



- Largest group of Shorinjiryu practitioners worldwide
- Gathering the Shorinjiryu family
- Exchanging knowledge & friendship

Individualism by Shihan Tom Carmelengo

"You know *nothing*. You think because you get 1st degree black belt, you're a big-shot?" Shihan Kashimoto's eyes pierced through me. I thought I had done something wrong, but then again, we were *always* wrong. "You'll see," he continued. "Ten...maybe fifteen years from now, you'll understand; the light will come on..."

That was back in 1980. I just didn't get it. I knew all three kata, two weapons kata and nine kumite – right and left sides. What more was there?

Well, time passed, fifteen years or so, just as prophesized by my Instructor. The time came when my dojo was promoting its first Shodan Kohai. While giving a speech on the merits of the student, I could hear the speech my instructor had given *me*. I found my words turning more toward what lay ahead on this student's journey. It was about growing as an individual...in life, and in Shorinjiryu. My eyes watered, as I knew then and there I finally understood what Shihan Kashimoto was

talking about so many years ago. I had become an individual, taking Shorinjiryu and tailoring it to me, taking life, and finding my personal spot. Shihan Kashimoto had taught and tested me as an Individual, not tested against anyone but myself. I had to beat myself.

I watched as the student performed his demonstration. The kata and kumite were a blend of all three instructors who taught him. I saw myself in his kata, Renshi Charlie in his fighting and Sensei Phil in his movement. But most of all, it was *his* interpretation of what he was taught.

This is, to me, the uniqueness of Shorinjiryu. We are not expected to look, move or act like any other student. No copycats allowed, although we all aspire to be like our instructors. As we move through the intricate study of Shorinjiryu, we can see we were, and still are, being taught as one person, not a clone. Shorinjiryu is tailor made for everyone. Without losing the basic concepts of the style, we enjoy the mobility of

experimentation, of trying different combinations, of altering things to fit our individual bodies. Most styles don't allow for this. If you need proof, just watch five students of the same rank from five different schools of Shorinjiryu do the same kata. Are they the same? Yes, they are Shorinjiryu, but different. Watch five students from non-Shorinjiryu schools, and you'll see exactly the same moves, even if the moves obviously don't fit the students. Your instructors were all taught slight variations of the same forms. And currently, your instructor may have modified *your* kata or kumite to suit you. I know four versions of Naihanchin, but have never lost touch with the original.

Recently, I was trying to learn a long kata, and was having a problem. The Instructor said, "Don't worry, when I see you again, it'll be different." Instead of being frustrated, I smiled. "This is Shorinjiryu," I thought. And by the time I finish learning this kata, I'll

(Continued on page 7)

Calendar of Events

October 7, 2001	15 th Annual International Shinzen Shiai	Queens, NY
December 8, 2001	3 rd In House	Brooklyn, NY
March/April, 2001	1 st In House	Brooklyn, NY
May 26th, 2001	6 th Koshiki Canadian	St. Jerome, Canada

Inside this issue:

From the Desk of the President	2
From the Desk of the Vice-President	2
An Opportunity?	3
Congratulation, Congratulations, Congratulations	3
Letters to the Editor	4
A View from Florida	5
Oss or Not to Oss	6
The Spirit of the Spirit Award	8
Wear Your Kyokai Patch with Pride	8

From the Desk of the President by Kyoshi Myron M. Lubitsch

I recently read a highly informative article in Black Belt Magazine written by Dave Lowry and entitled "Hitting the Target." In his discussion he introduces three Japanese words that hold relevance to us. While the words are used more in connection with archery they do have meaning to parishioners of karate-do. The first word is *toteki*. This word simply means hitting the target ostensibly by any means including by luck. *Kanteki* "refers to a target that is hit convincingly, deliberately and reliably." The third and final word is *zaiteki* in which one "becomes" one with the target.

Of what relevance does this have to Shorinjiryu, one may ask? In my humble opinion, a great deal. After participating in any number of tournaments over the past thirty plus years as a participant, official and/or spectator, I have seen these three concepts in action.

We have all seen the scenario of contestants flailing at each other, grabbing, throwing and rolling on the ground hoping to make some contact by sheer luck or by overpowering the opponent in what can simply be described as a brawl. That would be an example of *toteki*.

Then there is the match where techniques are thrown with skill, where a throw or take down is clean and followed by a decisive technique. The contestants show little awkwardness and maintain a presence of dignity. That would be an example of *kanteki*.

