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SWORD AND PEN  
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMBAT MARTIAL ARTS  
FEDERATION (ICMAF)

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*Editorial*

*Can Competition And Sport Encourage False  
Confidence?*

**IN** a word, we believe that it certainly can. And we will give our reasons shortly.

It is important to bear in mind that there is not one single form of sport “fighting” that is not strictly regulated by rules and provisions. In point of fact, the popular MMA/UFC activity, whose proponents so often claim has “no rules” in fact is *inundated* with rules! Not only is the activity regulated by a set of rules by which every participant must abide, but there is a **referee** present during every bout; and the “fight” takes place in a specified area that has been rendered safe and free of debris or hazardous extraneous activities. The “fights” are scheduled and occur at times known by and agreed to by the entrants. All of this is of course necessary and correct — for *any* sport.

We will acknowledge that participants in virtually any sporting “combat” activity who are a) in hard training, b) young and strong, c) actively competing, d) seriously aiming to become champion fighters in their particular venue, can generally defend themselves quite well *outside* the competitive ring or arena. (There are exceptions. We cited one in this Newsletter where an Olympic judo champion was physically assaulted and robbed *on the street*, some time ago.)

Most people who take up boxing, judo, wrestling, karate, kick boxing, MMA, etc. leave the sport after a relatively brief period of participation. When these individuals do so they do *not* retain any serious hand-to-hand combat ability. There are two reasons why: **1.** That which they studied and trained in was not in fact hand-to-hand combat, it was a fighting *sport*. **2.** They did not train or compete for anywhere near a long enough period of time for their competition skills to become formidable enough to stand up against dangerous, violent offenders and troublemakers.

The competition fighter who can transfer his contest skills and techniques to anything-goes emergencies when he is suddenly attacked by one or more (perhaps armed) violent offenders is unusual. And we do not say this to denigrate or belittle the contest fighting forms (in fact we

respect them and their participants) but to establish and clarify certain facts which should be, but apparently are not, obvious.

Real combat and sporting combat are two different animals. There is in some cases a surface similarity between some of the movements and techniques, but there the likeness (if there is any) *ends*. Mentally, physically, tactically, morally, and strategically, **combat** and **real self-defense** is a subject, discipline, study and “art” if you will, unto itself. Whenever a person looking for combat/defense training becomes involved in a **fighting sport** it is almost certain, *unless those teaching the subject correctly go to lengths to make the difference between combat and sport clear*, that the student will be developing *false* confidence in his ability to manage real violence. This is not because sporting combat is not a fine activity; it is because sporting combat and real combat are **different** activities, and you cannot prepare for one by training in the other.

By necessity the competition fighter becomes oriented and solidly grounded in numerous things that are inimical to the happenings and demands of honest-to-goodness individual battle. As this becomes normal, natural, and routine to the individual, *and if he assumes an automatic ability thereby to deal with serious violence because he can participate in hard-fought matches, false confidence develops*. And this is a very dangerous thing.

Competition-oriented individuals inevitably come to see and to think of hand-to-hand battle as a game — a sport — in which rules apply. Their opponents meet them fairly and squarely and they do controlled “combat” using similar skills (none of them maiming or killing) until the more skilled man wins.

Competitors often become friends . . . respecting each other as opponents and enjoying each other’s company as comrades when not in a match.

Competitors become 100% acclimated to the idea that theirs will be a single, unarmed opponent. And what is more, the respective skill levels of the two competitors is rarely if ever significantly different. I.e. a black belt is not going to “fight” a white belt in a match, and no newcomer with 3 months in the boxing gym is going to face off with a heavyweight champion who has been boxing professionally for years.

Competitors enjoy the impartiality and regulatory authority of a referee, in addition to strict time limits on rounds.

Competitors enjoy a safe, clear, cleaned area in which they fight. This area is contained and controlled, and no external occurrences or people can interfere to offset either competitor’s advantage.

Competitors know when, where, and against whom they will be “fighting”. The choice *not* to fight in any match is always retained by either entrant.

Competitors who are unexpectedly injured may have the “fight” cancelled immediately. No one is ever expected to compete with a disabling injury or a serious illness.

Competitors are often able to tailor their particular style of fighting in a match to accommodate the demands made upon him by the opponent’s style.

And finally we must point out something that we and others have observed on a number of occasions: Competition in certain forms of sporting combat (i.e. notably MMA/UFC) would appear to encourage many (by no means “all”) to adopt an arrogant, “let’s fight” attitude; an attitude that is disgusting and repugnant, and that makes a mockery of what might be referred to as *martial virtue*.

All of the above go to encouraging the avid competitor to develop, over time, a cocky, rude, aggressive demeanor. In more than one instance we have seen, for example, MMA/UFC types actually *looking for fights*

outside the contest environment. This has been in the news! This may keep fans titillated and make for interesting press about these goons, but it makes them **more** vulnerable to genuinely tough street types who could not care less about the background anyone may have in martial arts.

Genuine confidence that is realistically based derives from learning skills that can be used in the real world, under realistic conditions, *by* anyone, **against** anyone, with destructive results. This means the foulest and dirtiest tactics — no rules, no decency, no sportsmanship, no humanity, no concern whatever for the enemy! It means using weapons against unarmed enemies. It means using deceit, deception, and taking unfair advantage via the element of surprise whenever possible, and *not stopping or holding back regardless of how viciously and horrifically one damages one's foe.*

All of this is justified in self-defense. *None* of it is even remotely excusable in sport. But when an individual has learned these skills, embraced their use with enthusiasm *when a desperate situation warrants their employment*, and has cultivated the ferocious **combat mindset** that holds winning at any cost as the *only* option, then serious and realistic confidence that one is prepared for the worst — i.e. for actual, real world, anything goes violence — and that he possesses justifiable confidence that he can deal with it, takes place in the person's psyche.

