

TANG SOO TIMES

ISSUE NO. 104

610-522-9120

APRIL 2000

PAL CHE TANG SOO DO

229 SOUTH CHESTER PIKE

GLENOLDEN, PA 19036

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Apr 8 - Ridley YMCA Healthy Kids Day. Demo planned.
- Apr 17 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.
- Apr 29 - Region 8 Black Belt test. No classes.
- May 8 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.
- May 20 - East Coast Championships. No classes.

MONDAY NIGHT ADULT CLASS SCHEDULE

- Apr 3 - Regular Adult Class.
- Apr 10 - Sparring Class. All ranks welcome.
- Apr 17 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.
- Apr 24 - Black Belt Class.
- May 1 - Regular Adult Class.

MASTER'S CORNER

People train in the martial arts for many reasons. The worst reason to train is to achieve rank so that you can strut around as a "Black Belt" and attempt to intimidate people. The average person on the street may be impressed and so may you, but to legitimate Black Belts, you are the proverbial crowing banty rooster. At the recent Masters' Clinic in Florence, Alabama, 29 3rd degree Black Belts from around the world were invited to test for 4th degree. This is the largest candidate class ever for the WTSDA. These 29 candidates had over 700 years between them as Black Belts. The most senior Black Belt testing for 4th Dan had a Dan Number in the 14,000's. That might not seem impressive to you, but my Dan Number is 6000 more than his is and I have been a Black Belt for 16 years. This person has spent 25 years as a 3rd degree Black Belt and this is his third masters' clinic as a candidate for 4th degree. That is perseverance and indomitable spirit. Why do I mention this? That amount of time at a specific rank sure makes one month extra between gup tests or six months extra between Dan tests seem kind of insignificant. My point is this, don't train to achieve rank! Train for self-improvement. Train for knowledge. Train for yourself. The study of the Martial Arts is a lifelong pursuit of perfection - of spirit, of character, and of technique.

NEW STUDENTS

We would like to welcome the following new students to our Dojang and to the worldwide family of Tang Soo Do:

MATT DURSO	JASON MOWER	GINA LINCUL
JUSTIN BRUNKE	IAN KELLY	FRED MUADDI
PAUL FRAGALE	MARK VALINOTE	MARK VALINOTE, JR.

We welcome back RICH WRIGHT who trained with us before. Rich had been an orange belt but will be rejoining us as a white belt.

Train often and train hard. You are on the steep portion of the classic learning curve and every class should reveal something new and exciting to you. If you ever have any questions, do not hesitate to ask a senior student.

HEALTHY KIDS DAY

On Saturday April 8 the Ridley YMCA will be holding their annual Healthy Kids Day and we have been asked to perform a demonstration. If you are interested in participating, please sign up on the sheet posted in the dojang. Understand there will be several practices that you **must** attend if you want to participate.

FEATURE ARTICLE

At the recent Masters' Clinic Grandmaster Shin told this story which I am passing on to you. It's called, "The Soap and Candle."

Many years ago there was an excellent karate student in Korea. He was the best fighter and technician in his dojang. He decided to leave his Master, travel to America, and make his fortune teaching Karate. As he was ready to leave his Master came to him and gave him a present. As is the custom in the Orient he did not open it in front of his Master but packed it away in his suitcase.

When he arrived in the United States and was unpacking, He remembered the gift his Master had given him. Upon opening the gift, he discovered it was a candle and a bar of soap. "How utterly useless," he thought. "In Korea the people are poor and this is a great gift, but in America, I walk into a room, flip a switch, and the lights come on. Soap is a very cheap commodity and I can get it at any store. My Master sure was a country bumpkin to think this would be of use to me in America."

He then proceeded to open a dojang expecting the Americans to flock to his school since he was a great technician and his kicks were so beautiful. His school slowly failed so he closed it and moved to another town. He opened another school whereupon he began giving demonstrations whenever he could. He would break

stacks of roofing tiles, lay on a bed of nails, and break bottles. However, this school failed and he was forced to close once again. He moved to yet another town and opened another dojang. This time he entered tournaments and won many grand championships in fighting. He would beat up his students to show what a great fighter he was. This school also failed.

He was now penniless and decided to return to Korea. When he got back there he found that his Master had died and a former student who had been his junior was running his Master's old dojang. Not only that, the dojang was flourishing with many students. He had been so much a better technician and fighter than the person now running this school. He went in and talked to the new dojang Master.

He told the person about his failures in America and the discussion gradually got back to the old Master. When he told the about the soap and candle, the new school master said, "You had it wrong, the soap meant for you to keep your soul and spirit clean. With those clean you would then be the light to show people the way."

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

TRUTH IS FOUND WITHIN OURSELVES, NOT IN PLACES FAR AWAY.