



国際大山空手道連盟総本部

World Oyama Karate

Honbu Newsletter

Issue 45 - January, 2017

SWEAT - IN THE NEW YEAR

By Founder Saiko Shihan Y. Oyama



Yes, 2017 is here! Just Sweat !

OSU! Happy New Year! I hope everyone is doing well. We have a great year ahead. Whenever a new year begins, we reflect over the previous year. We think about the successes we had, mistakes we made, and what we hope to accomplish in the coming year. It seems that every year, technology continues to improve at an alarming rate. Those of us from the older generations find it hard to keep up with the pace of innovation, but for younger people, technological advancements make the tasks of daily life ever-easier to accomplish. Technology allows us to control our environment with little effort. It makes the transmission of information faster than ever and communication nearly instantaneous. But these improvements do not always serve our best interests.

When people use technology (i.e. email, text messaging, Facebook) as their primary means of communication, a part of their humanity is lost. Technology allows people to communicate anywhere at any time, but also emboldens them to say things they would never say face-to-face. The increasing prominence of cyber-bullying is a prime example of this phenomenon. When people communicate face-to-face, they are more likely to take the other person's feelings into consideration when choosing what to



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say. They are also able to see firsthand the impact of their words. Technological communication removes these aspects of inter-human contact.

When I was growing up, daily life was much more physical. People walked places, had to carry things like groceries with them, and communicate with one another in person. Communicating this way helped to build empathy, consideration, friendship and love. Of course, we had conflicts, but our interpersonal bonds were strengthened by physical interaction in a way that is lacking today. But in the dojo, technological changes have had little effect.

If you want to punch or kick, you have to use your own hands and feet. You have to do it yourself. If you want to be stronger, you have to condition your body; there are no apps. By pushing themselves physically, students are still able to connect with who they really are at their core in a way that they can't otherwise. They can recognize their true potential and what they are capable of accomplishing if they are willing to work for it.

I strongly believe that without health, happiness is unreachable. Even with a billion dollars, a person will feel empty if their body is in poor condition. We are lucky we have the sun, rain and even storms—they remind us that we are alive and each day is a blessing. Technology can continue to improve, but Karate and the benefits of training can never be replaced. When I wake up in the morning and drink my coffee, I'm excited for the day ahead of me. I think about what I will do. What I will teach. Students' faces appear in my mind. Some I'm excited about, others give me a headache, but I still feel lucky. I walk the dogs and look outside. Even though the trees are all bare now, I still feel good because I can still use my feet and my legs. I can hear the birds chirping and see the nature around me and everything is beautiful. I see other people on the trail doing the same thing, and some that are absorbed in their phones. Sometimes they trip over a branch or fall into a ditch. That makes me laugh, and happy to be free of technology. Anyway, 2017 is going to be another great year! I still need to challenge myself and hope you feel the same way. Stay in the moment and remember that life is beautiful! OSU!

There are a couple instructors I want to introduce to you. They both have a long history in Oyama Karate, but for those who are not familiar with them, please read their biographies. They are Shihan Nagayasu Sakataka from New Jersey and Shihan Josee Patenaude from Quebec, Canada.

PROMOTION ANNOUNCEMENT

In recognition of their long history of commitment and dedication, the World Oyama Karate Organization is proud to announce title promotion of the following people:

Shihan Dai Tom DiGiacomo (Saudi Arabia) Promoted to SHIHAN Tom DiGiacomo

Shihan Dai Tsutomu Takahashi (Atlanta) Promoted to SHIHAN Tsutomu Takahashi

Shihan Dai Takeshi Saito (San Francisco) Promoted to SHIHAN Takeshi Saito

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Shihan Sakataka with New Jersey Little Gladiators

In 1988 I came to Oyama Karate Headquarters in New York to start as an Uchi Deshi with Soshu Oyama. On the first day, the knuckle pushups were very hard for me. I remember Soshu Oyama said, "Did you just come here for sightseeing? You can go home anytime." That was on my first day. Years later when I had my own dojo, I asked Soshu Oyama if he remembered my first day. He just started laughing. I have many great memories training with Soshu Oyama.