We must reiterate this message again so that those who seek to misinterpret and misrepresent it cannot mislead those searching for valid confidence and ability: *We are not saying anything "against" competitive sporting martial arts. We are simply trying mightily to get across the fact that they are different from combat training. Entirely aside from the technical and tactical difference, there is a tremendous psychological and emotional difference, as well as a moral and ethical difference.* If your goal is solid physical ability and practical confidence that you can use that ability when and where it may one day matter very gravely, **then you should get involved in combat-defense training, not in sporting-competitive fighting.** *You gain confidence that you will be*

*able to do it for real by training and becoming mentally conditioned to do it for real.*

**Bradley J. Steiner**

***“I’m tired of fighting. I’ve always known that I can’t be an action star all my life.”***

– Jackie Chan

**American Combato is now on YouTube! Prof. Bryans, the only authentic, certified and authorized teacher of our System, is posting some fundamental and valuable lessons in self-defense on YouTube. Just go to YouTube and enter: American Combato. Legitimate instruction in American Combato is available only from ourself and Prof. Bryans.**

**DVD Course Now Available!**



*You Can Learn Self-Defense and Close Combat At Home.*

***Here are a few comments about us and what and how we teach, from a handful of the many genuine authorities in the field of close combat and self-defense who are familiar with us and with our work:***

**“Brad Steiner is one of the three finest instructors of close combat and self-defense that I know of, in the world”**

**— James R. Jarrett, Former U.S. Army Special Forces and LAPD SWAT/Protégé of the late, internationally famous defensive tactics and baton master, Robert Koga. Mr. Jarrett holds a 5th degree Black Belt and is a renown firearms, self-defense, and counterterrorist instructor. He is a former university professor and an author.**

**“ [Brad Steiner] is simply the finest teacher of any subject that I have ever had . . . I feel deeply blessed to be able to know and to study under him”**

**— Greg Anderson,**

**Third degree black belt, author of Weapons At Hand, accomplished professional athlete (wrestled at the national level and played college football), world-acknowledged authority on physical training, author, and**



**Director of Ideal Exercise, one of the finest fitness facilities in the Western states.**

**“Brad Steiner knows real self-defense and what works in hand-to-hand combat like no one on earth! His Method is incredible!”**

**— Detective Ralph Friedman (NYPD Retired),**  
Ralph was, at the time of his retirement, the most decorated police officer in the history of the NYPD. He has received, among other awards, the coveted ‘Combat Cross’. Ralph was featured, along with his brother — an NYPD Transit Police Officer — on the TV Show Top Cops.

**“Your Method is excellent. You have expanded upon and improved considerably the method I learned from Fairbairn and Sykes during WWII and what the USMC taught to the Raider Battalions. And you’re a very good student and teacher”**

**— Maurice (“Maury”) Geier,**  
Former U.S. Federal Agent and counterintelligence officer during WWII. Also a combat shooting instructor for FBI and other federal officers, as well as a hand-to-hand combat teacher who was so fierce he earned the nickname “Deathhouse Geier”.

**“Your American Combato is a very good System”**

**— Charles (“Charlie”) Nelson,**  
WWII hand-to-hand combat judo instructor with whom we trained for nearly three years. It was from Nelson that we learned the O’Neill System, as well as what A.J. Drexel Biddle taught (Charlie was one of Biddle’s students).

**“You are indeed a ‘Professor’ of combat arts! I quote you all of the time”**

**— Grandmaster Jim Harrison,**

**The premier pioneer in America of the Asian fighting arts of ju-jutsu and karate. The late Bruce Lee once said of Jim Harrison that he is the one person he would not like to fight. It would take a thick pamphlet to describe all of Jim Harrison’s accomplishments and contributions to the combat arts in America.**

**“From you I learned the valuable lesson of ‘attacking’ instead of ‘defending’ when you have to defend yourself”**

**— Grandmaster John McSweeney,**

**The “Father of Irish Karate”, John was one of Ed Parker’s first Black Belts. John also studied boxing, judo, ju-jutsu, and kung fu. The quotation above is from a letter John sent to us after reading our Tactical Skills of Hand-to-Hand Combat. We maintained a correspondence and friendship until John’s passing.**

**“You certainly do make many excellent points about how mental conditioning for self-defense may be achieved. Although I had never anticipated RET (Rational Emotive Therapy) being utilized for martial arts training, you have done quite an impressive job. I appreciate your outstanding abilities with hypnosis, and I think that your innovative ideas deserve a widespread audience”**

**— Dr. Albert Ellis,**

**One of the most famous psychologists in the world. Of him Dr. Robert A. Harper once wrote that he believed Dr. Ellis’ contributions are as significant as those of Dr. Sigmund Freud. We owe a good deal of how we work with students to achieve all sorts of psychological breakthroughs to our intensive study of Dr. Ellis’ works.**

**“ [Y]our articles are read, studied, and saved whenever they are published. You have an understanding and command of the subject of fighting that very few people have”**

**— George Kalishevich,**

**Former USMC Sergeant and combat veteran of Southeast Asia. Kalishevich was a multiple Black Belt holder, a boxer, weight trainee, and hand-to-hand combat teacher since the 1960's. He was also an experienced bouncer. He passed away several years ago.**

**“As a law enforcement officer working dangerous assignments in the most violent parts of the New York metropolitan area in the 1970's, I found that Mr. Steiner's**

**advice was always on the money. The information contained in his articles in Combat Handguns, Handguns, American Handgunner, and Soldier of Fortune magazines was lifesaving. As a professional armed and unarmed combat trainer, I regularly referred to many of the concepts Mr. Steiner wrote about. He often went right to the source to discover how and why certain methodologies worked. Bradley Steiner is one of the few civilians actually certified by Col. Rex Applegate to teach close combat.**

**The late John McSweeney . . . dubbed the 'Father of Karate in Ireland' told me that he also was greatly influenced by Mr. Steiner's writings, especially the idea of paring down close combat techniques to a few essential strikes, trained to perfection. Mr. McSweeney told me that he had a pet name for Brad Steiner. He called him 'The Monk,' in reference to Mr. Steiner's vast knowledge of martial arts and mayhem. My own writing about martial realism was inspired by Brad Steiner's”.**

**— Grandmaster John Perkins,**  
**The brilliant innovator of ‘Guided Chaos’, John Perkins’ background in unarmed combat (and armed combat) is the result not only of training but of lots and lots of real world experience.**

**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 no-nonsense 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)<sup>™</sup> 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 only 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, and 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.

**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!

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## PTSD

“**POST** Traumatic Stress Disorder” is an interesting concept. In the last century one version of it was referred to as “shell shock”. When a man in combat became so completely traumatized by the realities of the combat in which he had been immersed *and broke down*, he was a victim of “shell shock” — or, in today’s parlance — post traumatic stress disorder.

