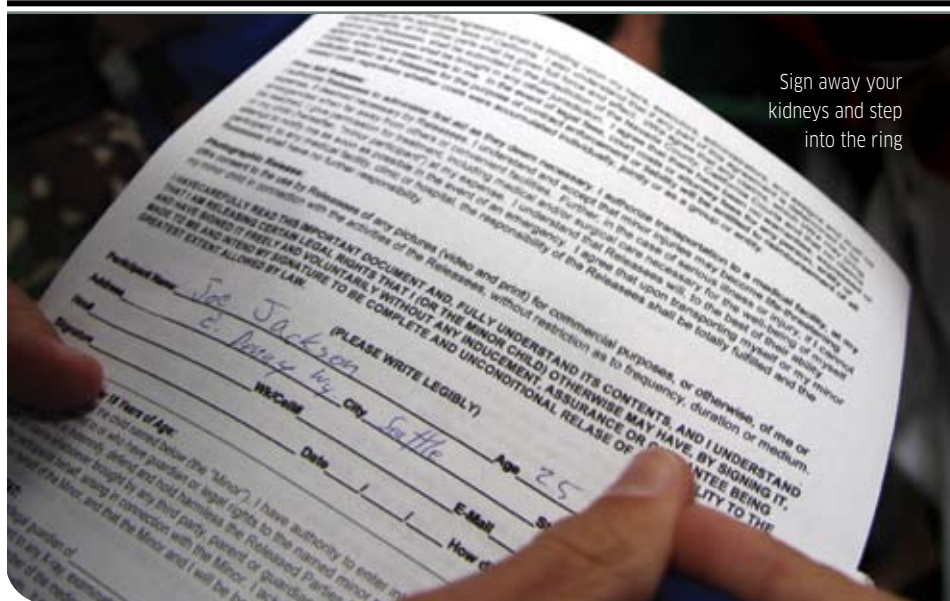


## JOE THE INTERN / WORDS BY JOE JACKSON PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTIAN KNIGHT



Sign away your kidneys and step into the ring

### REACTION

The Intern skips lunch.

After a slight clarification—“Jay,” writes Beckstead, “he was joking. He’s Joe the Intern!”—All Day Jay agrees to a friendly match: “I should have known you were messing with me. Dude, that kind of stuff fires me up!”

### STRATEGY

**The Intern’s Goal:** Earn respect.

Associate editor Christian Knight’s suggestion: Punch him in the face with all my might right out of the gate.

Problem with Christian’s suggestion: Jay tells me he’s not planning on “striking.” But, I can certainly punch him in the face, especially, he says, since I have never punched anyone in the face before.

My plan: Don’t surrender. Don’t tap out.

Problem with my strategy: Beckstead tells me her husband has no mercy for idiots who try to demonstrate their courage by refusing to tap out. “He’ll choke you out,” she tells me.

“Out?”

“Till you’re unconscious.”

Revised Goal: Keep teeth and nose in tact.

**All Day Jay’s Goal:** Have fun. Convince The Intern he’s about to die. “Well, Christian signed up Joe the Intern for a little scrap, so he had better be training like Rocky, and he had better sign up for a couple more free Karate classes.”

### THE FIGHT

The framed poster on the wall of the entrance to the Charles Grace Jiu-Jitsu Academy of Reno is terrifying. In it, owner and instructor Gary Grate is straddling some poor supine soul, about to crush his face with a clenched and bulging arm, which he’s raised in the air, like a sledgehammer. Grate introduces himself to me, then blasts *Welcome to the Jungle* as I step onto the blue mat.

In about 15 different matches, not one lasting more than 20 seconds, Jay chucked me around like a cat toying with an injured lizard, using moves such as arm bars, omaplatas, triangle chokes, and rear-naked chokes. The only concept my brain understood was to keep breathing and maintain blood flow. The helplessness was comparable to the rag-dolling I’ve endured when a 14-foot ocean wave has sucked me over its falls, or when I’ve found myself in the bowels of a hungry ledge hole that was starving for my paddle and body. Thankfully, Jay was more merciful than Mama Nature. All I had to do was tap his arm when I wanted to breath again.

### RESULTS

**All Day Jay Kincaid:** 15 (or so)

**Joe the Intern Jackson:** 0

Rumors of The Intern taking a shot at the title after a year of training in Seattle are in the mills.

Email your assignments for *Joe the Intern* to [joe@paddlermagazine.com](mailto:joe@paddlermagazine.com)

## MEDIA

### BOOK REVIEWS

Time is too scarce to waste it reading bad books. Read this to find out which stories are worth it

#### Going Vertical: The Life of an Extreme Kayaker

By: Tao Berman with Pam Withers  
Menasha Ridge Press; \$16.95

This ghostwritten autobiography of Tao Berman’s life follows the professional kayaker from his childhood to the present. The story highlights some of his more defining kayaking and business feats and offers a hearty dose of his personal opinions on redefining limits.

- Scout Hard
- Read and Run
- Just Portage



#### Descending the Dragon: My Journey Down the Coast of Vietnam

By: Jon Bowermaster;  
Photography by Rob Howard  
National Geographic Books; \$21.95

Paddle 800 miles along Vietnam’s Northern Coast with Bowermaster and share his frustrations with bureaucracies, astonishment at the natural beauty, and genuine curiosity of the culture that surrounds him. His personal account coupled with Howard’s striking portraits of this vibrant land will satiate the most discerning of vicarious international travelers.

- Scout Hard
- Read and Run
- Just Portage



#### Over the Rivers: An Aerial View of Geology

By: Michael Collier; Mikaya Press; \$34.95

Collier combines a keen photographer’s eye with his background as a geologist, science writer, and oarsman on the Grand Canyon to deliver this well-rounded, informative book. The vast aerial views of North American Rivers make *Over the Rivers* worthy to rest on a fine mahogany coffee table, but the explanations of the science behind the beauty make this hardbound worth lugging on the bus.

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