

## WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

### Women in the Workplace

I was very surprised and excited to read about Verlette Allen in the April 16 World Tribune. I have been trying to track her down for a couple of years, but thought she was still in Washington, D.C.

The reason for this is that my husband is a member of the Plumbers Local #5 here in D.C. From where I stand, the Plumbers Local and the contractors' associations still are laboring under some illusions about women in the workplace. Some of these attitudes create a lot of hostility on the part of male members of the local.

Though I do see some positive change, I think it would be productive to open a dialogue between Ms. Allen's group and the union and contractor's officials in the Washington, D.C. area. Recent articles in the Washington Post in the wake of the Columbine shootings have discussed the vulnerability of boys in the context of the public school setting. Therefore, Ms. Allen's perspective on training of men and women together in a vocational setting seems, to me, to make a lot of sense.

— ZELDA BELL,  
Washington, D.C.

### Regarding SGI Policy

In the June 25 *World Tribune* in an article about Jean Sidwell, the article mentioned that Jean received her Gohonzon soon after she started chanting. Since this is no longer the policy of SGI, I think such deviations from current policy should not be mentioned or an explanation of the difference in policy should be footnoted. I say this as a non/new potential member who has been practicing for three months and has to wait another three months before receiving a Gohonzon. I enjoyed the article. I enjoy receiving the *World Tribune*.

— KEITH BLUME,  
Kingwood, Texas

*Editor's note: Since 1990, the SGI-USA has established membership guidelines. The new SGI-USA membership guidelines were published in the July 23 World Tribune, page 1. The six-month practice period has been changed to three months.*

### More Than Lip Service

I would like to express my happiness and gratitude to the SGI for their contribution to the Kosovo refugees. I have often been left with the feeling through conversations or guidance that the answer to everything is to only chant—and I've felt upset and frustrated by the omission of praying for the wisdom to take action.

So I am very pleased to know that the action to help in a concrete way was implemented. This was the first time I was aware of the SGI doing this—and it reinstilled my faith that we are paying more than lip service to kosen-rufu. I was also impressed with General

Director's Zaitso's letter—fair-minded and strong.

I found Dr. Linus Pauling Jr.'s article very informative, and it was valuable to know from a son's point of view the relationship and impact between his father and President Ikeda. I appreciated his views on the SGI and Buddhism. I also would like to thank Paris Davis for a wonderful experience. I must say that this is, for me, one of the best *World Tribunes* to date. I have had a lot of complaint about what I considered fluff, when other members have been inspired. It is in fairness and great pleasure that I thank you for a great April 23 *World Tribune*.

— ELLEN LEGER,  
Lexington, Mass.

## **Y2K and Others**

Perhaps it is time that we as an organization begin to address the Y2K issue. Every other newspaper and magazine are considering the potential problems that this "bug" could cause. Not that our publication comments on everything that the media jumps on—thank goodness. However, a topic as serious and controversial as disruption of services to possible infrastructure collapse ought to merit some attention, yes?

Yet no mention has been made, which leads me to ponder the curious question: Has the computer that contains my subscription information been upgraded? In other words, is the SGI Y2K compliant?

It seems to me that since we involve ourselves in movements such as the Abolition 2000 (nuclear disarmament) and disaster relief efforts, then certainly the manmade 2000 computer crisis is in keeping with our world peace agenda, in addition to the fact that this year's theme focuses on community involvement.

— LAURA NOVAK,  
Sebastopol, Calif.

*Editor's note: After much thought regarding the Y2K problem, the World Tribune has decided not to address the issue due to the abundant information already available on the topic. Rather, the July issue of Living Buddhism deals with the philosophical and underlying principles of the problem in the article "Don't Foul Out of the Game of Life: A Buddhist Solution to Millennium Madness."*

*SGI-USA members can be assured that we, from an organizational standpoint, are Y2K compliant and are doing our best to make sure our suppliers are also compliant.*

*Letters printed here do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the SGI-USA or the World Tribune. In the "Mailbox," we will publish members' comments, suggestions and questions as they pertain to the World Tribune. Because of volume, not all letters can be printed, but they are all read. All letters are subject to condensation. Please include signature, mailing address and telephone number. Pseudonyms and initials will not be used. Send letters to "Mailbox," World Tribune, 606 Wilshire Boulevard, P.O. Box 1427, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1427 or e-mail at [wt@sgi-usa.org](mailto:wt@sgi-usa.org).*