

INSIDE KUNG-FU®

75 CENTS

THE ULTIMATE IN MARTIAL ARTS COVERAGE!

VOL. 1, NO. 10 • SEPTEMBER 1974

JKD's No.1 Instructor:
Danny Inosanto

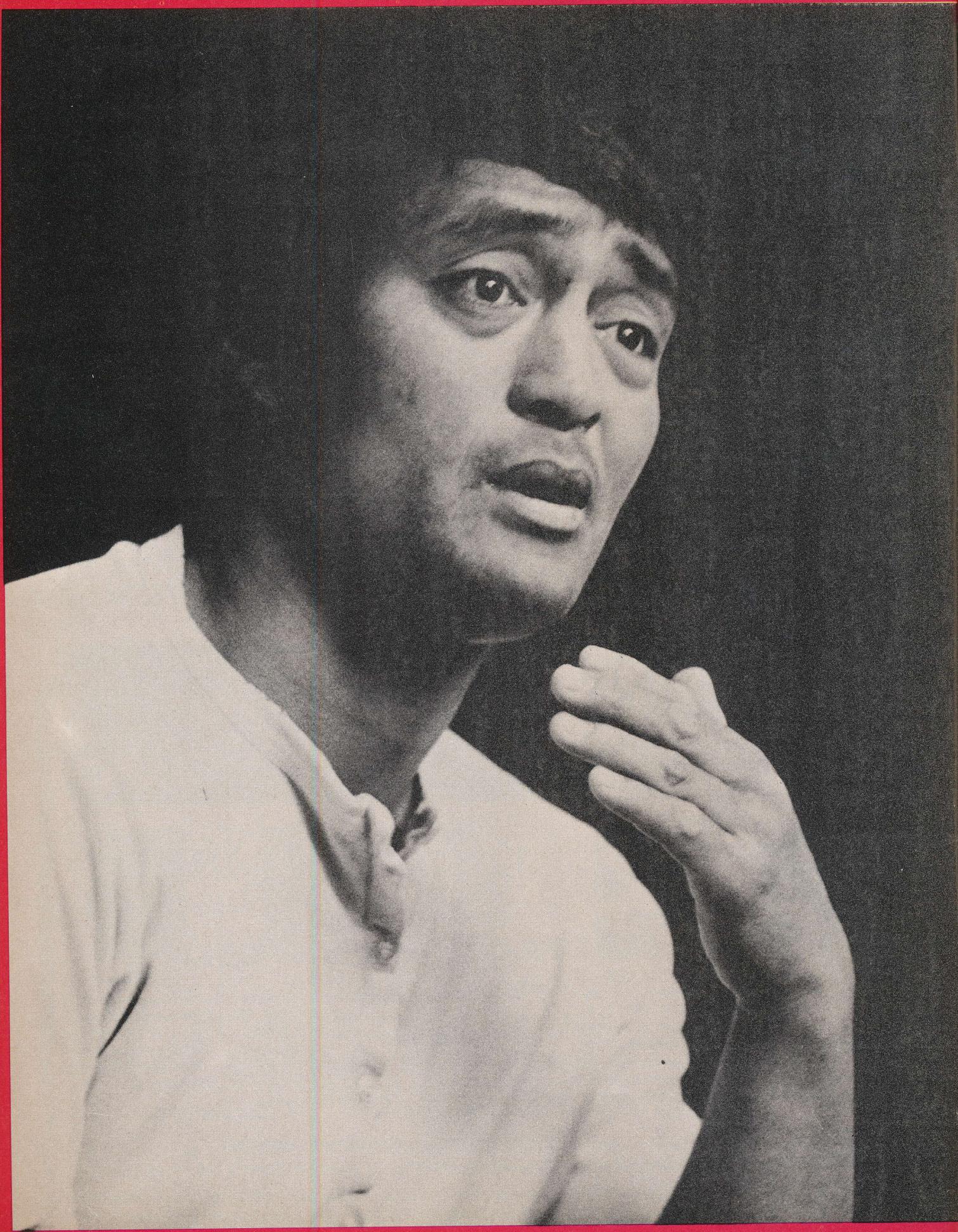
WUSHU: The Martial Arts
of Red China

Jay T. Will: The Man
who took Karate
to the Midwest

Hop Gar-Gung Fu's
fighting style



OUTSIDE U.S.A.: \$1.00



Dan Inosanto: The History of Jeet Kune Do

by alan sutton

(Ed's. note: The following marks the first installment in a four part series on Bruce Lee's head instructor, Dan Inosanto, and the method he is destined to preserve.)

