the first effort, which did not yield a majority for any candidate (as required by the Bylaws), another election was immediately planned for U.S.T.F. President. The new U.S.T.F. President would have succeeded, for a six year term, Grand Master Charles E. Sereff. Upon analysis, Grand Master Sereff came to the conclusion that given the best interests of the organization he should defer elections a year or so. This publication is in support of his decision.

### Technical Corner

The following question was recently raised by Master Earl Weiss. Input was requested in the last issue of the Flash:

“The USTF gup requirement booklet says that the tool for the U shape block is the arc hand. The encyclopedia says it is the reverse knife hand. Although not among what I would call my favorite technique from a utilitarian standpoint, in my opinion this difference radically alters how the block is performed and how it would be used. Which approach do you take, and why?”

The following responses were received:

#### Dr. Rick Bauman, 5th

Dan: “As to the U-shape block and the use of the thumbs, wouldn't the thumb position depend on the purpose of the action? If it is preparatory to a grab, then the ‘open thumb’ would seem

appropriate, but if it is truly just to ward off a blow then a knife hand position would be better due to the strength of a tighter hand. What does the original Korean translate into?

[Editor's Comment: the term in the Encyclopedia is *digutja makgi*. The term *mondungi makgi* is also often used. The literal translation of the first term is “ti-gut shaped” or “shaped like the letter ti-gut”. The letter ti-gut, the third letter of the Hangeul, is sounded like “t” or “d” and looks sort of like the roman letter “u” on its side. The term *mondungi* translates as “pole (staff).” Neither term appears to be constructive on the subject of hand technique in itself. Both reverse knifehand and arc-hand are used in both offensive and defensive applications, e.g., reverse knifehand middle block and arc-hand rising block.]

#### Jay Mustapich, 5th

Dan:

“The question posed on the U-Shape Block is indeed puzzling if one reads the definition of a U shape block from the encyclopedia with the belief that what was written is without error. I believe we have seen some flaws or contradictions in several areas between the encyclopedia and the USTF guidelines.

Page 93 of the encyclopedia states, ‘... the thumb is bent sharply toward the palm’ and has an accompanying picture that reflects this statement.

However, the picture of the block on page 241 for

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application or page 541 in Joong-Gun pattern would show a hand position closer to the arc hand( which is zoomed in on page 96).

Are you ready for the interesting part???

My last thought was to look in the section on Fundamental Exercises...

On page 463 there is a drill for U-Shape Block where the # 2 note states, 'Both ARC-HANDS must form a vertical line with the knee at the moment of the block.'

My guess based on everything we know is that the error lies within the description of the hands on page 241, and NOT with the one on page 463.

### [Editor's Comment:

Due to time constraints we were unable to doublecheck these references. The "Encyclopedia" comes in four editions, with significant pagination differences in all but the last two, and in fifteen volumes in each edition. It would be helpful, then, to indicate the edition and the volume rather than merely pages in advancing a textual discussion. There is no doubt that the "standard" is the Fourth Edition, which is also the best distributed. In addition, we've found that the many iterations of "TaeKwon-Do, the Korean Martial Art," which is a condensed version of the Encyclopedia, is often referred to as the Encyclopedia, and thus references to it should both designate it either by correct title or as the

"condensed" version and the particular printing of which there are several. It is clear that the latest version is the standard and best distributed of this latter work. Mr. Mustapich raises an excellent point: we often overemphasize the last eight volumes of the Encyclopedia because they are helpful in dealing with patterns when much of the "meat" of TaeKwon-Do is really found in the first seven, which not only expressly deals with basic technique outside of the tul context but also provides interesting drill-related materials such as those referred to by Mr. Mustapich in his response.]

Dr. Steve Osborn, 4th

Dan:

Regarding the issue of the U-Shape block, we know there are several tools that can be used when executing this block. Which tool is used will depend upon the specifics of the situation AND what the particular tul calls for. I have taken two Level C Instructor Courses with Master Winegar who teaches reverse knifehand. I have taken two courses with the General and one with Sa-Sung, but cannot remember them addressing the tool in that gup pattern.

[Editor's Note: It is clear that Master Winegar's view is that reverse knifehand is the tool. I have not obtained the impression from him that it is situation-dependent, i.e., that the tool is a variable based on circumstance. U-shaped block is found in the following patterns: Choong-Mu (number 18), Joon Gun (numbers 31

and 32) and Sam-il (numbers 15 and 16). What can we learn from the "application" pictures? Realistically, very little, and the picture at Joon-Gun 32 (Encyclopedia, Fourth Ed., Vol. 9 p. 263) creates yet more confusion, with the pole being grabbed or pushed in a counter-intuitive direction rather than blocked outwards to the defender's back side.]