We have heard some say that PTSD is pure fiction; nonsense that has been concocted to provide a palatable label for what is plain cowardice. This is incorrect, and based upon real ignorance of the facts. Some people *do* break down in battle, or in any unusually severe crisis situation. This does not make them cowards. (Despite our admiration for the late Gen. George Patton we feel only contempt for his well-publicized treatment of a soldier under his command who succumbed to the stresses of battle and broke down. Patton’s was *not* an example of good generalship. In fact it was nothing short of abysmally wretched conduct unbecoming an officer of men and a leader.)

We have no illusions about providing a formula by which anyone can avoid experiencing PTSD under any and all conditions. However, we do feel that a great deal can be done to minimize the chance of any form of PTSD occurring should a person legitimately employ lethal or maiming force against another human being in personal combat (with or without a weapon).

The solution lies in *knowing* that whatever you did, you *had* to do — were *forced* to do by the actions of the aggressor against whom you did it. If you believe this, then a moment’s honest, reasonable thinking will make it impossible for you to feel severely traumatized by the result of your actions. you may of course regret that the circumstance arose in which you were forced to act as you did; but the fact that *you were*

*forced by the individual against whom you acted* will make it all but impossible for you to experience anything resembling deep-seated, paralyzing trauma. *You did what you had to do. OK.*

Consider for a moment a situation in which you are suddenly set upon by a violent predator. You are perhaps on your way home from work and it happens. You are punched, seized hold of, shoved hard, or, let us assume, confronted by a felon directing a weapon against you! Fortunately you have been in hard training for just such an emergency. You react by averting the weapon and — properly — following up against this armed maniac with extreme force. *He may have another weapon! He may come at you to kill you bare-handed! He may . . . do anything, and the fact that he already tried to kill you means you cannot take any chances.*

You are not consciously selecting movements to use, and when the situation is concluded (with the felon down) you cannot accurately recall much of the specifics of that which you did to defend yourself. But defend yourself you did. And it is determined that your attacker has died as a result of the force you employed against him.

You are of course surprised to a certain degree. *But if you are at all rational you will not feel deeply traumatized and shocked to the point of near immobility.* You will not, you *cannot*, feel regret about having dropped this attacker. Why would you prefer that it had been *yourself* instead of him who had fallen? Ridiculous. And there is no “virtue” in such an absurd sentiment . . . despite the fact that all of us who are fully human will agree that the situation with which you had to deal was unfortunate and regrettable. **But it wasn’t caused by you.**

As unfortunate as it certainly is that private citizens and law enforcement officers sometimes must use a firearm to shoot a dangerous offender, so long as there *was* an offender and he *was* perceived honestly as being dangerous, being traumatized after successfully saving your or another’s innocent life by shooting the attacker makes no sense at all, and is absurd and unjustifiable. **The truth is that the life of an innocent**

**victim is more important than the life of the offender whose intention it is to kill that victim.** Not only does the law recognize this, common sense enables virtually anyone with an IQ over 20 to see and to understand it clearly.

The truth is that if you feel guilty or personally responsible for the situation that forced you to maim or kill in self-protection, you are being an awful enemy to yourself. Part of your mental conditioning for self-defense should include an acceptance of the fact you are *never* responsible for taking life-saving protective action when compelled to do so by one or more violent offenders. *Never*.

One of the commonly asked questions on the Oral Board through which a potential police recruit must pass before being accepted into the police academy pertains to his feelings and thoughts regarding the use of deadly force. *How does this individual feel about using his service weapon if a deadly situation required him to do so?* We were once asked this question — not during a process of applying for police work, but in a different context — and we answered pretty much as follows:

“We hope that the need to use our weapon against someone never arises. But we have no problem whatever shooting someone if it ever becomes necessary to protect our life, or the life of another innocent person. We are definitely willing to use deadly force if we are ever forced to do so.”

In essence, as we found out later, that was the ideal answer. Persons who smiled and proclaimed that shooting someone would be no problem at all (or some idiotic equivalent reply) were dismissed as being volatile and immature. But also dismissed were those whose answer suggested uncertainty and serious doubt: “Wow, I guess I could shoot someone, but I can’t say for sure”, etc. *That* answer indicates a likelihood of hesitation at the critical moment.

No one can trust a nut who smiles inwardly at the thought of shooting another person (legally or not). Yet equally untrustworthy is the person

who would possibly be guilt-ridden and traumatized were he to shoot another individual. *Why the hell would anyone feel that way if a situation made it necessary to shoot another individual?* It would be akin to a judge feeling traumatized for sentencing a violent offender to prison. *Why?* It is the violent person himself who brought about the need for his own incarceration. The judge is merely doing that which the law permits him to do so as to ensure the administration of justice for the protection of civilized society.

There need never be any PTSD afflicting *you* should you ever need to put your training into use. Just be certain that you really do “*need*” to take the action that you take. From then on it is the attacker’s sole responsibility what happens to him.

The world is full of troublemakers, toughguys, violent punks, physical bullies and thugs, rapists, and all sorts of predatory scum. When they ply their trade, so to speak, they create the need for those upon whom they prey to do what they are able to do in order to protect themselves. These intended victims need feel not the slightest sense of regret, guilt, or self-recrimination. No PTSD in *that* particular context! **And that means YOU.**

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## The Clothing Test

**OUR** very first *karate-gi* was purchased back in the dark ages in New York City at a place called *Castello’s*. *Castello’s* was primarily a supplier of fencing outfits and supplies, but as martial arts were gradually gaining in popularity, the Store expanded their stock to include martial arts uniforms.

Our first *karategi* (which lasted a good two years, I might add!) cost about \$5.95. (Today we spend ten times that amount and we do **not**

purchase the most expensive or elaborate gis by any means. We buy good quality, but it's incredible how costs have gone up . . . or how seriously the money supply has been inflated!)