Bruce Lee showed me life and truth," states Dan Inosanto, the genius' premier disciple and the man he personally groomed to help point the way for those seriously interested in pursuing his recently conceived method of self-discovery, Jeet Kune Do.

Unlike many who came into contact with the person, who, more than any single individual, is responsible for the current world wide martial arts renaissance, Inosanto was not afraid to subjugate his ego to that of his mentor, thus avoiding their mistake, which frequently led to enmity and misunderstanding, instead of enlightenment. In his own words, "When most people met Bruce they either liked him or disliked him. Bruce was so honest that sometimes he affected your ego. And if you can't take the truth, if you can't swallow your pride and if you have an ego problem, then you can't learn. Now I hit it off good with Bruce because I wanted to learn what he had to teach and I was willing to sacrifice at any length to study under him."

Born 38 years ago in Stockton, California, Inosanto opened his own dojo,



the Philippino Kali Academy, in Torrance (Cal.) just this past May. His primary concern is to promote his cultural arts — Escrima, Arnis, Sikaran and Kali — while allowing the facility to be the center of the area's JKD flowerization. In addition to his mundane vocation as a physical education instructor at nearby Malaga Cove School in Palos Verdes, he teaches his first love, martial arts, three days a week, aided by former Bruce Lee pupils Jerry Poteet, Richard Bustillo and Dan Lee.

Outside the Academy, Inosanto informs us, only two other individuals are duly authorized to teach the formula, not art, of Bruce Lee. The first is Bruce's long time friend and associate Taky Kimura of Seattle, Washington. "He (Kimura) teaches at Bruce's old Jun Fan In-

stitute. . . and we still consider him, here in Los Angeles, as our senior or head instructor," says Inosanto. Headquartered at a friend's Kung-Fu school in Charlotte, North Carolina, Larry Hartsell is recognized as a legitimate instructor of what Inosanto refers to as the "kickboxing phase" of Jeet Kune Do. "He (Hartsell) is authorized to teach that stage," Inosanto confides, "and I gave him the authorization." He adds, "As far as I know, these are the only (other) two schools in Jeet Kune Do."

Aside from his immediate family, Dan Inosanto was as close to Bruce Lee as anyone. They experienced an immediate rapport based on mutual respect for each other's extraordinary martial capabilities, soon becoming fast friends. So much so, that in 1967, Dan named his first child, a girl, Diana Lee, after his now famous companion. The pair traveled together, trained together, gave demonstrations together, taught together, experimented together, socialized together, and yes, even made movies together — at the same time cultivating one of the most heartwarming relationships in the torrid annals of martial arts. Unable to suppress his emotions any longer, Inosanto wept intermittently throughout the agonizing drive home from Seattle following Bruce Lee's funeral at which he paid his final respects as pallbearer.

Inosanto



To paraphrase songwriter Paul Simon (of Simon & Garfunkle fame): "One man's Truth is another man's Falsehood." Bruce Lee said pretty much the same thing, recalls Dan Inosanto, " 'Dan,' he used to say, 'my truth will not be your truth.' "

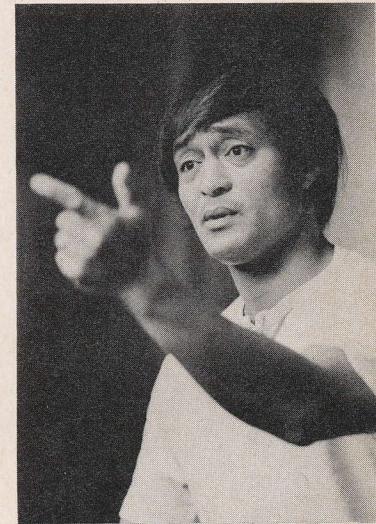
What does all this have to do with martial arts? A decade ago, almost to the very day, Inosanto posed a similar query to himself after an initial face-to-face encounter with the enigmatic Mr. Lee. "For the first six months I was with Bruce Lee I felt that he was too philosophical. When I first met him, I wondered, 'Has this guy gone off the deep end?'" It's easy to see why Inosanto suddenly found himself in such a quandary, to wit: "Let me read you something from *The Prophet* by Gibran — it's on teaching," he said recently to an interviewer, adding, "Bruce gave me this book and he underlined it." Inosanto then launched into a recital of Lee's favorite passage. "*No man can reveal aught but that which already lies half asleep in the dawning of your knowledge. The teacher who walks in the shadow of the temple, among his followers, gives not of his wisdom but of his faith and his lovingness. If he is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind.*" Skipping several lines from the original text, according to Lee's markings, Inosanto concluded his point, elegantly. "*For the vision of one man lends not its wings to another man.*" Indeed, not the sort of thing one would anticipate coming from the everyday martial artist. But

then, Bruce Lee was not your average run-of-the-mill enthusiast — nor, for that matter, is Dan Inosanto.

