

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Let's Be 'Masters of Language'

In the Aug. 29 issue, Ms. Phoebe Pnaigh decries the use of “censorship” and defends the use of what she terms “slang” (and most would term profanity) in our Buddhist newspaper. While I support her views on the First Amendment, I question the wisdom of your printing (or alluding to) language which many people really do find offensive.

There is no doubt that people have the “right” to say a wide range of things; and some will doubtless find it refreshing. But if we consider the responsibility we carry to introduce the greatness of Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism, which upholds the dignity of human life, to the broad spectrum of American society, I hope we’ll realize the need to be wise and thoughtful in the words we choose. Words are indeed very powerful whether for good or for evil. They can invite our trust or they can repel us. As we follow along the path of such people as Shakyamuni, Nichiren and Daisaku Ikeda — all of them masters of language — I hope the *World Tribune* will exercise similar consideration for the feelings of their readers.

— BILL AIKEN, Washington, D.C.

NATO's Not So Bad

Regarding Mark Anton’s letter, “NATO’s Not So Great” (Aug. 1 *World Tribune*): I disagree with Mr. Anton’s opinion that the *World Tribune* served as “a propaganda outlet for the military industrial complex” and with his disparaging views on NATO....

NATO is a transatlantic partnership between European members of NATO, the United States and Canada, designed to bring about peace and stability throughout Europe. NATO is the only military alliance in the world that has bound itself to defend freedom, human rights and democracy.

Throughout the years of the Cold War, NATO focused on the development and maintenance of collective defense and on overcoming the fundamental political issues dividing Europe. Since the end of the Cold War, NATO has evolved with the changing circumstances. Its core mission remains collective defense, but its organization, military capability and structures have changed. It has also extended cooperation to new partners in Central and Eastern Europe to promote stability and security in Europe as a whole.

Since 1989, NATO has increased coordination and cooperation with international institutions such as the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Western European Union and the European Union. NATO has also supported international peacekeeping operations....

I also question Mr. Anton’s knowledge of current affairs. In his seemingly reactionary and ironic tone, he addresses NATO promoting the stability and security of Europe. He asks: “Where? Preventing ethnic slaughter in Bosnia?” As a matter of fact, it was NATO intervention that ultimately stopped the genocide carried out in Bosnia. Just last month, soldiers began round-the-clock protection for several hundred Muslim and Croatian refugees returning to homes in a Bosnian Serb area.

By supporting U.N. and diplomatic efforts, NATO broke the siege in Sarajevo and led it to a genuine cease fire and made negotiations possible in 1995....

NATO provided support services such as emergency accommodations, medical treatment and evacuation, vehicle repair, transport assistance and logistical support. NATO military engineers repaired and opened more than 50 percent of the roads in Bosnia and Herzegovina, rebuilt schools and hospitals, rebuilt and repaired more than 60 bridges,

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repaired railroads and opened up airports to civilians. They also restored gas, water, electricity and telecommunications.

— KRISTI LOMBARD, Bethesda, Md.

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