

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Fostering Peace in People's Hearts

Thank you so much for your efforts. Reading the *World Tribune* is usually delightful. Unfortunately, "Two Points of View," the "Worldview" article on July 18 about Hong Kong and China, made me worried and angry.

If David Shambaugh really understands China, he should have known that economic revolution there doesn't mean any improvement of human rights.

Respect for citizens is never part of the nature of the communist government. Polls in Hong Kong cannot reach those who have fled in fear.

The spirit of the SGI is to cherish every individual and to fight against any devil. The type of peace we want to foster should be that in Chinese people's hearts.

— AI-YING CHEN, New York

Listening to Others

SGI President Ikeda encourages everyone to be opened-minded, flexible and not to judge people without knowing them. I am surprised at how harshly people criticized Jan Sibert's article (June 13 *World Tribune*). A "Perspective" is a personal view on a subject. Everyone has a right to their opinion, views, feelings, so why do we jump down a person's throat or attack them when they have a view, unless we're more perfect than anyone else (hard to believe that anyone is)?

"It's important to listen to other people's opinions, evaluating them from a standpoint of faith, but you must not be completely swayed by them"(President Ikeda, *Guidance Memo*, p. 238).

— SHIRLEY ZAGOREC, Orlando, Fla.

Our Choice of Words

In response to Fred Grimmnitz's letter (July 25 "Mailbox"), which included the question, "Does anyone think the MF-word or the F-word are the words of the Buddha?" I want to offer another point of view.

In Brooke Bundy's experience (May 23 *World Tribune*), it seems clear to me that the words in question ("No, motherf—") were an expression of her stubborn determination not to die, because of her concern for her daughter and her fellow members.

The *World Tribune*, as other respected publications are in the habit of doing, printed the necessary initial, without actually spelling out the "offensive" word itself. To have changed the indication of that word or to have left it out would have, in my opinion, been unfair both to Ms. Bundy and to the readers. Leaving it in helped me feel what a crucial moment it was that she had actually experienced.

Concerning our choice of words as Buddhists, I think some important questions to ask are: "Is the language I am using helping someone get closer to the Gohonzon?" "Does it help generate mutual respect?" "Does it give someone the courage to overcome his or her sufferings?" If the answers are yes, then regardless of what those words might be, I believe we are using the right words, the words of the Buddha.

— DANIEL BROWNFIELD, Burbank, Calif.

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