

The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts
The National Newsletter of the United States Taekwon-Do Federation

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The United States Taekwon-Do Federation's National Championships for 2009 will be held on June 26 through 28th in Kelso, WA. The Tournament Director is Washington State Director David Mason, who can be contacted at 360-601-7713. Check out tournament materials at www.mountainview.cmasdirect.com Always best to plan ahead.

The TKD Flash here begins its twenty-first year of publication. Here is a chance for your school, your students, to be acknowledged in print. Let them know that they and their instructors have national significance and that their studies and efforts are important.

The Maestas Team Challenge for 2009 will be held on March 21, 2009. Robert Martin is the Tournament Promoter. He may be contacted at bmartin@maestastkd.com or 303-895-9741. Applications and information are available at www.maestastkd.com. The event will be held at the Apex Rec Center in Arvada CO. This is a unique "all-team" event. Put the date aside.

Master Ricky Todd and Axe Taekwon-Do are sponsoring the Second Annual Axe Taekwon-Do Tournament at Bellevue, Nebraska on May 9. Master Tom Cope is the Tournament Director And Master Todd the Promoter.

Master Todd will also host a U.S.T.F. Referee Certification Course on March 14 at Axe TKD.



A warrior turns 75 on December 7! Pictured, and all with December birthdays, are Mr. Ruby, Mr. Pappas, Mr. Beck, GM Sereff, Dr. Farley, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Bava and Ms. Erin Martin. Of course, the warrior in question taught class that night. We wish him continued good health.

An official USTF Referee Course will be held in Broomfield on February 7th.

On January 31 the Sereff Invitational Chili Cook-off will be held. Contact Headquarters for more information.

A Black Belt test is scheduled at KEVA Sports Center, Middleton, for February 1. Mr. Kevin McDaniel will host the event, and Master F.M. Van Hecke will be in attendance. Testing will be students from the American Martial Arts Center, Madison, and the Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton.

Sir:

On Friday, November 21st, Axe Taekwon-Do at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska hosted a quarterly promotion testing. 32 students tested for various ranks from 9th gup, White Belt Yellow Stripe through 1st gup, Red Belt Black Stripe. The testing board was composed of Master Ricky Todd, VII Dan, USTF Region III Director and Mr. Kevin Bushor, 5th Dan, USTF Nebraska State Director. The following students were tested.

White Belt/Yellow Stripe: Ms. Tiana Beal; Ms. Alyssa Dumbra; Mr. Garrett Hake and Mr. Thomas Springer. Yellow Belt: Mr. Keith Buckley; Ms. Sharon Buckley; Ms. Leilani Beal; Mr. Frank Logan and Ms. Brooke Stelly. Yellow Belt Green Stripe: Mr. Stephen Pryor; Mr. Dylan Araujo; Mr. Zachary Cochran; Mr. Jakob Dyson; Ms. Kayla Knight; Ms. Kassiday Knight and Mr. Anthony Knight. Green Belt: Ms. Amy Buckley. Green Belt Blue Stripe: Mr. Amir Gonzalez and Mr. Nicholas Knapp. Blue Belt Red Stripe: Ms. Elizabeth Tyler. Red Belt: Ms. Samantha Finan; Ms. Jenna Fuller; Mr. Michael Navratil; Mr. Graysen Ragone and Mr. Jacob Souchek. Red Belt Black Stripe: Mr. Zack Araujo; Mr. Jacob Carter; Mr. Albert Kline; Ms. Kayla Matos; Mr. Dawsen Ragone; Mrs. Debbie Ragone and Mr. Aaron Reep.

The students were tested on all physical and mental aspects of Taekwon-Do in accordance with the USTF testing syllabus. The High Test Score was Ms. Brooke Stelly. More

information about our class can be found at <http://www.axetkd.com>.

Master Ricky J. Todd, USTF-7-50

On December 4 a gup level testing was held at the Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton WI. A total of 15 students tested before a Board consisting of Third Dan Paul Hebein, Third Dan James Pals, Second Dan Amirah AbuLughod, First Dans Zeki AbuLughod and Artem Bordetskiy, and Master F.M. Van Hecke. The test was ably cornered by Rick Flood, Marie Ashley and Brittany Ashley. Congratulations to the following students on their promotions to Gup One, Brittany Ashley, Marie Ashley, to Gup Three, Matthew Thur, to Gup Seven, Matt Faase, Mike Herzfeld, Logan O'Brien, Jack Fasse

and Selena Vanderhorst, to Gup Eight, Cody Kultgen, and to Gup Nine, Tyler King, J.J. Dick, Katelyn Dick, James Bohn, Elizabeth Stanfield, and J.P. Stanfield.

Sir:

On December 13th Grand Master Sereff and Master Renee' Sereff held their December color belt test at Sereff Taekwon Do. These kids

spell out the reason we teach week after week; not because we love kids and students, but we love teaching Taekwon Do to students that are eager to learn something new and for the love of the art! From pattern to kicking, smiles and tears, it all adds up to a wonderful way to live life! Kicks are not just for kids but for the young at heart too!