Training in a gi makes sense. It avoids getting your normal attire sweaty, and it roughly approximates a pair of pants and a heavy shirt or jacket (one's likely attire on a day to day basis — or is it?). While more realistic and compatible with combat practice than, say, a pair of trunks, gis will fall short of approximating extreme summer or extreme winter clothing — or the suit-and-tie outfit of the businessman, accountant, lawyer, executive, etc. *And we can safely assume that most people, most of the time, will be wearing shoes, boots, or sneakers.*

We strongly recommend that all students of close combat and self-defense practice — or at least *try out* the techniques that they train in regularly, in their daily attire, in order to insure that those techniques can be performed smoothly, naturally, and effectively in normal daily dress.

We recall an excellent student of ours years ago, an attorney whose office was in Bellevue, Washington, having to rush somewhat to get to the evening class on time. He had no opportunity to go home first and pick up his uniform, so he trained that evening in the clothes that he had worn to his law office! He did take off his necktie and jacket, but otherwise worked out (and worked out effectively) in his “street” clothes. The lesson that this Black Belt learned from his experience was valuable: *everything we teach can be done as well in normal clothing as it can be done in a gi.*

You want to be sure that this applies to what *you* are learning, too, if you are training for practical self-defense. One test of the practicality of any close combat/self-defense technique is ***can it be employed with equal efficiency and effectiveness regardless of how you are dressed?*** The answer needs to be “Yes!” or the practical value of the technique is questionable.

We again must emphasize that our comments have no bearing on either classical systems practice, or sporting-competitive arts. If you practice and perform your skills exclusively in a limited and clearly-defined context only — one in which you can readily be assured of having whatever opportunity you may need, to “suit up” — that’s fine. We would imagine any advanced and correct performance of any classical Northern Shaolin Boxing *set* (i.e. kata) in a business suit would be extraordinarily absurd — to observe, *and* to perform! Ditto for the exotic and acrobatic kicks and leaps of classical taekwon-do, kuk-sool-won, shorinji-kempo, or hwarang-do, etc. And the basics of aikijutsu might be doable in daily dress . . . but you’d best be suited up *and warmed up* if you’re going to do any of the advanced defenses and throws.

The training hall should always provide a safe environment where students can learn, practice, and grow in their mental and tactical readiness to deal with dangerous violence, as well as in their physical expertise in rendering the skills necessary for violent combat. However, those skills will likely *never* be needed under circumstances where the student is warmed up and suited up in his training uniform. Far more likely that the need to *use* what he has acquired in training will occur on a city street, in an office building, parking lot, shopping mall, restaurant, garage, etc. — or perhaps in or around his home. Violence is not a seasonal thing, and so the individual may be dressed for the beach or for ice skating at Rockefeller Center at Christmas time. ***To be prepared the techniques must be doable in all sorts of normal, daily dress.*** And the way to insure that they are is by actually training for a brief period *in* one’s normal, daily dress.

If you are training in a valid, viable, authentic system you will be surprised at how easily your skills can be rendered in “street” clothing. If you get a sense of serious awkwardness, perhaps you need to either change the methods that you are studying, or switch to a more practical approach.

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*(Of course there really are no “rules” in a self-defense emergency; but this Brief synthesizes those precepts that will guide you to realism in your training)* **\$4.**

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**Brief #21: *Fighting Vs. Self-Defense***

*(Legally, morally, technically, tactically, mentally, and physically, “fighting” and “self-defense” are different. This Brief teaches how and why this is so — and explains to every student and teacher of self-defense just why it is so important to understand the difference.)* **\$4.**

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*(Training without a partner is essential for the fullest development of self-defense skill and mental preparedness. This Brief teaches why this is so, and how to train solo with optimum benefits and maximum practical skill development.)* **\$4.**

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**Brief #25: *Tactics For Countering A Gun Or Knife Threat***

*(There are numerous “techniques” for dealing with an enemy who threatens you with a knife or gun. We believe, and many agree, that the American Combato methods are — hands down — the best. But regardless of what particular techniques you train in, unless your psychological/tactical interface is correct, the odds for you being successful are not at all that good. This Brief explains clearly what interfacing tactics you need to develop.)* **\$4.**

**Brief #26: *Triple Your Learning And Retention With Mental Review***

*(Few give any thought to the importance and value of mentally reviewing the physical skills that they acquire*

*and wish to be able to use. Fewer still do their “mental reviewing” correctly. Learn how from this Brief, and start to enjoy much greater progress in your personal skills and confidence building.)* **\$4.**

**Brief #27: *The Fighting Knife: A “Must Master” Weapon***

*(This is a unique instructional work for all students of self-defense and close combat. It offers a complete analysis of the significance of the fighting knife — its indispensable role in the combat arts curriculum — and valuable training advice for achieving mastery.)*

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**Brief #28: *Finding The Right Teacher And Method For Yourself***

*(There are more martial arts schools and teachers in the State of California or New York alone than in all of Asia! And today there are hundreds claiming to be teaching practical, reliable close combat and defense. From the Founder of the first comprehensive and authentic all-combat American martial Art here is a **complete** guide to locating and evaluating the right teacher for you. Also — what to do if you have limited recourse and can't find a teacher.)* **\$4.**

**Brief #29: *Conditioning The Natural Weapons***

*(In this 21st century the student of practical self-defense needs impact practice more than the kind of comprehensive natural weapon hardening typical of the classical “karate” schools. Still, for the super-enthusiastic self-defense/close combat student there are some efficient toughening approaches that should be used if hardening of the **practical** weapons is desired.)*

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**Brief #30: *Analyzing The Combat Merits Of A System***

*(All of the martial arts are good; but they are not all good for the same thing. Very definitely, there are distinctive characteristics that make a system in*

*question better for combat and personal defense than another system. This Brief provides the information needed to properly assess a given system's value for combat — not for competition or tradition.) \$4.*

**Brief #31: Repetition And Attitude: The Real “Secret” Of Developing Ability**

*(Most who take up martial art training of any kind do not succeed in achieving their desired objectives. And the reason is simple: They do not do enough, and they do not do what they do with the right spirit and attitude. Ninety five percent of those who consider themselves “martial artists” spend more time on backyard-gossip type “forums” and other idiotic medium instead of **training hard with the right mindset**. Here's how to do it right!) \$4.*

**Brief #32: The Moscow Rules**

*(Principles of intelligence tradecraft are extremely valuable to those who are serious about self-defense. During the Cold War secret agents working in the most difficult denied areas for CIA [and England's MI6] were guided by an above-Top Secret set of rules called the “Moscow Rules”. Now declassified (but still in use by secret servants) these Rules are valuable for all seriously concerned self-defense students. \$4.*

