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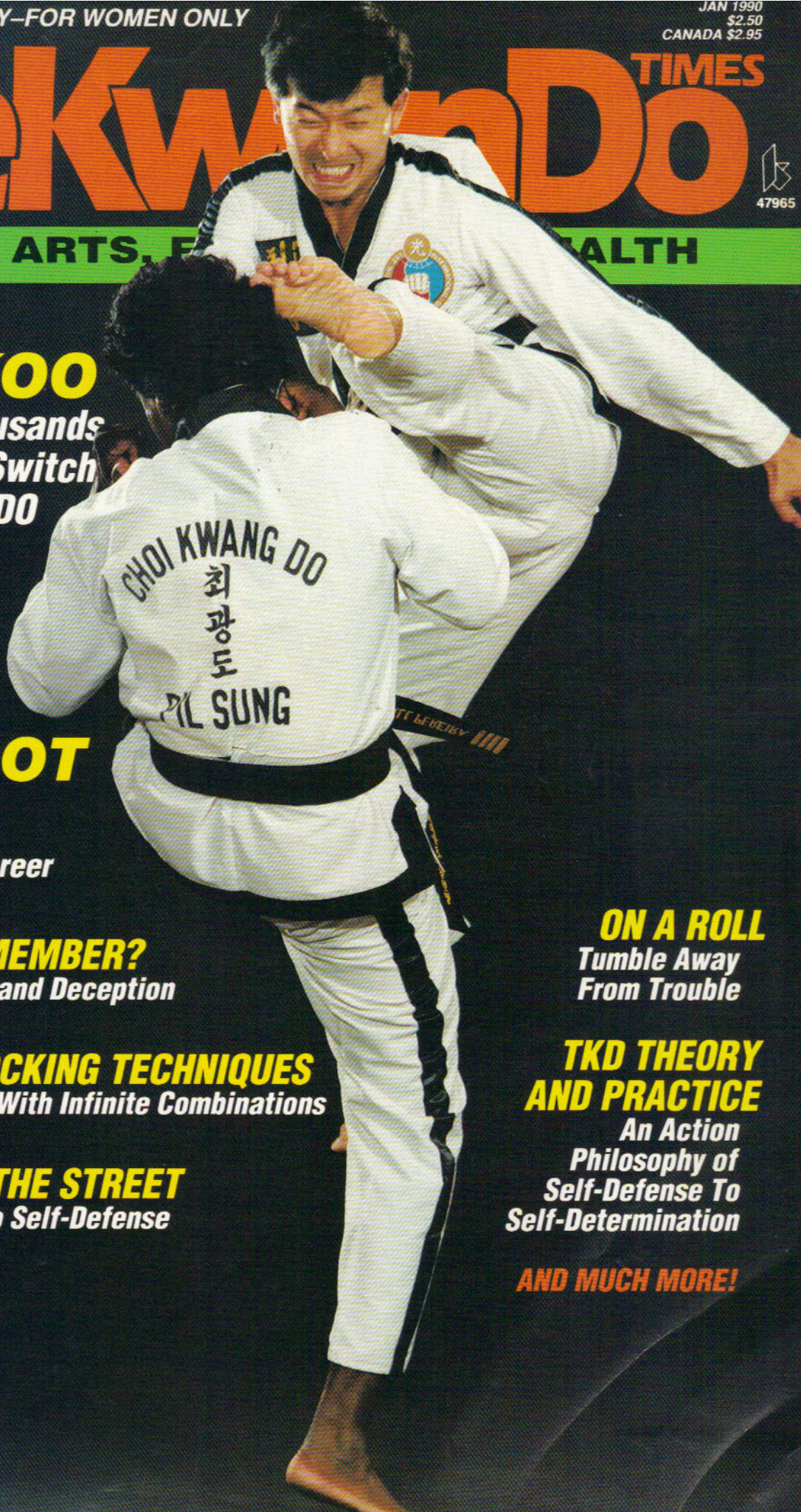
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# WHO WILL CARRY ON?

**Who will carry the traditions of the martial arts into the twenty-first century?**

There are a few kids in martial arts today who will become martial art teachers, historians and philosophers. Every martial art instructor hopes to have one of those select few in his or her school.

Bill Grossman of San Bruno, California, is one of those lucky teachers. He has a 13 year old student who not only wants to grow up to be a martial art teacher, but has all of the mental and physical attributes of a future martial arts leader. His name is Dominic Antonelli. He's a second degree brown belt, soon to be black belt, at Grossman's well known kenpo school.

"Dominic is one of those rare individuals who knows exactly what he wants out of life and then goes after it. If he says he wants to open a martial art school, I have no doubt that he will," says Grossman.

With only three years of training behind him, Dominic has already accomplished more than most adults in martial arts. He has near perfect form, specializing in high powerful kicks and all kinds of weapons kata. He competes successfully in state wide tournaments, winning championships in both forms and fighting. One of his specialties is an open musical kata done to the theme from "E.T." Among his weapons forms are the staff, kama and broadsword.

"It's hard to find a child who can compete equally as well in both forms and fighting. He does kenpo and Chinese

forms, traditional and open. He has brought home as many as 13 trophies from one tournament. Dominic hasn't competed yet on the national circuit, but he's already defeated some of the top national competitors in forms and fighting." Says Grossman.