Finally, there is the match in which a contestant shows a complete command of the ring. A sense of complete control clearly permeates the arena. The techniques are fluid, well executed with finesse, dignity, speed, power and decisiveness. That would be an example of *zaiteki*. While in each

case one contestant will win, but how? Many years ago, an article was written about Shorinjiryu in an unnamed magazine. The article describes Shorinjiryu as being basically a brawl with no technique and plainly brutal. If one were to view the tapes of shiai dating back some twenty-five or more years then one would have to agree with the negativity of the article. I recall that some high-ranking instructors have complained to me, albeit years ago, that in certain divisions the competitors were so wild that a few of their students refused to participate if those unequivocally dangerous individuals attended. Now, I am not referring to the strong competitor with a powerful zest for the win, I am referring to the dangerous competitor who has no regard for life or limb. And they were right. If a brawl is

(Continued on page 7)

From the Desk of the Vice President by Kyoshi John A. Mirrione

I recently attended a well-known karate tournament in Florida. Upon my contacting the tournament promoter, I was assured that his tournament was well run. He advised me that the event had at least 300 competitors, would start on time, would have twelve rings going simultaneously, accommodate senior (50 years old +) traditional styles, and would be over by 3:30 in the afternoon. I was impressed with his confidence and that whatever I learned I could bring back to the Shinzen for future use. I felt that this was going to be a great learning experience.

Well, I was right. It was certainly a learning experience. Setting aside the multi-colored gis, and the abundance of child master black belts, everywhere you looked someone was practicing their samurai sword kata with a "boom box" by their side. It was going to be an interesting day, to

say the least. There was one group that arrived in a stretch limo, all dressed alike, same hairstyles, with a religious theme to their presence. Another school had a new stereo sound system that they hoped would catch the judges' attention, while another school had so many patches and endorsements all over their uniforms that it was nearly impossible not to pause and read them.

The tournament started late with five rings attended by many judges dressed in dungarees and sneakers who were gathered up by the promoter who was in a panic to get his event started. Approximately 130 competitors were spread out, some sitting with spectators. Many of the child competitors wore light-up sneakers in and around the tournament floor, making a styles statement. It is interesting to note that in the entire event no one performed a sai kata; however, the sickle did

outnumber the katana kata by almost 2 to 1.

I decided that I would not be a judge today but instead be a 56-year-old anonymous competitor. After a 25-year hiatus, I would be performing Naihanchin kata. I am not sure why I decided to compete that day given the state of confusion; however, I knew it would be a learning experience. Finally, the ring I was to compete in was about to get on its way. With the song Jail House Rock being played in stereo in the ring next to mine, I carefully looked over to the other competitors. My ring was mixed with mostly young eclectic stylists. There were no formal competition rules; however, there was one kata rule that all had to follow: if you arrived late at your assigned ring, you had to compete first. This I suppose put you at a disadvantage. I, along

(Continued on page 6)

An Opportunity? by Tashi Peter Hiltz

"We do the same stuff, yet we are different."

I recently had an interesting discussion with a senior leader of so-Shihan Hisataka's Kenkokan dojo. We bandied about a number of topics related to Shorinjiryu and the evolution of the style and it became apparent that the Shorinjiryu community considers itself made of different 'ryu', 'schools', or 'styles'. While we all call ourselves Shorinjiryu, we are not, according to Hisataka's representative, doing the same style. We do the same stuff, yet we are different. I admit that it took a while for this to sink in. It took Hisataka's representative many attempts to break through and drag understanding from me. What made it so difficult was that I could not fathom why the Kenkokan dojo would want it to be this way. Even with the politics and bad feelings of the Great Split of many years ago, growth seems to demand a different approach. The ryu or individual school system is a medieval system predicated on the belief that each school has specialized knowledge possessed

by no one else, and/or arcane secrets which must be preserved for only the trusted few. New schools were set up when people developed new ideas or techniques, or accrued a number of students. Expansion and business competition were not issues.

The initial development of the different Shorinjiryu schools (the Great Split of many years ago) was caused not by development of new techniques or knowledge, but by politics and money. As such, immediately after the split all the schools were doing the same thing and changed names to differentiate themselves from each other and Kenkokan. In the enforced isolation these evolved into different systems as teachers added outside techniques and knowledge. Each of us, at our core, has built our martial arts on the foundation of the old style of Shorinjiryu Kenkokan Karatedo, as referred to in Scientific Karatedo, 1975, Hisataka.

