

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Watch Your Language

I think the *World Tribune* has gotten better and better over the past few years, and I thank all involved for your efforts. I've never been accused of being a prude, but I was shocked and in a state of disbelief when I saw the obscenity used in Brooke Bundy's article in the May 23 *World Tribune* and also in the "Mailbox" on June 13. Aren't we chanting to make our thoughts the Buddha's thoughts, our WORDS the Buddha's words and our deeds the Buddha's deeds? Does anyone think the MF- word or the F-word are the words of the Buddha?

I spent three years in the military, 25 years in construction and many years on the street, and unfortunately for me, once in a while the F-word will slip out. But I immediately realize it's my weakness and it's not the word of the Buddha. I'm ashamed to admit that I've even let it slip in front of my children, but I apologize to them and explain it's my shortcoming and ask them please don't follow that bad example. We all know that sometimes in society such obscenities flow from people's mouths as easily as hellos and good-byes, but does that mean that using such language is appropriate for us as Buddhists?

In my 27 years of practice, I've been taught that if we make a mistake, we should reflect, apologize and make a determination not to make the same mistake again. The MF-word is an insult to everyone, especially to women and even more so to mothers. The *World Tribune* made a serious error in judgment on this one, in my opinion.

— FRED GRIMMINTZ, North Pontiac, Md.

Communication Is the Key

I read with interest Jeff Ourvan's comments on the "rhetoric" of our organization's printed word. I, too, am really tired of oft-repeated words such as *brilliant*, *human revolution*, *pioneers*, *courageous*, *kosen-rufu*, etc. These are not words common to our American culture or our daily life. In fact, I only recently discovered that the phrase *human revolution* has offended my non-practicing husband because he thought it had to do with some sort of violence!

Buddhism is a powerful philosophy but it will do no one any good if it cannot be communicated in the language of the people who read and hear its message. I feel that communication is the key to world peace. Peace in the world begins with peace in the family, peace in our neighborhoods and in the workplace, and so on in an ever-widening circle. To accomplish this peace I think that we need to LISTEN. To quote from the Sept. 1, 1995, *World Tribune*, "Truly listening as opposed to waiting for your turn to talk is an important step in good communication." That says it all.

So, please, *World Tribune* editors, start communicating in a language that fits our American culture and our American way of life.

Thanks for listening to my point of view.

— JANE MOUNCE, Fall River, Mass.

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