SWORD and PEN

Official Newsletter of the International Combat Martial Arts Federation (ICMAF) and the Academy of Self-Defense

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www.americancombato.com www.seattlecombatives.com

DON'T FORGET! WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED READING THIS EDITION OF SWORD & PEN, CHECK OUT OUR OTHER SITE: WWW.SEATTLECOMBATIVES.COM. THERE'S A TON OF EXCELLENT INFORMATIVE AND INSTRUCTIVE MATERIAL THERE, PLUS NEW ARTICLES ADDED EVERY MONTH THAT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

Editorial

Your Attitude In Any Self-Defense Emergency

THE more that we see YouTube postings of videos depicting violent criminal

attacks, and the more that we receive news clippings and first hand reports of unprovoked attacks on decent human beings, as well as police reports, the more *outraged*, *incensed*, and fed up we become with those who smilingly advocate "moderating" the use of force when defending oneself or one's loved ones becomes necessary. And those asinine morons who believe that nunchucks, sai, tonfa, and samurai swords are a legitimate province of study for the "martial artist" but — Oh, heavens! — never modern firearms and fighting knives, should go fly a kite and stop posturing as "self-defense" or "combat arts" teachers.

It's about time the self-defense seeking public woke up and realized what the real world is like.

Our teaching background goes back to the 1960's. We have seen and known some of the worst kinds of violence. As a New Yorker we saw that once great City deteriorate from the magnificent center of business, industry, art, science, education, and culture that it was in the 1940's and 1950's, to a decrepit excuse for human society, where street filth and uncivilized savages gained ascendancy and — by the early 1970's — were a true force to be reckoned with. Instead of wiping the vermin out (which would have made perfect sense) all sorts of "programs" and "efforts at dialog", ad nauseum were put into place. Result? The City became unlivable. We moved in 1975 and nothing could make us go back. *And we once loved New York City*.

The reasons why the City crumbled can broadly be attributable to factors such as *gun control*, the influx of *undesirable jungle savages* into the City's population, *welfare* and other *socialist programs*, and an absolute refusal to exterminate dangerous predators.

For any who feel indignantly shocked by our reference to the bacteria as vermin who need to be exterminated, we'll just say this: "Go live in a low to middle class neighborhood in New York City (or in Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, Los Angeles, etc. get mugged, get raped, get beaten and stabbed, have your child murdered, suffer break-ins where you live, get molested on public transportation, be afraid to go out at night, and see how you feel, you

sanctimonious, worthless, self-righteous lump of s—t!" It is difficult to say who is more to blame for the situation in urban America today: the worthless savages who prey upon the residents, or the liberal puke who snivel, whine, moan, and relish the act that they put on of being so "socially conscious and sensitive" and who pretend to *care* about the lives of the predators — gleefully endorsing and orchestrating all sorts of plans and programs to "help" the living garbage <u>at the expense of those upon whom the garbage preys!</u>

Civilized, self-supporting, respectable human beings who have risen to the level of understanding that human society requires **REASON** in order to flourish cannot — and should not find themselves obliged to — accept the existence of homo sapien beasts of prey in their midst, as "normal". Yet, this is exactly what is going on in America today. The human are expected to coexist with the subhuman.

And make no mistake about this. Violent criminal predators are <u>subhuman</u>. They have chosen to live as beasts of prey rather than as productive, rational people, and that is **exactly** what they do. There is not the slightest justification — in **reason** — for the continued tolerance for and existence of these scum.

The fact is that if you are attacked by a predatory felon you are in serious, potentially life threatening trouble. The gap between the moment the attack against you begins and the moment when you go into action against your attacker must be as *brief* as possible. There is no time to waste. *Ponder at your peril!*

You owe a bully, troublemaker, toughguy, home invader, rapist, carjacker, kidnaper, or scumbag of any other variety *absolutely nothing*. No mercy, forbearance, compassion, restraint, or consideration is in order; and none should be extended. *Do not allow yourself to be hampered either by an ideology or by a technical curriculum that teaches you otherwise*. Self-defense is war in microcosm. We first made this point in print in the 1970's, and it has never been more true than it is today. Felons now are often better armed than the police, they attack in groups, and they *laugh* (understandably)

at the criminal justice system which does *nothing* to them, and poses no threat to their despicable and indefensible way of life.