We obviously have not drifted very far. My observations (of

course, as an outsider to that organization I'm sure my observations are flawed) indicate that to be accepted as Kenkokan a dojo simply needs to get visited by so-Shihan Hisataka or one of his representatives, and diplomas are issued. Once the instructor has his diploma (either in Shorinjiryu Kenkokan, Koshiki Karate, or both) they are automatically Kenkokan. The key point for me is that I've heard of no rejections. I've talked to a number of schools that have come into the Kenkokan fold and they are markedly different from my former school, and each other, yet all were accepted easily. To me, this indicates that the core material is still strong in all that call themselves Shorinjiryu.

Where does this leave us? It leaves us with a number of different schools based on the Shorinjiryu Kenkokan Karatedo of many years ago that have not drifted very far in training or forms. It leaves us with a number of differ-

(Continued on page 7)

Congratulations, Congratulations, Congratulations

Doreen Rosario-Rosas

Graduated from college.

Nidan Oscar Salvatierra

Winner of the Hispanic Academic College Grant

Renshi Emmanuel Hawthorne

New dojo

Tashi Peter Hiltz

New dojo

Sensei Mark Bussiere

New dojo

Sensei Alberdeston Gonzalez

New dojo

Shihan Tom Carmelengo

Purchase of his new home and relocation

Kyoshi Michel Laurin

Expansion by 2,000 sq. feet of his dojo
And 89 black belts

PROMOTIONS

Shodan

Shindo Budo Kwai

Luc Chenier

Marc-Alexander

Lamert Laroche

Michel Pilon

Yves Vermette

Shodan

Kenryukan India

Sheetal Awhad

Sridhar Awhad

Atish Bongarde

Sandeep Deshmukh

Jokuim Fernandes

Santosh Oswal

Yash Upadhyay

Raja Palrecha

Ajay Vanjale

Nidan

Kenryukan India

Chenna K

Vikas Kasurde

Shubhangi Kumbhar

Ritesh Shah



Letters to The Editor

"I, along with a couple other fellow karate-ka in the same situation were "guinea pigs" instead."

As a proud mother that I would like to share my happiness with my son's karate instructors and family. My thanks goes to You, Shihan, Renshi Vincent, Michelle, Virginia and Ozzy for always being there for my son in good times and in bad times. For your wise and kind words. For the times you guys spend with him to teach what's best for him in school, in karate, life, morals, principles, respect, health, etc. Thanks a million!!! I pray the Lord to bless you all and keep you all happy and healthy at all times. If there were more people like you in this world this world would be blessed.

Language Arts	97
SFA	S
Social Studies	99
Math	90
Science	100
French	90
Computers	E
Art	100
Gym	95
Family Living	S
First Marking Period GPA	93.8
Second Marking Period GPA	91.6
Third Marking Period GPA	93.2
Final Grade Point Average	95.2
CBT Reading Score	HIGH LEVEL 3
CBT Math Score	HIGH LEVEL 4
Next Year's Class:	7 TH Grade -
Honor Roll	Again!!!!
Alexandra Hernandez	
A Kenryukan Mom	

Dear Shihan,

I would like to thank your for last Sunday's clinic from which I learned a lot. It was very interesting for me to learn more about the judging process and a lot of questions I had were addressed. I also enjoyed learning the *bo kata* although I am still trying to remember the 6th move!

I greatly appreciate having had the opportunity to learn from you, and hope to see you soon.

Respectfully,

Cyril Montoya
Kenkokai

Dear Shihan,

I just wanted to say thank you for the brown/black belt clinic two weeks ago. It was my first advanced clinic and as always I felt completely at home and welcome in your dojo by you and your students.

I am looking forward to the next clinic and the tournament next month.

I hope to see you there.

Thank you.

Judy Bodar
Kenkokai

The Best Self Defense Technique of all Time!

Have two persons face each other, fighting distance, natural stance. Each person then simultaneously steps forward with their right foot, and quickly with their right hand reaches for their counterpart's right hand. On grasping hands, shake vigorously... This is "The Best Self Defense Technique of all Time!"

Manny Hawthorne, Renshi

June 10th Judging Clinic

I found the recent referee and bo seminar held at the Imperial Dragon Hombu Dojo to be a great learning experience to any karate-ka, or parent of one, who has ever participated in a tournament held by the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai. Aside from most clinics and seminars where there is mostly physical work and participation, we also sat down and took notes. I learned much about keeping score in kata and shiai. I also became more familiar with the shiai flow chart and the way scores in kata are tallied and organized while learning other interesting nuances like what to do if there is a tie in kata, how to determine 5th and 6th place in shiai, and the ever-extensive and geometric bye chart. Because I was one of the few karate-ka to not be brown or black belt, I, along with a couple other fellow

karate-ka in the same situation were "guinea pigs" instead.

