

Jerome Johnson Holds Second Degree Black Belt

By Susan Ellsworth
Post Staff Writer

Fearing for her frail and petite nine year old son, Mrs. Norma Westmoreland of Charlotte encouraged him to study karate.

That was ten years ago. Jerome Johnson, 19 presently holds a second degree black belt in both American karate and Taekwon-do, a Korean martial art.

Johnson said in 1978-79 he fought in 20 competitions on the east coast from New York to Florida and placed first or second in all but one.

His study of martial arts began after his mother observed a karate class taught by Ron Wilson and decided this was the kind of discipline the boy needed.

Beginning his training at the Charlotte School of Karate with Ron Wilson Johnson is now head instructor and tournament coordinator at Wilson's Korean Karate Academy on North Graham Street.

Karate practice and teaching is a part-time, 20 hour a week hobby for Johnson who is a production supervisor for American Colors, a chemical plant that produces liquid plastics.

Nicknamed "Mr. Magic," Johnson receives praise from his karate family: Ron



JEROME JOHNSON

...with his valued trophies

Wilson, his teacher and his sparring partners Freddie Williams, Gus Anderson, Don Roberts and Bob Johnson.

"His kicks are higher than his six foot frame," Wilson says. "There are no kicking combinations he is incapable of doing."

Anderson claims, "J.J. has

the ability to kick over a grown man's head without the man being aware of the movement of his leg."

The title "Mr. Magic" originated when Johnson defeated top opponents with swift hand and foot movements.

"It has to be magic" the spectators allegedly shouted

during the fights.

Despite a preoccupation with karate, Johnson has no plans to teach it full-time.

"It's more fun as a hobby. I take karate because it keeps me off the streets and out of trouble," Johnson explained.

Johnson aspires to be voted as the national champion by the National Karate Association of which he is a member.

Johnson says studying the martial arts has benefited his mind as well as his body.

"Karate coordinates the mind with the body. It makes you peaceful; you don't have to prove anything to anybody."

Mrs. Westmoreland admits she is proud of her son and credits his success to God, Wilson and he and his karate family.

Crash Course Set

A "Crash Course On Being An Effective Job-Seeker" will be held Tuesday, September 18, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Park Road S & W Cafeteria.

Sponsored by the Office for Continuing Education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the workshop is designed to help the job-seeker locate those positions which offer alternate career options and learn effective job search techniques.

The fee is \$10 which includes dinner.

Black Groups Support Andrew Young

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tempered dialogue. We believe that all thoughtful Americans of all faiths and persuasions concur in these views."

Mr. Hooks demanded that the American government provide its citizens "with the truth" about the circumstances surrounding Mr. Young's resignation "while taking every precaution against besmirching or destroying the credibility of so worthy a diplomat and statesman." Mr. Hooks has repeatedly complained about the double standard with which Mr. Young was judged.

In considering Black-Jewish relations, the leadership statement said the immediate problem before the group was "the extent to which the successful demand for the resignation of Ambassador Andrew Young has in fact further damaged an already unhappy relationship between the American Jewish organizational spokesmen and the rank and file and the leadership of American Blacks." It was clear, the statement said, that Ambassador Young's resignation "has seriously intensified tensions in Black-Jewish relations."

It noted that blacks and Jews traditionally have worked in a liberal coalition with organized labor in quest of social and economic reform.

Jewish organizations and leadership "have done so when it is in their perceived interest to do so as we do."

The statement particularly noted that "powerful organizations within the Jewish community opposed the interest of the black community in the DEFUNIS, BAKKE and WEBER affirmative action cases.

"Beyond that, some Jewish intellectuals gave credence and policy substance to such concepts as 'reverse discrimination' and 'quotas' as reasons for restricting further attempts to continue to seek remedies for present discrimination against blacks. The term 'quota' which traditionally meant the exclusion of Jews was now being used by many Jews to warn against attempts to include blacks in aspects of our society and economy from which we were previously excluded. To many blacks this seems to be a most perplexing Orwellian perversion of language.

"Black America is also deeply concerned with the trade and military alliance that exists between Israel and the illegitimate and oppressive racist regimes in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. That relationship, in our view, imposes upon Jewish organizations in this country an obligation to insist that the State of Israel discontinue its support of those repressive and racist regimes."

The leadership meeting was equally forceful in upholding the right of black Americans to be actively involved in developing and implementing U.S. foreign policy. They not-

ed the historical attitude among whites of regarding foreign policy as their domain. But, Ambassador Young, in the conduct of his office, never acted as a black man but as an American, the statement said.

"Black American citizens deplore the arrogance that is implicit" in the attitude that questions their involvement in foreign policy.

The leaders were especially critical of the U.S. States Department. "Black Americans strongly protest the callous, ruthless behavior" of that agency towards Mr.

Young. The leaders also deplored the "History of racism and bureaucratic recalcitrance that is so endemic to that agency." They protested what they saw as a history of job discrimination at the State Department and called on President Carter and Secretary of State Vance to "Exert their full authority in pressing for the desegregation" of the agency.

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