

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Chant for Nikken's Defeat

Rather than chanting for Nikken's happiness, as was suggested in the March 20 "Mailbox," I believe that we should unite to chant for his defeat in the Seattle Incident trial. On Feb. 2 of this year, Nikken once again asserted that he would resign if Mrs. Clow's account of his behavior in Seattle were proven true. By stepping down as high priest, Nikken would not be in a position to orchestrate wide-scale attacks on the SGI, which is a cause not only for his unhappiness in this lifetime but for countless lifetimes to come.

Nikken's resignation would also cause many temple members to reflect on their faith and practice. Some of these temple members would probably leave Nichiren Shoshu, thus removing themselves from an environment that promotes slander. This would be a cause for their happiness.

A defeat for Nikken in his libel suit might also weaken Nichiren Shoshu as a whole. This could slow down their efforts to prey on SGI members and bring them to the temple.

Individuals who practice with the SGI all have the potential for great happiness and to reach enlightenment in this lifetime. Individuals who practice with the temple have these options denied to them by the very nature of how they practice Buddhism.

Nikken will be cross-examined again on May 18. By chanting for the success of the SGI's attorneys and for Nikken's fastest defeat in this trial, we are making the best possible causes for the happiness of SGI members, confused temple members and even Nikken himself.

— ROB WEINSTEIN, Highland Mills, N.Y.

Another Okinawa

The article "Missiles Into Sunflowers" (April 3 *World Tribune*) noted that "Dr. Krieger...said...there was an anecdote...of Napoleon Bonaparte expressing utter incredulity when he heard...that the people of these [Okinawan] islands did not possess weapons of any kind.... Napoleon's reaction was typical of a military mind...." The Englishman in the early 1800s who told Napoleon the Okinawans had no weapons was mistaken. Okinawa is the birthplace of karate, which transformed people's hands, feet, knees, elbows and farming implements into a deadly arsenal of weapons.

The Okinawan people were driven to develop karate for self-defense when, in 1609, the Japanese Satsuma samurai clan occupied Okinawa, confiscated all conventional weapons like swords, and then proceeded to use Okinawan peasants for their swordplay target practice. The Okinawans responded not with pacifism but with a pragmatic, clandestine, comprehensive effort to rearm themselves.

If the *World Tribune* was looking to historic Okinawa for an idyllic example of a pacifistic society to support its contention that defenselessness is a tenable way of life, the *World Tribune* should keep on looking. On the other hand, I do agree with the article's main point, that a positive change in the human heart makes technology function for the good of humanity. Through my own Buddhist practice, I've changed the significance of my martial arts involvement to something positive; for example, my martial arts give me the discipline to do gongyo consistently.

— GERALD T. AITKEN, Walden, N.Y.

Title: Mailbox: 04/24/98

Subject: World Tribune 04/24/98 n.3188 p.3 WT980424p03

Author:

Keywords: 04/24/98 January June Mailbox Opinion Tribune World