

SURVIVAL PAPER

#SP07-2

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When you've never seen the elephant, it's really easy to imagine yourself swinging' it by the tail.

Qllie

Streetfighting

It ain't no fantasy out there. If you wonder if what you know will keep you alive in a streetfight, then the answer is no. The Street is a short, brutal nasty way of life that usually ends up with the so-called "street fighter" being a corpse in an alley. And that is what happens to people who have done it their entire lives.

Those who don't end up that way have something going for them. Survival on the street is about a whole lot more than physical prowess or fighting skills. People who live with constant violence are cunning, vicious, dangerous and most importantly, they cheat. This is NOT the same thing as the much touted "there aren't any rules in a streetlight" B.S. that Internet warriors ('who touch themselves while watching *Roadhouse*) like to parrot. The "streets" have rules, just like any other place where human beings get together and interact,

Being a streetfighter isn't about swaggering into a local blue-collar watering hole and eyeballing a bunch of working Joes (most of whom had a hard day at work, and just want to drink their beer), it definitely isn't about punching out one of those guys who takes umbrage at your rude behavior. But that's what so many Internet warriors think it is. What being a streetfighter is mostly about is knowing how not to aimer someone who will wait for you in the shadows with a shotgun; the rest is knowing how to survive when you have failed at the first part.

What wannabe tough guys and so-called street fighting experts don't wait to accept is that prowess in fighting has very little to do with those rules of behavior. But breaking them is the fastest and best way to get your brains blown into a fine pink mist. That's because the guys Who will kill you for breaking those rules aren't interested in fighting and he won't give you a chance to prove how good you are at it.

Where I am coming from? Many otherwise intelligent young martial artists aspire to learn how to streetfight. Why would you want to engage in stupid, obnoxious, dangerous and -- most often -- illegal behavior?

While trends in advertising put great emphasis on unbeatable streetfighting training, it is at best, an unrealistic fantasy and, at worst, a flat-out lie that can and will get you killed. If you do survive, you will find yourself in all kinds of legal and social trouble. In short, streetfighting is NOT what it is cracked up to be.

Having spent time in "the Life." I have strong feelings about the wisdom in the saying "Don't go there." There's a lot of pain and stupidity out there. A lot of people think there is a lot of power and pride in being a "streetfighter." I can tell you from personal experience that the grief and pain far outweighs any benefits.

To tell you the truth, in order to find yourself in a "streetfight" you have to be somewhat of an @, #%hole. You may want to believe otherwise, but there is a simple raw truth....there ain't no such, thing as "a good guy" in a streetlight.

Realities of street **fighting**, violence and **life** in the streets — *and why these guys don't have a clue*. Eric Holler once said, "Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength." The behavior on internet forums these "glass screen warriors" display (while thinking it shows how "tough they are") would get them stomped in biker bars, honkytonks and dive bars. The very places where the mythical "streetfighter's" that they are always training to beat tend to congregate. Places, incidentally, that these cyber-bad gents regularly avoid. In other words. They never learn how truly dangerous people really behave, but oh can they tell you all about how bad guys operate and how easy they are to defeat. Never been there themselves, but they can tell you all about, what it takes.

Unfortunately., too many cyberstuds and internet street fighters think they have stacked the deck in their favor by learning some kind of "reality based fighting system" or an ultimate martial art. They feel that because they have this under their belt, that's all they need. With that attitude they go swaggering around telling themselves what dangerous street fighters they are and just aching for a chance to unleash their deadly skills on some criminal trash. So, what the self-proclaimed bad guys have up their sleeve will cause serious damage if it lands...the problem is ain't no streetrat going to give them a chance to use it.

Not to rain on anybody's parade here, but before you hurt yourself patting yourself on the back about how smart you are for stacking the deck in your favor, recognize that ain't no streetrat out there who hasn't stacked the deck in his favor too. He's got a host of nasty sneaky tricks that he hasn't just practiced, but used to survive out there. It's easy to win a game of poker when, you are the only one who is cheating. Its a. whole lot rougher when everyone else is cheating too. I have a bit of bad news for folks who think that they have stacked the deck having trained in WWI1 combative, reality based fighting, extreme fighting or the ultimate fighting system. That is: Violence in the street is that game of poker where everyone is cheating, the winner is going to be the guy who is better at it. Not the better fighter, but the guy who can neutralize all those ways that his opponent is thinking will stack the deck in his favor.

