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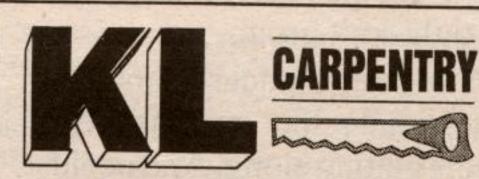
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Kai-shin student Hubert Mique, left, demonstrates a Brazilian Jujitsu technique on Georgetown karate student Chris Boreland at the recent Brazilian Jujitsu seminar. (Lori Frechette photo)

Lost Japanese art surfaces locally

BY DOUG HARRISON The Acton Tanner

Already immensely popular in Halton Hills with between 500 and 600 students and growing, martial arts has seen a new area of study open up in Brazilian Jujitsu, which is the martial art and will soon change the martial arts scene, predicts a local instructor.

Dr. Fred Haynes, a fifth degree black belt with 25 years of Aikido training, became convinced when over 120 students ranging in age from four to in their 60s attended two recent one-day seminars in Brazilian Jujitsu at Halton Hills Aikido, located above Gordon Alcott Arena.

Mits Yamishita, who has trained in martial arts for over 30 years, travelled from Los Angeles to teach the students the fundamental skills for ground grappling, known as Brazilian Jujitsu—one of the lost arts in Japan.

Haynes gathered athletes from seven of the area's karate schools to

join his Aikido students.

"He (Yamishita) grabbed the attention of the martial arts community," Haynes, 41, said recently, adding a good percentage of local martial artists reside in Acton. "The karate clubs were interested in what to do on the ground and the theory that size and strength are not important. "They were fascinated to try it to see where the power comes from."

In Jujitsu, 90 per cent of the techniques are for standing. In the Graciestyle — named after the only family who was directly taught this art back in the 1920s — of Brazilian Jujitsu, there are only 24 standing techniques and thousands for the ground.

Haynes says Brazilian Jujitsu is so highly effective on the ground that one can challenge wrestlers, athletes studying other styles of Jujitsu, karate and Aikido.

"It's a great alternative for an indoor sport for people not interested in hockey," Haynes reveals. "It helps better one's confidence,

nurture their skills, self control and improve concentration.

"I've been told by parents that their kids do better at school because of it and have better social skills."

Haynes says the 6 to 12-year-old age group loved the visit by Yamashita. He adds kids get into playground situations and Brazilian Jujitsui "acts as a defence mechanism to just escape and that's it."

Haynes, who works full-time running Contact International, a company that writes science books, will offer free one-hour Gracie clinic classes through December and January on Monday nights from 8 to 9. For details, call 873-1295.

He says in three classes, one could develop a good self-defence against a non-Gracie Jujitsu opponent.

"It's used as a way of self enlightenment," Haynes says of Brazilian Jujitsu. "It kills your ego and aggression in you and makes you more harmonious in nature, making you a better citizen."