

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Thanks, Steve Doty

I read the article by Steve Doty about his time spent with Mr. Zaitzu (Dec. 3, 1999, *World Tribune*, p. 11). It was well written and easy to follow. It was funny to hear Steve say he was somewhat paranoid that he was not acting appropriately throughout the journey. I go through the same feelings.

He also added some simple solutions for a fuller life. I learned that I should spend some more time to get to know members more deeply. That leaders at any level are normal people. And mostly how faith is the most “open” state of mind of all.

This article prompted me to write my first letter to the *World Tribune*. I am glad I had the opportunity to read this.

—DAVE HERRERA,
Glendale, Calif.

Authoritarianism

I would like to thank Dave Evangelista for writing (Nov. 26, 1999, *World Tribune*) in response to the Oct. 8, 1999, *World Tribune* article by Jeff Farr. I understand what Mr. Farr was trying to say about leaders being human and making mistakes and in most instances this is probably the case. However, I felt exactly as Dave Evangelista did upon reading the article. We cannot ignore the fact that we may have equally authoritarian leader within the SGI as there are within the priesthood. The “we’re all good and they’re all bad” attitude will only serve to destroy this wonderful organization from within.

What needs to be addressed now, once we acknowledge this problem, is what do we do to fight passionately against evil and injustice in terms of dealing with it from within the SGI? Do we have the courage of the lion to deal with it?

Please address this issue further in the future. Thank you.

—LILLIAN WILNER,
Spring Green, Wis.

Using English Names

I am glad to see we are calling the temple issue something else, since the issue is really much broader than that title would indicate, but Soka Spirit movement? Is there some reason why we can’t have English names for things? (e.g. Byakuren, Soka Group, Gajokai, etc.). The organization was established here almost 40 years ago and English is, after all, the primary language in the United States. We have kept some Japanese terminology for the sake of tradition and/or convenience, but neither is at stake here. I believe the decision to rename the “temple issue” using a Japanese word betrays a mindset prevalent in our organization that makes it difficult for our organization and thus Nichiren Daishonin’s philosophy to be widely shared, accepted and understood in this country.

—EILEEN McGRUDER,
Los Angeles

About the Environment

I must say I was one of the many who found Frank Hotchkiss' now-famous perspective appalling, if well-meaning (Oct. 1, 1999, *World Tribune*). As volunteers in an environmental media group (ECO) that produces public service announcements about our many ecological challenges, my husband and I are committed to doing all we can to help protect and heal our true "mother" Earth.

My deepest thanks go to all (Mr. Biggs and Mr. Peterson, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Mani in the Nov. 19 and Dec. 10, 1999, *World Tribune*) who wrote such eloquent and well-informed rebuttals. I believe I speak for many like myself who feel the same passion but lack the statistics or ability to reply so clearly.

In his favor, however, Mr. Hotchkiss certainly sparked a valuable dialogue and prompted many to re-examine this profoundly important issue.

P.S. Thanks, *World Tribune*, for making such exchanges possible!

—LYNN SACHNOFF,
Culver City, Calif.

I have been enjoying the lively dialogue about the environment engendered by the Hotchkiss article. It's great to see the "Mailbox" full of a variety of opinions. I also appreciate a wide range of viewpoints within the body of the paper. Beverly Bagan's article (Nov. 10, 1999, *World Tribune*) added another perspective and more hard data to the environmental issues faced by contemporary cultures. I hope the paper will continue to support an exploration of issues from any and all of the voices within the human community.

—ESTHER BARATH,
La Jolla, Calif.

You just couldn't leave well enough alone, could you. Frank Hotchkiss writes the first article that brings light to the environmental hysteria this organization has propounded since President Ikeda's 1990 thesis on environmental issues. Then in the next issue, you feel like you have to have a response from Beverly Bagans (Nov. 12, 1999, *World Tribune*). While I admire her attitude and efforts, what she writes in no way diminishes the truth of Mr. Hotchkiss. And to top it all off, in the Nov. 26 issue, another long letter by Dixon Hamby. His anecdotes are interesting, but not scientific, and in no way a reflection of the global condition.

At least you included a small letter by Andy Hanlen in support of Mr. Hotchkiss. However, just look at the column inches that have been devoted to bad environmental science over the last decade as compared to the one truthful account given by Mr. Hotchkiss.

—JAMES RYAN,
Indianapolis, Ind.
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For the Toddlers

The New York Culture Center has designated room 307 as a "Toddler's Room." It will be

equipped with a video monitor connected to the main Gohonzon room during general meetings, such as Kosen-rufu Gongyo. Here, Gakkai mothers, fathers and care givers may participate in meetings: chant, receive encouragement in faith, and network with other parents—while supervising their energetic toddlers. How wonderful for parents and children alike! We would like to thank the New York regional leaders for their compassion and conviction in creating the “Toddler’s Room.”

Respectfully submitted by,

— THE NEW YORK CITY MOTHER’S GROUP

Thanks, WT E-mail Express

I want to express my gratitude for your on-line service, the WT E-mail Express. I live in Istanbul, Turkey, and a *World Tribune* subscription is frightfully expensive. By the time I would receive the *World Tribune*, it would be at the very least two weeks old.

This year, the world peace prayer meeting will be held in my home, and I am pleased to say that I will share the *World Tribune* with the members here. I’ve been out of New York for almost 10 years now.

The New Year’s issue of the *World Tribune* was also my favorite one of the year, eagerly looked forward to. Thanks so much for bringing back the thrill!

— DIANE CONTI-TUNCAY,
Istanbul, Turkey

Thanks, Jorge Silverio

Enjoyed so much the experience by Jorge Silverio in the Jan. 1 issue. I practiced for many years in Puerto Rico and will again in the future, so I would appreciate his e-mail address if you have it, as I still know Cuban members in Puerto Rico and would love to hook up with him for kosen-rufu of Cuba.

— DAN NASH, Denver
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