

TANG SOO TIMES

ISSUE NO. 102

610-522-9120

FEBRUARY 2000

PAL CHE TANG SOO DO

229 SOUTH CHESTER PIKE

GLENOLDEN, PA 19036

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb 7 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.
- Feb 10 - Kick-a-thon for Aimee Willard Scholarship fund.
- Feb 14 - Black Belt Pretest. No adult class.
- Mar 4 - Red Rose Tournament. No classes.
- Mar 6 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.

MONDAY NIGHT ADULT CLASS SCHEDULE

- Feb 7 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.
- Feb 14 - Black Belt Pretest. No adult class.
- Feb 21 - Regular class. All ranks welcome.
- Feb 28 - Black Belt class. Red belts and higher.

MASTER'S CORNER

The *Way* moves in cycles. When an event reaches its zenith, it descends towards its nadir. When a phenomenon reaches its extreme, it changes toward its opposite. Everything moves in cycles. The turning of the planets, movements of the oceans, the extremes of weather, even the buildup of stresses resulting in earthquakes are phenomena moving on cyclical paths.

Even the most minute events of our lives move cyclically. Our successes and failures, our family relationships, our finances, our participation in groups - all these things move in circles. The *Way* is to move and take advantage of these rhythms. This requires extensive experience over a long period of time. You may have disappointments and blunders along the *Way*, but there is no better method of learning.

Just remember to see your cycles through to completion. It is important not just to move in the *Way*, but to complete the cycles in order to learn. We cannot know the circumference of a circle until we have completed at least one revolution. The Um/Yang in both the WTSDA and the Korean Flags are our constant reminder of the cycles in our lives.

NEW STUDENTS

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

JIM COSGROVE

LEN SCHEIRER

MIKE SCHEIRER

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.

KICK-A-THON

On Thursday February 10 we are sponsoring a fundraiser to benefit the Aimee Willard Scholarship Fund. In past years we have raised money for St. Jude Children's Hospital and the Lisa Bosch Bone Marrow Transplant Fund. We are asking all students to obtain pledges for the number of kicks they execute in one minute. We are asking for your support.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Starting on Thursday February 3, the Thursday children's class will run an extra 15 minutes. We will stop the physical class at 6:15 and begin a terminology/history/general knowledge class, which will end at 6:45. This is on Thursdays only. The class on February 10, however, will end at 6:30 due to the kick-a-thon.

DAYTIME ADULT CLASSES

We have begun adult classes on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00AM until 10:30AM. If you, or someone you know may be interested, please let them know.

PHOTOGRAPHS

On Thursday night Feb 10, we will have a professional photographer here to take pictures of the Black Belts so that we can finish our Rogues Gallery. This photographer will also be taking photos of all the children for a "Baseball card" formatted picture.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Sometimes it takes us a while to recognize our own value. This can be illustrated by the Chinese story of *The Stonecutter*.

There was once a stonecutter who was dissatisfied with himself and with his position in life.

One day he passed a wealthy merchant's house, and through the open gateway, saw many fine possessions and important visitors. "How powerful that merchant must be!" thought the stonecutter. He became very envious and wished that he could be like the merchant; then he would no longer have to live the life of a mere stonecutter.

To his great surprise, he suddenly became the merchant, enjoying more luxuries and power than he had ever dreamed of, envied and detested by those less wealthy than himself. But soon

a high official passed by, carried in a sedan chair, accompanied by attendants, and escorted by soldiers beating gongs. Everyone, no matter how wealthy, had to bow low before the procession. "How powerful that official is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a high official!"

Then he became the high official, carried everywhere in his embroidered sedan chair, feared and hated by the people all around, who had to bow down before him as he passed. It was a hot summer day, and the official felt very uncomfortable in the sticky sedan chair. He looked up at the sun. It shone proudly in the sky, unaffected by his presence. "How powerful the sun is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be the sun!"

Then he became the sun, shining fiercely down on everyone, scorching the fields, cursed by the farmers and laborers. But a huge black cloud moved between him and the earth, so that his light could no longer shine on everything below. "How powerful that storm cloud is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a cloud!"

Then he became the cloud, flooding the fields and villages, shouted at by everyone. But soon he found that he was being pushed away by some great force, and realized that it was the wind. "How powerful it is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be the wind!"

Then he became the wind, blowing tiles off the roofs of houses, uprooting trees, hated and feared by all below him. But after a while he ran up against something that would not move, no matter how forcefully he blew against it - a huge, towering stone. "How powerful that stone is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a stone."

Then he became the stone, more powerful than anything else on earth. But as he stood there, he heard the sound of a hammer pounding a chisel into the solid rock, and felt himself being changed. "What could be more powerful than I, the stone?" he thought. He looked down and saw far below him the figure of a stonecutter.

The idea behind this story is straightforward. We all are unique and have something to offer. Some of us are good in the sciences, some in math, some in art. There is no reason for us to want to be something we are not. Also, there is no reason for any of us to poke fun at anyone or anything that is different. Tang Soo Do strives for us to understand the uniqueness of the individual and to appreciate nature for what it is - the place where we all fit in the scheme of things.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

SELF-DISCIPLINE, NOT DISCIPLINE IMPOSED ON YOU BY SOMEONE ELSE, IS THE ESSENCE OF THE WAY.