You will, if you are fortunate enough to see the attack coming (and most intended victims *are*) or if you are attacked in a manner that does not immediately disable or kill you, be *quite able to take ferocious* counterattacking or even preemptive action, and this you definitely ought to do. Wait not one fraction of a second later than the moment of perceiving that you or someone dependent upon you for protection is in imminent danger! You'll have **one chance**. Use it. And use it with every ounce of your physical might and your determination. Attack like a wild animal, and do not stop attacking until the danger has been decisively neutralized.

Your mandate is: **SURVIVE, PREVAIL, DESTROY!** Survive the initial onslaught against you; prevail over the enemy in whatever battle ensues; and destroy the enemy before he destroys *you*.

Forget about such nonsense as being concerned over "hurting the attacker too badly". Violent offenders do not care in the least how badly they maim or torture their victims. Often, they *kill* their victims — and could not give less of a damn when they do so. You are dealing with a predatory savage; a beast, a monster, a creature deserving of no more consideration than you'd give a lethal virus. "Survive, prevail, destroy!" And do so at once. Give your assailant no warning. This is war. It is not a sporting contest.

In a sporting contest the aim is to defeat an opponent by the use of agreed upon tactics, techniques, and skills. Defeating a sporting adversary bears no relation to *destroying an enemy in combat*. **Get this straight, clear, and finalized in your own psyche!**

Self-defense emergencies can occur anywhere, at any time, and in any place. They are unforgiving events. You will either win or lose — and losing can mean being crippled for life, like that poor victim of atrocious violence, Brian Stow; or it can mean being killed, like so many innocent people are in every

major city of our Nation, every day.

Our aim and professional purpose is to teach and prepare decent people to defend themselves and their loved ones. We have been at this for 50 years. We *know* that of which we speak. We belong to no bureaucracy and cater to no "politically correct" or unethical commercial interests. What we say may not always be pleasant and upbeat . . . but you can be certain that it is authentic combatives doctrine and self-defense instruction.

Nice guys don't finish last. Nice guys *get finished*. When and if you ever find yourself in a dangerous situation remember what we teach you: *Survive*, *prevail*, *destroy*.

Bradley J. Steiner

P.S. If you want the Master Text on conditioning your mind for violent combat and self-defense emergencies, order our Manual, **Mental**Conditioning For Close Combat and Self-Defense on CD disc. You can print out its 200-plus pages and study it in a hard copy or directly on your computer's screen. See the ordering instructions later on in this Newsletter.

And . . . if you want to be confident that the skills you are training in *will work* and not fail you, and will reflect not only the proper physical dynamics demanded in a violent emergency, but also the *war mentality* that is required, get hold of our Course on DVDs! Details follow further on in this edition of *Sword & Pen*.

Train To Gain — Then Train To Maintain

IN our opinion there is not a single "bodybuilding" or "martial arts" newsstand periodical that qualifies as a worthwhile publication today. This was not always true, as such outstanding magazines as the Peary Rader owned and published *IRON MAN MAGAZINE*, Hoffman's *STRENGTH & HEALTH* and *MUSCULAR DEVELOPMENT*, and the first few years of *BLACK*

BELT as well as the first year or so of a couple of other "martial arts" publications were excellent. This was during the mid-1960's, throughout the 1970's, and here and there during the 1980's as well. After that, well . . . the cost of a subscription to any of those magazines would better have been put toward purchasing a new striking post, dummy, box of ammunition, fighting knife, or set of weights, in our opinion.

Training (in "bodybuilding") was ruined by two things: 1. The worship of size and pure cosmetic appearance cultivation, and 2. The use of steroid drugs to facilitate #1. No sane person will touch steroid drugs for either strength and muscle <u>or</u> martial arts competition excellence! Sadly, the idiotic fad of challenge fighting, MMA, cage fighting, and ground-grappling mania (all of which have combined to do to the martial arts what steroids and size-worship have done to bodybuilding) has led to people who aspire to be "champions" in these dubious venues turning to those damn steroids, as well. Cé la vie. Take the wrong turnoff, continue to go in the wrong direction and refuse to turn back or correct your muddled thinking, and you *inevitably* are drawn toward worse and still worse decisions, until you end up *ruining yourself completely* — all in the name of "being numero uno".