Putting it bluntly, he isn't going to give you a chance to use all your uber-bad street fighting moves. When he drops this bomb on your head, it's going to be his timing, .not yours. Because getting the first shot off is a major component of who wins the streets, if you don't know what these things look like being developed, then they are going to nail you before you have a chance to bring out your ultimate streetfighting; stuff. Unless you have the experience cunning, skill or just dumb luck to spot how the guy is going to "cheat" (or what he is relying on to claim' the day for him), then, the odds are, it will get a serious piece out of you. Now the really bad news, those people get real inventive in all the ways they come up with to cheat.

Figure the guy you will be facing has experience using it. It isn't a matter of training with him; it's a matter of doing. You're the virgin in this situation. He knows it is a winning strategy because he has used it on other suckers before. It doesn't matter how "tough" you think you are or what ultimate fighting style you've trained in. survival against professionally and habitually violent people (streetfighters) has less to do with physical prowess or weapons, than knowing how to spot when someone is trying to set you up. Because once he gets that advantage, he will never let up to allow you use all those killer kung fu commando moves that you paid so much to learn.

"Traditional" martial arts vs. "REAL" fighting

I have a real problem with the argument over "traditional martial arts vs. "real" fighting. It's subset of "what works in a *real* street fight?" Be warned, this page BBQs the "sacred cows" of both camps.

Is (Fill in ultimate fighting style) good for self-defense?

Before you even ask this question you had better know some realities about the b.s. terms and ideas that are being peddled out there regarding fighting and what kind of trouble all these "ultimate fighting systems" will get you into if you don't use your head for something other than a punching bag. If you don't know a few fundamental differences you'll end up dead, crippled, sued or in **prison**.

Brutal reality vs. macho myth

Start by accepting the fact, that at least 50 percent of the people who engage in fighting lose. The savage truth is that you are not going to be fighting someone who will fold in shock and pain from your super-secret-kung-t'u -dim-mak-death strike. He's been hit and hurt before and knows how to still keep on functioning. What's more, you'll be fighting someone with something up his sleeve that will cause you serious damage if he uses **it** and he does know how to use it.

Do I have what it takes?

While there is always the concern: Do I have what it takes? That is absolutely the last question where you want to find out that the answer is no.

Fantasy self-defense

There is a great tendency for instructors of the martial arts to promote themselves as competent to teach self-defense. Find out why that is not necessarily true and why you are risking your life if you accept what they are saying without carefully looking into the subject beyond their **simplicistic fantasies** about self-defense.

Legal realities

Contrary to what many ultra-studly martial artists tell you, a fight doesn't end when, the body hits the floor. That isn't true with self-defense, and it definitely isn't true if YOU were involved in starting the fight in the first place. You will be facing police, legal **repercussions** and probably **jail**.

Being tough. - having leprosy

Contrary to what many young and inexperienced people might think — being "tough" doesn't solve your self-confidence problems, make you feel better about yourself, impress people, make YOU more popular, prevent you from being picked on, or more popular with the ladies. In fact, it tends to do just the opposite. Instead of lessening your problems, it makes them worse. It makes you more of a social outcast. And on top of that, you also have people trying to kill you.

Realities of streetfighting

It isn't glamorous. It isn't fun. And if you put yourself into situations where you are having to face real streetfighters, it means you are being an (5).#%hole yourself. That's right - to be a streetfighter. you have to become the **very** thing you hate.

So you still want to be a streetfighter?

Ted Truscott. "The Fighting Old Man." has an excellent Web page about some of other "realities." This is especially important for anybody who still thinks that being wild child or a **streetfighter** is a good idea.

Teach you to be tough?

Unfortunately, there are many martial artists who — for lots of money — claim to be able to teach you how to be an undefeatable. toughman. streetfighter. The simple truth is most of these programs are just **glorified**, martial, sports programs. That is if they aren't a cult.

What does it mean to be tough?

The idea that the martial arts can, make you tough is erroneous. Being tough isn't about fighting. It is about being able to handle whatever **life** throws at you and keep on going. And what life is going to throw at you will be far worse than an imagined bad guy.

Pirates and self-defense training

Unfortunately much of the information that you will receive from most people claiming to be able to teach you how to streetfight, has been pirated. That is to say it has been, lifted from somewhere else, not entirely understood and then repackaged and sold to YOU as the TRUTH about streetfighting. It will get you killed. Learn how to spot pirates before you become a victim of them. YOUR TIME will be strategically better spent getting a mind set that will concentrate on the tactics of surviving a street attack and not trying to win a streetfight.

A Publication of:

**Live Free, USA, P.O. Box 375,
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