**Brief #33: Tiger Moves**

*(The late John McSweeney was a close friend and colleague of ours for many years. He is correctly known as “The Father of Irish Karate”, and in addition to being a marvelously practical and realistic teacher of armed and unarmed self-defense, John was the creator of a System of exercise which he called “Tiger Moves”. We recommend that everyone — including those who train with weights or some other medium — learn this excellent Program.) \$4.*



**Brief #34: *How To Evade Foot Surveillance***

*(Tradecraft that teaches you how to ditch a tail; discover if you are being followed. Escape foot pursuit. How to do it for real.)*

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**Brief #35: *How To Evade Vehicle Surveillance***

*(Outside an intelligence training center this is the most detailed and complete exposition of the subject. Complements Training Brief #34, and is priceless information for self-defense in a modern urban setting.)*

**\$4.**

**Brief #36: “73 Rules Of Spycraft”**

*(After his death a paper by Allen Dulles (Head of CIA) was found among his effects. Titled “Some Elements Of Intelligence Work” this Document was an unpublished goldmine of tradecraft. Here it is reproduced in full. A marvelous companion to The Moscow Rules.)*

**\$4.**

**Brief #37: “Going Gray” (*Secrets Of Clandestinity*)**

*(In secret intelligence work it is often essential to “go gray”; that is, to become anonymous, low profile, uninteresting. The opposite of James Bond! This Brief explains how to do it for the private citizen who is concerned about autonomy, security, privacy, and low-profile living.)*

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**Brief #38: *Secret Communications — Part 1***

*(The methods used by secret operatives to communicate securely may be of value to private citizens who are merely concerned about privacy, security, and protection. This is tradecraft the pros use!)*

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**Brief #39: *Secret Communications — Part 2***

*(Much more solid tradecraft enabling you to engage in secret communications with the efficiency of a trained intelligence officer!)*

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**Brief #40: *How To Conduct Secret Meetings***

*(Methods employed by trained agents and underground*

*warriors who fight in resistance to tyranny.)*      **\$4.**

**Brief #41: *Training Your Observational Skills***

*(Spies are taught to notice everything. You can learn to be as alert and observant as the finest secret agents, if you'll follow the guidance in this Training Brief.)*

**Brief #42: *Urban Escape And Evasion***

*(Escaping from captivity is a fascinating aspect of tradecraft training for secret intelligence and special operations military people. It takes courage, fitness, resolve, ingenuity, and a mastery of that which is described in this Brief.)*      **\$4.**

**Brief #43: *Developing The Spy's Attributes***

*(In this turbulent 21st century when Western Civilization itself is being destroyed, the unconventional and unusual attributes of the secret intelligence agent can serve to equip the serious individual for survival by teaching him what history's great secret agents relied upon to survive and win while operating amidst hostile forces.)*      **\$4.**

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*(An encapsulation of all you need to know in order to effectively resist even professionally qualified interrogators — short of their using torture. And the polygraph section will surprise you; the method works!)*      **\$4.**

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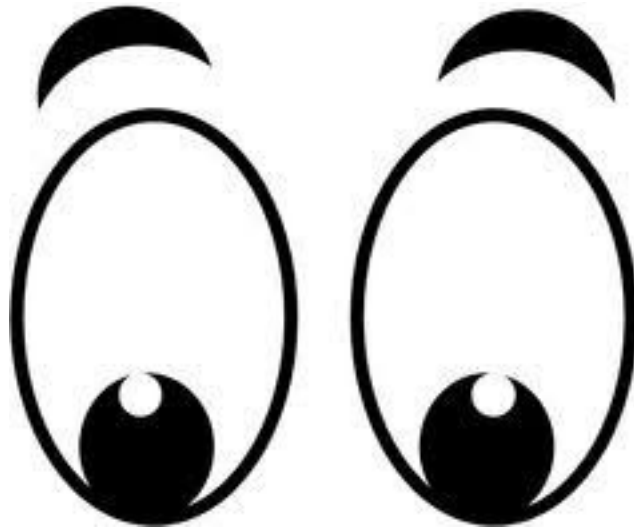
*(Stop being manipulated and learn to manipulate those who seek to control or to use you by employing the tactics and tricks of intelligence professionals. Manipulation — used exclusively for self-protection and the safeguarding of that which is rightfully yours — is an important, valuable skill.)*      **\$4.**

**Brief #46: *Constructing A Realistic Urban Survival, Evasion, And Resistance Kit***

*(Jam-packed with life-saving information about E&E. Goes way beyond just assembling a suitable kit. Con-*

*tains counsel given to special ops and intel field service personnel.)* **\$4.**

These valuable Training Brief presentations are perfect compliments and supplements to our DVD Home Training Course and/or to any martial art you may be training in!



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*New PDF Publication!*

# Combat Handgun Miscellany

Some very helpful and important tips, facts, suggestions, and tactical nuances that the popular shooting schools conveniently avoid mentioning, deny, or are unaware of and do not teach their students. Yet these items — compiled from many source documents and teachings — can go a long way to preparing you to employ your handgun effectively in lawful self-defense.

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## **A Great New Pistol From Ruger**

**RUGER** has long been synonymous with top quality, excellent firearms. Their Mini-14 is in our opinion the most practical and desirable combat carbine available, and bears the same relation to the M1A/M14 that the M1 Carbine bore to the M1 Garand battle rifle. Now, Ruger has come

out with a terrific auto perfectly suited for personal and home defense for frail, ailing, and very elderly persons. Since the crawling bipedal gutter crap routinely targets individuals in these categories, we believe wholeheartedly in arming frail, ailing, and elderly persons with effective defensive firepower.



**RUGER'S NEW 10" BARREL MARK IV TARGET PISTOL.  
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Ruger's new Mark IV Target Pistol is a honey . . . and offers a 10-round magazine capacity, with one additional round in the chamber, for a total of 11 lightning-fast, easily controlled shots of .22 LR rounds. The 10" barrel enables the .22 rimfire round to hit most formidably. And while the .22 rimfire cartridge is not one of the Big Manstoppers, it will certainly do the job — especially when three or four rounds are fired immediately into the offender. And even a very small, weak individual can level this beautiful pistol easily and squeeze off a series of shots within a second and a half.

