

## WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

### Good News Newspaper

Once again I wish to commend the *World Tribune* for a job well done. I have been reading “Worldview” as well as the “Mailbox,” and I have noticed an interesting development. The “Worldview” articles sometimes depict people and situations that may be controversial in some way, and the readers are responding by writing letters to the editor with further insights on these issues.... And I was very glad that people took the time to write about these issues for the readers’ benefit. I hope this dialogue continues.

I also want to point out that in printing the “Worldview” column, your newspaper is providing a wonderful service to the public, without necessarily taking sides on political issues....

I have long dreamed that someone would publish a newspaper that reported good news on a regular basis. When you think about the subject matter that makes up most headlines in the U.S. papers, and probably most other nations as well, it is no surprise that social conditions don’t seem to improve fast enough. I think the news media do an incredible job of filtering out the important news and focusing instead on the lower worlds — greed, fear, anger, prejudice and so forth. I think the *World Tribune* may be the answer to my prayers — a journal that reports the positive efforts that people throughout society and the world are making to bring out their greatest potential and happiness. I only hope that we continue to widen the scope of our newspaper so that it becomes a publication that anyone can enjoy reading, whatever their religious or political persuasion.

— PETER NATHEN BANNE, San Francisco

### Keep Your Focus

The level of discourse in the *World Tribune* “Mailbox” has been a disappointment. Week after dreary week, the column is rife with whining that this person’s point-of-view has been overlooked, or that person’s cultural background has been inadvertently denigrated, or some other person has suffered some injustice. I thought that the purpose of practicing Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism was overcoming one’s “victimhood” by taking control and responsibility over one’s life.

Undoubtedly, people can write whatever they want to the editors of the *World Tribune*, and the *World Tribune* can acquiesce and print all of these kind of letters. But it seems to me that letters which express such insular points of view have little appeal to the majority of members who would like to see their newspaper offer more encouraging materials. I, for one, am not interested in reading, for weeks on end, a debate about how a contributor to the paper was either racist, insensitive or sexist. I can get such kind of malarkey in the letters-to-the-editor column of my daily “unenlightened” paper....

The *World Tribune* is not a mouthpiece for anyone who has a point of view to express. The concept of openness and democracy cannot be interpreted to mean that the *World Tribune* editors have surrendered their editorial responsibilities.

In that regard, I believe that more discretion should be applied in deciding what should be published in the paper. I want to know about Buddhism. I want to know about the profound explanation Buddhism offers for life’s phenomena. I prefer to see a dialogue in the paper that directly furthers my understanding of Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism. In sum, I think that the focus of the paper has been lost. What else can explain the fact that the letter headlined “For You TV Watchers” was published in the Sept. 19 issue?

— DAVID KADIN, Redondo Beach, Calif.

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