Sad, infantile, shamefully moronic crap, really. Because there is perhaps no better path that a young man can take in life, than one that includes the kind of total physical education, character development, and confidence enhancement that *sensible* weight training and practical close combat and self-defense training can provide. Whether it be your lot in life to bag groceries or be a surgeon, you will *be a better, richer, more confident and complete person* if you build yourself up in strength, muscle, health and well-being, and acquire as you do so the ability to defend yourself against anyone in any difficult or dangerous situation — with or without the use of weapons. "First a warrior, or all else is folly" as our late friend and colleague John McSweeney was fond of saying.

One thing about that particular path that should be clearly understood. It is *not* a path of endless ascent, whereby you enjoy a steady increase in development and skills perfection, once you start, until the end of your days.

We *all* are limited by our inherent physical and mental capacities; some more so than others. But even the greatest and most outstanding examples of what we sometimes think of (*erroneously*, please note) as being "perfect" or "perfected", etc., ultimately realize their genetic limits in their training careers also, and they climb no higher.

Oddly enough, this fact has been abundantly evident to us since we were a boy. "Oddly" because it is something that we observed to be conspicuously lacking in others whose genetics and whose accomplishments by far exceeded our own. For some reason we found others regarding their training for physical development with weights and for their expertise in combat skills as training which would see them *gaining* more and more, without end(!), so long as they pushed themselves. In retrospect we believe this might account for why so many with infinitely greater natural potential than we possess eventually quit their efforts, while we remained steadfast. From the earliest days, we never concerned ourself with doing anything more than building **OURSELF** up to **OUR** personal limits; and we refused to be bothered by the fact that others might be more greatly blessed with potential for strength and combative skills abilities than ourself. We strive to pass this philosophy on to our students today, because we feel — more than any other belief — this will increase their chances of realizing their own highest potential, and of not being discouraged by the fact that they are themselves, and not necessarily "born supermen" or "genetically blessed combatants". To strive for all that you can accomplish, and then having accomplished it to be satisfied and happy with what you have achieved, is to know how to live, and to be wise, indeed.

Those who *are* particularly blessed with a natural propensity for physical strength and the acquisition and performance of combative technique would do very well to remember that they will neither continue to "gain" in physical prowess and combat skills for life, nor will they *retain* that which their advantageous beginnings permitted them to acquire *without endless*, *ongoing*, *persistent effort*.

So, learn this:

Your career in physical training and combat arts should consist of *two* distinct phases: 1. The *building-up* and the *optimum skills acquisition* phase, and 2. The *maintenance* phase.

Assuming a proper, sensible approach to physical training via the medium of progressive resistance exercising, you can expect to achieve your genetic maximum of development in strength, muscle, and conditioning, within a period of anywhere from two to about three years *steady* training. If you approach the acquisition of close combat skill and self-defense ability correctly, and do not take pointless detours into quite worthy but irrelevant "martial arts" studies that are classical or sport-oriented in focus, then you ought to reach your "prime" in combative abilities after perhaps five to eight years training time. (**NOTE:** The reason for the process taking this long is because there are quite a lot of *excellent* and very *practical* skills to which you need to be exposed. *You will not, because you cannot, "learn" or "master" all of these skills. However, it will take you time to pick, select, and sift through that body of practical doctrine until you have customized and finalized your own personal repertoire.)*

Once you have built up, secured your own best repertoire of combat skills and tactics, and made a selection of your own best weaponry and strategies for employment, you then face the prospect of maintaining that which you have acquired. This phase of your career will be the longest. In many ways it is the most important, because if you simply give up working out because you cannot become stronger or more muscular, or if you abandon the practice of your combat skills regimen because there is no "more" for you to learn, and you can't do your techniques any faster or stronger, then . . . well . . . all of that which you have worked so hard to develop will gradually deteriorate. And we assume that you don't want that to happen. For the great blessing of rugged physical development and vigorous good health comes when, as you enter middle age, you realize that you are fitter, stronger, and better conditioned than people half your age! And to enter and go beyond your middle years and know that you possess sufficient combative skills to cope with anyone at any time — regardless of the fact that he may well be younger and stronger than yourself — if you should ever need to do so, is grand,

indeed!

