



*The Newsletter of*  
**The International Association of  
Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists**

Fall/Winter 2001

## **NO MORE SWIMMERS. MARTIAL ARTISTS, DON'T BE LEFT OUT!**

**IAGLMA encourages all martial artists that are planning on attending Gay Games VI in Sydney to register, if they have not done so already. Space for martial artists is targeted at only 200 participants!**

Less than a month into open registration, all swimming events have been closed after reaching their allotted capacities. One of the larger sports, swimming closed with 1,200 participants registered.

Swimming is the second Sydney 2002 sport to close since registrations for Gay Games VI began on 1 March 2001. The Sydney 2002 sailing competition closed with a full contingent in August this year and already over 6,600 women and men from 41 countries are registered for the 12,400 available positions in the sports program for the Sydney 2002 Gay Games.

"We've been surprised by the overwhelming response to sports registrations so far. With 11 months to go to the Opening Ceremony, the fact our swimming competition is now full is a terrific result," said Sydney 2002 Sports Director Stuart Borrie. "The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender aquatics community is very strong and well organised internationally, and clearly Sydney and its magnificent sporting facilities are very attractive to these sporting men and women."

The closure of the Sydney 2002 swimming and sailing competitions follows strong registration trends for many sports - six sports have now reached more than 75% of their target numbers. While registrations for Sydney 2002 Gay Games VI are officially open until 31 July 2002, if sports reach their targets prior to this date, they will also have to close. Sydney 2002 has, however, reserved places in all sports for those people who have expressed interest in or applied for Sydney 2002 Scholarships.

"The message is clear: register early for these Gay Games," said Sydney 2002 CEO Geoffrey Williams. "It will be a case of 'first come, first served', and we strongly suggest that if people are thinking of participating at the Sydney 2002 Gay Games that they complete their registration soon - and not wait till next July for the close of registrations. That way athletes can avoid



the disappointment of not getting in to their chosen sport.

"We have had a very encouraging first nine months of registrations and, with a further nine months to go, we are well on track to achieving our registration targets. This is a real compliment to the many sports volunteer committees who have worked so hard for the last five years in planning for and promoting the Sydney 2002 Gay Games to the international sporting community."

To register:

**[www.sydney2002.org.au](http://www.sydney2002.org.au)**

**Tight on funds right now?  
Registration fees can be spilt into  
three monthly installments and  
scholarships are still available!**

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**Statement of Financial Activity**

For The  
**International Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists**  
 For The Ten Months Ending October 31, 2001

<b>Receipts:</b>			
	Membership Fees		760
	Contributions from Sponsors		3,700
	Donations from shirts & pins		0
	Corporate Sponsors		0
	Refunds		0
	<b>Total Receipts.....</b>		<b>4,460</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
	Start-up Costs & Admin		0
	Dues/Contributions		100
	News Letter		601
	Inter-net services		40
	Promotions		0
	Seminar Costs		872
	Insurance (D&O)		1,325
	Telephone		0
	Banking Fees		126
	<b>Total Expenditures.....</b>		<b>3,064</b>
<b>Net Change in Financial Position</b>			<b>1,396</b>
	12/31/00 Cash Balance		994
	2001 Activity (above)		1,396
	<b>10/31/01 Cash Balance</b>		<b>2,390</b>

become a friend since then and was magnificent. Janet Gee, though it was the end of the day and everyone was tired, did a splendid job as always. To see her move like the animal styles she teaches is fabulous. I am sorry that I don't remember all the instructors names, but the seminars were an A+.

The tournament had a Referee Seminar beforehand, which was opened up to the students to come and participate, which was good. This taught them what they could and could not do. The people that were running the Seminar were totally open and respectful to input and queries. There was not a negative note. I am sorry that it didn't go for longer though, being a Martial Artist for so many years I have a ton of questions, which lead to another ton of questions.

The tournament started in a timely manner and was run with a positive atmosphere. Everyone contributed. They sort of just saw a weakness and took the responsibility to fix it in whatever way they could. Be it refereeing or score keeping or time keeping. The competitors were friendly and more importantly friendly to each other. It was like a breath of fresh air.

**2. How did you find out about Triangle Tae Kwon Do?**

I found out about Triangle through my association with Ken Craig. I had met him through another club and heard that he had started a club in the Castro. At that time my life was a little crazy and we had just lost our place in the City. I approached Ken and asked him if he would mind taking on my students. He didn't hesitate a second. He made us all feel welcome until we could find another place to train.

**3. I know you enjoy attending Triangle Tae Kwon Do on occasion. What is it about the club you like?**

The people. This includes the Instructors and the Students. The environment is always a learning place. Everyone tries and everyone succeeds. It is one of the few clubs that I know of that meets on a Friday night and actually has a good attendance. I am impressed.