During bag training, whenever I dropped my hands, Soshu Oyama would smack me across the backside with a shinai (bamboo sword). All of us Uchi Deshi had black marks across our backside from the shinai. We didn't want to scare off the students in the locker room, so we always waited until they were gone before we took our shower. I also remember that I was terrified of answering the phone. One of my duties as Uchi Deshi was to answer the phone when people called for information, but I didn't speak English, so it was always stressful.

I also remember training for a tournament in 1993 with Soshu Oyama. He would wear chest protector and arm guards and train with me. I faced Nazuka in the lightweight finals and was so happy that I won. Soshu Oyama told me once that he didn't think I'd make a good Karate instructor because I didn't have a very big body. But in 1991, I came to Alabama to train with Saiko Shihan for a little while. Saiko Shihan told Soshu Oyama that he thought I could handle it, which I really appreciate.

In 1997, I opened my dojo in New Jersey. At that time, Soshu Oyama's health was starting to decline, but he would still call me up now and then to check on me and make sure I was eating enough and training hard.

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Shihan Josee with Canadian Little Gladiators

I began training on December 14th 1977, when I was 15 years old. After a month of classes, the training was so intense that I thought I would quit. Rather than giving up, I decided to increase the number of training hours in order to be more efficient during classes.

Three months later, after earning my first belt, I was addicted. I realized at that moment that I loved the challenge that karate gave me. I trained two or three hours a day, six days a week, for three years, while continuing my secondary and then college studies.

On November 23rd 1980, I went to Connecticut with three other students for my black belt test at Soshu Shigeru Oyama's dojo, despite the fact that I could not speak or understand a single word of English. I passed the exam and since that day, I have made a personal commitment to continue to progress in this path.

In 1982, at the age of 20 years old, I graduated as a civil engineering technician. However, I became unemployed because it was the recession. There was little employment available in the field of construction. Then, in the same year, the dojo I attended in Repentigny closed its doors to settle in Montreal.

Rather than stop, I challenged myself to do 100 fights before my second dan exam scheduled for autumn 1983. I decided to train alone at home while continuing to go to the dojo located in Montreal once a week.

On April 9th 1983, I managed the 100 fights in three hours and twenty minutes. On October 8th 1984, I opened my karate school in Repentigny. I was 21 years old.

In November 1990, I participated in a wonderful trip to Japan with a group of students from Soshu Oyama's do-



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jo. What a privilege, training for 3 days with Soshu Shigeru Oyama, Saiko Shihan Oyama and Shuseki Shihan Miuki Miura in a large gymnasium with Japanese students. This was the beginning of the Oyama style in Japan.

When I got back from this trip, I wanted to teach full time and live from my art. In 1994, my dojo was operating at full capacity with two classrooms and more than six assistant instructors. I was teaching full time.

In February 1998, I left the organization and continued to develop martial arts by creating Koyama and FCT (in French, those three letters mean: strength, combativity and tenacity).

Then, in February 2003, after 18 years of hard work to make my school reach a certain notoriety, a fire destroyed everything. I took a knee. I closed my eyes.

I said to myself, "That is enough. I stop...No, I refuse. A warrior is a warrior until his death and he has no right to give up as long as he has a breath of life inside of him."

From then on, I knew I had to take one step backwards in order to take two steps forwards and come back stronger. For six months, we practiced in a gym and I finally reopened my dojo in autumn 2003. Everything was different in this new place, so I had to force myself to adapt in order to regain my energy and my motivation.

I had the privilege this autumn to be invited by Saiko Shihan Oyama to come back in the World Oyama Karate Organization. I accepted in order to get back to my roots and continue to promote the Oyama style.

This will be a new beginning for my students and I am very grateful to them because I would not be what I am without having received the teaching of Soshu Shigeru Oyama and Saiko Shihan Oyama and all the challenges that life has presented on my road.

