

World TRIBUNE

IN THIS ISSUE

SOUND TO THE WORLD

A Fanfare of Life & Peace



SGI-USA Youth
Grand Culture Festival

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Photo by LISA HOLLIS



SGI-USA Youth Grand Culture Festival



More than 700 youth perform at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium in Pasadena, Calif., Sept. 25.



(Top) Rhythm Nation dancers. (Bottom left) Youth chorus. (Right) Music/Fife and Drum Corps.

New Developments in the Seattle Incident Case



Attorney Barry Langberg

In response to recent developments in the Seattle Incident case, Barry Langberg, an attorney for the Soka Gakkai, wrote the following article for the World Tribune:

The most recent attempt of Nichiren Shoshu to discredit the testimony of former Seattle police officer Ronald Sprinkle is yet another unsuccessful attempt by Nikken Abe to rewrite history. As with their former attempts to prove that the events in Seattle in 1963 did not happen, this effort also fails. Nichiren Shoshu's current actions are similar to those of the past: presenting false, misleading or incomplete "evidence": in an attempt to convince the court that the events could not have happened as Mrs. Clow and Officer Sprinkle have testified.

First, Nichiren Shoshu presented the court with aerial photographs purportedly showing that the route Mrs. Clow said she drove from where she was staying to 7th and Pike Street was impassable. However, once enlarged photographs were examined and all of the details of the streets could be seen, it was clear that the route was open just as Mrs. Clow had testified.

Second, Nichiren Shoshu attempted to prove that Ron Sprinkle's partner, Officer Vic Mayhle, who also remembered the incident in March of 1963, was not telling the truth. Mayhle stated in his affidavit that he remembered when this incident occurred because it was shortly before the famous "Goldstein Incident" that occurred at the famous Playboy tavern in downtown Seattle. [The Goldstein Incident, which received a lot of press attention at the time, involved a famous boxer who got into a fight at the tavern.]

Nichiren Shoshu presented the sworn affidavit of Seattle police officer Donald Cameron (who was apparently working

for Nichiren Shoshu) stating that he was one of the officers that had participated in the Goldstein Incident and had arrested Goldstein. Cameron swore under oath that he remembered the incident very clearly and Vic Mayhle was not present. However, we obtained the actual trial transcript of the Goldstein trial.

During that trial, Cameron himself testified that not only was Vic Mayhle present at the scene but he, Cameron, had gone to the scene in the same car with Officer Mayhle. Mayhle also testified at the trial as to exactly what happened during the Goldstein Incident. There was no doubt that Mayhle was present and that Cameron had not been truthful in his sworn affidavit.

Third, Nikken Abe, during his own sworn testimony before the court, presented a diary that supposedly proved beyond a doubt that he was in bed at 1:00 on the morning of the incident and thus could not have been in an altercation with prostitutes sometime after 2:00 a.m. as Officer Sprinkle had testified. However, when experts in altered documents made a scientific examination of Nikken's diary, they concluded that the important entries that supposedly proved Nikken's innocence were written in a sequence and with ink that was completely inconsistent with Nikken's testimony.

Now, in a final desperate attempt to convince us that what did happen did not happen, Nichiren Shoshu presents incomplete and misleading documents and testimony concerning Officer Sprinkle and his service in the Air Force Reserves. Similar to their previous attempts to discredit the truth, this one will also fail. In fact, it has already failed in the United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle.

On Aug. 26, Nichiren Shoshu made a motion in the United States District Court, Western District at Seattle, Judge William L. Dwyer presiding, requesting monetary sanctions against Ron Sprinkle for his purported "perjury." Both Sprinkle and the Soka Gakkai filed replies to that motion with the court, setting forth only some of the evidence proving that Sprinkle had been truthful. On Sept. 27,

The Current Status of the Seattle Incident Case

This is the fourth year in the ongoing Seattle Incident trial, which started in Tokyo in 1995. The trial stems from a defamation lawsuit filed by Nikken and Nichiren Shoshu against the Soka Gakkai and its publications in 1993.

In order to prove he has been libeled, Nikken must convince the court that Mrs. Hiroe Clow's account of his March 1963 encounter with prostitutes in Seattle is untrue. Mrs. Clow's account was carried in Soka Gakkai publications, which led to this suit.

On Aug. 10, a special edition of *Daibyakuho*, the temple members' newspaper in Japan, attempted to discount the testimony in the trial of former Seattle police officer Ronald Sprinkle, a defense witness who was one of the two officers that detained Nikken that evening. Mr. Sprinkle's testimony corroborated Mrs. Clow's story. According to Nikken's attorneys, however,

Officer Sprinkle was not with the Seattle Police Department but the Air Force at the time of the incident.

Recently, there have been two developments in the Seattle Incident case:

1) On Sept. 28 in the Seattle Incident Trial in Tokyo, Soka Gakkai attorneys presented evidence refuting Nichiren Shoshu's claim that defense witness and former Seattle police officer Ronald Sprinkle was not present at the site of the Seattle Incident in March 1963 because he was on active military duty.

2) In a separate case, the United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, on Sept. 27 denied Nichiren Shoshu's Aug. 26 motion requesting monetary sanctions against Mr. Sprinkle for purported "perjury."

Judge Dwyer denied Nichiren Shoshu's motion for sanctions finding that Nichiren Shoshu had not presented clear and convincing evidence that the testimony was false.

It is important to note that there is no doubt that Ron Sprinkle is telling the truth. His own actions themselves lead to this conclusion. Sprinkle's reputation for honesty and integrity as a police officer was very high. His father was a police officer, his cousin was the sheriff of King County, Wash., and others in the family were police officers. In an effort to show everyone he had absolutely nothing to hide, Sprinkle voluntarily offered to take a polygraph (lie-detector) test. The test was administered by one of the leading polygraph examiners in the world—a man who helped train polygraph examiners at the FBI, the United States Secret Service and the Japanese National Police.

A polygraph examination was administered to Sprinkle concerning the truthfulness of his testimony about the events that occurred on 7th and Pike Street in March 1963. Sprinkle passed the polygraph test with complete truthfulness. The polygraph examiner concluded, to a reasonable certainty, that Sprinkle was telling the truth.

Years ago we had conducted

an investigation concerning Sprinkle's military service. We concluded that there was absolutely no doubt that Sprinkle was working in March 1963 as a Seattle police officer. This conclusion was supported by the testimony of Officer Vic Mayhle, who was Sprinkle's partner on that evening.

It was also supported by the testimony of former officer James Williams, who was Sprinkle's partner at the time of the Goldstein Incident. It is also supported by the testimony of former officer Ed Marion, who remembers talking to Sprinkle in March 1963 about the incident with the Asian man (Nikken Abe). Furthermore, in recent weeks, following the new accusations by Nichiren Shoshu, we have again conducted an investigation.

The evidence will show that Nichiren Shoshu has presented Air Force and Seattle Police Department documents in a manner that is very misleading and incomplete. Important documents and facts that Nichiren Shoshu knows about are omitted from their presentation. These facts make perfectly clear that Sprinkle's presence on the street working as a Seattle police officer in March 1963 is completely consistent with his record of military service.

We also have a photograph of Ron Sprinkle taken from the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*


newspaper of March 29, 1963. In the caption below the photograph, it states, "Mr. and Mrs. Ronald C. Sprinkle who were married recently in Bayview Manor are now at home in Seattle." We will soon present a very large amount of both testimony and documentary evidence to prove exactly what that newspaper picture implies. In March 1963, Officer Ron Sprinkle was living at home, working as a Seattle police officer, and encountered Nikken Abe at 7th and Pike Street in an altercation with prostitutes. 

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EXPERIENCE — CORY TAYLOR, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

Winning an Emmy Is Just the Beginning

Editor, cinematographer Cory Taylor, an SGI-USA member, won an Emmy this August for his work as a sound editor for The National Geographic television documentary "Avalanche." Over the last nine months, Cory was also the overall director of the Youth Grand Culture Festival. He wrote the concept of the festival, articulating the theme: Sound to the World! A Fanfare of Life and Peace! A Vibrant Dance of Successors Expressing Our Pledge for the 21st Century. Cory shares his evolution as a filmmaker and as a Buddhist.

Since I was in the fourth grade, I had a dream of becoming a filmmaker. I was exposed to the arts through my parents at a young age. They took my brother and me to all sorts of museums and cultural activities. As a result, I was always making up stories, putting on mini talent shows for my family. I loved to entertain, and in the fourth grade I became hooked on acting.

Later in the seventh grade, Mrs. Hudson, my filmmaking teacher planted a seed in me. I loved her filmmaking class, but she gave me a C. Mrs. Hudson told me I was very talented but added that I didn't work hard; I never edited or polished my films. I think she was trying to teach me to be better than what I was. In fact, this seemed to be a constant theme of my school years...but did I get it? The truth was, unless I was really interested in something, I wouldn't give it my all.

In 1985 I went to UCLA and I wrote and produced some plays—that's where I also met my wife, Julie. It was in my senior year at UCLA that I was introduced to Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism by my roommate's younger brother, Darin. He took an interest in finding out who I was, and tried to encourage me despite my huge ego. Because of his caring I eventually joined the SGI-USA in 1988.

Soon after, I came to the realization that my pursuit of the arts and filmmaking was motivated by my self-consuming need to feed my ego. I realized this through practicing Buddhism.

Fortunately around the same time, I met many young men's division members who were

seriously developing their lives based on SGI President Ikeda's writings. And because I looked up to them, I wanted to do the same. I began to study his guidance and tried to apply it to my life. I'm really moved by President Ikeda's heart, and like in the movie *As Good As It Gets*, when Jack Nicholson says to Helen Hunt, "You make me want to be a better man," President Ikeda makes me want to be a better person.

Three years into my practice I got a job as a receptionist for National Geographic Television. At the time I thought it was going to be a "cush" job that would provide me plenty of time to write. But something was growing in me. I joined the Soka Group and Gajokai, and I was learning through participating in such activities and reading President Ikeda's writings, about the value of hard work. I learned little lessons like doing more than is required, looking for things that can improve the quality of everyone's experience at work, etc. Over time, I did my best to implement these ideas.

I had realized I was a 99 percent inspiration and zero percent perspiration kind of guy. I knew I wanted to do all these things with my life, but I didn't know how. I knew I had to change, but I didn't have confidence. While working for National Geographic, I decided that I was going to learn how to make films—what goes into it and to learn how to work with people. I decided I wanted to become a filmmaker of rare quality.

