



Wado International Karate-Do Federation

DOJO CONNECTION

June 2006

Grading At Campbell River, B.C.

Dan Wallis

Every grading at my club has both a physical and written component. Here are four questions on the 3rd Kyu written exam and an answer provided by one aspiring Brown Belt. Our Campbell River Wado Karate Student Guide is the reference book to help answer the questions.

Question #1: Name any two of the 5 principals of kata and explain what they mean.

Question #2: What does "Zanshin" mean and give one example from inside the dojo and one example from outside the dojo to illustrate the meaning of Zanshin.

Question #3: Who are the following people: Tatsuo Suzuki, Hironori Otsuka, and Ken Corrigan?

Question #4: What does it mean to be San Kyu?

This answer to #4 was provided by Huy Nguyen a sixteen year old karate-ka:

"I believe that to be a brown belt (San Kyu) means that I am now in the phase of certainty, self-confidence, and understanding. This means that when I am called upon by my Sensei to do a task such as teaching lower belts a technique, I should be confident that I teach them the right way and that I am certain on my basics. I believe strongly that as I reach my San Kyu I have gone a step further on the understanding and comprehension of karate. Techniques for me should always be done with spirit and must be meaningful. My kata should be done not only for show or demonstration but rather understand what that kata can show me in the aspects of karate and what it can do to improve my kumite skills."

Grading Results

The ACADEMY OF CLASSICAL KARATE-DO,
Plano, Texas, USA:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| June Acheson | 2 nd Kyu |
| Bryce Seton-Rogers | 3 rd Kyu |
| Ernie Massei | 8 th Kyu |
| Jerry Mathew | 8 th Kyu |
| Alex Smith | 8 th Kyu |
| Justin Farzaneh | 8 th Kyu |
| Khos Farzaneh | 8 th Kyu |
| Brian Spencer | 8 th Kyu |

THE EAST COAST WADO KARATE CLUB,
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada:

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Kevin Jones | 3 rd Kyu |
| David duTrizac | 4 th Kyu |
| Ashley Power | 4 th Kyu |
| Danny Harquail | 6 th Kyu |

Persistence

Tom Kosslow

There is a movie that depicted the life of Wolfgang Mozart, the musical genius. The movie makes it appear that Mozart was able to write his masterpieces with ease. There is evidence, however, that this was not the case at all. Mozart's notebooks are full of musical compositions that he started but never finished. This would suggest that he had to work and rework his music both mentally and on paper long before he was pleased enough to publish it.

The relevance of this for a karate student is that even for the great masters things don't just come out of the blue or in an all of a sudden, "A-HA!" type of experience. What sometimes appears as skill was the result of years of worry, detailed thoughts, critical

evaluation, and lots of practice. Even the great masters were once beginners.

Most people think that a Black Belt is the badge or symbol of an expert. But it's not that at all. It's more like a sign that you have been persistent enough to keep at it long enough to really start learning something.

You don't inherit persistence like you do hair or eye color. It is an attitude – a state of mind. Because it is an attitude it is something that you can develop. You might be surprised at how many weaknesses and inadequacies you can overcome if you are persistent. To develop persistence you have to know what it is you want. You need an intense desire to get what you want and have some idea of how to get it. You also need to believe in yourself and to believe you can eventually get it in spite of the setbacks you will encounter along the way. You probably won't reach any goal without stumbling along the way, but faith in yourself helps you to get up and keep going when you've been knocked down.

If you want your Black Belt, or anything else for that matter, the important thing is to just stick to it. People have a tendency to get that which they want bad enough and are willing to work for. As the journalist Jacob A. Riis once said, *“When nothing seems to help, I go and look at the stonecutter hammering away at his rock, perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet, at the hundred and first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not that last blow that did it, but all that had gone before.”*

**Nova Scotia Training: East Coast Wado
Karate Club, Joey Shano, Sensei
Tom Kosslow**

I just returned from four days of training with these folks in beautiful Nova Scotia, Canada. I have to say that I truly enjoyed the training, grading, and entertainment they provided (not the weather unfortunately...rain). They certainly know how to treat a visitor. The lobster was terrific. I especially have to thank David duTrizac and his cat, Willie, for housing me, and J.F. Charette for hosting a terrific party at his house. I have to return sometime so we can play golf, go fishing, and party some more. Besides I want to check up on a few people to see how well they have progressed since their grading. It can't all be fun after all. ☺



Adult Class: Sensei Shano and Kosslow kneeling



Children's class...notice the big one on the right.



Kata practice