I would do my kata or do shiai with a partner while the other brown and black belts would learn how to score and judge for the first time or better. But this was also great for me; for I learned why I received the score I did as well as hear good and bad points on my kata and shiai.

Afterward, everyone was shown Tennyoryu no bo kata from Shihan Myron Lubitsch. I had just begun to work with the bo so I became much more comfortable with its use. This is also the first bo kata I have learned so I plan on practicing it much more, like any kata.

I'd have to say the most important thing I learned at this seminar is that when it comes to judging and scoring: It's much harder than it looks. Before anyone in the audience or any karate-ka makes any complaints, criticisms, etc., they have to realize that they are not the ones running the tournament. They forget to understand how much work it takes to keep everything in order. The judges know what they're doing; so let them do their job. Any questions should be asked of your child karate-ka or Sensei afterward, that way respect and organization could be preserved.

James Dalton, 6th kyu
Kenkokai

June 10th Judging Clinic

My impression of the Judging and Bo clinic held at the Imperial Dragon Hombu Dojo on June 10th was that it was a very informative clinic and that it gave me insight to both the process of Tournament Judging and the use of the bo. An important thing that I learned at the Clinic, as far as tournaments go, is that anyone who does not know what they are talking about has no right to tell someone that does know that they are wrong. It is a common occurrence

(Continued on page 5)

A View From Florida by Kyoshi John A. Mirrione

Hello to our friends and relatives.

This is letter #3 of what is going on in Florida and what we find out of the ordinary.

Since I retired I have slowed down and have taken the time to "stop and smell the roses." I am learning how to shop for food. Picking the out good fruits is still a problem for me. Just when I think I have picked the freshest ones, my wife takes them out of the plastic bag that I carefully tied, and puts them back on the shelf. She always seems to find a soft spot on the fruit that only moments before, I swear, was not there.

Furniture shopping was another adventure for me. I have learned the difference between contemporary, traditional and retro. Color coordination is yet another area that I have much to learn about.

At around 5 pm each day in the summertime there are a special breed of insect called no-see-ums. They were probably so-named because you cannot see them, but you can see and feel those little bastards' bite for days after.

Just down the road from us, the City of Boca Raton has completed a multi-million dollar lighting project. They have shut off the overhead streetlights and have installed lights in the street pavement similar to what airports use on their runways. All of this was so that the sea turtles won't confuse the streetlights for the moon and cross into oncoming traffic to lay their eggs. Motorists are warned to enter the area with caution in the event a sea turtle is not aware of all the trouble we have gone through to protect her.

What seems to concern some people is that this illuminated area could be confused for a landing strip for some small prop plane. You see, we have a small airport a couple of miles away that has no air traffic controllers.

The other day, I had my first face-to-face confrontation with a palmetto bug in the on-premises exercise room. These bugs are larger than roaches and fearless. I was practicing my karate moves when out of nowhere this insect appeared. He walked out from under an exercise machine and come directly towards me. I quickly picked up my shoe and hit him. He appeared dead so I kicked him out of my exercise area. As I was preparing to do

(Continued on page 8)

Letters to The Editor (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

at tournaments that a parent will go to a judge and say that they made a mistake, whether it is because of score keeping or deciding who gets a bye (by using the bye system.) A parent, who has no experience in running tournaments, who does not study the art of Karate, and who does not pay full attention to everything around them has no right to tell a judge who has judged before, is very well experienced and trained in Karate, and watches everything in the ring. This is a message that anyone who went to the clinic should spread to their fellow Karate-ka, and to any parents of students in the organization.

I thought it was great that I was able to go to the clinic, mainly because of the Bo. I later discovered that this was the less important half of the clinic (which did not make me pay any less attention or have any less gratitude). It

was fun, and though I was 6th kyu at the time, I was taught a week earlier by my Sensei (Renshi Hayes) some basic techniques on how to use the Bo. This was not because I was eligible in rank to learn it; it was only so that the Bo would not feel so foreign in my hands when I went to the clinic. The kata we learned was Ten-noryu No Bo. From what I remember, this Kata was a secret of the Hisataka family...I believe it was a great privilege to be able to learn such a Kata (especially since I was only 6th kyu!)