In my eight years of experience at National Geographic, I was promoted many times—from a receptionist to a production assistant, to a researcher, to an associate producer, to an assistant editor, to an editor and a cinematographer.

Needless to say, the filmmaking business can be a dog-eat-dog world. There were so many instances where I was going to lose, overestimating my abilities. There were days when I wanted to push my boss into a corner and demand more opportunities. So many times I was going to give into the petty indignities. But President Ikeda's writes: "Mr.

Toda once said every one's ideal is to get a job they like (beauty), that offers financial security (benefit), where they can contribute to society (good). But not many can find the perfect job from the start. The most important thing is to first become indispensable where you are....You will realize that none of your efforts and hardships have been wasted. Mr. Toda taught that this is the great benefit of the Mystic Law" (*Discussions On Youth*, vol. 1, pp. 146–47).

All those times when I was going to give up or make a foolish choice, through chanting, reading President Ikeda's guidance, receiving encouragement and really trying to "walk the walk" by putting the guidance into action, I was able to make different choices. As a result I became a trusted employee. I was able to develop a work ethic and was afforded more opportunity at work. I found myself going on film assignments around the world. I traveled to the Caribbean to film an active volcano, Russia to film Siberian tigers, New Mexico to the world's most pristine underground cave, and through Oklahoma to chase tornadoes.

Every step of the way I could have made a choice that would have meant the end instead of a beginning, but I learned how to support others—how to care about other people—not to just pursue my own goals at the expense of other people, but how to make the right kinds of causes so that everybody wins.

This summer I was nominated for two Emmy awards in the categories of cinematography and sound editing. Then in August, I received an Emmy award for my work as a sound editor in a documentary called "Avalanche." The Emmy award is actually testimony that I was able to contribute in those work relationships, to The National Geographic Society and to the interpersonal dynamic in this work situation.

Through Soka Group and Gajokai, I learned the value of hard work. Chanting for people's happiness and safety, standing post in a parking lot night after night, rushing around to district activities—all these opportunities were changing my life fundamentally. They were necessary to train myself.

I was so insecure in college. For example, if I met a student who was a better filmmaker



After Cory presents his Emmy to SGI President Ikeda, the SGI leader returns it to him at the Kyushu General meeting in Tokyo, Sept. 4.

than me, instead of feeling wonderful, I felt like I had to outdo that person. Or I'd find a flaw in them. I was unable to celebrate someone else's greatness because I felt it diminished my own. Simply trying to outdo others for a sense of self-worth is not self-worth at all. I'm continuously battling that. I'm learning that when you genuinely care about people, you build a confidence that no one can take away.

In making "Avalanche," I worked for a great producer Barry Nye. He is the most successful editor ever at National Geographic—a multi-Emmy award winner. He chose me as his editor when he decided to produce. The challenge of "Avalanche" was that we were given the assignment in the middle of summer when there was no snow. We had to deliver by the following winter.

We joined forces with avalanche cinematographer, Steve Kroschel and flew to Anchorage, Al. last October. We started avalanches with two of the world's most renowned avalanche experts. We filmed on a glacier at about 12,000 feet where the temperature is 10 degrees. We dropped dynamite out of helicopters on the mountain tops to start these avalanches. That was when I got frost nip on my fingertips. It was excruciatingly painful in that 30-below wind-chill, but it was a small set back for a successful shoot.

I believe one of the important qualities of good writers and directors is that they have a rare insight into humanity. To me that's what separates a regular movie from one that really impacts you. The degree of insight into humani-

ty that the director and writer possess, often determines whether a movie resonates on a much deeper level or not. Who among us has the greatest insight into humanity—it's President Ikeda. Who actually gets into other people's lives and cares about them more than him? No one. He's not doing it for selfish purposes. He really cares and caring is what it is all about. I want to care like he does.

The Emmy award belongs to the members of the SGI and President Ikeda. Actually I decided to give the Emmy to President Ikeda to express my gratitude for all that he has done. So I went to Japan to do that.

At the Kyushu General Meeting, where he received an honorary doctorate from the National University of Central Peru, he presented it back to me. He said you have proven through your action Nichiren Daishonin's words "unseen virtue brings about visible reward." He emphasized the qualities of genuineness and humility, as opposed to being cunning and clever. And said that youth should not seek out glory too quickly.

My promise is this: to fight against my superficial nature, to continue to try and live a contributive life. I will continue to challenge my weaknesses through my Buddhist practice. Just as President Ikeda states in his message to the Youth Grand Culture Festival (see p. 4): "Wholehearted commitment opens the path to victory. Earnest sincerity has the power to move people's hearts." I view winning the Emmy as the beginning. Now my battle begins. The question is who do I become from here. ☐

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE CULTURE FESTIVAL

A Grand Human Network of Trust

Photo by ROBBIE EVANS

In his message to the 1st SGI-USA Youth Grand Culture Festival, SGI President Ikeda says, 'I hope that you will continue, always with bright smiles and high spirits, to be good friends to one another, to share and encourage one another as you build a grand human network of trust.'

My heartfelt congratulations on the 1st SGI-USA Youth Grand Culture Festival, an event that has opened the path to the 21st century.

Truly, this was a celebration of peace filled with hope; an expression of the vibrant creativity of youth, overflowing with joy! In my heart, I have crossed the Pacific, flying to the Pasadena Civic Auditorium to be with you, to sing and to dance together with your vivacious, energetic spirits. And now I join my voice with yours in a cheer of victory.

You have forged in your lives the experience of taking on the noble challenge of youth. You have left your lasting mark in the history of culture and creation.

Friends from 128 countries worldwide join me in offering you their thunderous applause, celebrating the drama of the victory won by the American youth division members, whom I cherish and respect.

Images of this Grand Culture Festival will be broadcast and seen throughout the world. I wish to declare that from this site, the dawn of a new, glorious America has broken, bright and brilliant in the skies of the new century.

We have been honored today with the presence of a number of distinguished guests. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for the time you have taken from your pressing schedules to attend this event and for the warm support that you have extended to the performers.

What path has humanity tread to this day? And what path will we take into the future? The 6 billion inhabitants of Earth have begun to seek in earnest for a clear future direction. This was the urgent question that I sought to find answers to in my discussions with Dr. Linus Pauling, this century's greatest chemist who, alongside his wife, Helen Ava, worked tirelessly to create a world of peace.

It is my conviction that we must make the 21st century a Century of Life. Humankind must focus its attention on the ultimate frontier, that of life itself. We must learn to pull forth from the depths of our beings that awesome spiritual strength that is greater even than the power of nuclear weapons.

It is you, my friends, who have taken the lead in this endeavor as the youthful leaders of a new renaissance who embrace, explore and put into practice a philosophy rooted in life itself.

Buddhism teaches that if you wish to know the effects that will be manifest in the future, look at the causes that exist in the present. In this sense, there is no doubt that each and every one of you is a person of profound and precious mission who will grow and develop extraordinary leadership.

Please know that I respect, trust and believe in you from the bottom of my heart.

No matter what kinds of troubles may assail you, no matter how long the days of frustration, you must not fear, and you must not give up. You have embraced the great, fundamental principle that governs the workings of the universe itself. Your way forward cannot and will not be blocked.

Buddhism teaches us that it is powerful resistance and opposition—even more than friendly support—which enables us to grow. In the same way, it teaches us that when various difficulties and obstacles arise, the wise person will rejoice and the foolish person will retreat.

Thus you should, with serenity and wisdom, rise above any present difficulties and continue to advance, one step at a time, moving forward, always forward, with strength and perseverance.

You yourself must become strong and wise. With profound confidence, continue the work of forging a diamond-like state of life that nothing can defeat or destroy.



The Pasadena Civic Auditorium crowd gave a standing ovation at the show's finale, Sept. 25.

When hope is not to be found, create hope!

The great writer Aldous Huxley had a profound interest and knowledge of Mahayana Buddhism. His belief was that genuine transformation comes not from without but from within the individual.

I express my appreciation for the youth division's Victory Over Violence signature-drive campaign, which has been held in localities throughout the United States. Through your efforts, you have shared the philosophy of nonviolence and respect for the sanctity of life with your friends, fulfilling your mission to create new waves of shared feeling and understanding.

Wholehearted commitment opens the path to victory. Earnest sincerity has the power to move people's hearts. Nothing is more potent than the solidarity of ordinary citizens. You, as young people dedicated to justice, have demonstrated this truth.

As the great champion of non-violence Mahatma Gandhi declared, the most powerful rebuke one can deliver evil is to expand the unity of genuine friendship into the world.

I hope that you will continue, always with bright smiles and high spirits, to be good friends to one another, to share and encourage one another as you build a grand human network of trust.

Please continue to shine in your communities, your schools and your places of work, as you energetically engage in activities to make society a better place for all.

My young friends, filled with strength and hope! I want to share with you some stanzas from a poem by the great African American poet Langston Hughes. In this poem, Hughes, while declaring his struggle against fierce discrimination, expresses his continued hopes for America:

Let America be America again.

Let it be the dream it used to be.

Let it be the pioneer on the plain

Seeking a home where he himself is free.

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed—

Let it be that great strong land of love

Where never kings con-
nive nor tyrants scheme

That any man may be
crushed by one above.

We, the people, must
redeem

Our land, the mines, the
plants, the rivers,
The mountains and the
endless plain—

All, all the stretch of these
great green states—

And make America again!

The final, culminating undertaking of my life is education. The Orange County campus of Soka University of America, which will open on May 3, 2001, represents the fulfillment of a grand dream entrusted to me by our mentors, presidents Makiguchi and Toda. I am determined to continue the solemn work of creating venues and opportunities for you to enact the grand drama of your lives.

Together let us live out lives of true greatness!

Together let us create a grand America!

Together let us build an ideal world of harmony such as has never been seen in human history!

I close by offering my heartfelt prayers for the continued health, happiness and success of all who have been so kind as to come and participate in today's event. Please also convey my warmest regards to all your family members.

Congratulations on your great success!

Congratulations on your grand victory!

I salute the youth division of the United States, a driving force for the entire world!

September 25, 1999

Daisaku Ikeda
President
Soka Gakkai International

Thoughts on the Festival



Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and founder and director of M.K. Gandhi

Institute for Nonviolence: "I'd like to congratulate all the young people who were involved in putting on this wonderful show. I'd also like to join Dr. Ikeda in saying that you are the future of the world. And I hope that you'll make the world a better place than we did. The 21st century's just a few days away and we would like to make it a century of peace and harmony and do away with all the violence that we have seen in our society up until now. I was very moved by the theme of the show. This performance touched people because of the moral and ethical values it portrayed."