Before he ever heard of Bruce Lee, Dan Inosanto was already an accomplished martial artist in his own right, having sampled numerous arts, among them: Judo, Jiu-jitsu, Japanese-, Okinawan-, Korean Karate, Escrima, Arnis, Kali and, of course, Kung-Fu. His exposure commenced at the age of ten, when a nominal Uncle Evangelista attempted to whet his appetite by introducing him to Okinawan Te and Jiu-jitsu during a memorable, but brief summer vacation. Uncle Evangelista had been a Commando in WWII, and, Inosanto appends, "Although I didn't know it at the time, he was also an Escrimador. He taught me informally at my house." Despite a gallant effort, Uncle was unable to sway Dan from such typical boyhood pursuits as football and track.

Looking back on his childhood, Inosanto reveals, "I was a loner. The average kid in Stockton is going to get into a little hassle now and then, but I kept my nose clean more than the average kid." This was in vivid contrast to his amigo-to-be, Bruce Lee, who once characterized his own youth in Hong Kong as that of a *punk* who went *looking* for trouble. Essentially opposites, if Bruce Lee was *yang*, then Dan Inosanto must be *yin*.

Football was Dan's sport in High School. He excelled tremendously and was the leading ground gainer in his junior and senior years. Later, at Whitworth College located in Spokane, Washington,



he was a standout in track, winning his conference with a very respectful 9.5 sec. clocking in the 100 yard dash. . . . Not too shabby for a five-foot-five Philippino.

Nearly ten years after his maiden cruise in the infinite sea of martial artistry, 1957 to be precise, Inosanto embarked on a voyage that would last a lifetime ("I tried to quit for one month and it really drove me batty"). Judo, the most Circean art of all — in America, that is — finally caught his attention, this time for good. A life long sojourn in the martial arts began with judo lessons for two years.

"In the service I was really looking for Judo. I wanted a physical activity because I wasn't playing football and I wasn't running track anymore. I really liked Judo; I thought it was a good conditioner." However, "They didn't have Judo: they had Karate."

The time was 1959, the place: Fort Campbell, Kentucky, home of the 101st Airborne Division. Harkening back to those beginning Karate classes under the direction of Henry Slomansky, Inosanto confesses, "I honestly didn't know what it was at first." But almost immediately, distant memories surfaced to the forefront of his mind's eye. "When I saw some of the kicking, I said, 'Well I've seen that before from Uncle Vincent (Evangelista).'"

Although Slomansky was primarily an exponent of Shito-ryu, Dan was bombarded by a potpourri of styles during his tour of duty since Fort Campbell was a stopping-off place for Navy and Air



Force personnel as well. "It was kind of confusing, but I was exposed to Japanese and Korean and Okinawan influences." As far as Dan was concerned, this was a definite plus, establishing a pattern of 'cross-training' that has become his personal trademark.

While still in the paratroopers, Inosanto witnessed one style that he found particularly appealing. "At that time there was a guy from Hawaii, I can't remember his name. He was only a Brown Belt and he was knocking the hell out of second and third degree Black Belts. While he was sparring with all the different Black Belts, somebody said that he was from Hawaii and that it was Kenpo. I liked the way he moved around and I said, 'Gee, that's something I like because I'm small; that's the thing for me.'"

His hitch completed, Inosanto relocated in Southern California with the superb skills of the Kenpo stylist from Hawaii oven-fresh in his memory. "When I came to Los Angeles I was looking all over and ended up at Ed Parker's because of the word Kenpo," he admits. As he casually strolled through Parker's doors back in 1961, martial arts still represented nothing more than an enjoyable pastime — offering body conditioning and self-protection — not yet elevated to the realm of 'truth'.

In the past twenty years Ed Parker has seen the best, trained with many of them, known of them all. . . Chow, Matsuoka, Ohshima, Uyeshiba, Tohei, Choy, Oyama, Yamaguchi, Wong, Lee — the list could go on and on. The man universally acknowledged with having brought Karate out of the backrooms and cellars and into the public's eye, Ed Parker certainly knows a good martial artist when he sees one. Furthermore, Parker is not one who is prone to hyperbole. He had this to say regarding his former student and employee, Dan Inosanto: "Danny was very athletically inclined and a very good student. He was also very observant and absorbed as much as he could from anyone he came into contact with. I gave him little bits and pieces, then let him figure out the rest for himself. Being an educated kid, everything soaked in. He was always seeking out other arts."