BLACK BELT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As of January 1, 2017, the Honbu Dojo Black Belt Association Committee will be comprised of the following members:

Shihan Ron Epstein	<i>Chairman</i>
Sensei Dale Onstine	<i>Vice-Chairman</i>
Sensei Karl Julian	<i>Committee Member</i>
Sensei David Sorrells	<i>Committee Member</i>
Sensei Jean Johnson	<i>Committee Member</i>
Sensei Stephanie Onstine	<i>Committee Member</i>
Sensei Hans Paul	<i>Committee Member</i>
Sensei Rolanda Horton	<i>Committee Member</i>

The function of the Black Belt Association Committee is to advise World Oyama Karate Director, Saiko Shihan Y. Oyama, on organizational matters, both domestically and internationally. The committee also works with World Oyama Karate Branch Chiefs to help insure the quality of instruction and communication within the organization. It is also responsible for any coordination and relationship between Oyama Karate and other Karate organizations.

Bouncer From The East

Based on the true story of Soshu S. Oyama, written by Saiko Shihan Y. Oyama

(Continue from Newsletter 44)

INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Shot of GEORGE'S back, in his boxer shorts only, peeing in the toilet.

SHIGERU is already up, wearing jogging clothes. He looks at the various items cluttering the apartment. He spots an empty MILITARY DUFFLE BAG in the corner.

George enters.

SHIGERU: George, I like this bag.

GEORGE: Oh yeah?

SHIGERU: I want make-(gestures) Sandbag.

GEORGE: Sure, sure, no problem. I'm not using it for anything, so go ahead.

SHIGERU: Thank you.

GEORGE: You sleep good?

SHIGERU: Yes. I want go run.

GEORGE: Really? OK, let me get dressed and I'll go with you.

George goes into his room. Shigeru looks around slowly, taking in just how different the apartment is compared to what it's like in Tokyo. George re-enters wearing jogging clothes.

GEORGE (CONT'D) Alright, let's do it!

EXT. BRONX RIVER JOGGING PATH - DAY

Very nice scenery, jogging path near the river. Various shots of joggers, walkers and of GEORGE and SHIGERU jogging together.

EXT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

GEORGE and SHIGERU are in a small park and playground and have finished running. Shigeru is filling the duffle bag with various things and packing it all in the duffle bag. He uses sand from the sandbox on the playground. He layers various debris and sand into the bag, packing it tightly.

SHIGERU: Do you have rope?

GEORGE: I think maybe, let me check.

George goes inside. Shigeru continues packing the bag.

EXT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

SHIGERU has the duffle bag against a tree and sitting atop some large chunks of concrete he has found so that the bag is torso-height. GEORGE approaches with some rope.

SHIGERU: Thank you.

George helps Shigeru secure the duffle bag to the tree with the rope. Shigeru begins punching it. Slowly at first and building in speed and power. George watches intently. Shigeru stops and nods in satisfaction.

SHIGERU: (CONT'D) It's good.

GEORGE: Hey, let me try.

George delivers a hard punch. Upon impact, he screams out and clutches his hand in pain.

GEORGE: (CONT'D) Ow! It's like hitting a brick wall!

Shigeru smiles.

GEORGE: (CONT'D) You're, crazy man. I'm gonna take a shower and fix breakfast.

SHIGERU: Osu.

George walks off, still in pain, shaking his head. Shigeru resumes punching the bag.

INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

SHIGERU has fresh clothes on, drying his hair with a towel. GEORGE is at the kitchen area. RADIO is playing rock 'n roll music. George dances and sometimes sings along as he prepares breakfast.

George opens the fridge, takes out a box of orange juice. He opens and smells it to see if it's still OK. He shrugs and takes a big drink, then puts it back and pulls out a carton of eggs.

George begins looking for ingredients to mix with eggs. He pulls out some puny CARROTS and takes a bite out of one to test it. He pulls out brown, wilted lettuce, but decides to throw it away. He cracks 6 eggs into a plastic bowl and begins whipping them. He hums and moves in rhythm to the radio as he prepares the eggs. George looks at Shigeru to join him humming and dancing.

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SHIGERU: (copying George) Duh, duh, duh.

Slowly at first, Shigeru begins copying George's dancing too. George pours the eggs into the frying pan.

GEORGE: Yeah, that's it! Gonna be a good day!

George opens the cabinet above the stove and takes out a bottle of vitamins. He sprinkles vitamins over the eggs and flexes.