So please understand how it works. First, you train in order to *gain*: strength, health, coordination and agility, toughness, and a good, complete repertoire of armed and unarmed combat skills so that you will be the best "fighting machine" your genetics will allow you to be — however great or modest. Second, you continue to train, regularly, seriously, and with a reasonably concentrated focus and effort so that your physical development and combatives capability *stays* with you, for *life*.

We hope this makes sense to you, as it has always made sense to us.

Counterattacks When Seated Or

When Backed To A Wall

WE'D like to illustrate a very important point here. The point is that *no special, elaborate, "advanced" or otherwise arcane "secret techniques" are <u>ever required to meet <u>any</u> emergency. The important thing is to have your basics, quality tactics, and suitable mindset in order and use <i>them* whenever any dangerous predicament threatens. We shall take two examples of situations that are often regarded as "for advanced students" in various so-called self-defense programs and martial arts: being attacked when seated, and being attacked when backed or pinned up against a wall.</u>

Seated Position

Five possibilities exist:

- 1. You will observe someone approach you from a distance
- 2. Someone will attempt to strike you while you are seated (with or without seizing you)

- 3. Someone will attempt to seize you and pull you to a standing position
- 4. Someone will attempt to keep you pinned in your seat
- 5. Someone will attack you from behind while you are seated

Here are the counterattacking actions — all supremely *simple* — that you should work on developing:

- 1. If you realize that someone is approaching you, *get up*. Position yourself to either side of the chair, hand *on* the back of the chair. Now you cannot be struck or pushed back into the chair. You may be able to use the chair itself to assist your defense, or you are now standing balanced able to attack easily.
- 2. Lean *sharply* to either side and lash out with a stomping kick to the standing adversary's lower leg. Or punch him in the testicles. Or drive your shoulder forward, *hard*, as you lean sharply, and smash him in the lower abdomen. As he is driven backward, arise and kick him in the testicles or break his knee with a side kick.
- 3. <u>Lurch violently into your attacker as he pulls you out of your seat</u>. Do not ever resist him and try to remain seated! Apply a knee to his testicles or a chinjab smash, or butt him in the face with your head.
- 4. Punch him in the testicles or apply a heel of the hand blow to his lower abdomen or solar plexus. Seize his head and, *as you arise*, smash his head into the chair and apply a handaxe blow to the nape of his neck.
- 5. <u>Do not ever attempt to throw an attacker in this situation over your shoulder!</u> This action, taught in some ju-jutsu schools, is stupid, as it assumes you will not be pulled backward and that your assailant will be a half-assed weakling. (While we do teach a few simple counterattacks against this form of attack, we prefer to leave the details to *personal instruction*, and for the present discussion simply focus on attacks from the front when you are sitting

down.

Notice please that only the most basic and simple **white belt techniques** (in *American Combato*) need be employed in this predicament. The only thing that varies is **how you employ them**.

Final tip: If possible, use the chair to smash your opponent senseless. If a park bench, seat on a public conveyance, or other fixed seating arrangement, smash his face and head repeatedly into the seat once you've disoriented him and diverted his attack.

Being Pinned Against A Wall

You are at a great advantage here! First, because the wall braces you. Second, because the wall serves as a springboard which enhances blows that you initiate while pinned against it. Third, because you cannot be attacked by a second adversary from behind. Fourth, because your attacker must use a great deal of his strength merely to keep you pinned. And fifth, because your attacker is stabilized (or he couldn't be pinning you) and readily within range of: knee to testicles, stomping kicks to shins and insteps, eye attacks that jab or that gouge, chinjab smashes, throat locks, elbow strikes, and frequently, biting. You might also be able to spit into the attacker's face, or headbutt him in the face. If the attacker lifts you off the ground and pins you to a wall he has made himself helpless! Kick him repeatedly in the testicles, shins, or knees, and when he drops you to a standing position, get his eyes ad throat!

Forget all about throws, fancy holds and locks, or any other such *undoable* nonsense that looks good in demonstrations or on TV but that will not work. Observe how many simple, basic moves are usable in this "special situation". Final tip: At the first opportunity smash your attacker's face and head into the wall!