Parker himself, more often than not, has been maligned for his adept business practices. 'Too commercial' is the complaint most often voiced. Having studied



or worked with Parker for a period exceeding seven years, Inosanto feels that such criticism is unjustified. "A lot of people may not like him because they say he's a businessman; but pound for pound, knowledge wise, I say he's one of the top, regardless of what people think of him. In fact, Ed is responsible for the movement in the United States more than any other man, next to Bruce Lee. And really, he was responsible for exposing Bruce Lee." Even more significant, Inosanto credits Parker with having pointed him in the direction of Truth, as we shall see shortly.

The moment Inosanto realized that his cultural and martial identities were starting to merge, he was well on his way down the long and winding road of truth. Discovering that his ancestors — as well as the Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Okinawans, etc. — possessed a rich and colorful heritage all their own, removed the wool from over his 'third eye', thus providing the foundation that Bruce Lee would later expand upon. "I was beginning to see it (truth) with Ed," he explains, going on to say, "He asked me one day, 'Have you ever seen the art of

Escríma?' And I said, 'stick fighting.' He said, 'No. There's more.' That's what kindled it."

Without further delay, the young twentieth century warrior sought vehemently for persons versed in the indigenous arts of the Philippines — Escríma, Arnis and Kali, simultaneously maintaining his studies with Parker.

In his hometown of Stockton, Inosanto uncovered three Escrimamen: Max Sarmiento, Angel Cabales and Jon LaCoste. Through unremitting patience and diligent searching, he was able to train with a number of other experts who were little known outside the Philippino community, including Pasqual Ovalles, Pedro Apilado, Leo Giron, Braulio Pedroy and a gentleman by the name of Subingsubing.

"Kali," emphasizes Inosanto with a hint of pride in his voice, "is an ancient art of the Philippines. In my opinion, the leading exponent of Kali is in Hawaii. His name is Floro Villabrea. I studied under his foremost student, Ben LaGusta.

"Now by their definition, Kali is the highest art of the Philippines, although in Escríma and Arnis there are phases of Kali. Most people mistake it for a stick art and they don't care to correct the public. But it's an empty-handed art, and also, in many ways, it might surpass Jeet Kune Do in the 'trapping hands' stage.

"The authority to teach," Inosanto continues, "is given by handing down a favorite weapon or pet movement — there are no credentials. The 'empty hands' have to be some of the best I've ever seen."

"This art was in the Philippines before the coming of the Chinese during the T'ang Dynasty. Magellan was killed with it. He was killed with a rattan stick, not a sword like the history books say."

"Before I met Bruce, I was seeking everywhere, striving to get this and that. Then when I met Bruce, my seeking stopped," says Inosanto, setting the scene for the classic confrontation which took place at the inaugural episode of Ed Parker's *International Karate Championships* in 1964.

"I was competing that year and I also had something to do with running the tournament. I was the elimination chairman; I kept up the charts, which they don't use anymore. I was helping Ed out

Inosanto

and Bruce gave a demonstration (Parker had flown Lee down from Seattle where he was living at the time, expressly for the occasion), so I met him through that.

"He (Lee) gave a talk at the hotel room before all the Black Belts, and that night he had no place to go; so Taky and I tagged along and pretty soon we started running around together. Then I began to understand a little bit about what his theory (of martial arts) was.

"When I first met Bruce Lee, I couldn't sleep that night," Inosanto halts his narrative to say. The two had exchanged techniques, briefly, following the conclusion of the tournament and Inosanto was chagrined at the results. "I was really bothered because it was something that I'd never seen. It was like having learned an occupation for five years, and then having someone say, 'We no longer have any use for your occupation.' But in this case, I'd studied all these different arts — I won't say that it was worthless — but what he did was counter everything without really trying. At that time I didn't understand about close range fighting. It was very frustrating.

"Then Bruce explained it by saying, 'You only fight at a long distance and



never get in close.' After that, he told me that tournament fighting was mainly outside, not inside. When you get inside, he said, it's usually when the referee breaks it up.

"He was the big factor in me getting out of tournaments. At the time, I thought that the more tournaments I entered, the better I was going to get. Then Bruce said that tournaments were not the thing. Up until then I was going

One of the principle aims of Philippino Kali Academy is to preserve ancient arts of the Philippines. At right is a sample of Inosanto's outstanding collection of traditional Philippino weapons.

to enter every tournament in sight."

In addition to supreme technical mastery, Lee was also well-versed in the concepts behind the art. "The thing that impressed me most about Bruce was not his skill, but his knowledge," Inosanto declares. "Most people were impressed with his physical skill, but to me . . . it was his knowledge. The thing that was amazing about Bruce — and we discussed it many times — was that he could beat you with his brain.

