

East meets West in study of self-defense



Takashi Kushida leads the class through a training exercise.



Twenty years of training and an eighth degree black belt makes Takashi Kushida the highest ranking instructor in the U.S.

Students of self-defense at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College had a special treat recently. Eighth degree black belt expert Takashi Kushida, an expert in Aikido, came to share some of his secrets.

Kushida came to Detroit eight years ago from Tokyo where he was responsible for teaching self-defense skills to 4,500 riot police. In addition to crowd control, these police are also responsible for protecting the Japanese emperor and all visiting dignitaries.

Before coming to this country, he received 20 years of training. Called a Sensei (teacher), Kushida is the highest ranking instructor of this martial art in the United States.

Currently, there are 18 persons in the Aikido class at OCC. New classes begin in the fall. The class meets from 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Anyone wishing to drop by to observe may do so.

Staff photos by Randy Borst



Lorenzo Hoffer practices the warm-up exercises.



Students Karl Gambrell (left) and John Kearney receive some personal help from Takashi Kushida.

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