

them wore a different patch," he recalled.

"Because of dislike for American karate I lost my two front teeth. Just because I was an American karate stylist. But I retaliated and put the guy in the hospital. It's a heck of a way to look at it—violence, I guess, gets more violence, which is wrong—but I believe in an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth when it comes to the art.

"It used to be when an American stylist would go in there (to competition) and they'd say, 'The winner is so-and-so,' then they'd say his style, and when they'd say 'American karate,' everybody'd boo. I used to be booed the first four years. I'd just grin. You know, it'd be: 'Where you from?' 'Muskegon, Michigan.' 'Never heard of it.' I'd say, 'That's right, but you'll hear from it more often.' They did. They'd ask, 'What style are you?' 'American karate.' 'Gee, never heard of that.' 'That's okay, you will.' They did.

"I mean, I'd go in the square and people from every style would say, 'Beat that American.' And I mean

"Because of dislike for American karate, I lost my two front teeth."

Americans were saying that. And that made me fight that much harder. I'd say, 'Like crazy you're gonna beat me!'

"The worst I ever had was where guys waited outside the karate school for me. I got threatened—physically. Guys would follow me into the locker room tryin' to fight me 'cause I represented American karate, 'cause I said I was an American karate stylist. I'd say, 'I didn't come here to fight you. I already beat your instructor.' 'Well, we don't think it works on the street.' Now, I go on the street, I go to jail, and they knew it. I'd say, 'Okay, you're so tough, all you gotta do is attack me. I won't come to you. I will not break the law.' They'd verbalize. Only a couple times did they actually try, but I was prepared. No problem. I don't fight clean, so I win. And I won, even in the locker room.

"It's some abuse that I had to take, but now my students don't have to take it, thank God. They get cheated, where

Right: For 15 years, Lieb has been showing people that his way—American karate—works. It hasn't always been easy. He is outspoken. But students (above) might tell you, his actions speak louder than his words.

the judges don't say nothin', they just plain cheat 'em. But that's normal. They cheat everybody. There's always some cheats around."

Lieb talks about cheating and threats without bitterness. He doesn't condone them, but he understands why these things happen.

"New ideas, new concepts are always hard to accept—always. It's natural not to accept them. That's why the problems. We don't have them anymore, though. But only because we win. If we lost, everybody'd laugh.

"Winning isn't everything, but how you win has something to do with it. You don't have to go in there like a fool and, because you're traditional, not be able to change. Why get beat half to death because you can't change your kicks or your punches? There's some (traditional) things that are honorable, but I don't think any instructor would want his student to go in there and get beat up 'cause he won't let him change his approach," Lieb said.

"I believe there are some traditional things that are good. For example, loyalty, respect, honor, humility. The things that don't just go back to the Orient, but go back to the Bible. The things we believe in—respect your fellow man. If you're really gonna get down to talkin' about tradition, that's tradition. The things that have, for thousands of years, always had value. That haven't changed because they are the kinds of things that will never change. But when you talk about tradition as far as 'the kick is done this way, there is no other way,' that's bull.

"Our bodies can move in so many different ways. If you're not willing to

change, you're gonna die out. Your approach will die out because what works is what people will use. That's why you make changes. Not just in karate, but in American business, too. If I could come up with a better mousetrap, you would build a better mousetrap because otherwise I could have all your sales. American karate's the same way. It may not be better in the sense of the world 'better,' but it works.

"Now, everybody's doin' it. There isn't one who can say he's a traditional stylist when he fights. Nobody comes out and fights traditionally, they'll get beat. Traditional fighters are fighting the American way—anyway, anything. They're changing if they want to win. They've got no choice. American students are changing because of necessity. It's being forced on them because they can't win any other way.

"If they fight the old traditional way—piece of cake. Why? Because you know exactly what they're gonna do. But an American fighter—you don't know what he's gonna do. That's what's good, which is bad if you're competing against him. You never know what he's gonna throw at you. Like the old saying, we throw the kitchen sink? Well, we throw the bathtub, lamps—anything we can get, we're gonna beat you with it. That's what makes American karate so strong. You can never be sure what we're gonna hit you with."

Lieb kept his opponents guessing through 1971, when he retired from competition with 42 wins and three disqualifications for excessive contact. Lieb was a fighter, rarely competing in kata. But when he did, he won. His students tell about a tournament where