GEORGE: (CONT'D) Good! Make you strong!

SHIGERU: Good! Osu!

GEORGE: Osu, everything with you is "Osu". I like that! Yes-osu, no-osu, goodosu, bad-osu. I like it! Osu!

SHIGERU: Osu!

The eggs are cooked. There are no clean plates in the cabinet, so George takes 2 DIRTY PLATES from the sink and wipes them off with a paper towel and puts the eggs on.

GEORGE: Let's eat!

AT THE TABLE

They are eating. Shigeru finds a large vitamin in the eggs. He picks it up with his fork.

SHIGERU: Power?

GEORGE: That's right! Power!

SHIGERU: OK

Shigeru crunches on the vitamin and smiles.

EXT. DOJO - DAY

GEORGE and SHIGERU get out of the car. Shigeru stops under the "Judo, Self-Defense, Karate" sign. His face scrunches. George catches his eye.

GEORGE: What? Something wrong?

SHIGERU: (Pointing at sign, trying to think of how to say in English) Look like... Like Chinese restaurant.

GEORGE: What? No, no, no. This is the dojo. Karate and Judo.

SHIGERU: No-style. Design...

GEORGE: Oh, OK. The STYLE looks like a Chinese restaurant. Huh, I guess it does kind of. Funny. C'mon.

They go inside.

INT. DOJO RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

GEORGE and SHIGERU enter. George greets DORIS at her desk.

GEORGE: Hey sexy girl! Richard here?

DORIS: Yeah, he's in there.

GEORGE: (introducing Shigeru) This is Oyama-sensei. He's the new Karate teacher from Japan.

Doris stands and speaks slowly and loudly.

DORIS: Oh! Welcome to America! Nice to meet you! How are you?

Shigeru is obviously not used to the forwardness of American women.

SHIGERU: Osu.

DORIS: Oh, good... osu...

GEORGE: Yep, everything "osu"

INT. RICHARD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

RICHARD is behind his desk drinking coffee. He has Shigeru's contract in front of him.

AT DOORWAY

GEORGE: Knock, knock.

GEORGE and SHIGERU enter.

RICHARD: (to Shigeru) How are you?

SHIGERU: Osu.

RICHARD: Of course. Osu. Sit down.

Shigeru sits in the chair across from Richard. George sits in a chair at the edge of the room.

RICHARD: (CONT'D) (handing Shigeru a paper) This is your schedule for the mornings and evenings.

Shigeru looks it over, not able to understand it completely.

RICHARD: (CONT'D) You understand all the conditions in the contract, right?

Richard shows Shigeru a copy of the contract, Shigeru sees his signature.

SHIGERU: Kancho said everything OK. So, everything OK.

George smiles.

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RICHARD: This contract is for one year. One. Year.

SHIGERU: (nods) Hm.

RICHARD: But... if you want to... maybe you stay just 2 or 3 months and then you can go back home. If you want to.

George recognizes Richard is trying to take advantage of Shigeru.

SHIGERU: I'm here one year.

RICHARD: Right, I know. I'm just saying, if you change your mind and want to leave sooner, that's fine. Anyway, welcome to America. You'll start teaching tonight.

SHIGERU: OK. I need to see dojo and my locker room.

RICHARD: Of course. George can show you.

George and Shigeru leave.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

GEORGE: (pointing at doors) This is the Judo locker room, and the Karate locker room. We share. You and me roommates here too.

They turn behind them and see the main training mat. It's a white mat. Shigeru takes his shoes off and begins moving around on the mat, testing it out.

GEORGE: (CONT'D) OK?

SHIGERU: OK.

GEORGE: Good.

SHIGERU: Good.

INT. DOJO - LATER

A clock on the wall passes time. It's now evening.

INT. DOJO MAT - NIGHT

SHIGERU is in his dogi, preparing for class, stretching, warming up, etc. A couple students in dogis come in.

SHIGERU: Osu!

STUDENTS: Osu.

Students continue to come in. Eventually there are 30, all low-ranking belts (beginners/intermediate).

On the benches at the edge of the mat, 10 BIG GUYS are watching Shigeru with curiosity. GEORGE is one of them. They wear regular clothes.

