

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

More on the Special Issue

KUDOS!!! To you all for publishing a great issue of the *World Tribune*. I was amazed and happy with your Oct. 30 issue. I am a college student just trying to find some way of introducing people to Buddhism, and your issue is the perfect conversation starter and informational “brochure” for SGI-USA. I wish you would reprint this one and sell it, or give it out to the youth division, so they can start “*shakubuku*-ing” (sorry for the made-up word) like mad. For those in the high school division and younger, they only have vague memories of the *shakubuku* runs of the '80s and are not experienced in *shakubuku*-ing. I know that I don't have the greatest conceptual grasp of Buddhism and how to describe the fundamental aspects of Buddhism and the SGI, but this issue has helped me tremendously in my *shakubuku*-ing. It encouraged me and gave me some inspirational material to work with. I think most other youth division members would greatly benefit from this issue.

P.S. I like the paper quality upgrade. It makes the *World Tribune* much more professional!

— PAUL CHU, Claremont, Calif.

I really appreciate all the effort you put into the *World Tribune*. There are times when I see some of my issues pile up, and I then make every effort to peruse them as soon as they arrive in the mail, so I can savor and be encouraged by not only the words but the pictures, especially.

The Oct. 30 issue with the beautiful color photos and high-quality paper was so very, very nice. We used this issue at our Nov. 18 commemorative meeting, and it was perfect for the occasion.

— CAROLYN NICHOLSON, Philadelphia

Encouraging Experience

I'm writing to congratulate Darlene Riffert for her courage and spirit. When I read her experience in the Nov. 6 *World Tribune*, I was very moved by her determination to overcome what I know to be an extremely hellish environment. It's hard to just survive sometimes in prison, but to flourish and grow in mind and spirit is remarkable. I admire her so much for not only maintaining her own practice, but encouraging others to practice as well.

I am currently incarcerated in a prison not too far from Ms. Riffert, and though I practice alone here, I receive a lot of love and support from my district in York, Pa. This support helps me stay connected to the SGI-USA, which is important to my practice. So I would also like to thank Janette Stewart of Williamsport, Pa., for taking time to hold monthly discussion meetings with the women in Muncy Prison. I would also like to encourage all members of the SGI to reach out to those of us who are in prison. It will really make a big difference in our lives. I want Ms. Riffert to know she and the other members at Muncy are in my prayers. I wish you all peace. My thanks to the *World Tribune* for sharing her experience with me and all the readers.

—MICHAEL J. WILLIAMS SR., Coal Township, Pa.

Title: Mailbox: 12/04/98

Subject: World Tribune 12/04/98 n.3220 p.11 WT981204p11

Author:

Keywords: 12/04/98 December July Mailbox Opinion Tribune World

Guaranteed Enlightenment?

It's quite exciting to be able to e-mail the *World Tribune* staff now. I was reading the *World Tribune* to generate dialogue at our discussion meeting and ran across an article in the Nov. 28 issue written by Terry Ellis, a contributing editor. It asks, "If Shakyamuni and T'ien-t'ai and Nichiren couldn't guarantee enlightenment to anyone, wouldn't we be foolish to think our age is any different?"

Does this mean no one outside yourself can guarantee your enlightenment? Is this a state of mind that only you can provide? Maybe I've been reading this wrong over the years. I thought this Buddhism guaranteed you enlightenment as long as you continued to practice it.

Please provide some insight to clarify this issue.

Thanks for your time and generous support.

— TERI CHESTER and WALTER HARRON, Fresno, Calif.

Editor's Note: Ted Morino, SGI-USA Study Department leader, responds with the following: It is the power of our faith (chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo trustingly) that enables us to tap our innate Buddhahood. It is the power of our practice that enables us to solidify our inherent Buddhahood.

When Nichiren Daishonin says that anyone can attain Buddhahood through the Lotus Sutra, he is expressing his absolute conviction in the wonderful power of the Mystic Law.

It is not the Gohonzon or the Daishonin that determines our enlightenment; it is our faith and practice that make enlightenment a reality within our lives.

Title: Mailbox: 12/04/98

Subject: World Tribune 12/04/98 n.3220 p.11 WT981204p11

Author:

Keywords: 12/04/98 December July Mailbox Opinion Tribune World