Hopefully we've charged you up with a new enthusiasm for those **essential <u>BASIC BLOWS</u>** and ferocious commitment to use them without mercy in any situation. We honestly believe that anyone who, for example really mastered the contents of our DVD #1 and DVD #2 would become a very,

very dangerous man to attack! This is because those two DVDs cover not only the fundamentals you must understand to be effective in defending yourself, but also the **16 finest and most war-proven reliable basic blows in unarmed combat**.

But even if you don't use our materials, scrutinize whatever system you are training in and extract a few core, key *basic* and *simple* actions. Then *over learn those actions* and — if an emergency ever arises where you must defend life and limb — **use those basic, simple actions with murderous fury and intention**.

DVD Course NOW AVAILABLE! (You Can Learn Self-Defense and Close Combat At Home!)

The First and Only Complete Self-Defense and Close Combat Course in American Combato (Jen•Do•Tao) on High Quality DVDs!

Eleven carefully prepared professional instructional DVDs describe and demonstrate the most practical, powerful, reliable, and authentic skills of nononsense *realistic* and *war-proven* unarmed and armed hand-to-hand combat methodology and personal defense developed since WWII! This Course, describing methods from that System developed in the early 1970's by Bradley J. Steiner, which crystalized into the *American Combato* (*Jen•Do•Tao*)TM all-in modern close combat/self-defense martial art in 1975, will teach you how to defend yourself and those you love in any situation! Some of these methods have been copied, imitated, and pirated during the last 25 years, but a complete self-defense course derived directly from the *original and authentic System* — and *the <u>only</u> authorized presentation of American Combato* — is now available for home study. All of the techniques, all of the theory, and all of the mental conditioning and related doctrine in these DVDs is presented by the System's originator, Prof. Bradley J. Steiner, himself. Like Fairbairn, Sykes, Applegate, O'Neill, Brown, Begala,

and Biddle in the second world war — from whose lineage this modern Martial Art is a direct descendant — Prof. Steiner clearly, simply, and plainly instructs in real world, lifesaving combatives doctrine.

You can order any of the eleven DVDs individually, or you can purchase the entire Course, in which case you pay for only ten DVDs. You receive one FREE!

Each DVD contains the equivalent instruction normally given in four to eight private lessons. *This Course is the equivalent of at least 50 private lessons with Prof. Steiner, personally!* And you can review this instruction again and again, and save the DVDs for your children to study when they are old enough.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!:—

The system of martial arts presented in these DVDs is not a "traditional" or "classical" martial art.

These DVDs, and the information, and techniques contained within should not be taught, shown, or divulged to anyone under 18 years of age.

Due to the serious nature and lethality of the techniques shown, no one under 18 should be instructed in the techniques.

Due to potential serious injury or death, minors under the age of 18 should not be allowed to purchase or view the techniques demonstrated on the DVD's and in the system.

Minors lack the proper judgment and emotional restraint and discipline and should not be entrusted with the techniques contained herein. Please utilize the techniques only in those situations where you would utilize a lethal weapon, similar to using a firearm, an improvised or edged weapon.

Please keep DVDs in a safe place out of the reach of minors, similar to safekeeping of firearms.

Contents:—

DVD #1 FUNDAMENTALS

- How to stand, move, distance, and position yourself
- The combat color code
- Attack mindedness
- Evasive footwork
- How to shield
- "Fairbairn's Four" —

The chinjab smash, the handaxe chop, the tiger's claw, and the side kick. All clearly explained and demonstrated so that anyone with no prior experience in any martial art can understand and develop the skills! These are the first four of *American Combato's* 16 Key Blows (originally regarded by W.E. Fairbairn as the "most essential" basic blows, comprising a complete mini-system of personal hand-to-hand combat, once mastered).

