

## WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

### Thanks

Thanks for such an encouraging New Year's issue. The experiences are heartfelt and moving. I could feel the determination of the members to share their joy in faith. I really enjoy the colorful pages as well as the quality paper. I knew there must be times when you feel unappreciated but I, for one, after 12 years of practice, still eagerly look for the next *World Tribune* in the mail box. I also feel that you are responding quickly and effectively to members' suggestions on how to improve our organ paper. I see the paper is constantly trying to improve. If it isn't prohibitive, it would be great to see a lot of color pictures and graphics in upcoming issues.

Thanks again. Best wishes to all for a healthy, prosperous 1999.

— MARC COPELL  
Flushing, N.Y.

### Dumbing Down

I saw the new *World Tribune*. It looks like a glorified supermarket flyer peppered with a smattering of psychedelia. It presents SGI-USA as an organization with "something to sell" rather than the avant-garde of a profound and hopeful philosophy to carry us into the next century and beyond. In my opinion this new format caters to the low mentality of a country too far on its way to dumbing down....

— JULIAN SEMILIAN,  
Winston-Salem, N.C.

### Proud of This Buddhism

I am so proud of this Buddhist religion. What has really impressed me are the experiences I have read in the *World Tribune* and heard at the various meetings at the New York Culture Center over the past three to four months.

In the past months, I have heard an experience about a woman who although she was Buddhist wanted to sing in a Christian choir. She finally got her wish and is extremely happy. I've heard an experience on how Christmas songs can still be sung during that holiday season by those of us who practice this Buddhism (without feeling guilty or slanderous). I also heard an experience of a male member who chanted for a great relationship with another male. This determination was also realized through this practice.

Finally, I read in the *World Tribune* about a woman who not only wanted a meaningful relationship with another woman, but they had a Buddhist commitment ceremony at their community center. Where else in the world can members of a religious organization accomplish these bold determinations? Thank you so much.

— WALTER FORDE,  
Linden Hills, N.Y.

## Not In-Group Terms

In the Dec. 18 & 25, 1998, *World Tribune* "Mailbox" section, Cesare Civetta writes, "Why not just agree to make an effort to break the habit of using Japanese words?" My question to Cesare is "What do I chant instead of Nam-myoho-renge-kyo?"

I do not consider the words *gongyo*, *shakubuku*, *kosen-rufu*, *daimoku* and the like as in-group terms used to exclude discussion meeting guests from the conversation. As a matter of fact, they will most probably be defined in future American dictionaries as have many other foreign words and phrases, like *déjà vu*, that are in common usage in the USA.

The aforementioned words will come into common usage as we (SGI-USA) continue to do *shakubuku*, work for *kosen-rufu*, observe *gongyo* and chant abundant *daimoku*.

Some time in the future, I intend to tell my great-great-grandchildren that I was SHAKUBUKUED in 1973. If they do not know what I mean, I will tell them to look it up in the dictionary.

— J. JACK TRASS, JR.  
Gary, Ind.