In conclusion, the most important thing in Karate was a major theme at the clinic—Respect. It was well-run and everyone was very respectful to each other, and I hope that I may get to go to another clinic like it in the future.

Daniel Perricone, 5th kyu,
Kenkukai

Food For Thought

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man / woman who points out how the strong man / woman stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The critic belongs to the man / woman who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again because there is no effort without error and shortcomings, who knows the great devotion, who spends himself/herself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the high achievement of triumph and who at worst, if he / she fails while daring greatly, knows his / her place shall never be with those timid and cold souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

Theodore Roosevelt, 26th U.S. President.

Manny Hawthorne, Renshi 

Oss or Not to Oss by Kyoshi Myron M. Lubitsch

The class lined up soldier-like in appearance and, dressed in all white gi, is given the command *shomen-ni-rei*. Respectfully they bow at the waist and respond back, *oss*. The same response is heard when they are commanded *sensei-ni-rei*, and again with *sem-pai-ni-rei*. Interestingly, the same term can be heard when a response other than *onegai shimasu*, *arigato*, or *hai* is not applicable. So what is the meaning and derivation of *oss*, sometimes spelled *osu* or just plain *os*?

The word appears to have its roots in the world of and jargon of the military. Originally spelled *ose*, it connoted a command by a superior to lesser rank. Today, in certain circles of Japan, the word is not received well and is considered coarse sounding. But, does that preclude its use? Maybe not.

Language is a very interesting construct; simply put it is the means by which people communicate. English, in particular, has adopted thousands of foreign words into its lexicon all of which enrich the beauty of the lan-

guage. Zero, protocol, protégé, rsvp, tobacco, moose, addict, chocolate, samurai and, of course, karate are listed as illustrative examples. The same can be said of many other languages including French, Spanish and, yes, Japanese *hoteru* (hotel), *tishatsu* (t-shirt) and anyone for a *hambaga* (hamburger) or *hotto doggu* (hot dog)?

Sometimes words and idiomatic expressions just don't make it across linguistic lines.

Pity the poor soldier who when under fire literally follows the command, "heads up!"

How about the GM executive who couldn't figure out why Chevy Nova sales weren't going anywhere in Spanish speaking countries? "No va" loosely means doesn't go—not a very good selling point for a car.

What is an American to think when an Englishman says, "put it in your boot"? A boot is a type of footwear for an American but the trunk of a car for an Englishman or an Australian, for that matter.

Hak mir nicht in tchainik

(Yiddish) literally means don't bang my teapot but actually means don't get on my nerves.

Que vaina

(Spanish Dom.) literally means what a sheath (shell of a fruit) really changes to Wow, oh, my God—expressions that have both positive and negative connotations, etc.

Mannagia o diavolo

(Italian) we know what a devil is but what is *mannagia*? The expression appears to have some meaning but is hard to translate, if at all.

Un tien vau mieux que deux tu lauras.

(French) literally, one you have is better than two you'll get. It is better to have one thing than the promise of two. A bird in the hand...

Kee chang jub tuckatan

(Thai) literally means riding an elephant to catch a grasshopper; well that can be translated as overdoing it.

(Continued on page 8)

"Language is a very interesting construct; simply put it is the means by which people communicate."

From the Desk of the Vice President by Kyoshi John A. Mirrione

(Continued from page 2)

with others, was asked to pick from a handful of paper to determine the order of the contestants competing. I was chosen to go first. Somehow, it did not matter how noisy it was, I was determined to do my best. I thought I gave a reasonable performance; the judges, however, had a different opinion. Later I was told that I could have done a lot better if I had completely turned my fist into a reverse punch and also *kiai* in my routine. (I thought to myself that my score would have been better if I played a little bit of the Backstreet Boys music.) Obviously, we in Shorinjiryu do not practice a horizontal punch and

we do not *kiai*, and although we may sometimes think of a musical tune when we do kata we do not play it the judges. I did not utter a word but rather I politely bowed and thanked them for bringing their observations to my attention. There are some karateka that would not return to this event if they were treated this way; however, I would. I was treated fairly in the judges' eyes and perhaps the lesson I learned here is that I must train harder to transcend the odds. After the awards were given out, it was brought to my attention by two of the contestants that at around midway through my kata the audience became silent and that the

judges grew interested in the kata I was doing. Obviously, this was the first time that these judges had seen Shorinjiryu karate-do. I was later advised that in spite of my not placing at the top of my division, I would be given an International rating for future events.