Linda Pauling Kamb, daughter of Linus Pauling and President of L.C. Progeny, Inc. "It was wonderful.

Today they showed a history of nonviolence and of the violence we have had and in the different ways that people have taken to overcome the violence. I thought it was just a moving presentation. As Mr. Ikeda said, they're so energetic, so vivacious, so enthusiastic. It's wonderful to see a bit of history put together with dance and song."



R. (Raj) Rajmohan, Program Developer and Director at M.K. Gandhi Institute:

"I'm overwhelmed. These young kids gave an extraordinarily moving performance today. I have been spending the whole day meeting with the youth and we had some wonderful discussions. I was really impressed, especially by the young women who are a part of this organization. It was really heartening to see them sharing their independent ideas about the issues of nonviolence. The way they articulated how they view the

issues of violence and asserted themselves as women—I was so impressed with their presentation. I wish them well."



Laura Huxley, peace activist and wife of Aldous Huxley:

"I loved the show, particularly the part that showed the history of the world and what has happened because of all the violence. We have to keep addressing the violence around us in order to create peace."



Norma Foster, President of the Board of the Interfaith Council for the United Nations:

"I have lived in many countries of the world and have met many of the leaders that were part of the era these young people kind of relived for us today. Their performance really drove home the shame of that era, but the way they dealt with it helped me to deal with it, too. I go away with far more hope and promise for the future. There were 700 hearts up there, but they all stood out as individuals. That's what was so wonderful. They came at you one at a time individually and you know they were going to walk away as 700 emissaries who are going to change the world. It was so strong. I have never felt that kind of feeling from a performance before."



Jazz musician and SGI-USA member Wayne Shorter:

"It seems to me that there was a sense of self-instruction, rather than a sense of self-destruction. It looked like the young people did everything themselves, even allowed to run and bump into each other and drop things back stage. There was not the regimented element that somehow infiltrates professionalism; it's hidden in a sense of authority that comes with being professional and aiming at being per-

Youth Culture Festival Begins New Century

Sept. 25 was the "first day of the 21st century," as Jomo Thorne, SGI-USA junior high school division leader, put it. The 1st SGI-USA Youth Grand Culture Festival, held Sept. 25 at the Civic Auditorium in Pasadena, Calif., was the youth division members' kickoff toward the new era.

The 700 youth performers ambitiously took on all of human history. The show started with the past: humanity's violent struggle with itself, depicted through reenactments of everything from the American Revolution to Nelson Mandela's liberation in South Africa.

There was the present: the youth of today taking a stand against the violent world

they are growing up in—a world in which guns have even sneaked their way into the classroom. And there was the future: Bodhisattvas of the Earth, the next generation of youth division members, emerging from the earth and expressing through music and dance their determination to take responsibility for the future.

A video presentation on three large screens above the stage also introduced SGI President Ikeda's worldwide travels for peace, which segued into greetings from SGI youth across the country and around the world. The festival closed with an original song, "Rise," penned by SGI-USA members Wayne Green and Brian Potter,

which summed up the youth's resolve: "From the Earth / to the skies / to the stars / we will rise / our time is now."

—JEFF FARR

Thanks to all the photographers who covered the youth festival: Gregory Nakasuji, Lisa Hollis, Stephanie Sydney, Jean Pritchard, Martin Cohen, Don Hodgson, Ron Campise, Audrey Dempsey, Jan Sibert, Kenny Jackson, Emi Gwin, Brad Larsen and Lisa Maxwell. Thanks also to the correspondents who helped with the interviews: Phyllis Turner, Susan McDonough and Lois Litvin.

fect. I think imperfect is perfect. I think that they will grasp what they are doing in other areas, and make it work in their lives as they go along on the road of living, where it hasn't worked in the past. It's time for courage and vision, a brave heart to activate before it's too late."



Musician and SGI-USA member Duncan Sheik, 29, has two hit CDs and billing on critics' Top

Ten music lists: "I jumped at the chance to perform in the youth festival. I was just really excited to do it and I was really honored. I want those kids to really understand that if you chant and have a really consistent practice, if you really follow your heart and you take action about your dreams, there's no doubt you'll succeed in your endeavor—whatever you want to do!"



Guitarist and SGI-USA member Larry Coryell:

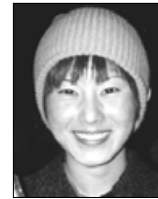
"I really wasn't ready for the emotional impact! It

really is a vision of presidents Makiguchi, Toda and, of course, President Ikeda. It was a crystallization of what we do in this practice. It was just an instant understanding. This is why we practice Buddhism."



Kadiji Ellis, 23, Los Angeles; dancer: "In the Victory Over Violence video that the Youth

Peace Committee sent to all the areas, they talk about passive violence. A lot of the passive violence I feel is passive violence I do to myself: second-guessing myself and not feeling comfortable with the decisions I make. I want to blame other people, but it's really me. I'm chanting that with each move I make in the dance performance, I break what it is that's holding me back from being happy. Every move is a cause to stop the slander against my own life. How can I encourage anybody when I am fighting within myself? I've already seen the breakthroughs in the last few weeks. Just being able to see where the violence is in my life and understanding that I have to stop fighting myself is a breakthrough."



Midori Kobayashi, 24; Huntington Beach; flautist/performer in classroom

scene: "I just moved to Orange County from Japan. I am a student at Orange Coast College. I have to learn to have a self-motivated practice. I have made many new friends through this activity, especially in the student division. We all have the same problems at school. We worry about what we will do after we are finished. We are fighting for the future and we have to do this together to make our dreams come true."



Lindsey Crummett, 17, Yorba Linda, Orange County; played the role of Thomas

Jefferson: "I was born into this practice. There are five kids in my family. I took chanting for granted. I'd go to meetings with my parents and

PLEASE SEE THOUGHTS, 10

'Sound to the World! A Fa



A dance of victory over violence for students in the classroom scene.



Dance of fundamental darkness and enlightenment inherent in our own lives.

'The human revolution of a single individual can change the destiny of all humankind.'
— Daisaku Ikeda



A colorful, resounding finale.



Thomas Jefferson and the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



A triumphant Anne Frank.



Ending slavery in the United States and Cuba.



Bartholdi's Lady Liberty.



Mahatma Gandhi and the movement for nonviolence.



Civil rights — Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela.

anfare of Life and Peace!’



Rhythm Nation hip-hop dancers.



(Above) The Music/Fife and Drum Corps honor the pioneers of kosen-rufu.

(Right) Renown musicians Wayne Shorter on saxophone, guitarist Larry Coryell and trumpeter Shunzo Ono (shown on screen).

(Below) Pop artist Duncan Sheik performs 'A Mirror in the Heart,' written by SGI-USA member Steven Sater.



The Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union.



Boys and girls join the youth chorus in singing an original composition, 'Rise.'

330 Nationwide Youth Gather for a 3-Day Conference

More than 330 youth, including one participant from St. Maarten, gathered in Los Angeles from around the United States on Sept. 24–26. It marked the largest nationwide youth event this year. In lieu of the youth summer conferences at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, representatives from the junior high and high school, student and youth divisions took part in the three-day conference as a departure toward the new century. These activities are the first in a series of commemorative events that will celebrate next year's 70th anniversary of the founding of the Soka Gakkai and the 40th anniversary of the SGI-USA.

The youth kicked off their weekend with an inspirational meeting at the Los Angeles Friendship Center attended by SGI General Director Eiichi Wada and SGI Vice Women's Division Leader Yumiko Hachiya. They encouraged the youth to "continue to practice throughout their lives so they can become people who are devoted to the happiness of others." Through deepening their friendships based on warm heart-to-heart exchange, the participants were challenged to stand up and take responsibility for American and worldwide kosen-rufu.

The weekend itinerary was loaded with faith-filled, as well as fun-filled, activities. The first stop was a tour of the Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo, campus. Although the campus is still under construction, the tour offered many the opportunity to see the lifelong vision of humanistic education—that of Soka Gakkai presidents Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda and SGI President Daisaku Ikeda—coming to fruition.

Other highlights included: an afternoon of shopping and "kicking around" at Laguna Beach; a BBQ at Aliso Viejo Ranch; spirited talent shows; group discussions on various topics, including the mentor-disciple relationship, Victory Over Violence, time management, sharing Buddhism, the temple issue, the importance of study; a lecture with Arun Gandhi; and, of course, treasured memories of the Youth Grand Culture Festival! And lots and lots of new friendships and commemorative photos!!

—STEPHANIE CELANO



An afternoon visit to Laguna Beach after a tour of the Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo, campus.

boost my determination so that I could make it through this semester successfully."



Essien Ita, 29; South River, N.J.: "The most meaningful part of this conference has been meeting new

people and coming to understand more about the vision we have in America for worldwide kosen-rufu; also understanding the in-depth mission we have regarding the temple issue. I really understand the compassion President Ikeda has for all the members. He wants us to grow in America. I'm learning that through this visit."

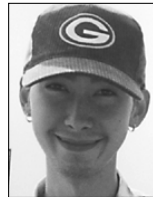
Monique Compton, 22, San Francisco: "My group discussion with the Student Division was on time management.

Photo by EMI GWIN



It helped a lot because that's my struggle right now. I was at Cal State Hayward but now I'm

working part time. My goal is to go back to school this fall. Why shouldn't I pursue my education? What's taking me so long to get back into school is my lazy nature—that time management struggle."



Michael Lewis, 23, Radcliff, Ky.: "One other person came from Kentucky. Financially

it was a struggle to come to this activity—I had to work and chant a lot. Now in my youth I feel like I'm at the cusp of realizing what I am going to do with my life, what profession I'm going to choose that will help benefit the kosen-rufu movement. I felt this activity would give me a jump-start to help me realize that. I'm chanting about what I want to do. I'm learning a lot from other people's experiences. The dialogue in the group discussions were great. I have developed a better understanding of President Ikeda's dream and seeing it become reality. Because he works so selflessly for others, that helps me not to be so selfish. Seeing Soka University (in Aliso Viejo) was really awe-inspiring."



Shane Fawcett, 16, Denver, Colo.: I had a lot of obstacles before I came. My mom and

aunt recently started talking after not speaking for about six years. But right before I came, they started fighting again. I felt really discouraged, but I knew I had to come because I know when something bad happens, something good usually follows. I knew I had to get to the good part. I love my mom a lot and I love my aunt a lot. I want this activity to be the cause for my family to stop fighting.



