



"He Flies Through the Air with the Greatest of Ease"

Fifth degree black belt holder Pyong Soo Kim, Karate instructor at Camp Red Cloud, leaps four feet in the air in demonstrating a jump side kick. (BULLSEYE PHOTO)

Black Belt Holder Says

Karate's Feats Of Strength Can Give False Impression

The man in the ring assumes an on-guard position as a ton of beef charges. With no cape or sword for protection, he appears defenseless. An instant before the bull can make contact, the performer steps aside and delivers a chop with his bare hand that breaks the animal's neck.

With the bull dead, he severs a horn in the same manner.

The performer, Masulatsu Oyama, is not a bullfighter, but a Karate expert. His exhibition demonstrates how deadly this form of self-defense can be.

But according to fifth degree black belt holder Pyong Soo Kim, instructor at Camp Red Cloud, the exhibition of such feats of strength can be misleading.

Kim, current regional editor of *American Black Belt* magazine, believes that such strongman stunts cause too many observers to associate the physical aspects of Karate with violence.

"Feats such as the breaking of stones and the splitting of planks, which might be considered acts of strength, are performed for

a language barrier leaves demonstrations as the only way many Karate experts can pass on their knowledge to American observers."

Kim explains, "Karate condemns the use of violence. True, it stresses physical fitness and self-defense, but only to produce two mental characteristics: patience and self-confidence. Thus, physical development serves to strengthen the mind."



"But a black belt holder never uses his physical ability on another man unless it is unavoidable," says Kim. "Confidence in his own ability gives him the strength to walk away from a fight."

The former member of Syngman Rhee's special security police force is attached to the Kang Duk Won gymnasium, one of forty throughout Korea recognized by the Korean Karate Association (Taek Kwon-Do). The Association awards all official black belts.

Every three months, the Association holds a promotion contest. Students from all over Korea converge on Seoul in hopes of getting their first degree black belt.

Each one has spent between 18 months and two years training for the event.

"A G.I. can usually earn a black belt in 10 months if he trains hard," says Kim, "because the classes are small and the instructor can make individual corrections. But in the Korean Army