I would like to say that all the contestants that I spoke to that day were quick to point out to me that they were traditional stylists and I was an ultra-traditionalist. In conclusion, I hope to have the opportunity to compete again and I hope that those reading this article see how fortunate we are to have the Shinzen tournament with all its rules and strict codes of conduct. 🐘

An Opportunity? by Tashi Peter Hiltz

(Continued from page 3)

ent people trying to gather larger Shorinjiryu communities together, and the chief heir to the whole thing making a deliberate decision to abrogate the leadership position that could unite the schools. It leaves us with a first class martial art that is relatively unknown.

To move into the future the schools need to unite with a common style. Like tae kwon do, Judo, and so many others, Shorinjiryu needs a unified organizational structure that supports growth. Kenkokan, by deliberate decision, has decided to move from being the home dojo of the style to a 'plain old' school or ryu teaching another variation of Shorinjiryu.

The Kyokai has taken the broader view and declared that the style is Shorinjiryu and that its fundamentals are its defining features.

Variations are accepted and acknowledged as adding to the style as long as fundamentals are preserved. This powerful concept, somewhat analogous to Einstein's fundamental recasting of our world-view, has the strength to unite all into an international organization that can rival TKD's ubiquitous position on the world stage.

What can we do to support this? Individual schools can do a lot to further this goal. While teaching your best to your students as you currently do, strive to come together without contention and politics in the Kyokai. Teach your students the techniques you feel serves them best, but do so as an adjunct to the formal Shorinjiryu. Many outside skills compliment Shorinjiryu, and support a well-rounded martial artist, but can be taught as extra material in your

ryu. Your ryu, therefore, teaches Shorinjiryu and other stuff. Your school is your ryu, as opposed to your school being Shorinjiryu. This separates the style from the school, allowing the creation of a truly united style. It separates your position as headmaster of your school from the style, giving you more freedom. Strive to support the application of common tournament rules as they increase safety and work to define the style. Begin to bring the forms of Shorinjiryu to a common baseline by submitting to www.shorinjiryuforms.com (sorry, I had to put a plug in).

With our new understanding, maybe the Kyokai should invite the Kenkokan dojo of Shorinjiryu to join us!

(That was already done and rejected. Additionally, a certain school of Kenkokan that did join was told to leave the Kyokai and did. - ed.) 🗨️

Individualism by Shihan Tom Carmelengo

(Continued from page 1)

probably change things so the *bunkai* fits me like a tailored suit.

In life, you may walk around wearing the same jacket or sneakers as everyone else; talking like everyone else, criticizing those who don't conform to your dress

or talk code. It's shallow, for you are a follower, not an individual. The person you criticize is an individual; that person doesn't wish to be like you. In Shorinjiryu, yes, we dress alike. The dress has no meaning. Plain, white, not distracting. It is from the inside we

practice, as an individual. We train to be our own person, to learn how far we can push ourselves. Ah, but for now, you don't understand. Ten, maybe fifteen years from now, you'll see. 🗨️

From the Desk of the President by Kyoshi Myron M. Lubitsch

(Continued from page 2)

what you want then maybe the tournaments should have no protective gear without rules and mimic the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championships). I for one say, No.

Let us strive when teaching and judging to insist upon cleaner techniques and an uplifting of the system.

Anyone in the metropolitan area who have ever seen two certain black belts fight (Maurizio Milana and Oscar Salvatierra) knows

what kanteki and zaiteki are—pure grace in action. Those who witnessed two other competitors at an early Shinzen Shiai can remember how as one competitor, Russell Hawkins, 6'5", lunged at his opponent, John Quinn who was 6'4, only to have his right hand seized and, as John shifted his body around, coming down on one knee to throw Russell onto the mat and following up with a clean chop. The whole event looked as if it were choreographed. The audience rose and gave a round of applause in appreciation of an

excellently executed technique. A similar situation with a slightly different technique took place when Jose Tigani at an In-House did the same to his opponent.

Clean, precise, technically perfect techniques can be done. As Kaiso once said, "in martial arts, tactics are much more important than power and physical condition."