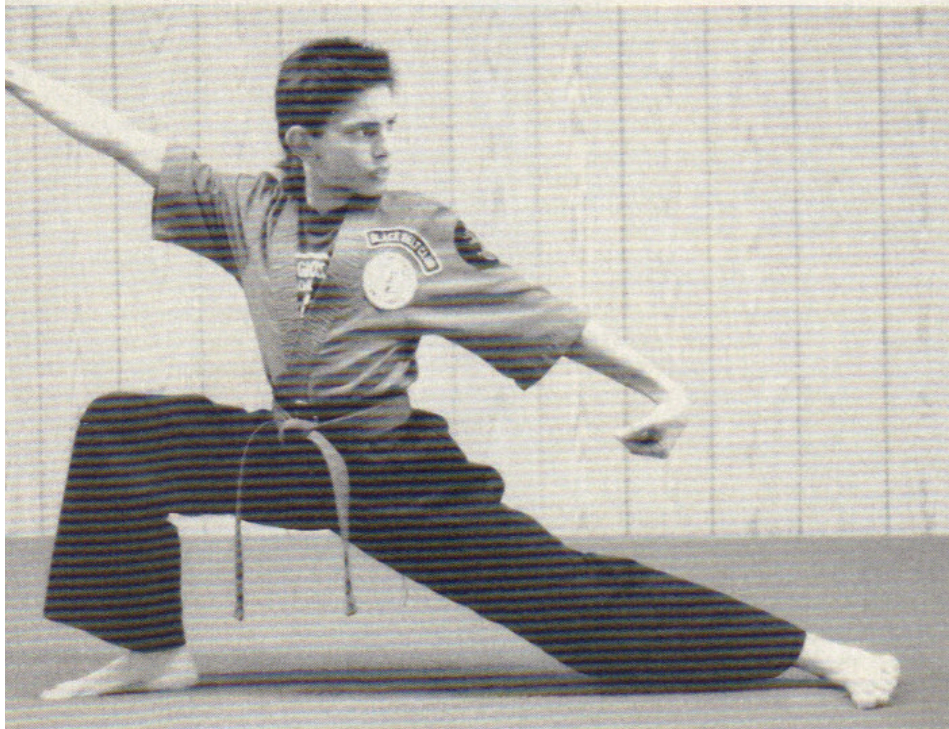
Dominic's instructor and his family are waiting until next year, when he has his black belt, before they start on the national competition circuit. Dominic, of course, is ready anytime. He's already won championships as far away as Reno, Nevada, and as large as Ed Parker's huge International.

However, leadership goes far beyond tournament competition. Dominic has a long list of reasons why it's worthwhile to make martial arts his future career.

"I like the discipline it gives me. I've learned to set and meet goals. It's given me more self-confidence and respect, both for myself and for others. Someday I'd like to be able to pass these qualities on to others, like my own teacher has passed them on to me.

"If I didn't study martial arts, I might spend my time doing nothing but video games and watching television. Martial arts also keep kids away from drugs. Drugs fry your brain. You can't perform well and it holds back all real accomplishments," he emphasizes.

Dominic says that if he had friends who took drugs, he'd tell them to say no to drugs and yes to martial arts. He'd tell them that martial arts teaches self-control, while providing a good group of friends to be around.



**Above: Dominic practices a very difficult movement from a staff form; Left: Demonstrating a hand form. Dominic has captured titles in both forms and fighting divisions, and will begin competing on a national level in the near future.**

Dominic feels that tournament competition has also made him a better person. He's learned to practice hard and not be bitter if he doesn't win. He knows that when he wins, it isn't because he or his martial art is better, but because he had practiced and worked harder than those who had fallen to his skill.

"I respect other people's martial arts and the effort they put into it. I hope they respect me and my martial art for the same reason." Says Dominic, "We're all incentives to each other."

He's working on his black belt requirements now. It's not that easy at Grossman's school to earn a black belt. Besides the physical requirements, Dominic must help teach group and private lessons; have at least a B average

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Continued from page 15



*Practicing board breaking with his instructor, Bill Grossman, who believes that Dominic is a terrific role model for young martial art students.*

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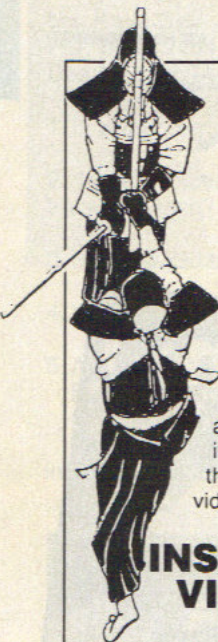
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in school; and pass a written test on ten martial art essay questions.

Dominic knows he must set an example for the many students with lower ranking than his. That sense of responsibility is one of the reasons Bill Grossman looks toward Dominic as a future martial art leader.

"He always tries to do his best in front of other students. He's always respectful, carefully following rules, so others will follow them," concludes Grossman.

Dominic trains seven days a week. He spends two hours a day, five days a week at Grossman's school, practicing and helping teach pee wee classes. Saturdays are usually tournament days. At home on Sundays, Dominic works out in the family garage for several hours. On weekday evenings, Dominic helps his six year old brother, Anthony, practice martial arts.

"I'm really proud of Anthony when he wins at a tournament. When he loses, I feel that I haven't helped him enough, and we practice harder for the next one," explains Dominic.

His family is a true martial art clan. They all admit it has brought them even closer together. They all participate in school functions, help out at tournaments, and make martial arts a way of life. When Dominic tells his parents that he wants to be a professional martial artist someday, they encourage him. You see, they know he means it. ■

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