--Master Renee Sereff



Recently testing in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, from left to right is instructor Ms. Heidi Spiessl, Cecelia Attwell promoted to Youth Green Belt, School Director Chuck Giotto, Ryan Spitzza promoted to Youth Purple Belt, Elissa Neves to Youth Orange Belt and instructor Ms. Hili Spiessl.



Pictured is the December 13th color belt testing group at Sereff Taekwon-Do.

Are the Tenets of TaeKwon-Do Relevant to a Korean Environmental Ethic?

By Rick Flood

Upon beginning their journey of learning and discovery, students of TaeKwon-Do learn its five tenets: Courtesy, Integrity, Perseverance, Self-Control, and Indomitable Spirit. As this author has applied the tenets in his daily life, a question began to form: What is the environmental history of Korea, and, do TaeKwon-Do's tenets pose any relevance to how Koreans interrelate with the non-human world?

All human life, whether lived in Korea, the United States, or Brazil, depends upon an interrelationship with ecosystems. Humans harvest and nurture ecosystems to provision themselves; they return their wastes to those systems. Literally everything that is made and consumed comes from the earth's systems. And, all humans have an environmental ethic: they develop an understanding of the environment and then organize their interrelationship with ecosystems based on that perspective. For example, the environment may be seen as a resource to be controlled to provide for human needs above all other life forms, or, a vast garden to be carefully tended to create health and wellness for humans *and* other creatures. The structure of an ecological ethic is a complex mix of

spiritual, political, economic and cultural tradition. In the United States, for example, one predominant theme that contributes to a uniquely American environmental ethic is a cultural ethos that sees America as a vast land to be tamed and conquered—an ideal that weaves its way through American history from the early days of European settlement to the movement to 'Go West' to settle the land's wide open spaces. As we will see, Koreans have numerous resources available to them as they reflect on an environmental ethic, including some of the tenets of TaeKwon-Do.

Like other societies, Korea has not been immune to the negative environmental effects of humans. Extensive damage was done to Korea's ecosystems during the Japanese occupation (1910-45) and the Korean War (1950-53, et. seq.)—but war is always hard on the environment. Korea's environmental problems became systemic during the 1960s under the leadership of President Chung-Hee Park. It was his government that initiated an economic-growth-first policy as a means to developing South Korea following its independence. Like most developing countries before them, the Korean people—ravaged by war and occupation—preferred industrial development over environmental



On left: West Marquette County TaeKwon-Do students promoted from left to right are Anthony Ogea to 5th Gup High Green Belt, Mary Wisuri to 6th Gup Green Belt, Alex Wisuri to 6th Gup Green Belt, Hanna Wisuri to Youth High Orange Belt, Emily Wisuri to 6th Gup Green Belt, and Chuck Giotto, School Headmaster.

Pictured to the right upon completion of a test at Marquette Taekwon-Do, are from left to right, instructors Ms.Hilija and Heidi Spiessl, Cody Dhont promoted to 3rd Gup High Blue Belt, Cierra Kemppainen, 1st Gup High Red Belt, Max Spiessl, 2nd Gup Red Belt, and James Hegmegee 5th Gup High Green Belt, and School Director Chuck Giotto.



protection. And, similar to other nations that developed rapidly, Korea was no exception in assuming that environmental damage is an unavoidable outcome of fast-paced economic growth. Indeed, when a country increases its economic production quickly, pollution is often regarded as a positive symbol that represents an increasing standard of living. Reflecting this belief, President Park is reputed to have said in a speech, “Dark smoke arising from factories are symbols of our nation's growth and prosperity.” (A statement which can be found inscribed on a monument tower in the middle of Ulsan City-regarded as the center of Korean industrial development.)

Korea's rapid growth-oriented policy has created an economic marvel. In just one generation, the country has successfully navigated a course from being a rural, undeveloped society into a modern economy. Measured by GDP, South Korea has the tenth largest economy in the world (2006). But the impressive growth has come at a heavy price. According to Yale University's Environmental Sustainability Index, a composite index tracking a diverse set of socioeconomic, environmental, and institutional indicators that characterize and influence environmental sustainability at the national scale, South Korea ranks 122nd out of 146 rated states (2005). United Nations data indicates that its total carbon dioxide emission ranks 9th in the world. As Peter Harper of the

Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales, UK puts it, “South Korea is still in its dirty phase of development.” By this he means that as major economies mature, they begin to invest heavily in environmental regulation to ensure access to clean water, air, and less pollution for their citizenry. There is evidence that Korea is beginning this phase in its developmental journey. As it does so, there are resources upon which it can draw.

Taoism is a prominent spiritual tradition in Korea. The basis for following the Tao is given in three senses of the Tao: the way of ultimate reality, the way of the universe and the way of human life. One's goal is to mesh all three into a singular one-harmony with the Tao. One aspect of the attainment of the Tao is seen as living in accord with nature. In this worldview, nature is to be befriended and not conquered-it contains and is Tao. Seen in this light, Daoism offers rich cultural resources to the Korean people as they continue to define their relationship to the land. That Taoist principles would have difficulty competing with the strong value placed on the economic relationship with the environment is not surprising.