To view the majority of karate-ka of today, we can clearly say we have come a long way, but we are not yet there. 🗨️

A View From Florida by Kyoshi John A. Mirrione


(Continued from page 5)

another routine, this same bug came back to life and quickly ran towards me. This caused me to become alarmed, so I mustered up all that I have learned from my Japanese masters, coupled with my 35 years of experience, and stomped down hard, with my shoe on this time, dealing a blow that no mortal could survive. I felt the crack of his shell beneath my foot; there was an eerie silence in the room. When I turned to see the victim of my wrath, he was no longer there. He had managed to

limp to a nearby machine and appeared to be resting. Just then the cleaning person came in, hearing the commotion from outside, and quickly pulled out his bug spray to finish him off. Thank God for chemicals. I knew that I must train harder if I am to survive my stay in Florida.

Dog-Day Afternoon

Each day before we walk Nicky, we must, by condo rules, carry him to a dog walk path. While there, we meet others who do the same thing. So Nicky now has his own

set of friends. There is Micky who loves to smell Nicky's private parts. There is Samantha who loves to be in Nicky's but will not let Nicky set foot (or nose) in hers. There's Sadie Mae, a terrier that thinks she is a pit bull. Ziggy loves Nicky so much he jumps out of his owner's arms and runs across the garage to play with him. Dutchess is hyperactive and Sunshine loves to swim in the ocean and lay on the beach. Pip, a male poodle, is a snob and ignores everyone. 

Oss or Not to Oss by Kyoshi Myron M. Lubitsch

(Continued from page 6)

Mai luk pug lane

(Thai) literally means a stick in the mud. Now everyone who speaks English knows what that means. Or do you? In fact, that expression in Thai is used to describe a person who has no foundation in life and is going nowhere.

Katte kabuto o o-shime yo

(Japanese) literally means after victory tighten your helmet. Now, you think about it's meaning.

Don't be scoping my grill.

(Ebonics) Stop looking at me.

Some words come to us static in nature or little changed. Allow me to explain. A word such as the aforementioned *addict* which originally was a slave given to a Roman soldier for valor now means anyone who is a slave to anything. By the way, the ancients did not have the word *slave*, for that word came about when the Slavs were conquered and put into captivity, hence slave. And, the word explain, by the way, comes intact from the past mean-

ing to make smooth, to flatten out and to make clear.

The Greek word *idiota* meant a private person but also had an interesting story to go along with it. Anyone who had the right to vote and did not was also called an *idiota*. Well, now, if that is true I guess an ignorant person is one who can fit the description of an *idiot*.

We know that some words are transformed through the process of pejoration, or worsening. The word *silly* originally meant blessed and happy, but now means stupid. The word *exploit*, which originally meant to unfold or bring out, now means to use for one's own selfish ends. The word *nice* originally meant ignorant or foolish, and now means good.


We also know that some words undergo amelioration—by improvement or modernizing. The word *sport* originally meant to carry away, but is now usually associated with athletic contests. Maybe a better example is the word *sturdy*, whose meaning was

to be drunk now has the meaning of being strong. The word *shrewd* also went through a change, from being wicked to astute or clever.

Oddly, some words went in diametrically opposite directions. The Latin word *notus*, which meant known, has spawned the *notorious* with all its negative aspects, and *noble* with its positive aspects.

Language continually grows. Words are created to serve specific purposes. When someone goes *postal* clearly they are out of control and dangerous. A *carjacking* is a fearful prospect for any driver. And *e-mail*?

So, where are we? In the jargon of the martial arts world, the language and usage of words particular to a specific group, organization, etc., the word *oss* has come to be used as an all encompassing catchphrase meaning yes, sir, I understand, I will comply, sir. It is an affirmation, a sign of respect.

So do we use the word *oss* or *os* or *osu*? That would be up to the individual instructor. For me, *oss*. 

The Spirit of the Spirit Award by Zvi Strassberg

I was honored by being awarded the Adult Spirit Award at the Second Inhouse Shinzen Tournament of 2001 (July). I also experienced a large measure of embarrassment at being singled out for recognition. My Sensei, Renshi Dan Hayes, suggested that I write an article for the Shinzen Newsletter about my reaction to the award. I therefore offer my thoughts as they have developed on the matter, for whatever value they may be to you.

The circumstances of the award were as follows:

I am 7th kyu (orange), and the only other adult male who would have been in the same group for shiai competition was a 6th kyu (blue), James Dalton. The composition of this particular tournament was that all of the other participants were either in the white/yellow, the purple/brown, or black belt group. So we had a potential "group" of two participants-- and it so happened that we were members of the same dojo!