DORIS and RICHARD enter and sit on the bench. Richard chats with the big guys.



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A MIDDLE-AGED BROWN BELT WOMAN comes in. She looks at the big guys watching then at SHIGERU. She's curious.

Shigeru watches Richard chuckling with the big guys. Then Richard takes off his shoes, walks on the mat and addresses everyone.

RICHARD: Listen everyone, this is the new Karate instructor from Japan, Mr. Oyama. He's the chief instructor at the Kyokushin headquarters. Hopefully he'll be teaching you for the next year.

Everyone claps.

SHIGERU: (to the class) Osu.

RICHARD: (to Shigeru) OK, they're all yours.

Richard returns to his seat. He shrugs at HARRY and Harry shrugs back.

HARRY, a big guy, turns and whispers to BENCH GUY 1.

HARRY: Kind of small, isn't he?

BENCH GUY 1: Yeah, if you hit him hard, he'll go flying.

HARRY: (to other Bench guys) Well, don't kill him, OK? (To Richard) You think he can handle it?

RICHARD: I don't know. I guess we'll find out soon.

Shigeru gets the students to line up for the beginning of class. He notices the Bench Guys whispering and watching him.

GEORGE: Hey, quiet you guys.

SERIES OF SHOTS: Class starts, basic techniques, kicks, punches, blocks. Shigeru is obviously a sharp technician. MidAge Brown Belt Woman, Chris, and a couple other students are excited about the new teacher.

INT. "CRAZY HORSE" SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

HARRY, TONY, ED, GARY are sitting at a table drinking beer.

HARRY: What'd you think? He sure does shout a lot. But he just does basic techniques, no fighting.

TONY: Probably doesn't know how to.

GARY: Some of his techniques looked pretty good, though.

HARRY: You kidding? Looked like he was teaching a dance class! If anyone tried to hit him, he'd break in half.

Everyone laughs.

AT THE BAR

KENNY (French Canadian) is behind the bar cleaning glasses. CHUCK (large Black Guy), a bouncer at the bar is sitting on a stool. They're trying to listen in. Chuck approaches the table.

AT THE TABLE

CHUCK: What you guys talkin' 'bout?

HARRY: We got a new Karate master from Japan.

CHUCK: Oh yeah? He any good?

HARRY: He's so skinny, just like Kenny.

He points at Kenny. Everyone laughs.

CHUCK: Oh no, poor guy. He gonna get his ass whooped.

INT. DOJO MAT - NIGHT

SERIES OF SHOTS: SHIGERU teaching class same as before. BIG GUYS watch from the bench, unimpressed. Little by little, the Big Guys walk out until there's only a couple left.

INT. STUDENT LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

It's after class. STUDENTS changing clothes

STUDENT 1: These classes are kind of boring. Same punches, same kicks. Millions of times--I don't get it. So boring!

STUDENT 2: Maybe he doesn't know how to really fight. Maybe he's scared because we're so big and he's so skinny.

STUDENT 3: This is Karate, right? We need more action. We need to tell Mr. Bonner that this guy isn't working out.

STUDENT 1: Yeah, I think you're right. I'll tell him with you.

INT. SHIGERU'S LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SHIGERU changes clothes, aware of what the students are saying.

INT. RICHARD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

RICHARD and GEORGE are sitting.

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RICHARD: Not much action in his classes, is there?

GEORGE: Well, maybe that's how real Karate is.

2 STUDENTS stand at the door.

STUDENT 1: Mr. Bonner, you gotta do something about these classes.

STUDENT 2: Everyone's getting bored, some are talking about quitting.

RICHARD: I will, I will, don't worry, I'll take care of it.

Students leave.

RICHARD: (CONT'D) (to George) See? This guys is going to kill my business.

GEORGE: Maybe he just needs a little more time to adjust.

RICHARD: (calling out) Sensei Oyama, can you come in here? I need to talk to you a minute.

SHIGERU enters, smiling.

RICHARD: (CONT'D) Um, first of all, your techniques are very sharp. They look great. But I'm running a business. The students have been requesting that you put a little more action in the training, change it up a little. Repeating the same techniques over and over all the time makes everyone bored.