We'd recommend this pistol as a great gift, if not for *yourself*, then for a family member or friend about whose security and protection you are concerned.

In our mind there can be no doubt about the desirability of a frail senior greeting a forcible home invader by shooting him. *Anyone who victimizes the elderly (or anyone who appears clearly unable to defend him or herself) deserves to be shot.* Naturally, we do recommend .357 revolvers, and .45 automatics when these sidearms are feasible. Or, even better, a 12 gauge pump shotgun for home defense. But not everyone who needs armed protection can be expected to handle these more-or-less "ideal" arms. The .22 automatic pistol is a very, very good choice in such cases.

**Suggestion:** For those living in New York City (one of the five boroughs) where oppressive gun laws prevail, it *is* possible, from what we have read on the NYPD's firearms licensing site, to obtain a license to keep a handgun in the home. Certainly it is best for citizens to go physically armed when out and about, but *for those seniors living alone we'd strongly recommend obtaining a "keep at home" handgun permit.* It's better than nothing. And of course if it is feasible, keeping a good Remington 12 gauge 18" barrel pump shotgun at home, is perfect. The new Ruger is a perfect home companion for the elderly, etc. living in the Big Poisoned Apple.

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### **Actions Have Consequences**

**THE** NY Daily News online carried a story back in December (Christmas Eve, in fact) about a man who, in a bar fight, punched another. It was an imbecilic, meaningless argument, of course. The serious, civilized, intellectual discussions take place in settings other than neighborhood taverns. In any case, the recipient of the punch **died**.



Reaction of the impulse-driven, out-of-control piece of sh-t who killed him? “I feel terrible.” Gee whiz.

Personally, we would like to see the killer **hanged**. Who gives a rat’s ass damn if the bastard “feels terrible” or not? *If your reaction to verbal disagreement is to punch someone, then you do not belong in civilized society.* And that means, as we see it, if by some tragic error you happen already to *be* amongst the civilized and you give vent to your physical rage, ***then it’s time for you to be put down like the mad dog you are.***

The killer was 47 years old. The victim was 49 years old. No one can argue that these men — theoretically, anyway — knew better than to physically fight over some trivial nonsense involving a girlfriend (the “reason” for this insanity, according to the news report we read). If toddlers in a sandbox become hostile and aggressive over a toy, the mothers can separate the two year olds and we can allow for a state of immaturity as being responsible for the misbehavior. **But when anyone over the age of six resorts to violence outside any need for self-defense, there is a serious problem present that requires *immediate* correction by adults. And after the individual reaches the age of 10 or 11 and is inclined to physically attack others, well . . . we’d just as soon see him excised from human society.**

People seem to not get a simple fact: That is, *actions have consequences; and the actor is responsible for the consequences of his actions.* Above all, we want **YOU** to get it. As an enthusiast of close combat and self-defense skills you have a serious, permanent responsibility to **avoid violence whenever possible**. You are not a “sportsman”, and physically damaging another person, except in self-defense, cannot be written off as a competitive event during which an accident occurred!

If a segment of the so-called “martial arts community” chooses to follow that which we, personally, find shameful and dumb (i.e. MMA/UFC type brawling) that’s OK . . . so long as these people involve no one beside

themselves. But anyone who carries an inclination to be a goddamn social nuisance and danger outside the competitive arena, and participates in violent encounters is little more than a dangerous savage whom the rest of us have a right to be free of. “Toughguys” end up in hospitals, prisons, and cemeteries, *where they rightfully belong*. The unfortunate thing is when they injure innocent people *before* ending up where they belong.

Martial skills certainly should be held in rigorous check until or unless one finds oneself or one’s loved ones in **danger**. Then, do whatever it takes, whatever you can, and however you wish, to deal with an unprovoked threat to innocent life and limb. Whatever happens to some out-of-control-subhuman predator who decides to vicimize an innocent person is unimportant. To hell with him. He doesn’t belong on earth, anyway. *But keep your hands and your temper in check when the normal vicissitudes of day-to-day existence cause friction, disagreement, and irritation with others*. That’s life. Keep your hands to yourself.

We believe and teach that violence outside of fighting **sports** is unacceptable, criminal human conduct. Because tragedies such as the one described at the beginning of this little article occur often, there should be very, very serious consequences for anyone who resorts to violence outside the clear and present need to take self-defense action. That there often are not such serious consequences accounts for why violent human garbage continues to terrorize and to injure normal human beings.

Actions have consequences. The person who unjustifiably offers you violence ought properly to bring hell down upon himself; **the appropriate consequences for his particular actions**. His injuries are the result of *his* actions, and — we hope you’ll agree — to hell with him.

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## Countering A Pickup And Body Slam

WE note that one outgrowth of the MMA is an inclination on the part of street scum to attempt to emulate the brawling of these fighters — recklessly, against persons whom they attack. Naturally, the brainless garbage in the street who relish violence have not the slightest concern for whatever damages or injuries they may cause. Acting out their violent criminal attacks is what matters to them . . . and revelling in the feelings of machismo that it gives their psychopathic excuses for a “mind”.

When wrestlers or MMA fighters execute a body slam on an opponent they do it in the context of a *controlled* “fight”, and the action is not executed on pavement, but on a matted and/or competition-friendly arena floor. *A body slam executed on an untrained individual — on concrete — by complete surprise, could prove fatal or productive of a lifetime disability caused by maiming.* So, as far as the counterattacking of a street punk who attempts a body slam is concerned, *you are defending against a deadly attack.* Bear that in mind, and the very second a street or other attacker moves on you so fast you could not preempt him, **and seizes you in readiness for a pickup and body slam, go straight into all-out combat mode, and do not restrain yourself in the least when you counter the attack. GO ALL-OUT, AND DO NOT STOP UNTIL THIS WOULD-BE KILLER IS HARMLESS AND HELPLESS.**

The key to dealing with the body slam attack is instantaneous aggression *as the seizure and pickup is attempted.* In fact you will be reacting so fast and ferociously that you may not even be countering more than a body-grab, per se. **Do not wait for the specifics!**

From a frontal attack attempt:

Grab onto the attacker by seizing his ears if possible, and then bite down *hard* onto any exposed part of his face. Tear his ears off as you attempt to rip apart his face with your teeth. If your hands and arms are free to

move **go after his eyes, his neck, his throat, his ears.** Waste no effort or time trying to counter his hold or grip, per se. Complete waste, and will only play into his hands giving him more time to apply the body slam.