**4. Why should gays and lesbians consider practicing martial arts?**

Interesting question. I feel Martial Arts is for everyone. Everyone, no matter who they are, needs to be prepared for what is out there. Unfortunately, this time in our lives is full of violence and danger. Martial Arts is one way of being prepared.

**5. Have you ever heard or seen first hand prejudice of gays in the martial arts?**

Yes I have. I attended a seminar in Fresno or Bakersfield. Ken was one of the people that came down to attend. We spent the weekend down there being trained in Hapkido. I was being brown nosed because I was a very senior ranked person and they wanted me involved. About a week later I get a call from the person who sponsored the event and was told that one of the attendee's was gay and it might not sit well with the organization to have such a person involved with the organization. They did not mention any names, who it was and such, but I told them to take my name off of anything they did. I wasn't interested in being involved with a group that felt

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**Discussion with  
 Master Marty  
 Marcus**

In an interview with Andy Maguire, Master Marty Marcus of San Francisco offers his thoughts regarding some key issues we face and on his personal interaction with the GLBT Martial Arts community.



**1. What were your impressions of the IAGLMA seminar/tournament this past May?**

Let me break it down into the seminar and the tournament. First, the seminars were fabulous. The coming together of the different styles, the different arts and to be able to teach us in something that is totally foreign was fabulous. Ken and I were even able to incorporate some of the Aikido moves with the Jujitsu moves and make a two-man takedown/grappling form. Linda Cence, who taught the Chinese broad sword, has

(Continued from page 2) **Discussion With Master Marty Marcus** they were better than anyone else. Being Jewish, I have experienced a lot of prejudice and I remember a little story something to the effect of a group of people stand still and letting different people be taken away and killed and then when it was their time to be taken, there was no one left to stand up for them. Anyways, in something like this the buck stops with me. I won't tolerate this type of thinking.

**6. How did you end up training with some the lesbians you know at Hand to Hand in Oakland?**

It started out when I met Colleen Mahoney many years ago. At the time I didn't know that there was such a big group. It really wasn't till she decided to have me test her for her 4th Dan that I got involved with the people that train with the WBBC (Women's Black Belt Club). Since then I have met, become friends and even talked about being a donor with some of the women. I even got to be an honorary "Lesbian". Anyways, I met some really great people.

**7. Do you think your openness to diversity was something you learned through the martial arts or has it been an innate characteristic?**

This is also a two part question. The Martial Arts has helped me meet many people from all over the world. All religions, beliefs and ideas. But we all have one common thread. The arts. I love to talk about the arts. Again this goes back to Judaism. When ever I get in great discussion about the Arts, be it with the people that created some of the forms I practice or just friends arguing over the right way to throw a technique, I think about the Rabbi's getting together and arguing and discussing the meaning of the Torah. Mostly arguing.

As far as it being innate, yes to some degree. I was brought up by two interesting people that came from two very different back grounds but had Judaism in common. My mother came from a family that had some money and my father came from a family that were Michigan dirt farmers. Both of these individual would not stand up for any kind of prejudice. My mother was always helping families in the neighborhood that had trouble making ends meet and my father, well I am dating myself here but it was the time of the civil rights issues, my father would be at all the marches and protests. He would be the only white face in the crowd and we were all damn proud of him. I witnessed my father do one of the most memorable things in my life and will never forget.

Our family owned a lot of apartments in my home town. Everyone new my father. We came home one afternoon and there was a minister and a young couple waiting for him. They were Black and the husband had just gotten a job in the area but no one would rent him and his family a place to live. My father without batting an eye said no problem. We had a place available in a neighborhood that was predominantly white and my father said if people didn't like it they could move out but he wasn't going to let this family go without housing. Anyways..... I am proud to know my father. I hope someday to be able to do what he has done in his life.

**8. What is your advice to a gay person who is not out at**

**their school or club and hears slurs?**

The same I would do if someone said something about being Jewish. Confront them. Most people are ignorant to other people. I personally feel that through education, we could do away with a lot of these ideas and feelings.

**9. IAGLMA wrestles with the issue of which category transsexuals should compete in. Your thoughts?**

Hmm. Again two thoughts on the idea. One is let them compete in the division that they feel they should compete in. The second thought is to set up another division if there is such an issue over this. Personally, acceptance is important to me. Let them decide and accept that decision.

**10. How do you think IAGLMA can make a positive contribution to the martial arts in general?**

They already have. But...I would get it out there more. Advertise in the Martial Arts tabloids. All of the tabloids. Start clubs everywhere. Be inclusive (which I felt totally included, considering I am, what I think was called "a breeder") I think Triangle also has the right idea.



