



MASTERS OF THE MARTIAL ARTS



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A Courier-Life Publication

Vol. XLIII No. 37

Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, N.Y.
Published Weekly • Subscription \$20.00 per year
POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes To:

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Week of September 11, 2000 50¢



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Bay Ridge Courier

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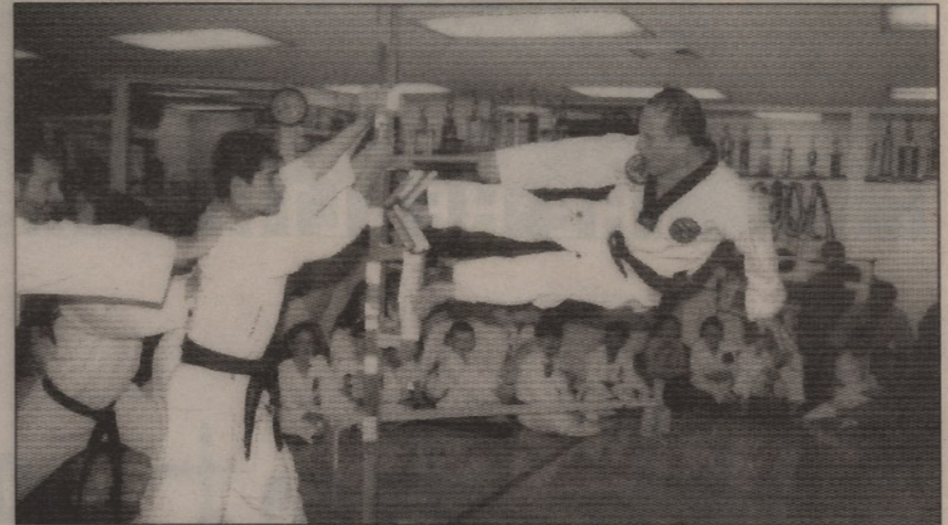
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American Standard

World of Martial Arts



Elmalem, midair, displays his skills.

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Besides the ring battles, spectators will also witness how the discipline of martial arts can be channeled into shattering seemingly unbreakable objects, like thick slabs of glass, wood or concrete.

The event will feature World Champion Martial Arts Daredevil Maurice Elmalem, whose powerful hands and elbows have landed him into the *Guinness Book of World Records*, as well as worldwide acclaim.

Elmalem has participated in over 500 championships throughout the world, accumulating 47 gold medals and 450 trophies.

In 1990 Elmalem, a fourth-degree master instructor established a new world record when he smashed four wooden boards with a speed head break. Aside from a head like steel, Elmalem's elbows are pretty tough too. He broke his own record in 1999, when he broke 90 sheets of glass with one downward elbow strike.

Also featured in the event will be Brooklyn's own bare-knuckle champion Carl Albright. Now a Park Slope resident, Albright first began learning kung fu from his father, who learned the art while serving in the army. He was four years old at the time, and growing up in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Albright, 48, said there was no use to comparing Norris, whose bouts were based on a point system, and his own brawling. "I fought full-contact, bare knuckle fights. The guy lying on the ground lost. That's the way I like it."

And Albright rarely lost. He was undefeated from 1975 through 1985.

Albright's brand of fighting is today called "Ultimate Fighting."

"When I was fighting there were absolutely no rules. You just did anything you can do to win—biting, eye-gouging."

When asked if he has gouged eyes, Albright replied, "I've gouged a few in my life."

Now a motorman with the Transit Authority, Albright also teaches his craft at Kido Martial Arts Center, 190 4th Avenue between Sackett and Degraw streets.

Other notables will be world champion breaker Master John Drames, Grand Master Rick Lenchus, and Grand Master Bill Louie, who will perform a one-act tribute to martial arts legend Bruce Lee. Regarding Louie/Lee, Banks promises, "you won't know the difference."

The Oriental World of Self Defense will be held Wednesday, September 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Madison Square Garden. Tickets are \$15, \$20, \$25 or \$50. For more information, call Aaron Banks or John Scalese at (718) 896-0456.