If the attacker moves in and crouches for a pickup, immediately smash him in the face with your knee and/or smash him hard and repeatedly in his kidneys with hammerfist blows. Then apply a frontal strangle and arch backward — either crushing his throat or breaking his neck; or both.

From a rear attack attempt:

This is very dangerous and unless you react the very instant an attempted grab is made, the attack will likely succeed.

As you feel attacker's seizure of you from behind under your arms *drop your bodyweight* and twist violently to one side, throwing an arm back and around the attacker's head. Grab or encircle his head as best you can and start stomping back into him with either foot. If you are fast enough and succeed in turning around completely, start gouging his eyes and/or bite deeply into his face.

If seized over your arms, twist and seize at testicles.

If you could not turn completely, remain "attached" by holding onto the attacker as best you can. Ferociously stomp down with one or both feet into any exposed part of his legs. Turn violently and bite, gouge, tear off his ears.

Always strive to *drop down* whenever an attacker attempts any kind of pickup. Force him to support your weight **as you attack and keep moving violently and aggressively.** You are hardest to control when you are moving violently — and hardest still when, while moving, you are **attacking.**

## The Critical Element That Can Guarantee Victory



IF you catch the toughest, greatest, strongest, most skilled and knowledgeable combat master *off guard*, by *surprise* and attack him *decisively, and keep on attacking him*, you've got him. You'll defeat him, and there's no doubt about it.

This means **anyone**. The late Bruce Lee, for example. Or any unarmed/armed weapon master (Fairbairn, Applegate, Cooper, Bryce, Jordan, etc.). ***Get him by surprise with a decisive hit, and do not stop attacking***, and you win.

Some may object to this, referring to some nonsense like “the self-defense sixth sense” or “lightning-fast reflexes”, etc. that can save someone who is taken by surprise. **Bullshit**. Certainly those who are

sophisticated and established combat experts *do* tend to have a very highly developed sense regarding danger, possible danger, suspicious circumstances or people, etc. **Nevertheless, if that “sense” is bypassed and the expert is taken by surprise, you’ve got him!** And never mind how “lightning fast” anyone’s reflexes are: *action is faster than reaction, and only a damn fool will believe that some “martial arts bullshit” is going to defy the laws of physics.*

Reality is something that many in the martial arts field have a problem with. They don’t like hearing that there are no mysteries or secrets, that size and strength matter, that age often matters, that attackers are often hard to stop, that it is *not* easy to defend against a knife, that it is *not* easy to defend against multiple attackers, that it is *not* easy to defend against attacks from behind, that the idea of ground fighting is **bullshit** for actual combat, that ruthlessness and animal ferocity are as important as destructive techniques . . . etc.

But all of that **is** true, and regardless of the fools who turn their backs on the truth, the truth *will* affect them, as it affects everyone. And in order to be successful in close combat/self-defense taking the enemy by surprise and destroying him without mercy is **vital**. *The fact that taking the enemy by surprise is essentially the key to victory in real engagements leads those who study and train realistically to these two conclusions:*

- 1. It is vital that every student of combatives and personal defense cultivate the unceasing habit of maintaining *situational awareness*. ALERTNESS is critical. Not when you “feel like it” but — literally — any time you are anywhere that is not secured and completely under your control**
- 2. Train deliberately and constantly to master employment of the *surprise attack*. Never let any opponent know your true intentions and/or your capabilities.**

Often it is the obvious and simple that is overlooked. It is impossible to emphasize too strongly how important it is to **prevent** the element of

surprise being used against you, and to be ready to preempt *before* some cretin-sh-t-scumbag decides to pound on you, stab you, or employ some other means of ending your life or sending you to a hospital. Strive to use the element of surprise in any dangerous situation.

Consider the following, related to this discussion:

1. USING THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE IS BY FAR EASIER IN SELF-DEFENSE THAN IT EVER COULD BE IN COMPETITION.

No one enters a competitive match without expecting opposition from the opponent. This is self-evident. In a self-defense situation however, the scum who attack their victim normally feel very confident that will encounter no resistance at all, or such futile resistance they need not concern themselves about it. The defender who attacks his attacker like a wild animal and is completely committed to destroying that attacker without mercy almost certainly will shock that attacker completely.

2. PHYSICALLY YOU ACHIEVE SURPRISE BY DOING THE UNEXPECTED.

3. PSYCHOLOGICALLY YOU ACHIEVE SURPRISE BY SEEMING TO BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN YOU ACTUALLY ARE.

4. SURPRISE SHOULD BE EXPLORED THOROUGHLY AND CULTIVATED AS YOUR PET STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH ANY FOE.

5. DECEIT, DECEPTION, DISTRACTION, MISDIRECTION ARE ALL VIABLE TACTICS AND SHOULD BE EMPLOYED WHENEVER AND WHEREVER POSSIBLE IN SELF-DEFENSE.

6. ONCE YOU DO SURPRISE YOUR FOE, KEEP ON ATTACKING RELENTLESSLY UNTIL HE IS DESTROYED OR UNTIL HE FLEES, OR UNTIL YOU CAN ESCAPE SAFELY.

7. YOU CAN USE SURPRISE ONLY **ONCE**. DO NOT WASTE THE ACTION WITH WHICH YOU EMPLOY THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE. *DO SERIOUS, REAL, HOPEFULLY DECISIVE DAMAGE* WITH YOUR FIRST MOVE, IF POSSIBLE. THEN KEEP HAMMERING!

8. REINFORCEING AS OFTEN AND AS EMPHATICALLY AS POSSIBLE IN YOUR MIND THE ESSENTIAL **INHUMANITY, WORTHLESSNESS, UTTERLY DESTESTABLE GARBAGE** THAT ANY VIOLENT PREDATOR IS WILL ASSIST YOUR ENTHUSIASTIC FOCUS ON TAKING HIM OUT IMMEDIATELY AND WITHOUT THE SLIGHTESTVTREMOR OF HESITATION OR CONCERN.