Shigeru keeps smiling.

RICHARD: (CONT'D) I understand that basics are important, but can't you make it a little more exciting? Maybe do a little more fighting?

SHIGERU: Basics... Very important. Practice not in head. Practice with body. Do again, do again, do again. That's Karate.

GEORGE: (giggling) Yep.

RICHARD: I understand that. But these students are businessmen, policemen, attorneys, housewives, secretaries... They don't need to do the same stuff over and over again. You understand?

SHIGERU: Kihon, basics... Very important. Not practice in head. Practice with body. Do again, do again. That's it.

RICHARD: (looks at ceiling in exasperation) But this is a business. If students get bored, they quit. I'm running a

business. That's how I pay you. You understand?

SHIGERU: Yes, you pay me.

Richard is at a loss. George laughs.

SHIGERU: (CONT'D) I teach Karate. Students not teach Karate. I teach Karate.

GEORGE: That's true.

RICHARD: (to George) Shut up.

GEORGE: Well, he's right.

RICHARD: (trying to keep his patience) You just gotta change it up a little bit. OK? Just a little change, OK?

SHIGERU: No, not OK. OK?

RICHARD: What? What do you mean, "OK, not OK"? I want you to listen good. The students want you to change your class, have more action. OK?

SHIGERU: Mr. Richard, do you know Karate?

RICHARD: No, I'm a businessman.

SHIGERU: You're a businessman. I'm Karate sensei. I teach students. Students not teach me. OK, thank you.

Shigeru leaves. George follows him out.

GEORGE: (to Richard) OK, OSU??

RICHARD: Shit...

EXT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS: SHIGERU running, jumping, hitting the bag, etc. Show him getting stronger and stronger.

INT. DOJO MAT - NIGHT

SHIGERU is warming up. HARRY and the advanced students, wearing dogis, stroll in with cocky attitudes.

HARRY: Osu!

SHIGERU: (coolly) Osu.

Harry and the advanced students practice some flashy combinations. Class starts.

Class starts the same way, Harry and other Black Belts face the class along with Shigeru for basic punches, kicks etc. Shigeru is very sharp and intense as before, but Harry and the others are not very enthusiastic and make side comments while smiling.

At one point Shigeru corrects Harry's technique. Harry

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keeps his cocky attitude. When Shigeru moves on to another student, Harry mocks him.

INT. DOJO MAT - LATER

It's after class. Harry and some advanced students are practicing fighting techniques with pads. Shigeru is leaving.

HARRY: Hey, Sensei watch this!

Harry does a flashy combination while another student holds pads for him. Surrounding students are impressed. Mid-age Brown Belt Woman, and White Belt man (CHRIS) look down, feeling bad for Shigeru.

HARRY: (CONT'D) (smiling) Whatcha think?

SHIGERU: (without expression) Hm. Good.

Shigeru leaves.

SHIGERU (V.O.) I knew they were baiting me with their flashy techniques. But I had to be patient and give my body time to adjust to America. I wondered if my techniques really would work against these big Americans. I could not afford to lose against them, though. I carried the reputation and honor of all of Kyokushin with me, so I had to be patient and make sure I didn't lose.

EXT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

SERIES of SHOTS: Shigeru training hard, getting stronger. **CALENDAR** shows the passing of 8 days.

INT. DOJO MAT - THE NEXT DAY

Its the end of class. SHIGERU is soaked in sweat. His eyes are very sharp.

SHIGERU: (to everyone) Tomorrow night, I'm going to fight all of you.

Students react. Mid-Age Woman and Chris are surprised and worried. Other students are excited.

HARRY: (whispering) Woo-hoo. He's gonna get his ass kicked.

STUDENT 1: Yeah. He'll run off back to Japan and you can take over teaching again.

HARRY: Mm-hm.

EXT. WHITE PLAINS STREETS - NIGHT

Quiet streets, a few cars out.

INT. GEORGE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

GEORGE and SHIGERU are quiet. Shigeru seems content, but George is thinking.

GEORGE: So, have you ever actually, you know, fought, for real?

Shigeru doesn't understand.