## Karate Workshop in Paris

Oliver Wehlmann

Hi folks, this is Oliver Wehlmann writing, from Rome, Italy. Nobody knows me, of course, so let me explain to you: I created the French gay and lesbian karate association KaraBoom, and I was its trainer for six years. Now I'm living in Italy again, so my eldest student, Alain Nottelet, took over from me, and he organized our little event I'm going to talk about.

Nearly forty people participated in the Eastern karate workshop at Paris, France. Alain had invited the members of other similar associations from Amsterdam (**Tijgertje**), Hamburg (**Gaysha**) and Munich (**Bushido**). All European gay and lesbian karate associations know each other from other meetings. In the past, a competition area was often included; this time, KaraBoom preferred to just share information and experience.

All our guests managed to arrive in time to participate even at

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*(Continued from page 3)* **Karate Workshop in Paris**

the normal Friday training of KaraBoom, which was a really good idea, because it gave me the opportunity to check up on some leg positions our karate style uses very often, and others don't. It's undeniable that there are quite a few differences between the main karate styles today. KaraBoom does Shito Ryu, the Tijgertje and Gaysha practise Wado Ryu, and Bushido is a Shotokan club. Every time we want to train together, we have to make sure everybody has a good idea what they are expected to do.

I found out that day that what I'm trying to teach continues to be considered quite exotic. The sensei ("master") who created Shito Ryu included a large amount of techniques from other martial arts he knew, so there're several combinations of movements not everybody was easy with. But people generally take those situations with humour, and those who indeed had some cross-style difficulty were likely amused by the unusual gestures, and that was it.

Anyway, Saturday morning KaraBoom started an examination session with me, so our guests joined us in the afternoon and we did some preparing moves for our highlight : Seipa. Seipa is a kata—and a very elegant one. It took us almost four hours to end up with a satisfactory level of this kata, but finally we succeeded somehow. That was a great moment! The most excited students were those of a lower karate level, of course, because Seipa is normally prepared to obtain the San Dan (the third degree of the black belt level)!

In the evening, we all had some fun in a very little, but charming restaurant. All kind of languages were spoken (what do you expect, it's Europe ...). And after a very short night, we continued Sunday morning at ten o'clock sharp with a fabulous Kumite training (that is "free" combat) our Amsterdamer guests threw. That was the moment KaraBoom had a little bit of problems, because we don't do Kumite very often. To finish in the afternoon, some sandwiches and chocolate Easter eggs later, Alain showed the crowd some elbow and kicking techniques and we trained pairing everybody with someone else. It's always easy to convince our karate kas to do something coupled together, because they can finally touch each other. :-)

And so we finished our international meeting. The atmosphere was great, friendships were reinforced, and we spent our time together and made some progress in an art that we all love. A nice result, I must say!

# MONTREAL IS SELECTED AS HOST CITY GAY GAMES VII

(Johannesburg, October 25, 2001)

## FIRST AT THE FINISH LINE !

On the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Federation of Gay Games (FGG), Montreal was voted as the host city for the seventh edition of the Gay Games to be held in 2006. Other bidding cities were Atlanta, Chicago and Los Angeles.

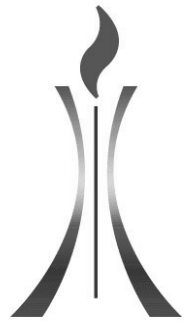
The Co-Presidents, Mrs. Louise Roy and Mr. Robert J. Vezina, accompanied by a Montreal delegation of 21 people, were very proud to announce this excellent news to the world's gay and lesbian community and to all Montrealers. It is estimated that Gay Games VII will have a minimum impact of more than US \$150,000,000 for the Montreal region.

Already, the Government of Canada and the Government of Québec have each confirmed major grants of CAN\$1 million to the organization of the Gay Games by Montreal 2006. The city of Montreal has signed a resolution confirming that all city sports and cultural venues will be made available free of charge to the organization, a value of CAN\$1 million, and Tourism Montreal in partnership with the Hotel Association of Montreal will provide CAN\$1.2 million.

Montreal 2006 won this heavily competitive race mostly thanks to the major support of both levels of Government (Federal and Provincial) and of the City of Montreal, and thanks as well to the support of the corporate partners and members of the gay and lesbian community—including 150 community organizations.

For more information:

<http://www.montreal2006.org/>



Montreal  
Rendez-Vous 2006

**Federation of Gay Games**



IAGLMA is a  
Director  
Organization of the  
Federation



IAGLMA is a Member  
Organization of the  
International Lesbian and  
Gay Association.

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