

TANG SOO TIMES

ISSUE NO. 105

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MAY 2000

PAL CHE TANG SOO DO

229 SOUTH CHESTER PIKE

GLENOLDEN, PA 19036

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 8 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.
- May 20 - East Coast Championships. No classes.
- May 27 - Memorial Day weekend. No classes.
- May 29 - Memorial Day. No classes.
- Jun 12 - Gup Test at Dojang. No adult class.
- Jun 16 to 18 - Youth Dan Clinic.
- Jun 23 to 25 - Adult Dan Clinic.

MONDAY NIGHT ADULT CLASS SCHEDULE

- May 1 - Regular Adult Class.
- May 8 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.
- May 15 - Regular Adult Class.
- May 22 - Black Belt Class. Red belts and higher.
- May 29 - Memorial Day. No classes.
- Jun 5 - Regular adult class.

MASTER'S CORNER

On Saturday April 29th, Eric Chapman tested for Cho Dan (First Degree Black Belt). I was lucky enough to be asked to sit on the test panel for his test and couldn't help but feel a little proud because of the way he carried himself throughout the entire test. Obtaining a Black Belt is not for everyone. If it were, we would have several hundred Black Belts produced from this school alone. On May 6th, our dojang will celebrate our 10th anniversary. We recently signed up student number 403. Including Eric, this dojang has produced 21 Black Belts and only 12 of those continue to train. At this dojang it is very difficult to get to the point where one can test for black belt because it does, at least to me, mean something to be a Black Belt. Why do you think these 9 students no longer train? If you could ask them why they quit, I bet you would get at least 9 reasons why. So, if it so difficult to make Black Belt, why is it so difficult to keep training? The excuses are limited only by the imagination of the students.

On another note, Cho Dan Angel Evangelista has asked for our assistance in raising some money for a nine year old girl who suffers from leukemia. I have pledged our support. Please help. There is a follow-up article later in this newsletter.

NEW STUDENTS

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

TONY KELLY	DOM BRUNI	JOE MARUCCI
BILLY BLESSINGTON	NICK DOBNER	ALEX DOBNER

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

We would like to thank all the students and parents who supported our efforts to put on a demonstration at the Ridley YMCA. You donated your time not only on the day of the demo but also for the practices that we had prior to the actual day. We are very proud of the efforts all students put forth.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

In March we instituted a program for Youth Student of the Month. We have a special red, white, and blue horizontal striped belt that is embroidered with the words, "Student of the Month" on it. We will present it to our selection on or about the first class of the month and they can wear it to all dojang functions but not to WTSDA sanctioned events such as tournaments. At the end of the month the student will return the belt and we will present it to the next month's winner. The past student of the month will receive a certificate at that time.

We would like to congratulate our first winner for March 2000. It was **ALEX THOMPSON**. Our winner for April is **AGI GANCARZ**.

BLACK BELT CLUB

April 24th marked the formation meeting of a Black Belt club at Pal Che. The following officers were elected:

President - Crystal Prentice
Vice President - Adam Brooks
Secretary - Karen Anderson
Treasurer - Mike Currie

Membership is limited to Blue Belts and Black Belts. All students of these ranks will be asked to join but membership is not mandatory - only students wishing to belong will be accepted.

LEUKEMIA FUNDRAISER

As many of you are aware, I run track for Academy Park. Looking for a new challenge, I was introduced to the Leukemia Society of America Team in Training. In this program I will be running a half marathon (13.1 miles) in honor of my patient hero,

Stephanie Nazer. Stephanie is a 9 year-old leukemia patient. In order for me to run this half marathon, I must raise a minimum of \$1500 for Stephanie. Master Raver has promised me that Pal Che will support me in my fund raising efforts. Please support my fund raising efforts, not for me, but for Stephanie.

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Cho Dan Bo Karen Anderson submitted the following article.

On April 8th our dojang put on a demonstration for Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA. Those of you that attended may remember the fan hyung done by two of our black belts. Some of you may not realize that the fan is more than just an attractive accessory - it is actually an effective weapon. With the proper training, a martial artist can use the fan as efficiently as a dagger.

In ancient China and Japan, it was fashionable to carry a fan to cool oneself during hot and humid weather. Women were able to inconspicuously carry a fan and use it to defend themselves against attacks. The soft, circular movements of the fan appear innocent and many people do not believe it can be used as a weapon.

The spines of the fan are made from bamboo because it is light and sturdy as well as flexible. The ends of the fan can be carved into sharp points. The closed end of the fan is mostly used to strike vital areas or pressure points such as eyes, temples, throat and solar plexus. The martial artist using the fan must be very knowledgeable of the pressure point location and the amount of force required to do damage to the opponent. The fan can also be opened to distract your opponent or block their vision while you throw a punch, kick or even attack with a knife. A closed fan is used to execute joint locks by increasing leverage on joints or bones.

The next time you see the fan hyung performed remember the movements in the fan hyung, like all other hyung, mimic blocks and strikes to vital areas on an attacker's body.

FEATURE ARTICLE

As the years go by and we continue to practice, we may look for opportunities outside the dojang to broaden and deepen our knowledge of martial arts. Unfortunately, these hopes are seldom realized and such activities may even prove a hindrance. For instance, we may decide to visit another school of martial arts, maybe even one teaching the same art as ours. The reason we will give for visiting will be curiosity, a desire to see what other students are doing, so that we can add breadth to our training and increase our knowledge. On the surface it might seem that curiosity of this sort is laudable and should be encouraged. But, as we look deeper, we might notice that going elsewhere to see what is happening there might indicate a certain restlessness and a belief that our training lacks something. An extreme

expression of our unsettledness and doubt might extend to our enrollment in another school, while we continue to attend our own, in the hope of making even faster progress.

Even if we want nothing more from our practice than to learn a useful skill, we would be well advised to remain quietly with one teacher for perhaps five years. We will gain little additional expertise and may even lose some of what we have already established. Furthermore, if our two teachers differ in their way of performing a particular technique, and they usually will, we will find ourselves somewhat confused and upset as we try to resolve the differences. A teacher is usually not pleased to know that one of his beginners is attending another teacher's classes. This displeasure is not just caused by a bruised ego but also by the knowledge that the student's early training suffers in this situation.

Another problem with learning from two teachers at the same time is that the student will probably make comparisons between the two, both in their grasp of and the ability to teach technique, and if his interest extends to it, in their mental and spiritual development.

This same philosophy holds true for one teacher teaching two different martial arts to the same *beginning* students. If, as according to the Dan Manual as written by Grandmaster Shin, "...perfecting one art takes a lifetime...", how confusing it must be to *beginning* students being subjected to two vastly different martial arts where terminology, as well as subtle differences in the same basic techniques, are presented to them in the same one to two hour class.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

THE LONG GRAY LINE HAS NEVER FAILED US. WERE YOU TO DO SO, A MILLION GHOSTS IN OLIVE DRAB, IN BRWON KHAKI, IN BLUE AND GRAY, WOULD RISE FROM THEIR WHITE CROSSES, THUNDERING THOSE MAGIC WORDS:
...DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY...

DOUGLAS MACARTHUR
WEST POINT, NY 1962