Korea also has a long agrarian tradition presents another rich resource for promoting a Korean environmental ethic and policy that

balances exploitation of environmental resources with respect for them. As the country continues to develop, the agricultural tradition rooted in millennia of living on the land will undoubtedly begin to emerge as a stronger guiding force.

The tenets of TaeKwon-Do, too, present resources for Koreans as they reflect on their ecological ethic. Why should they apply only to human interaction? A Taoist would probably maintain that the tenets should not be restricted to human-reality: because the Tao is in and through all things, and because humans interact with a whole-not just humans-therefore TaeKwon-Do's tenets apply to all reality. Two tenets in particular offer rich resources in this respect.

Practicing the tenet of Self-Control-expanding the concept beyond one's emotions-might help foster an attitude of restraint toward conspicuous consumption, thereby reducing Korea's impact on natural resources. Likewise, practicing Self-Control to develop an ethic of *moderation* in economic development could help to bring development into a sustainable balance with other important values in Korean society such as simple living (from Daoism). Or, perhaps Self-Control as applied to the human-environment relationship might encourage the wise and sustainable use of natural resources in order to

ensure that future generations too will be able to flourish by having access to healthy ecosystems.

Master F.M. VanHecke maintains that Courtesy is the most important tenet of TaeKwon-Do (*See*, for example, his views as presented in The T.K.D. Flash Volume XVII Number 12). He writes with wisdom and gentleness that Courtesy is "...the backbone of distinctly human character..." Further, he argues that understanding Courtesy helps students understand their "place" in the world. As such, of course, he is referring to one's place among humans. The practice of Courtesy inside the dojang and in one's everyday life leads to heightened respect for one's fellow students, one's teachers, and the rest of humanity-at-large. One realizes one's proper place within the hierarchy of the dojang, as well as the rest of the human world. But as with Self-Control, Courtesy can be expanded to include one's interrelationship with the rest of the living community of which humans are part. Practicing the tenet of Courtesy in relation to all life (and we should remember, soil *is* living) might help foster an attitude of respect for the life that sustains humanity, perhaps changing how animals are raised and slaughtered for human food. Likewise practicing Courtesy toward the non-human environment could lead to thoughtful, sustainable harvest of natural resources in order to help them



Pictured are the Testing Board, Master Ricky Todd and Mr. Kevin Bushor, and students at Axe Taekwon-Do of Bellevue Nebraska. at a test conducted at November 21st.

continue to flourish for future generations. Extending Courtesy to non-humans allows for a richer relationship with all life and opens the door to a deeper appreciation for humankind's place in an ecosystem.

All humans have an environmental ethic-articulated or assumed. The application of TaeKwon-Do's tenets Self-Control and Courtesy offer Koreans a rich opportunity to expand beyond a narrow, economic environmental ethic by using a very practical and elegant tool.

[Editor's Note: Mr. Flood is a student at the Academy of Martial Arts in Grafton WI]



Master Ricky Todd makes a statement.
Apologies to the American Society for
Concrete Preservation.

Secret Fighting Arts of the World, by John F.
Gilbey (Tuttle, 1989): A Review
by F.M. Van Hecke

[Editor's Note: This review, originally published in the [Flash](#) for October of 2000 and reprinted in August 2004, is here represented for the benefit of our newly national readership.]

This book has "been around", it seems, forever. Now in its seventh printing, it is the classic volume of the sort that one picks up on a lark, looking for a new angle on the martial arts.

Gilbey would appear to be a cosmopolitan and sophisticated martial artist, traveling around the world looking for new and ever deadlier martial arts and martial arts techniques.

The book is a bust.

Structured as a series of short stories with the author as hero/explorer in each, we are taken to China to learn the "delayed death touch" (which, of course, remarkably works) in which the time of day at which an organ is struck leads to the victim's demise, the "Canton corkscrew" in which a soft punch in the low abdomen leads to the graveyard, to India where the boxers of Benares have mastered the fighting world, to England where a "nutter" (head-butter) shows his technique, and other locales.

The secret technique is usually revealed to the author only after an exhaustive search, due in part to the prowess shown by Gilbey himself as a fighter.

Some of these secret arts would appear to border on the ridiculous. In "The Macedonian Buttock" we learn of the use of well--err--one's "hinder" as a death-dealing weapon.

Kiai-Jutsu involves shouting so loud as to knock out one's opponent, cause earthquakes and so on. I would suggest the author's adeptness in the not-so-secret art that deals with fools and their money; certainly this fool got beat out of \$12.95 on this one.

U.S.T.F. Instructors Courses are taught by Grand Master Mike Winegar. Your Editor has attended all three through A Certification. More tellingly, he has attended the "C" a second time and has attended the "A" a second time. He is also aware of many who have attended all of these seminars on a repeated basis even without a need for certifications of any kind. Your humble Editor has also attended several I.T.F. International Instructor Courses as recently as this year. Here is the big difference: The U.S.T.F. "C", "B", and "A" courses are far more thorough and the instructor more responsive to detail-related questions. The next Class C is Feb. 21st and 22nd and B April 25th & 26. Contact Headquarters for details.