9. HUMAN CONSIDERATION, A MERCIFUL ATTITUDE, THE DESIRE TO PREVENT VIOLENCE WHEN IT IS TOO LATE TO DO SO, NOT FEELING “RIGHT” ABOUT SEIZING THE INITIATIVE AND PREEMPTING A SCUMBAG, AND COMPASSION — ALL OF WHICH ARE NOTHING SHORT OF **RIDICULOUSLY INAPPROPRIATE AND ABSURD** WHEN DEALING WITH AN ATTACKER, ALL MAY IMPEDE YOUR USE OF COMBATIVE SURPRISE, *AND YOU MUST NOT ALLOW SUCH FOOLISH SENTIMENTS TO HINDER YOUR SELF-DEFENSE!*

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## **Count Dante . . . Again**

**WE** have written about and discussed the late John Keehan (AKA “Count Dante”) several times during the last 30 years, and after a phone call from a frequent visitor to our web sites we decided it is time to mention him again.

John Keehan was a very formidable and brilliant martial arts master. He was certainly a flamboyant promoter of his approach to self-defense, and of himself, and he perhaps exaggerated certain aspects of his personal background. Never having known him personally we cannot and will not say that any particular claims the man made were or were not true. We will only state that which our researches has convinced us definitely *was* true of the man, and of the “Black Dragon Fighting Society” which he founded. And we’re writing this now because the individual who had telephoned us reported reading some slanderous bullshit about Keehan,



concluding with ridiculous comments amounting to a complete dismissal of the idea that Keehan was a martial arts master not worthy of respect or recognition.

We never had the pleasure of meeting or knowing Keehan, and we have never met the man who we understand is his successor — William Aguiar III; the current Headmaster of the Black Dragon Society, and purveyor of John Keehan's unique approach to martial arts. We **did** however read and study Keehan's excellent article, *Karate Is For Sissies*, and we purchased (a long time ago) his booklet *World's Deadliest Fighting Secrets*. We also read articles about John Keehan as they appeared way back when, in various martial arts publications. We were — and are — greatly impressed by much of that which John Keehan did, said, wrote, and taught about real self-defense. He was ahead of his time, and while he may have been abrasive and aggressive (or *acted* abrasively and aggressively) at times, **he made good sense**. And anyone objectively considering that which he presented will, we believe, be forced to concede that fact.

First and foremost before anyone presumes to toss mud at Keehan's legacy, let them know that he was a distinguished and accomplished judo *and* karate expert. He was in fact a student of Robert Trias, in the first karate school to be set up in the United States. Trias acknowledged Keehan's ability, and promoted him to black belt.

Keehan was one of the first martial arts instructors to abandon the subtle and disgusting attitude of racism that existed in the very late 50's and 60's in American dojos, and accept black people in his Chicago school.

We cannot deny that if the reports of Keehan's involvement with organized crime, and with pointless violence between different schools of martial art are true, then they constitute a fault that no one can deny he had. *However . . .*

The point that we wish to make is that Keehan's critique of what was wrong with classical karate/ju-jutsu ***for practical, real world self-***

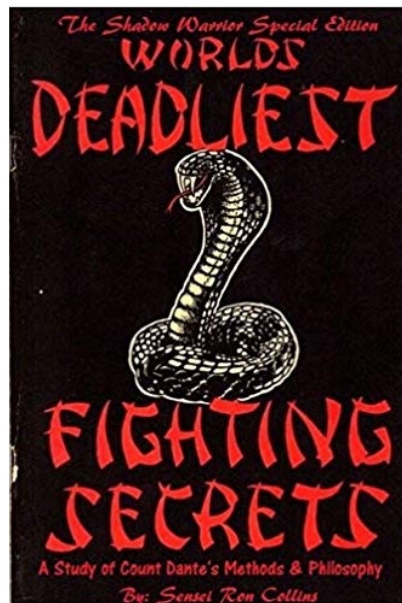
*defense* was true, and history and the experience of many has vindicated him. The pot-shots that little worms on internet forums and discussion groups take at this man Keehan **whom they know nothing factual about**, save that he perhaps made claims that were questionable about his background, are disgraceful. Keehan was a pioneer in serious combative martial training and theory, and he deserves to be remembered for being so.

Was he a “Count”? We don’t know or care.

Did he engage in “death matches” in Asia? We admit that this is something we seriously doubt . . . but again, *so what?*

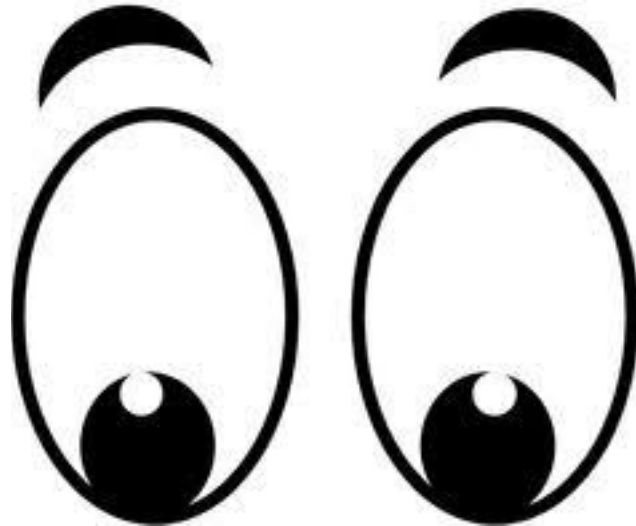
The important thing is that, in addition to whatever flaws he may have possessed, and above and beyond any promotional liberties he may have taken in promoting himself and his System, ***he was a fine teacher of seriously effective combat/defense skills and attitude.***

We hope the so-called “martial arts community” will have the simple decency to remember that.



ABOVE: THE ONLY BOOK THAT JOHN KEEHAN EVER WROTE DESCRIBING HIS APPROACH TO SELF-DEFENSE. WHILE ADVERTISED FLAMBOYANTLY AND PRESENTED WITH THE SUGGESTION OF CONVEYING “SECRETS” (WHICH WE DO NOT BELIEVE EXIST IN THE COMBAT ARTS) THIS IS A VERY INTERESTING LITTLE BOOKLET AND IT DOES PRESENT SOME EXCELLENT CLOSE COMBAT TECHNIQUE.

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