### Editor's Summary:

Quite often there are apparent contradictions with good reason. I am intrigued by the following: Master Weiss refers to reverse knifehand as the standard referred to in the Encyclopedia. He is undoubtedly referring to Edition Four, Volume 3, page 302. It may be helpful to obtain a clearer reference from Mr. Mustapich (the page 463 one) to see if there is another variable at work, and, perhaps, the Korean language edition may help shed some light on the situation.

I have been to several seminars with the General (and Masters Winegar and Weiss and Grand Master Sereff many, many more, but cannot recall this express issue being posed to him. I know, however, that Master Weiss's views are much influenced by the form and placement of the statement. Thus, for example, in his view (and mine) express text in the context of explaining the subject matter trumps pictures.

This exigetical discussion among three extremely knowledgeable scholars (Dr. Bauman, Mr. Mustapich, Dr. Osborn) in response to the question posed

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by yet another (Master Weiss) has been of great interest. Can we add to it?]

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On June 5 there will be a gup level test at Skokie's National TaeKwon-Do.

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### Growing with Tae Kwon Do

By Collin Madison, Gup One

[Editor's Note: Collin Madison is a Gup One Black Stripe student at the Academy of Martial Arts in Grafton, where he studies TaeKwon-Do with his father Keith and his older sister Mallory. Collin drafted this paper as part of the school's essay requirement. He is ten years of age and a fourth grader.]

As I grow older I am realizing how Tae Kwon Do has effected my life.

Learning how to defend myself has helped me develop a sense of security. It has built my self confidence. I feel I can attempt new things without being afraid to fail. Tae Kwon-Do has helped me be more adventurous.

Learning Tae Kwon-Do has given me the tools to achieve things like sports I thought were only for kids with born talents and athletic abilities. In school I take on challenges and learn more than I need to get a passing grade, such as doing extra credit.

Tae Kwon-Do has taught me to concentrate and focus.

I feel more confident, by taking good care of my

body, eating healthy food, and exercising.

I am learning to direct my anger into something more positive. It helps me develop good friendships and practice good sportsmanship. When I get frustrated on a math problem or a kick or punch I take a deep breath in and think to my self "I can do this!" During basketball games if I miss a basket or make a bad pass I make anger into something positive.

Tae Kwon-Do has taught me not to be so frightened of different people.

Learning and understanding different religions and cultures has helped me grow inside to understand the world.

My training in Tae Kwon-Do has given me a sense of compassion for people less fortunate. I've always been taught to reach to people that need help. This makes me feel like I'm doing God's will. Helping people with physical or mental handicaps makes me feel grateful. I learned many things from them like not giving up because of a disability.

The respect I have for other people and the way we address the Black Belts helps me show honor.

Mr. Mattias (Ed. note: Mr. Luke Mattias, III Dan) is intelligent and knows many things about Tae Kwon-Do like how to say Korean words and phrases. He tells me about the history of Tae Kwon-Do in a very descriptive way and the purpose of each movement as we do them. Mr. Mattias is so careful and patient. It helps me to focus and slow down my

mind to learn. Mr. Van Hecke is helpful and gives me direction.

During classes I like how the instructors make it fun to do Tae Kwon-Do. Like when Mr. Mattias makes it challenging by making us remember Korean words, some of the Korean words we learned are ap cha busigi or oren gunnan sogi. Mr. Van Hecke teaches us how to get out of a person's grip.

I think learning Tae Kwon Do will be a life long journey. It is something that you always have and own. You can always use it and learn from it in everything you do during your lifetime. It helps me stay strong and centered in my body and mind.

I feel special to have Tae Kwon Do in my life. It makes me feel whole. The art is something I can take with me as I grow older. It provides me with balance to help me make good decisions and be helpful to other people.

When I get older my training will help with the struggles and challenges I will go through. Tae Kwon Do is a great hobby and I plan on using it if I am in danger. During school, sports, and at home Tae kwon Do helps me and other people to be safe and healthy.

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On June 6 Master Earl Weiss will supervise a gup test at Skokie IL.

On June 3 Mr. Kevin McDaniel taught a Nationals prep class at the School of Classical TaeKwon-Do, Crystal Lake IL.