

## WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

### **Apathy Is Everyone's Concern**

Being a youth (age 23), reading your article (Jan. 30 "Editorial") on the youth apathy dilemma caused a range of thoughts to run through my mind. I know this problem you speak of and see the lack of enthusiasm generally displayed by the younger generation.

On one hand, I become discouraged and frustrated to see this as I am an "active" youth with activities ranging from work to college to my SGI activities. Therefore, it is insulting for me to be part of such an apathetic generation.

On the other hand I, too, sometimes have those feelings of apathy and understand why so many young people just don't care. With all of the turmoil that exists in the world, young people may feel helpless and hopeless. They may think, "No matter what I do, it won't help, so why do anything?"

That's where Buddhism comes in. Being a Buddhist has taught me that we do have the power to make changes in our lives and the lives of others enabling us to change the course of the history of humankind. As the oft-quoted phrase from *The Human Revolution* goes, "A great human revolution in just a single individual will help achieve a change in the destiny of all mankind."

Though I am not sure exactly how this problem can be solved, I have an idea that the solution starts within each of us. As your article stated, "We have to make a conscious effort to care." By caring about others, they realize their own potential to care. If a parent encourages a child to achieve his or her dreams, that child will be willing to try. If one friend persuades another that he or she can get an A on that test, the friend will be more eager to study — and so on.

As John Popper in Blues Traveler sings, "Both parent and child cry apathy but everybody cares." Here, I find an important message: One person's apathy should be everyone's concern.

— LINDA SAELG, Bayville, N.J.

### **Peace Pilgrim Makes a Mark**

I read with delight and rapt interest the "Worldview" article in your Feb. 13 *World Tribune* on Peace Pilgrim.

I met Peace Pilgrim 2, her spiritual heir, here in Calgary at a meeting sponsored by the Canadian Friends Services Committee and Project Ploughshares. Peace had just been to Toronto for the Evolution of World Order Conference, which was cosponsored by our SGI Caledon Centre for Peace and Education.

I was naturally very interested in Peace's impression of the conference and the center. Coincidentally, the day I met Peace Pilgrim 2 marked the start of my personal peace cyber-pilgrimage. That day I received an e-mail account and since then have been very active working for peace and the justice of the SGI electronically, in addition to my involvement with the SGI in Calgary.

— KEITH ROBINSON, Calgary, Canada

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