A-tiba Joseph, 16, New York City: There was no FNCC conference this year for the youth and I

missed it so much, so I wanted to participate in this activity. I had \$400 to go shopping for school; it was the exact amount for the downpayment to go on this trip. I decided to put the money to better use than buying clothes. I got new clothes anyway.

"I'm involved in creative workshops in New York—acting, singing, dancing, hip-hop. I'm part of the video crew. I'm hoping to bring back the spirit of this event—everybody's so peaceful. I want to bring back this peace and harmony."



Art Congdon, 20, Philadelphia, Pa.: "I'm a physics major at Temple University in

Philadelphia. One of my determinations for this conference

was based on President Ikeda's guidance that when you are a student you should focus on your studies wholeheartedly. I determined that my schoolwork would not be adversely affected by my coming, because that would defeat the whole purpose of coming. Rather, I tried to use this activity as a chance to



A tour of the Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo, campus under construction.



Michele Howland, 16, Boise, Idaho: I'm proud to be the only person from Idaho. I have to bring a lot back. There are about 13 youth in my area. I'm here to see what everyone is experiencing. I'm taking in a lifetime of lessons."



Julie Szarowski-Cox, 30, Buffalo, N.Y.: "I hope to gain a deeper relationship with President Ikeda through participating in this activity, to bring the mentor-disciple relationship back to the members in Upstate New York. To bring it alive, to start fresh. I've been reading *The Human Revolution* again. President Toda talked about preparing Japan in 1951-52 for take-off, like a plane that has to gain enough momentum down the runway in order to lift off. The way they did that was to propagate in rural Japan; they started building the organization in the outlying areas so they were on the same level as Tokyo. For me kosen-rufu means propagating Buddhism widely, helping this philosophy take hold in American society.

"Society today is filled with violence, corruption and war. In order for us to change the world—to really be able to reach people—we have to start by changing our own lives. We have to help people realize the truth, even if they don't practice Buddhism. If they can embrace the concept of the dignity of human life, then we can help bring about fundamental changes and a peaceful society.

"I want to be a better person. I want to help people as much as possible and live the moment. One of my leaders told me that these are golden memories and I should always remember this activity and encourage other people. So I want to encourage people by taking pictures and bringing back all the souvenirs I can and telling them what a great experience I had. I think people will have more faith in this practice knowing that there are people that want to practice this Buddhism just like them. This will help them to keep practicing with their whole heart and not give up at times. This will give them some reinforcement. I think I should be that."



Lively group discussions are held at the Los Angeles Friendship Center.

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Yumi Kobayashi, 28, San Diego: "I really wanted to improve in my life. I really want to

enjoy my life. That's why I joined Byakuren. I wanted to meet other members too. In fact I'm so excited because I met so many people. There's no difference for me in kosen-rufu here and in Japan. Everyone's heart is the same. I was never allowed to join Byakuren in Japan because my hair is dyed and I'm suntanned. I like doing Byakuren in America. It's too strict in Japan. Everything in America is great

"I want to encourage people to never give up and that they are always a Buddha and that they can always solve their problems. Even if your life is not good now you can change it.



New friendships are created throughout the weekend.



Steven Orgas, 22, Wenatchee, Wash.: "I grew up in a gang in Corpus Christie, Texas. We

grew up in a violent community and we reacted through carrying guns and fighting and all kinds of violence. That was all we knew. I've been chanting for four years. I got my friends to chant. I could feel the cage door opening.

"The theme of Victory Over Violence is perfect. The main thing I understand from Nichiren Daishonin and President Ikeda's guidance is the fusion of our lives with the Gohonzon—that it's within us—and chanting Nam-myoho-enge-kyo brings our potential forward. I take the fusion seriously. When this VOV came about, my friends were interested in getting involved—everyone wants peace.

"Since I've been telling them about VOV, I have had a

lot of opportunities to tell them about Buddhism. They understand that Buddhism is life. Now their environments are changing.

"I'm a musician. My friends and I did a concert together for VOV. My friends loved it so much they want to do it again and VOV is the cause.

"I'm reading "The Opening of the Eyes" because I'm ready to take my faith to the next level. I want to take back all the energy, guidance and friendship.

"I started practicing alone in my family and my now father and four of my six brothers started in the last year."



Paul Wetzel, 35, Torrance, Calif.: I got involved with Soka Group because I wanted to

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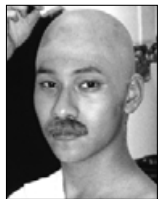
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do gongyo sometimes in the morning, but only because I had to. Everyone else seemed to be having revelations and it was becoming really important to them. But I never had huge problems to help me realize how important chanting was. This is such a huge performance and my family has been experiencing many problems. Recently my boyfriend started chanting. In fact, he's in the show—he plays Truman. This performance has really gotten me to chant. My mood has improved; people keep telling me how happy I seem. I think I'm getting my revelation now. I'm realizing how important this is. I've chanted more in this time period than I've ever had. It's making me a stronger member."



Christopher Guevara, 17, Burbank, Calif., played the role of Gandhi:

"My family wasn't practicing with the SGI organization for almost six years. We were told about this activity and we decided to exchange our Nikken Gohonzon. Ever since then, my sister, Desiree, and I have been chanting—for two months now. Our relationship has totally changed. We don't fight any more. I noticed when my parents would ask us to help with the house chores, before we wouldn't do it, but now we do. Since we exchanged the Gohonzon, we are happier. The Gohonzon reflects ourselves inside; we could feel the change in our lives. We have changed as a family and as individuals.

"My parents are now practicing in the SGI. They used to have arguments; now they are communicating and resolving them. That makes me and my sister very happy."



Nichi Ellorin, 25, San Diego, hair stylist and make-up artist:

"My biggest struggle was that this is the first time I've supported behind the scenes. I've always been a performer. It's kind of neat because I've been trying

to get the younger people in San Diego involved. It seems that much younger kids are involved—just like bodhisattvas rising from the earth. I'm so happy to be a part of that. One of the main things was encouraging the younger kids about the mentor-disciple relationship and the idea that one person can make a difference. I think that is starting to happen. They are starting to do gongyo on their own, developing a self-motivated practice. They are striving to connect with President Ikeda and they are identifying themselves with the roles they are playing—Thomas Jefferson, Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela. They are appreciating the pioneers who built the Soka Gakkai."



Jennifer Ahn, 16, Torrance, Calif., chorus:

"I learned a lot about myself and others, mostly how to interact. I'm developing a lot of confidence. I think the theme of Victory Over Violence is great. I think about it during difficult situations. I'm trying not to stereotype people. I'm able to smile at people rather than look down at them.

"The chorus sang the song 'Rise.' The first time I heard the words I felt like crying—the lyrics are so strong, so full. My personal prayer is to succeed in school and to go to a good college. My mom has so much expectation for me."



Steve Melendez, 13, Los Angeles, Music Corps, snare drummer:

"Yeah. Everyone did a lot of work. We had a lot of fun, great times. I'll keep on playing the drums and we'll work for world peace."



Julian Melendez, 19, Los Angeles, Music Corps, clave player:

"Yeah I liked to come out often to the practices and I liked to get up early in the morning to do this. I think

it's very important for everybody to pitch in."



Holly Khadem, 14, Los Angeles, Rhythm Nation dancer:

"I have made a lot of good friends. I've also been able to fulfill all my school work in addition to practicing and performing. When I read the *World Tribune*, I am encouraged by people's lives and I want to chant because of that."



Aiana Abner, 13, Los Angeles, Rhythm Nation dancer:

"I've been in Rhythm Nation for three years. I was born into this practice. At the rehearsals for the festival, we learned about Victory Over Violence—we learned not to tease people. I'm taking it to my school and kids are responding."



Idonarose Orr, 11, New Jersey, Rhythm Nation dancer:

"I had to overcome a problem with my back—sometimes it goes out on me. I had to miss some practices. I really chanted to solve my problem. I saw my doctor once a week. I also developed iritis, inflammation of my iris. I chanted to get over that, too. I really love to perform. This was my first big performance in the SGI-USA. I think this is important to encourage everyone around the world with our Victory Over Violence campaign. If everyone joined in Victory Over Violence, then we would surely have world peace."



(L-r) Emily Kerns, Sara Newman and April Fawcett.

Emily Kerns, 25; Sara Marsh-Newman, 21 and April Fawcett, 24; Los Angeles; dancers:

Sarah: "All three of us had to really get over our egos for this performance."

Emily: "It's the perfection issue because a lot of us have danced before but not professionally in a long time. And we are dancing with girls who are professional dancers."

April: "Sara teaches dance, but I came out of retirement.

FROM CONFERENCE, 9

put my practice into 'turbo speed.' I enjoy protecting people. I've gotten so much out of this activity, like challenging my weaknesses and fears—fear of failure. I have passion now to practice. It's great to be with all the youth when they're creating such great memories that they'll remember forever. This is the most fun activity I've been involved in. I want to keep this energy alive. I want to use it to get involved in the temple issue. I want to meet with temple members to encourage them. Recently, I read President Ikeda's poem, 'Be Strong,' I understand what he means when he said 'Fear is Hell. / Courage is joy.' I realize now I can help other people."



Roshni Ray, 17, Weehawken, N.J.:

"We are having our own festival in December in New Jersey. This activity is very encouraging to me. There is no end to the details. The Byakuren are everywhere—I feel so protected. We can learn a lot for our festival—learn how much you can care for just one person."



Angel Latterell, 21, Minneapolis, Minn.:

"It's really been refreshing to meet so many members from all over the country. I very fortunate to attend an event of this size and I will bring back the energy I experienced here to Minnesota."

I've been retired for five, six years. I used to dance professionally in Chicago. I'm a runner and I do yoga but that doesn't help me with dance. The only way to be in dance shape is to dance."

Emily: "For me, I had to really work through my karma because I was going to quit. I had to go home and chant a lot for the courage to come back and say it doesn't matter if I'm perfect or not, I am just going to dance." **WT**

Photo by BRAD LARSEN



Arun Gandhi addresses the youth at the Los Angeles Friendship Center, Sept. 25, prior to the festival.



Jessica Mentzer, 21, Corvallis, Ore.:

"Arun Gandhi really down to earth. He was just talking like he was having a conversation with us. He wasn't lecturing us about how we should act. He was sharing his view about the importance of nonviolence. He seemed to be an easily reachable person. That's what touched me the most."



