

LETTERS

that he would telephone editors whose newspapers offended. Directives were pinned on news-room notice-boards about the correct spelling. As an editor I published various style books that stressed to reporters, among other things, that the name was Wilfrid, not Wilfred (and, incidentally, that Kevan Gosper shouldn't be called Kevin).

Kent Hughes was a fascinating man. As well as being chairman of the Organising Committee for the Melbourne Olympic Games (for which he was knighted), he was a military hero (he won a Military Cross and was Mentioned in Dispatches four times in World War I), a prisoner of war (he was captured at the fall of Singapore and later decorated with an OBE for his "inspiration" to all ranks during his incarceration), an Olympic hurdler, a published

poet and a significant politician. He reached ministerial rank, but was too much of a maverick ever to be considered a potential prime minister.

Kent Hughes had the flag that found its way into his baggage autographed by all members of the Australian team, and later by Count Baillet-Latour and Sigfrid Edstrom. When Avery Brundage visited Australia for the 1956 Games, he put a third presidential autograph on it. Kent Hughes later donated the flag to the Beaufort Athletic Centre at Melbourne University.

Sorry to be so fussy. I respected the man very much, and just feel I owe it to him to keep that pesky "e" out of his name.

DAVID WALLECHINSKY AWARDED OLYMPIC ORDER

David Wallechinsky was awarded the Olympic Order by IOC President Jacques Rogge at a ceremony at the Little America Hotel and Suites during the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games.

Wallechinsky is a writer, who has written extensively about the Olympic Games. In 1984, he published his signature work, *The Complete Book of the Olympic Games*, which has become the best-selling book on the Olympics ever published in English. This work has now gone through five editions, one for each Summer Olympics since 1984, and he has also written four editions of *The Complete Book of the Winter Olympics*. Wallechinsky is a founding member of the International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH), and has served as treasurer of the organization since 1996. He is also a consultant to the IOC for information for their Web Site, and has worked for NBC Radio and Television as a commentator at the Olympic Games since 1988. Some of his other popular works include *The Book of Lists*, *The People's Almanac*, and *David Wallechinsky's 20th Century History – With the Boring Parts Left Out*.

Written by ISOH President, Bill Mallon