DVD#2 BASIC BLOWS

- Continuing from "Fairbairn's Four", this powerful presentation completes your lessons in the remaining 12 Key Blows the most practical and effective blows in unarmed close combat.
 - The straight heelpalm
 - The knee attack
 - The front kick
 - The elbow smash
 - The fingertips *thrust*
 - The fingertips *jab*
 - The snap kick
 - The backfist-forearm smash
 - The hammerfist-forearm smash
 - The basic straight punch
 - The ear box
 - The throat lock

DVD#3 ATTACK COMBINATIONS - FIRST SERIES

• Powerful and devastatingly effective combinations of attacking actions which are adaptable to an infinite number of situations and emergency circumstances. These attack combinations utilize the Key Blows, and include additional offensive unarmed combat actions and tactics. which enable you to infinitely combine, and improvise limitless sequences and applications of

ferocious attacks of your own.

This DVD focuses on attack combinations leading with *HANDAXE CHOPS* and *THRUSTING ACTIONS*, the first two categories of "attack combinations" in *American Combato*.

In this and the next DVD you will learn more combinations of each type than you would ever possibly need.

DVD#4 ATTACK COMBINATIONS - SECOND SERIES

• Completing a well-balanced, comprehensive curriculum in vicious, unconventional, yet simple and readily applicable attacking sequences which enable the practitioner to overwhelm and disable any assailant. These combinations continue to expand your capability with the Key Blows and with other actions and tactics, and turn you into a dangerous, unpredictable, offensive combatant in close quarters combat. You'll be an expert at taking the battle into the enemy's camp and *attacking your attacker!* This DVD trains you in *DISTRACTING LEAD ATTACKS, KICKING LEADS, and MISCELLANEOUS LEADS*.

DVD#5 COUNTERATTACKING THE UNARMED FRONTAL ASSAILANT

- No realistic close combat system is worthwhile unless the matter of *counterattacking* (i.e. reacting to attacks which you have been unable to preempt) is covered. In this DVD you will learn:
 - How to immediately react with devastating and decisive force against any grabbing type attack from the front
 - How to break holds that attackers might apply if they catch you off guard
 - How very simply to counter punching or kicking attacks

DVD#6 COUNTERING THE UNARMED REAR ATTACK

- Attacks from behind are *deadly*. Learn first and foremost to guard against leaving access to your rear. However, if caught unaware, learn
 - How to counter sudden grabbing attacks from behind
 - How to counter holds that may be applied from behind

DVD#7 COUNTERING KNIFE AND CLUB ATTACKS

- The proper tactics and mental ploys applicable to these situations is emphasized. Technically, you will be taught
 - How to deal with knife *threats*, from varying positions
 - How to save your life if attack by an adversary who is determined to slash or to stab you with a knife
 - How to counter overhand club attacks
 - How to counter the backhand club or baseball bat swing

DVD#8 COUNTERING HANDGUN AND SHOULDER WEAPON THREATS

- Obviously these, like knife and club attacks, are *deadly* threats and only the simplest, most basic and reliable methods should be studied. No weapon "takeaways" or complicated nonsense here! These are commando type actions and will work under the most adverse conditions. Intended to save lives not your wallet.
 - Frontal handgun threats
 - Side handgun threats
 - Rear handgun threats
 - Frontal shoulder weapon threats
 - Side shoulder weapon threats
 - Rear shoulder weapon threats

DVD#9 COUNTERING MULTIPLE ATTACKERS

- Key principles and tactics of countering more than a single aggressor
- The core *scenarios* and how to develop counterattacking capabilities against two or more attackers that *really work*.

DVD#10 HOW TO USE THE STICK FOR SELF-DEFENSE

- Basic stick techniques
- The *complete* Fairbairn stick method (beyond what is taught in *ALL-IN FIGHTING/GET TOUGH!*)
- The USMC's Kengla Technique
- Some advanced stickwork combinations

• How to use the *yawara* hand stick (for modern applications)

DVD#11 KNIFEWORK

- Psychological factors
- The universal grip (for stiletto and Bowie type knives, as well as for kitchen, utility, ad all other types of knives, and for improvised stabbing and cutting implements)
- Knife offense
- Defending yourself with a knife

The cost of each individual DVD is \$59.95 + \$6. shipping and handling (\$20. postage and handling for foreign orders)

If you purchase the complete 11-DVD Course you pay only for 10 DVDs, bringing the total cost to \$599.50. You get one DVD FREE. **Add \$20.** for **postage and handling (\$40.** for foreign orders). That's just under \$600. for \$7,500. worth of training!