GEORGE: (CONT'D) (with gestures) You know, fight? Can you really fight?

SHIGERU: (smiling) Oh, fight. Yes, I love fight!

GEORGE: (taken aback) Really!?! OK...

Pause.

GEORGE: (CONT'D) Are Japanese guys big like Americans?

SHIGERU: Japanese a little big, but Americans more big. Americans taller, bigger, wider.

GEORGE: (laughing) Yeah, some are too wide!

AT A RED LIGHT

GEORGE: (CONT'D) So you've never fought big guys like Harry and Tony?

SHIGERU: Yes, I never fought like them.

GEORGE: (concerned) Hm... I see.

Both men are quiet. The light turns green. George drives.

FADE OUT.

INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

GEORGE is sitting on the sofa, SHIGERU on a kitchen chair. Both are drinking beer and watching TV. Shigeru is very interested in the TV.

George looks closely at Shigeru's LEGS and TORSO, then back at the TV. George looks a second time at Shigeru's HANDS and ARMS and face, sizing him up, then back at the TV.

The 3rd time George turns to look, Shigeru looks at him and smiles.

SHIGERU: Don't worry, George.

GEORGE: OK, but... it's just you never fought guys like this.

SHIGERU: Yes, I never done. But, I must go forward. I

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don't want show my back. (MORE)

SHIGERU: I carry on my shoulder Japanese Karate future. I don't want shut door. I must open it. I have to do it.

George nods, understandingly.

SHIGERU: (CONT'D) Tomorrow gonna be exciting, don't worry.

GEORGE: (trying to convince himself) Well, I believe you can do it. Yep, you'll be fine.

FADE OUT.

EXT. DOJO PARKING LOT - EARLY EVENING

The parking lot is full. Various STUDENTS are hurrying in. Some wear dogis, others carry duffle bags and wear street clothes.

INT. DOJO MAT - CONTINUOUS

The place is packed. There are 88 students total-black, brown, green belts as well as the usual intermediate/beginners. Men mostly, but some women and a few upper-rank teenage students.

HARRY and some high-ranking belts seem giddy, excited to finally teach Shigeru "a lesson". Some other students, including MID-AGE WOMAN and CHRIS seem nervous, afraid for Shigeru.

The seating areas are packed. Among those watching are RICHARD, SAM, DORIS and GEORGE.

HARRY: (to Richard) Gonna be some excitement tonight!

Richard is 100% sure that Shigeru has made a huge mistake.

RICHARD: I know, I know. Just, try not to hurt him too bad. It's gonna be bad for business if we have to get an ambulance and a bunch of paramedics up here.

GEORGE: (to Richard) What're you talking about?

RICHARD: You know, I just want everything to go as smoothly as possible and get back to normal.

GEORGE: Normal?

INT. SHIGERU'S LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SHIGERU finishes tying his belt and looks at himself in the mirror. He smiles knowingly.

SHIGERU: Oisha...

*** "Oisha" means that his chi (energy) is ready to explode.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

SHIGERU stops and looks at all the SPECTATORS and STUDENTS. He takes it all in for a minute, then enters.

INT. DOJO MAT - CONTINUOUS

Once SHIGERU enters, everyone quiets down. The students line up and bow in for class the same as always.

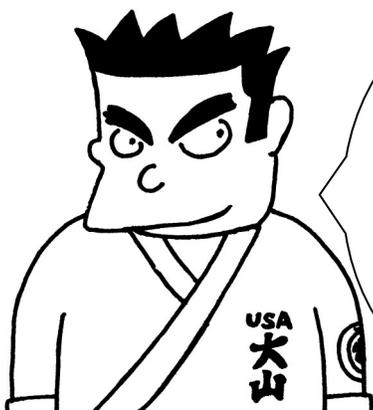
The class is warms up/stretches. Warm up finishes.

SHIGERU: (to all students) OK! Everyone move back and sit down! (pointing his finger all around the mat) Tonight I will fight all of you.

Students sit and react.

SHIGERU: (CONT'D) (to Harry) OK, c'mon.

(To Be Continue....)



Have you sweat enough in 2016!? Get ready for 2017.

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