

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Happily Ever After?

We rarely read an experience about happily married, male/female couples. Maybe an occasional pioneer who stuck it out with her military husband. But they are frequently about women who have escaped the cruel clutches of an abusive husband. Or a happy member and his or her same-sex partner.

Actually, spousal battery is extremely rare. Domestic violence usually involves unmarried partners. The typical battered woman has children by multiple partners. The typical “batterer” owes child support to several former live-in partners. It appears that the root cause of domestic battery is a mutual lack of commitment, fidelity and responsibility.

Imagine you are a mainstream member of society. You read the *World Tribune*. You detect an obvious bias against traditional marriage. Would you want to raise your children in this religion?

I would like to see some experiences about some happy, monogamous, heterosexual marriages. I would be interested in the struggles they face teaching values to children in a world where almost anything (except character) is considered normal.

— ROBIN BECK, Momence, Ill.

Are We Truly Open Minded?

Open our minds and hearts through diversity. It sounds easy, doesn't it? We all tend to think we are this way but are we truly? I questioned why the *World Tribune* thought it appropriate to publish condescending comments that members said about each other when we so eagerly strive to develop the positive aspects of each other.

When I read the “Mailbox” letters referring to the “Joe YMD” comic strip I had to ask myself if I am open minded. Ben Model (Oct. 18, 1996), says this comic strip “is misrepresentative of what the SGI is supposed to be about.” So then, what is the SGI? It is a home where we can be free to express our ideas, creativity and feelings, to enhance one another and to be accepted for our uniqueness so that we can joyfully contribute to kosen-rufu in the manner that best suits us. This is the beauty of our organization. Do you agree?

As Jessie Newburn mentioned [Feb. 14], I also applaud and now realize the efforts of the *World Tribune* staff in producing a paper that reflects the voices and lives of all the treasured members. It is a prime challenge to constantly cultivate our wisdom to encourage the Soka Group or anyone to participate in activities in whatever way we can....

I don't think “Joe YMD” is intended for us to emulate his actions in any style whatsoever. If we open our hearts we can appreciate the contributions of others and naturally our lives will blossom. And we won't be so offended when our views are different from others. The “Joe YMD” comic strip has created a new opportunity for us to reflect upon ourselves once again.

Thank you so much, *World Tribune*, for printing the diverse opinions of us all.

— VADORA YEATES, Atlanta

P.S. You go, Joe!