All DVD purchases are of course nonrefundable.

CAUTION AND WARNING!:

These DVDs have been prepared in high quality and are protected by a COPY GUARD that prevents illegal duplication! These DVDs will play on DVD players and <u>not</u> on computers. Any attempt at unauthorized and illegal duplication may result in damage to the equipment employed.

Personal checks may take up to three to four weeks to clear, in some cases. For *immediate* shipment send cash, or a postal money order, bank check or bank money order, payable to Brad Steiner. Send your order to:

Brad Steiner P.O. Box 15929 Seattle, Washington 98115 U.S.A. You will want to study these DVDs again and again, as they are rich in content and packed with solid, reliable information and instruction!

What Makes A Knife Wielding Attacker

Truly Dangerous And *Deadly*?

IT is probable that most teachers and students of combat arts would almost automatically reply to the question posed in the title of this article with something along the lines of one of the following:

- "A knife attacker is dangerous and deadly when he holds his knife in the approved 'knife fighter's grip', and when the knife he uses is a well-designed fighting blade. He is then able to maneuver his weapon deftly, and employ lightning fast and telling slashes, cuts, jabs, and stabs even through heavy clothing, without hesitation or telegraphing his moves."
- "The dangerous and deadly knife attacker is the one whose stance <u>and</u> grip are correct, and who attacks with a quality fighting knife. Such an attacker can readily employ his free hand as a foil or parry, or to throw dirt in his victim's face. He can also employ his feet to kick, and he presents an all but impossible-to-defend-against problem for his opponent".
- "A knife attacker is dangerous and deadly in any instance when he is a trained knife fighter."

While there is some truth in each of those responses, *all* of them fail to identify and to name the *crux* of the issue, and, while recognizing the important role that *techniques* and *tools* play, miss appreciating the **primary** factor. For, when this particular ingredient is present (and it is *not* always present) then *any* attack by *anyone* using *any* kind of knife (or other edged or piercing implement) is dangerous and deadly in the extreme — and generally *CANNOT* be successfully countered:

Here is the ingredient:

The combination of MURDEROUS FURY, SURPRISE, and DETERMINATION TO KILL with which a man attacks his intended victim with a knife (and not the type of knife, grip, stance, etc. that he employs) is what makes him deadly and dangerous.

Re-read that. And *never* allow yourself to forget it.

Thousands upon thousands of people have been maimed and killed by individuals who, armed with a knife, simply went after them — determined to kill, focused upon a rage that knew no bounds, and capitalizing on the element of surprise. In many instances cheap folding knives were used in the attacks; in other instances kitchen — even butter — knives were employed, etc. But that "ingredient" was always present, and the attack proved successful.

Two lessons to draw from this:

Lesson #1: When training in knife defense learn to develop *caution*, alertness, protected positioning, distancing, situational awareness, <u>suspicion</u>, and the <u>readiness to employ a ferocious preemptive attack</u> the very moment you perceive any weapon being accessed by anyone. And never forget that you are no mind reader. You cannot know whether any particular individual is utilizing a knife as a prop (i.e. to intimidate you and to give himself confidence), as a means of scaring and injuring you only slightly (to feel tough, show you he's in charge, and to prove he's a "badass"), or in order to kill you. And you do not have to know! Once you realize that you are dealing with an armed adversary and you cannot escape, do everything that you possibly can — **right away!**— to knock him out, maim him, or kill him. Your life is on the line! If this particular individual possesses "the ingredient" and you don't take him off the count *first*, he will kill you. Any knife threat or knife onslaught is a *lethal* attack as far as any defender is concerned. Period. Never mind how the attacker holds the knife, how he stands, moves, or what kind of knife he possesses!

Lesson #2: From the vantage point of a person learning the use of a knife for

self-defense, understand how essential "the ingredient" is if you are ever forced to protect your life or the lives of your loved ones, using a knife. Yes, learn the proper stance, grip, and technical actions; and secure the best fighting knife you can buy; but make absolutely certain that you cultivate the ability to use the element of surprise, murderous fury, and the determination to kill which, whether anyone cares to acknowledge it or not, is the basis for your being effective in stopping a would-be killer from leaving your body or the bodies of your loved ones prostrate, for the police to find.

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