Amidst the ebb-and-flow of running a tournament no one can keep track of every detail, so I took the liberty of pointing out the situation to and Shihan Myron and Renshi Troy. The issue was whether James and I would compete with each other, which we have done many times in the normal course of training, or would "move up" to compete with the purple/brown belt group. Shihan allowed James and I to offer our own opinions about what we would like to do. We both

wanted to compete against the higher belts, seeing the situation as an opportunity to test ourselves, and Shihan granted us that opportunity.

The details of the fights and other events leading to the award are a bit hazy by now. But the main sentiment that I heard Shihan express when announcing the award was that it represented enthusiasm for greeting and then rising the meet a challenge. I do admit to feelings of pride in that regard. But here is the rest of the story:

- ◆ I was not alone. James was very animated about capitalizing on the opportunity, so we presented a unified and consistent message. This point is related to the next, which is that...
- ◆ There is a dojo spirit to create and look for opportunities to improve. The source is Sensei (and I must include the Sempai), but it has to be embodied by the kohai to live and breathe. A wonderful example took place at the December 2000 Shinzen tournament, the first in which I participated. Ian Rosenblatt, a teenage student in our dojo whom I believe was 6th kyu at the time, moved up to fight against more senior belts and took one of the top places in the group. So I had the benefit of good modeling for how to respond to opportunity. This point is related to the next, which is that...
- ◆ We are each a representative. The best way for me (and us) to


represent our Sensei and dojo was, and continues to be, to act in ways that honor both the examples that have been set for us and the values and ideals that we aspire toward. Of course this notion of representation extends to "Sensei" and "dojo" in the collective sense, and therefore to the Shinzen.

- ◆ The interest of the Shinzen in fostering progress. I do not presume to read the minds of the Shinzen leadership. But my perception is that in setting up tournaments and clinics, the organization recognizes the value that such experiences are expected to provide as well as the potential benefits arising from unusual circumstances. In this case, it seems to me that an unusual circumstance was used to provide a forum for the expression of spirit. In other words, the opportunity to qualify for the award was created as an outgrowth of Shinzen values.

Each of these points is related to the others, but I believe the essential message comes down to this: That the recognition of any individual karate-ka is really recognition of the community in which he or she trains, learns, and grows. I am now quite happy to take credit for the manner in which I participated in the tournament, but I do so knowing it is not about me, it is about us.

Respectfully submitted,

Zvi Strassberg, 7th kyu

Island Budokan 

"We both wanted to compete against the higher belts, seeing the situation as an opportunity to test ourselves..."

Wear Your Kyokai Patch With Pride

Are you wearing your Kyokai patch? Do you need one? The Kyokai patch represents the largest association of authentic Shorinjiryu independent schools in the world. These schools were founded on the principles of Kaiso Kori Hisataka.

The patch can be obtained by sending a ten dollar fee to the organization or directly from your instructor. The patch is worn on the left leg of the pants close to the ankle.



Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai

P.O. Box 210160
Woodhaven, NY 11421

Phone: 718/647-4157

Email: MMLShihan@AOL



Editor

Brian Berenbach, Renshi

Assistant Editor

Mark McKennon, Nidan

Graphic design and layout

Vincent Capers, Jr., Renshi

Web Master

Jose Tigani, Sensei



*A Gathering of the
Shorinjiryu Family*

Unless otherwise stated, all articles in this document reflect the author's opinion. Inclusion in the Shinzen Shimbun does not necessarily constitute endorsement by the Shinzen Kyokai or any of its affiliates.

Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai
Shorinjiryu Shimbun

Fall 2001

- Assistor Nidan
- Bow Offense
- Defense One before
- Gong Polisher
- Hachiman Rei
- Instructor Renshi
- Kasatoga Sempai
- Kohai Shihan
- Kyoshi Shinan
- Kyu Shodan
- Master Tashi
- Mudanshu Uke

Y E W H A I N S T R U C T O R I
 B S R K G U K E D M I H S A T M
 G A E G O O N O T K Y O S H I U
 S K T D N N N A H M A S S E M D
 O A S E E E A G H A I F A B N A
 A S A S R B A N U I C H S S T N
 S A M N E E F S K Y H H S A A S
 P O L E H F E H A K K S I N S H
 D E F F S O G I S Y I O S M E U
 H A I E I R S E A O T F T I A R
 I E F D L E A N T N F F O K N N
 R A G K O H A I O W W E R M A I
 R K P D P D R O G W K N S A D I
 N Y N M O R E E A O H S K H I F
 N O O H E R N H S B D E N H N S
 U E S H N S N A N I H S R S H O