Kimberly Parks, 19, Washington, D.C.:

"Seeing Arun Gandhi and meeting him and listening to him tell these stories that his grandfather had told him makes me feel so connected to everybody and makes me really feel like I am doing my mission. When I was young and I would chant to the Gohonzon, I would envision myself as I am right now, at this age, old enough to have an effect, but still young. It's just as Arun Gandhi said, you don't have to be a Martin Luther King or a Gandhi to make a difference." **WT**

the new **HUMAN REVOLUTION**

SGI President Ikeda's novelized history of the Soka Gakkai

'EARLY SPRING'

VOLUME 7, CHAPTER 3, PARTS 17-18

Shin'ichi Yamamoto explains why he sometimes scolds leaders: 'I am strict because I have high expectations for them.'

The conversation unfolded pleasantly as they sat around the dinner table.

"When I was harshly scolded by my boss," said Koji Hashimoto, "I didn't appreciate how fortunate I was. Now, looking back, I am grateful. But at the time..."

Shin'ichi Yamamoto nodded. "That's not unusual," he said. "At the time, you only feel suffering. But I am sure that your boss was thinking of your best interests—and even weeping inside—as he scolded you. There are times when I speak strongly to our leaders, but I am not doing it out of spite. I am strict because I have high expectations for them. Unfortunately, there are some who don't understand that and leave the organization. And that's a terrible shame.

"Unless others point out our

our negative, destructive tendencies at the root. If this doesn't happen when we're young, we will never reform ourselves, no matter how many times we are told to.

"After I scold someone, I continue to think of them. In my heart I pray that they have understood my intent, that they'll stick with me and continue to fight alongside me, that they'll keep striving without being discouraged. Essentially there is no more wonderful thing in life, irrespective of your field of endeavor, than having such a mentor or teacher. Besides, if we aren't scolded every once in a while, we grow lax. Every good cook knows that adding a pinch of salt makes anything sweet taste better. I wish now that Mr. Toda had scolded me much more than he did."

Illustration by KENICHIRO UCHIDA



faults to us, our lives can drift into negative patterns. Before we know it, we've grown lazy and complacent. If we are left to drift further in that direction, then, even if we have outstanding abilities, we cannot make the best use of them. Ultimately, our lives end up in failure. If we are to achieve great things in life, we need people who will point out our shortcomings when they see them and cut off

To those sitting around the table, Shin'ichi's guidance was in itself a feast; it was food and nourishment for their faith.

The next day, Shin'ichi went sightseeing around Paris with the leaders accompanying him from Tokyo and the young men from Germany. He particularly wanted the youth to have an enjoyable, memorable visit. They went to the Louvre first, because Shin'ichi wished to give



Illustration by KENICHIRO UCHIDA

these members—who spent their days working in the coal mines, covered with coal dust, and all their spare time at night tirelessly carrying out Soka Gakkai activities—a chance to experience great art.

After that, they visited the Arc de Triomphe, Montmartre and the Bois de Boulogne.

It was heartwarming to see the simple pleasure and excitement of the young men as they took in the sights and listened intently to Eiji Kawasaki's explanations. They were like eager school children on a field trip.

Standing on the hill of Montmartre, looking out over Paris, Shin'ichi asked Kawasaki, "What do you think will happen to the Common Market now?"

That year, 1963, world attention was focused on whether the United Kingdom would join the Common Market, more formally known as the European Economic Community. The outcome was seen as having significant impact on the future direction of European unification. The EEC had been founded in 1958 with six member nations—France, West Germany, Italy, the

Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg—with the aim of economic unification. The United Kingdom, however, having access to the huge market of the Commonwealth, opposed this move, and in 1960 established the rival European Free Trade Association with six other European nations that had not joined the EEC.

While the EEC flourished, EFTA did not result in significant economic growth. In addition, a rising force for not just economic but also political unification began to make itself felt within the EEC. To ward off possible isolation from the rest of Europe, the United Kingdom applied for membership to the Common Market in August 1961, and negotiations had been under way ever since.

On Jan. 14, the day before Shin'ichi's arrival in Paris, the final negotiation session was held at the EEC Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. In negotiations up to that point, the United Kingdom's desire to protect its markets within the Commonwealth had proved a serious obstacle to membership, but most observers be-

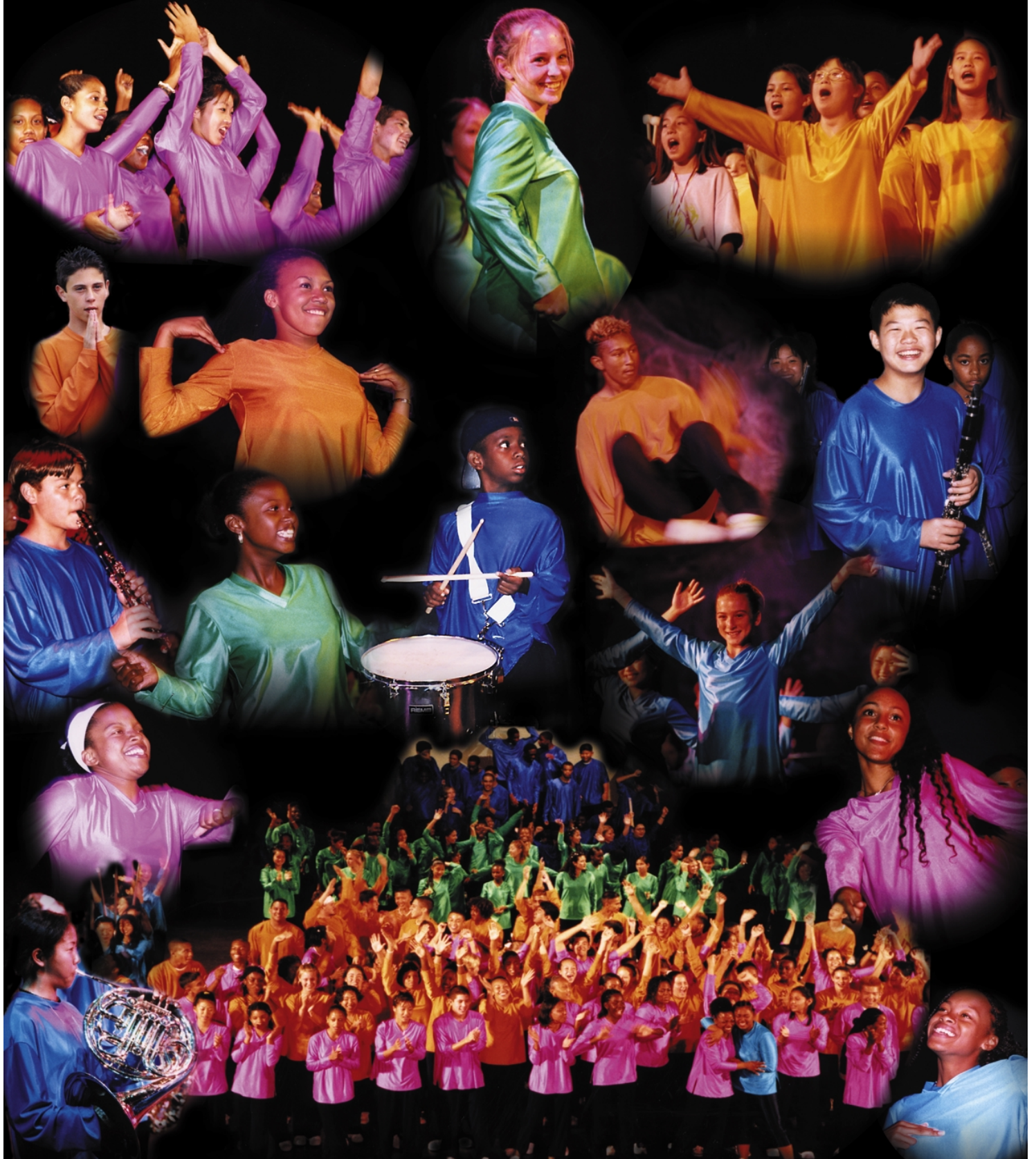
lieved that at this session those difficulties would be surmounted, and that the United Kingdom would be admitted to the Common Market.

But that same day, President Charles de Gaulle of France held a press conference at the Élysée Palace, the presidential offices, and stated his opposition to British membership. He also rejected the United States supplying France with nuclear missiles. At the time, France had its own nuclear weapons development program, and de Gaulle's statement was an announcement that France would not follow the U.S.-led Western defense strategy.

Kawasaki replied to Shin'ichi: "With what's happened today, it may be difficult for Britain to join the Common Market at this time. De Gaulle wants to make a show of French power and independence for the benefit of Americans and the British. That's what politics is all about, it seems—shows of strength."

Daisaku Ikeda appears in the novel as Shin'ichi Yamamoto. The events take place in 1963.

The Vibrant Dance of Successors Expressing Our Pledge for the 21st Century



升起希望太陽的佛法 照耀永遠勝利的人生

SGI 池田會長

七月四日，池田會長對來日本參加研修的SGI會員作了一個指導，內容全文如下：

現今，創價學會正在周密地著手準備向二十一世紀出發。是重新出發的時候，是個朝向「和平遠征」的出發。

亞歷山大大帝向東方、向世界出發時，也做了妥善的準備。年少的大帝，將自己所有的財寶全部送給部下。

「我將這些都給你們，請安心跟著我吧！」

其中一名部屬匪夷所思地問，「大帝啊！你將財寶都給了我們。這樣一來，帝王的寶庫空空如也，你打算怎麼辦呢？」

亞歷山大微笑說：「我並沒有送出全部的財寶，秘藏的珍寶還在我手上。」

部屬問道：「大帝，在哪兒呢？我沒有看到啊！」

大帝回答：「我的『秘密寶藏』名字，叫『希望』。沒有比這更珍貴的寶藏了！」

希望能產生一切；希望能帶來無限的珍寶；希望能引出人類的潛能；希望正是所謂的「如意棒」。能使希望實現的，就是「信心」。

信心正是「永遠的希望」。來自五十二個國家、地區，參加研修會各位，真的辛苦大家了。各位遠道而來日本，認真研修的榮譽、歷史與功績，相信一定能成為永遠不滅的大功德，嚴然地守護家人及眷屬。

雖然眼看不見，但是在各位胸中，每一次出生，就早已種下成為社會偉大領袖的「種子」。請確信這個事實。

御書曾引用「摩訶止觀」教示：「城主剛，守者強；城主恆，守者忙。」（道場神守護事）《城主堅強的話，守護者也強。城主軟弱的話，守護者也會懼怕。》

中心者「奧底的一念」最為重要。一切完全決定於「強盛的信心」、「祈求」。

美國作家蘭布利奇（Frederick Langbridge, 1849-1923）曾說過：「有一人從牢獄看著窗外。其中一人看到天上的『星星』。另外一人卻是看到地上的『塵土』。」

