

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Just a Thought

Youth Peace Conference Steering Committee member David Bogoslaw is quoted in the *World Tribune* (July 18, "Stop! In the Name of Peace") as saying, "In the past, some of us may have gotten the wrong idea, deciding Buddhism was about creating a safe little world to hide in." An interesting remark. Could be that whatever SGI activity, though it may fall short of someone's expectations, is a priceless opportunity for someone else's personal growth. Could be that someone's "safe little world to hide in" is someone else's "garden of humanity." Just a thought.

— JOE A. KOSTECKE, Los Angeles

My Way of Sending a Message

Since the SGI began conferring the Nichikan-transcribed Gohonzon, I've wanted to share my experience in the *World Tribune*. For me, to embrace this Gohonzon is a great source of pride, since Nichikan himself had such keen insight and compassion. It is my heartfelt feeling that only the SGI is bringing to the world the true spirit of the Daishonin's Buddhism, as did Nichikan.

When I exchanged the Nikken-transcribed Gohonzon for the Nichikan Gohonzon, I felt a new and fresh departure to my practice and a feeling as if once again I was connected to the Daishonin's spirit. Nikken has trampled on the Daishonin's spirit, and turning in the Nikken Gohonzon was my way of sending a message to Nikken: You're not welcome in my house.

— BILL MANHEIM, Los Angeles

No Censorship

In the Aug. 1 "Mailbox," I read a letter that has me very disturbed. It started with the Rebel Flag debate [in the June and July issues of *Living Buddhism*] and continues with this "Mailbox" column.

In several letters, members commented on articles that don't agree with their point of view, which is OK. However, they stated they want the *World Tribune* [or *Living Buddhism*] censored to fit their opinions.

Much blood has been shed over the last 200-plus years to assure all of us freedom of speech and religion. Without that sacrifice on our behalf, the United States and Japan would not have the SGI or all the great benefits we have gotten from the SGI bringing us the Gohonzon....

To me, it seems these members are not listening to SGI President Ikeda. Dialogue is the way to peace. That means you have to LISTEN to the other side. Our practice brings us great fortune and benefit, but it won't bring us peace if we refuse to listen with respect to other people.

War is not spontaneous combustion that occurs due to the presence of guns and/or soldiers. It comes from anger, greed, wounded pride and misunderstanding. The causes of war can be short-circuited by dialogue. LISTEN and talk to others with respect so you can work out the rough spots together.

Bottomline — no censorship of the *World Tribune*.

— PAT CALHOUN, Sherman, N.Y.

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