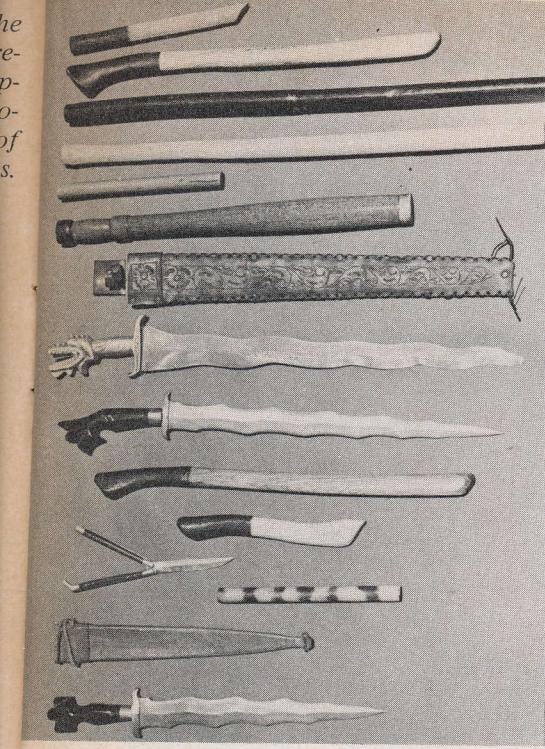
"I've always maintained that he was the Leonardo DeVinci of the martial arts — the Edison, the Einstein of the martial arts. I still feel that way, strongly, that he was ahead of his time. Someday, there might be a guy physically and speed-wise as good as Bruce Lee; but I don't feel that anyone will ever match the totality of the man, with his knowledge and his background."

The *Internationals* took place in July, and for the remainder of the summer, Inosanto and Lee were inseparable. "I toured with him after the first *Internationals* (in order to promote a school that Bruce had opened in Oakland, California, with his good friend and namesake,



Former Bruce Lee students Richard Bustillo, Inosanto and Jerry Poteet display various weapons used in escrima, kali and arnis training.





James Lee). We traveled around and I was sort of like his dummy because Taky was in Seattle. We swung up through San Francisco, and then gave an exhibition in Los Angeles, where I dummied for him for four days. In the process, he taught me what at that time was his system (a devastatingly modified form of Wing-chun. Jeet Kune Do had not yet been conceived).

"I didn't like the way he demonstrated," Inosanto admits. "Like when I trained with Ed Parker, we would do a little rehearsal so at least we would use techniques that we were familiar with. That gave you a sense of security because you knew what was going to happen. But when I gave a demonstration with Bruce, he said, 'Just do what I tell you, and we'll make up the demonstration from there.' He'd be talking, then all of a sudden he'd say, 'Move on me.' I'd say, 'With what?' And he'd say, 'Just a punch or a kick. I'll take care of it; just punch or kick.' At first I didn't like it, then I got used to the way he did demonstrated. But at first, I didn't like it at all.

"Then he went back to Seattle and said he was coming back here (LA). He lived in Oakland for a while... then he went back to the Orient. We were corresponding at the time, and I kept hounding him to teach me. He said, 'If I decide to stay in the States, I will teach you. If I don't, go to James Lee.'

This concludes the first in a series of articles on Dan Inosanto and his spiritual guide, Bruce Lee.



JAPAN AIR LINES

THE WORLD-WIDE AIRLINE OF JAPAN!

150 Powell Street at O'Farrell, San Francisco
California, PHONE: (415) 982-7343

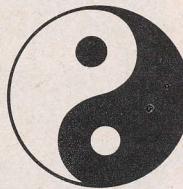
PRESENTING FIRST TIME IN PRINT

TAI CHI CHUAN COMBAT STYLE KUNG-FU BOOK

FULL ILLUSTRATIONS

WITH

APPLICATIONS



891 PICTURES

EXPLAINS FULL DEFENSE TECHNIQUE
AGAINST ONE OR TWO PERSONS

PRICE \$9.50
SIZE 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ X 10 $\frac{3}{4}$

By Andrew Lum

30 years of martial arts experience

Mail to:
Unicorn Sales
P.O. Box 7592
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

Enclosed is my money order or cashier's check for \$9.88 tax included.
(U.S.A. Add 50 cents for handling and \$1.00 for foreign).

Name _____
Address _____ Apt. _____
State _____ City _____ Zip _____

ALLOW ONE MONTH
DELIVERY