凝視星星，仰望太陽的生活充滿希望。

從前，曾聽過這樣的故事。有個國家有一對孿生子。一個成為大教育家，但是另一個卻變成了小偷。為何如此呢？

二人生長在非常貧窮的家裡，在年輕的時候一起離家，但卻事事不順陷入苦境，於是個個潛進不同的人家裡偷東西。

一人被發現後抓進監牢，開始墮落，最後變成真正的小偷。另外一人也是在偷東西同樣被抓，但是那家主人說：「你還年輕，還有改過的機會」，溫暖的鼓勵他。之後還協助他找工作，鼓勵他讀書，給予他「希望」。

因此，他受到「希望」的牽引，成為一名教師，不斷給予後輩「希望」的好老師。

從最惡劣的條件出發的二人，一個是望著「星星」前進，另一個看見的只是「塵土」。

在有生之年

現在的南半球是嚴寒的冬天。但是冬已來，春不遠（英國雪萊 Shelley）。

「沒有早晨不來的夜晚」。「冬必為春」。

「只要活著，就有希望。」西班牙的塞萬提斯（Cervantes）

人活在希望中，就能無限的成長。所以，不管遭遇何事，決不可放棄、不可認輸。

在我胸中的奧底裡有「春天」、有「晨曦」、有「太陽」，所以昂首前進。

希望是「生」，絕望是「死」！希望是「勝利」，放棄就是「敗北」。

『希望的生命學』

我的友人，被稱為「美國的良心」的諾曼·卡曾斯（Norman Cousins）博士，將他最後的著作取名為「希望的生命學」。這是一本立於醫學的角度，想證明希望的力量能使身體健康的著作。

博士說：「想活下去的強烈意識，讓身體中的製藥工廠發揮最大的作用。」戶田先生也說過：「人體是製藥工廠。」

博士指出，想要活下去的「希望」的力量，會由腦部向身體發出命令，「驅動人體化學兵器」與病戰鬥。

「希望」，正是使生命獲勝的司令官。

「希望」是人類的兵器庫中最強的力量，是「秘密武器」。

「笑」的效用

「笑」能夠使緩和疼痛的「β腦內啡（endorphin）」等體內物質旺盛分泌。

博士引用喬希·比林斯（Josh Billings）的一段話，「藥決不是令人愉快的東西，但是愉快卻是良藥。」

博士說：「過去我在醫學院的十年，學習到最重要的事，就是為病人打氣，讓他找回自信。」

那絕不是當場的安慰而已。「是為要徹底地奮鬥，喚醒病人所擁有的力量，聚集他所有資源的方法。」

「能夠使內在的藥廠充滿活力，旺盛地發揮功用的，沒有別的，就是自信與希望。」

曾經做過這樣的實驗。先用針筒抽取一點血液，然後在五分鐘後再次抽取血液。結果在短短的五分鐘之內，依心中所想的事，會使血液中的「免疫物質（抑制癌細胞的物質）」起變化。

也就是說，心中想著世界上「最好最棒的一件事」的時候，能夠活化免疫力，增強對疾病的抵抗力。相反地，如果是想著黯淡、沒有希望的事情，就會使免疫力低落。

在許多人的身上都得到相同的結果。

忍受孤獨感與慢性精神壓力的，與疾病戰鬥的「免疫」力會慢慢變弱。

如果心裡充滿「我不是孤單的」喜悅，會使這人的免疫力活潑起來。

所以，請經常關懷朋友們。給人所希望的人，自己也會湧現希望。

另外與「肥胖」有關經常成為話題的「膽固醇」，直到八〇年代為止，都只認為是因於日常的飲食。但是，最近發現心情的壓力，也是原因之一。考試前的學生，或是申報截止日迫在眼前的會計師，其「膽固醇」的值不斷增高。

也就是說，其實不是單純肉體上的病，也不是單純精神面的病——這個發現共通於佛法色心不二的生命哲學。

博士於加州大學洛杉磯分校（UCLA）的醫學研究出這件事實。博士本身在少年時代克服了肺結核，五十歲時也克服了「膠原病」這難纏的疾病，擁有超越重病的體核。他的理論不是紙上談兵，而是以自己的身體證明決意「必勝」的一念心的偉大。

「最大的不幸」並不是「死」

拿出勇氣就能開啟道路。「希望」使心再度燃燒，驚人地創造新能源，促使我們進入真正成長的新階段。」

博士說：「向著夢想前進的時候，就會感覺到自己是一個人！」

我深有同感。

只有在奮戰時候，人才會感到自己的存在價值。忘記奮戰就會墮落，如動物般。

希望，也是從奮戰中產生，從努力中產生。

博士說：「即使在沒有希望達到終點的時候，繼續朝著遙遠的目標行進，總比放棄前進要好上不知多少倍。」

人生最大的不幸，不是死，而是無法發現更加成長的可能性而死去。

「反正自己不過如此而已。」「反正自己的人生，就是如此。」

試想，這種決定的根據到底在哪裡。人是「小宇宙」，只要抱著「希望」，就能成就無限大的自己。

偉人的特長

七月是個不可思議的月份。是大聖人提出「立正安國論」的月份（七月十六日）。

也是牧口先生、戶田先生以及我「入獄」的月份。

還有戶田先生與我「出獄」也是在七月。

我在一九五七年入獄。那一年戶田先生在「新年賀詞」中說了什麼話呢？

那就是「希望」。

「觀看過去的偉人，不輸給人生的苦難、人生的怒濤，不斷堅守從凡人看來，只能當作夢想的希望。不！他們徹底活於這希望中，決不屈服。理由在於其希望本身，並不是為了自己的欲望與利己的目的，而是以人類的幸福為根本，充滿著非比尋常的確信。

我們的御本佛日蓮大聖人，在十六歲時覺醒要救濟人類發下大願，並悟得宇宙哲理，直到三十二歲鑽研此信念的確切證據。之後直到六十一歲涅槃之日，他一生中從來未曾離開自己年輕時的希望，年輕時的夢想。看大聖人一生的軌跡，真的好像看到巍峨的大殿堂一樣呀！」

之後戶田先生又說：「不管是年老或年少，一定要在生活中抱持充滿確信的希望，並且要活在希望之中。」

「要牢牢記住，活在希望之中的生命力，是來自御本佛日蓮大聖人生命力的，是來自御本佛日蓮大聖人生命的、人法一體的御本尊。」

在受迫害最熾盛之時

圖顯御本尊

御本尊正是「希望」的無限泉源。

日蓮佛法是「希望的佛法」。

想起來，日蓮大聖人是在龍口到佐渡的大難中，首次圖顯御本尊。在面臨危及生命的迫害中：遭到流罪，在所謂牢獄之中。

在「最沒有希望」的牢獄中，圖顯「授與全人類希望」的御本尊。其中包含深遠的意義。

並不是在宏偉的大寺院中寫下御本尊。也不是在奢侈無度當中，為了確立自己的權威而寫。

在受到迫害當中，如太陽般燃起「廣宣流布」的「希望」，這種「徹底奮戰的精神」，全都包含在御本尊中。

「日蓮之魂魄染墨書成者也」（覆經王書），御本尊內涵容大聖人「廣宣流布」的精神。所以，嚴格來說，若是喪失為了廣宣流布的信心之人，對御本尊沒有真正的感應。正如御書教示：此御本尊，只納於信心二字之內。（覆日女書）

在「奮戰的信心」中，有一「御本尊」，有一「佛界」。

「此御本尊全不須求之於他處。」戶田先生在牢獄中也沒有御本尊。但是擁有為廣宣流布奮戰的信心。因此，能夠在獄中得到悟達。

日覽上人的遺物

（文轉第三頁）

有人說這是尋找信心出發點之旅。有人說這是信心充電之旅。也有人說這是求道學佛之旅。不管怎麼稱呼，我個人認為這是個求道心旺盛的地湧菩薩們齊聚一堂的大會。

World Tribune 已介紹過此次研修會的概況：抵達當天，個個精神抖擻，請天善神護駕，虹彩相迎，使得研修會一開始，就像佛州陽光般的燦爛，令人為之喝采。

每日早晨的勤行，人人精神振奮，唱誦經懺有力，響徹雲霄，尤其唸經之後的體操(氣功)人人扭腰轉臂，怪相百出，笑聲不斷(只有我在笑?)，卻也不失大體，人人自得其樂，其境也似立足於人間仙境，真希望有仙桃可以偷摘(只有我?)

至於學習交流獲益之多自在話下，不管是來自何方的諸佛(幹部)，人人各顯神通，把自身的修行體驗渾身解數地分享給大家，聽得是大家紛紛點頭，或者是會友的體貼叫大家痛哭流涕，此時大家的信念凝聚一起，用現代口語說，信心「駭」到最高點!

佛州雖潮濕炎熱，但艷麗的陽光在散發熱情之後，也時時不忘來場陣雨，替我們沐浴，真謂照顧有佳，如此一晷四天之不覺已過，經過相見、學習、交流以及旅遊(購物或參觀鱷魚)之相處之後，別離時依依難捨，拚命拍照留影，頓時人人都成了鎂光燈下的明星，尤其是新添購的台灣與香港的旗幟為我們增添了不少的歡欣，真是相得益彰。

至今還難忘大家的歡樂聲，最難忘的是那停電的一刻，大家聚在走廊外，談佛法說體操，孝敬佛州蚊蟲(被叮了個要命)，Jimmy 和 Tony 還在黑暗中騎自行車苦中作樂。

更忘不了那狂歡的同樂會，笑歪了腰，也笑累了嘴，節目之精彩是所有電視節目所不能比，什麼唱、跳、說笑、遊戲都來，唯一缺的就是舞台裝。

朋友們!沒去過的趕快來!來報名，包君滿意，去一趟包你多活十年(更多?)，青春永駐，笑顏常開，宿命轉換。

分享你們個秘密，如果不是那麼遠的話，天都想去(誰不想?)。最後言歸正傳，我要以誠懇的態度向 WCT 所有工作人員致敬，因他們默默地辛勤工作，才有成功的研修會，以及向中林副理事長等一行人由衷地表示謝意，還有向所有特地從遠方到來的幹部們深深一鞠躬，還有所有長輩、會友們謝謝你們、謝謝大家，希望!再見!

FNCC 夏季華語研修會感想

堀川月裏



▲堀川月裏(左)、林盧惠蘭和台灣教育部長蔡仁舜同遊大沼澤。

自從去年參加第一屆研修會留下難以忘懷的回憶以來，時時期待能再次參加。由於經濟不甚寬裕，而不敢奢望。

得知八月份的研修會參加人數不夠，臨時決定參加，順道處理一些私事。我提前在四日下午就抵達研修中心，因此有機會參與一些幕後工作，看到幹部們為了讓我們能夠有最好的收穫，而不辭辛勞，全心奉獻，令人敬佩。

八月五日下午我被指派協助美華友誼會會長李春禧到邁阿密機場迎接分區從各地到來的會友。因為機場相當擁擠，我的個子又小，為了讓到來的會友容易看到我目標，我把「SGI」的牌子舉得高高的，而且左右搖擺，晃來晃去，結果為了意外的收穫，有一個人來問我會館的電話，因為他曾在日本參加學會的活動，希望能到會館唱題。另外一個人說他是會員，特地過來打招呼。

好不容易總算所有人都到齊了。大家上了巴士，一路上，車上的人看起來都很興奮，迫不及待地希望馬上到研修中心。

快到達時，有人發現好大的雙層彩虹。當車子駛入研修中心小道時，感覺上好像是穿過彩虹進入的，實在太美妙了。天然的園景中有美侖美奐的宿舍，人工湖蜿蜒的小道，四周寧靜，令人心曠神怡。

八月六日早晨御書研習時我被分到北二圈婦人部企劃長李瑛英那一組，她把御書作了很詳細的解說，強調：一、供養的像播種，只有在良田下種才會收穫，供養的對象是正確的，就像在福田播種，一定會有功德。如果供養破壞佛法的人，不但不會有功德，反而有害。二、能和池田會長生在同一時代為廣布奮鬥是非常幸運難得的事，一定要珍惜。三、開目抄說：縱遭諸天所棄也不放棄信心，這才是真正的堅強的信心。四、要學習大聖人的精神，為了讓末法眾生幸福，明知會遭難，也不畏縮。

下午第二堂課是「宗門問題」，由台灣教部部長蔡仁舜主講，他提到宗門及日顯上本質上的錯誤是他們的原則不是為眾人的幸福。貌似修行的僧侶，實則是破壞佛法的人，比惡王外道更可怕。

晚上是活動及體驗交流，我這一組是由台灣中南區婦人部長高淑芬主持。會員們紛紛道出自己的體驗及所獲得的功德。他們克服了婚姻、人際關係、居留身份等等問題。

八月七日的主題是 SGUSA 的活動方針。下午大家出去逛街購物、遊覽等等，我到沼澤拜訪鱷魚去了。

晚上的同樂會由南加州女子部員林芝仔主持。她落落大方，風趣、幽默、調皮，惹得大家頻頻大笑，她特別喜歡逗中林副理事長，他最後只好「走為上策」。他說，只要會員快樂，幹部什麼都得做，這是池田先生的指導。我很佩服他的雅量。林芝仔多才多藝，節目主持得好外，現在正上學學習按摩脊椎的療病術。

有人談到研修中心，走到那裡都聽得到佛法，學得到新東西。在往機場的巴士上，一位婦人部員對我說，當初她在台灣活動時，幹部教導她們，不要恨人，不要羨慕人，不要嫉妒人，我又上了一課。

我每天一大早就起來騎單車，陣陣清風，股股清爽，吹遍全身，那種自由自在的舒適，令人回味無窮。

總而言之，到了研修中心，處處在學習，時時在享受，收穫滿滿，又給我留下了另一次難忘的美麗回憶。

林盧惠蘭

SGI 會長獲頒中國東北大學名譽教授

七月廿四日，創價大學創辦人池田 DAIICHI 會長就任中國東北大學名譽教授，就任儀式於東京牧口紀念會館舉行。東北大學赫冀成校長、王苑山副校長和教職員等一行專程來日，出席與創價學會青年部幹部會共同舉行的就任儀式。東北大學位於中國東北遼寧省的首都瀋陽市。赫校長於儀式中發表演說，強調：他對創價大學的國際性及瀾漫中日友好的氣氛，印象深刻。並發覺創價擁有獨特的學習和思考氣氛，充滿孕育智慧、藝術和文化的價值。更指出，創大校園植有紀念周恩來及鄧穎超夫婦的櫻花樹，他相信中日的友好將如櫻花，爛漫盛開。

赫博士說：能夠迎接 SGI 會長就任名譽教授是東北大學的最高榮譽，並藉此機會邀請 SGI 會長早日訪問該大學。他更說：東北大學的師生一同殷切企盼他的到來。他渴望促成東北大學和創價大學的交流，並斷言兩校的交流將不僅促進中日兩國的世代友好，更將對亞洲與世界的和平做出鉅大貢獻。

SGI 會長於謝辭中指出：一九三一年日軍佔領瀋陽市，於滿州建立偽滿洲國。當時，日軍策劃利用東北大學的二十二歲學生劉長春，代表滿洲國參加一九三二年洛杉磯奧運。但是，青年劉長春悍然拒絕，於奧運會上，獨自一人代表中國參加比賽。他是中國第一位奧林匹克參賽選手。SGI 會長說：以東北大學學生為核心的青年正義熱情，帶動了東北民眾，並導致全世界反抗法西斯主義的意識高漲。並推崇東北大學是世界級的一科學和人才的重鎮，自從一九二三年建校以來，一直是新中國建設和發展的原動力。

SGI 會長希望締造中日永遠不渝的友情，而宣稱：此種結合是確保日本和平與安定唯一之道。最後誓言將促進二十一世紀的文化、教育的興隆昌盛，以結束謝辭。

(文接第一頁)

相反地，即使有御本尊，卻沒有一「信心」也是沒有用的。日寬上人甚至還說要將「觀心之本尊」的「之」一字，當成是他的「遺物」。

「絕對不可忘！」

〔日詳開書中記載：「這一點，是大大事中的大事（中略）再

三言之，做為日寬遺物，將之傳予汝等信心。〕

大聖人的御本尊，究竟就是「觀心之本尊」。所謂「觀心之本尊」，直截了當地說就是「信心之本尊」。

〔大聖人的佛法是「受持即觀心」，受持御本尊的「信心」即是「觀心」。因此，「觀心之本尊」可說是「信心之本尊」。〕

對於忘記這教訓，忘記「信心」、忘記「廣宜流布」的惡人，絕對要與其奮戰。

大聖人嚴格教示：「不責備違背佛法的人，而祈願成佛，就如同「火中求水，水中尋火。」〔覆曾谷事〕通解〕

〔不責謗法而願成佛，是如火中求水，水中尋火。〕

凝視黎明

入獄時，我讀了雨果的書。雨果也是因為莫須有的罪而被流放。雨果說：「我的想法，就是一直都要前進。因為如果神希望人向後退，一定會在人的腦後也裝上一隻眼睛吧。」

但是人的眼睛，嚴然地長在「前面」。因此，雨果吶喊：「要經常凝視黎明、凝視開花、凝視

「會變得年輕」希望各位能夠不斷前進，越來越年輕。御聖訓中，將領導人健康的樣子表現為「年輕、色盛、神淨、力亦強。」〔覆上野堂書〕

〔年輕起來，姿態充滿氣勢，精神勇敢、強而有力〕

九月份大白蓮華卷頭言

日蓮大聖人向長年與其同甘共苦的四條金吾，四條金吾，為鎌倉中上下萬人，乃至日本國一切眾生，口齊稱道，豈不甚美！

不用說，四條金吾是鎌倉門下的中心人物。要談強盛的信心，如果脫離現實生活，那只是觀念而已！教他在社區的人們之間，擴展信賴的圈子，寂光土的建设，就在其實踐之中。廣宜流布的實現終歸是以人與人的信賴關係為樞軸，這是在任何時代都不變的方程式。

池田先生曾說：「近鄰友好的增加，信賴的擴大，與社區合為一體的發展……」友人的增多，本身正是「廣布的發展！」

佛法存在於人的行為中。說是信仰，到底還是要看那個人的品格、品行，不為鄰人所信賴，算不上真正的「信心即生活」、「佛法即社會」。廣宜流布說來不正是社區貢獻的實證嗎？

當今，世界的S.O.S.之友，在各自國家，滿懷信仰的喜悅，欣然參與奉獻社區的活動。在台灣，每年都舉行「社區友好文化節」活動，今年全國辦了八十八場，有五十萬人參加。有位來賓說：「S.O.S.的文化活動，明明、充滿生氣。促進社區友好，為人們生活帶來精神的潤澤。要是有更多像S.O.S.這樣關心社會的團體，社會就會變得更好。」這類奉獻社會的活動受到肯定，今年八月獲頒「社會優良團體獎」。在全國三千多的社會團體中，是唯「連續八年獲獎的團體。這說明了在當地已有許多人瞭解到，日蓮佛法的實踐與行動是以善的網絡結合社會，為了「使社區更美好」。

為印度獨立盡力的甘地，其晚年投注最多心力的事，是去構建植根於地區，服務民眾的組織。他促進為地區貢獻的行動，曾說：「領導者要與地區內的每個人，保持個人的接觸」，他的信念是「為鄰人盡力的人，同時是在為人類盡力」。

(文轉下頁)

最後想介紹一位名教授的證言。是「比較神話學」巨擘約瑟夫·坎貝爾(Joseph Campbell, 1897-1987)博士「最晚年的話」。是比較出全世界、古今、東西方神話思想所研究出的結論。

「世界一變化，宗教也不得不跟著變化。」

「現代沒有疆界。現今唯一有價值的神話就是地球這行星的神話，我們還沒有這樣的神話。」

在我所知道的範圍，最接近全球性神話的就是佛教，它認為萬物皆有佛性。最重要也是唯一的一問題，即是去認識此事。」

他把「神話」當做「思想」的意義來使用。使萬人「覺知自己本身的佛性」。使萬人「覺知自己本身無限的可能性」。對萬人「教示無限希望的泉源。」

這就是世界廣宜流布的運動。二十一世紀正在等待著。渴望地等待這「希望的太陽」升起。而使太陽升起的，正是我們。贈與尊貴的各位，一首紀念的詩。

共戰譜
攜手共創
直到三世
渡航之地
是佛界
多寶城

我也將要遍訪全世界。下次再見！請保重！

FZCC夏季華語研習會感想

巴士在佛州雨後清新的空氣中，由高速公路向東轉入鄉間小道，天上掛著一道一百八十度完美的彩虹，相信車上三十多位從乾旱的洛市來的會友望著這罕見的美景，除了歡呼雀躍之外，還帶著幾分期許。

一下車來，呼吸到的是自然原野的空氣，看見的是研習中心的紅瓦白牆，四周碧綠的樹林。彩虹下中林副理事長、財津夫人、四位台灣幹部、一位香港幹部滿臉笑容，親切地招呼每一位會友，我的心中油然而充滿了喜悅。

在這四天的研習中，我們就一直享受著清爽的氣候、優雅的環境、以及心靈的陶冶。

研習活動先後由五位自台灣和香港遠道而來的幹部分組指導，共分為御書講習、體驗交流和宗門問題。每一位會友都有各自深切的體驗和煩惱，藉著研習的活動和信心的挑戰，都能提高生命境界，以勇氣克服困難。

我這一組有一位七十多歲的周老太太，她的體驗尤其感人。婚後經商失敗，決定以賣菜維持生活，誰知賣菜也賠錢，於是改賣米，結果一樣賠錢，又改行養豬，還是賠錢。更不幸的是丈夫在八七水災中喪生，留下六個稚齡子女由她撫養，她獨自一人到日本謀生，把錢匯回台灣供子女過活。在舉目無親的情況下，她兩次因重病而流離失所，幸賴學會員信心上的鼓勵和支持，終於克服病魔。如今子女俱已長大有成，她才得以參加此次的研習活動展現信心的花朵。聽著她以平靜的聲調，顫抖的雙手握著一疊講稿述說著令人難以置信的坎坷命運和克服困難後的喜悅，每個人都可以感受到學會信心的力量和溫馨。

宗門問題一直是學會最關切的問題，也是這次研習的主題之一。台灣教宣部長蔡仁舜詳細地解釋這個問題的來龍去脈，讓我有更深刻的了解。個人認為宗門應進行全面性的改革，確實遵循大聖人的教導，實踐信、行、學三方面的修行，一如學會一貫的原則。大聖人說：「絕行學則無佛法」。池田會長在各地開設研習中心，在在顯示了他的先知遠見，及其用心之良苦。

一直以來，中林副理事長給我一種道貌岸然不易親近的感覺。同樂晚會中我驚喜的發現他竟然放下身段和會友們



▲陳重嘉(左)的太太陳林美華說研習會讓他的信心成長很多。

陳重嘉

誠懇努力建立社區友好
秋谷榮之助

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(文轉下頁)

過先時百千萬倍。」〔覆曾谷書〕

〔體力，以及心與頭腦的動作，比之前更快百千萬倍。〕

希望一定要「健康第一」，睡眠充足，消除疲勞，更倍增「生命的威光勢力」。

「適合地球時代的是佛教」

關於大御本尊

Ted Morino 教學部顧問

宗門事件爆發後，池田會長說：「我們對大御本尊的看法一點都沒有改變，它是大聖人為了全人類的幸福顯現的，也是信心的基礎。」學會一直支持大御本尊的真實性，甚至在我們無法見到它的這過去幾年中也不例外。既然日顯宗以他們所持有的大御本尊誘惑在家信徒加入他們的組織，我們就應該慎重探討對大御本尊的正確態度。

首先，只有信心能使御本尊的力量顯現，包括大御本尊在內。換句話說，我們必須明瞭，認為大御本尊具有其他御本尊所沒有的獨特而且神秘的力量是錯誤的想法。大御本尊和我們自己的御本尊是平等的。

最重要的是我們的信力和行力，只有信力和行力能夠引現大御本尊和其他御本尊以及我們生命中的佛力和法力。

大聖人說：「此御本尊只納於信心二字，以信得入者此也。」(御書二，一三二頁)

大聖人從未在任何信函或論文中提及一二七九年十月十二日顯現的大御本尊，但在此之前一天，他在「聖人御返事」中提到完成他的出世本懷：「佛四十餘年，天台大師三十餘年，傳教大師二十餘年，遂出世本懷，其中大難難計，早有所述。余二十七歲，其間大難亦各所既知。」(御書一，一六一頁)因為大御本尊是在他開始弘教之後二十七年顯現的，一般認為這句話意謂他視顯現大御本尊為他的出世本懷。

熱原法難是導致顯現此特別的御本尊的主因，在此事件中，在家信徒，其中有許多是才入信者，對大聖人的佛法表現出堅毅

不拔的信心，因而促使大聖人為全人類的幸福顯現了大御尊，他稱此為他的出世本懷。

正如書寫於大御尊上的一行字顯示，它具有特殊意義是無可置疑的：「這御本尊將安置於本門戒壇」之內，但是，認為對大御本尊不管有無信心，大御本尊都是絕對的，這是錯誤的想法，真正重要的是信心。

過去，學會鼓勵會員登山膜拜大御本尊，這完全是支持宗門的精神表現。

第二任會長戶田城聖在二次世界大戰後，開始推動登山活動，那時的宗門極其貧困，他還藉藉此教導會員在膜拜大聖人為全人類幸福而顯現的大御本尊中涵育求道精神和純潔的信心。

由於這種向困難挑戰的求道心，會員們為了參加登山而遭遇的種種阻礙，使他們面對自己的御本尊的信心修行變得更加堅強。

假如有人專程把大御本尊送到門口，他們在信心方面不會得到同樣的結果。

因為日顯宗圖利用大御尊控制信徒，要求他們加入宗門，並且捐錢才能見到大御本尊，登山已經不是善因。如果我們真去了，我們就墮入他所設的陷阱中了。

因為日顯的行為和目的都是在暗中破壞和阻斷弘揚大聖人佛法的廣布運動，在財務方面支持他就等於支持不好的意向，就佛法觀點而言，這是非常不好的惡因。池田會長曾就此點說：「有人說除非你心想要親眼見到本門戒

壇內的大御本尊，你就沒信心，不能成佛，這當然是錯誤的觀念，安置於自宅的御本尊和大御本尊具有同樣的重大的意義。它們會產生和大御本尊一樣的功德，這是根據佛法「分身散體」的原則。

在寫給一位從未謀面的松野殿的信中，大聖人誠懇地鼓勵這位信者。松野殿不曾見到大聖人，但大聖人在答覆他時說：「且於我未曾得見一面，何竟如此獲蒙信用？想只是過去之宿緣深厚耳！來生必得作佛！」(御書二，一五六頁)

成佛與否不取決於是否親身見到大聖人或大御本尊。因此，辯稱除非親身到大石寺拜見大御本尊，就無信心可言，這種說法不只大錯特錯，而且完全違反大聖人的教導。假如違背了大聖人顯現大御本尊的心意，即使是見到大御本尊，還是得不到任何功德。」

因為大御本尊是木製的，它的

文豪金庸氏說：「(G)是世界性的組織，徹底以「現地主義」各與當地民眾團結一致，同甘共苦。」

社區友好是廣宣流布的正道，直通民眾勝利的大道。在阪神大地震時，日顯宗寺院門扉緊閉，排拒災民姿態，讓人記憶猶新。拒絕「社區友好」的宗教，勢必沒落，事實昭然。

由此可知，地區的廣宣流布是與其社區友好的擴大同在。特別是壯年部、男子部要擔當重任。有這樣的前例：從早晨的問好做起，擴大了社區友好；壯年部員拜訪會場周圍的人家，使日常學會活動深受理解等，可知友好在於日常生活當中。

一切從為社區朋友的幸福出發。有關懷他人的心、責任感與智慧，便能從身邊開始，無限推廣社區友好。迎向豐收的季節，讓我們透過地區總會各種活動，構築擴大社區友好的傳統吧！

了解我們基本的、永恆的使命

世界聖報助理發行人 Greg Martin

Mollie Ueno 譯

在美國，我們可說是已經成功地和美國人分享日蓮大聖人的佛法。和其他佛教宗派相形之下，在會員散佈之廣以及人種的多元化各方面，我們都很特出。創價學會在美國此一書的作者Philip Hammond教授肯定了我們成功的故事。我們應當感到驕傲。

折伏分為兩方面，教導正確的佛法，使人們得到幸福，只做了一半，另一半是駁斥不真實的，任何導致人們受苦的錯誤觀念。二者之中任何一個都顯示，慈悲是大聖人的基本精神和意向的特徵。

對身在美國的會員而言，宗門問題實際上關係到學習完整的折伏修行，也就是駁斥錯誤的理念，教導正確的理念。因為我們居住的國土不是以佛教為主的社會，我們沒有機會實踐這種折伏活動。對於指正錯誤的理念，我們不但毫無經驗，或許還覺得作起來很不自在。

但是，為了能夠從池田先生手中承接廣布火炬，而我們也願意接受並傳承到二十一世紀，我們必須了解並有勇氣從事折伏活動。面對僧侶的抨擊時，我們要以深刻的了解和勇氣將正確的修行和不正確的修行對照說明。

大聖人說：「若與日蓮同意，當是地涌菩薩。」諸法實相抄，御書選集二，一五〇頁

宗門加諸於我們的迫害及對大聖人佛法的曲解，給了我們領悟並繼承大聖人本懷的絕佳機會。

現在所面對的問題是我們是否在這方面通曉宗門問題的重要性，以及是否有勇氣承擔起這個使命。

唱題的力量是最重要的。我們每一個人都應為宗門問題立定唱題的目標，以支持青年部的百億題目的活動。

我們因此而唱的題目，配合我們竭力確保儘可能讓更多人了解宗門曲解大聖人佛法的事實，並使他們在獲得充足的消息後，自動作明智的抉擇，停止對宗門的支持，是我們達成目標的直徑。

戰勝標門的不良影響實際上我們從事折伏的慈悲和勇氣的衡量準或結果——抨擊、指正任何有關我們的信仰和廣布運動的錯誤理念的勇氣，不管是對學會會員或宗門信徒，了解這一點是非常重要的。

以折伏為目的的活動及對話，絕對沒有違反宗教寬容的精神，這種精神往往呈現為漠不關心的心態，而且它們和宗教信仰自由也不衝突。但我們可在適當的時機，與其他宗派討論我們的信仰的不同之處，說明我們相信釋迦牟尼、天台大師以及日蓮大聖人都告誡我們只可信奉法華

經，而日蓮大聖人的佛法才是末法時代的正確的信心。從來沒有一個佛教宗派蓄意摧毀創價學會。從「C作戰」之前到兩次破門，從指控學會授與假御本尊到拆毀正本堂，從來沒有一個宗派像日顯宗這樣企圖毀滅我們的組織，動搖會員的信心，打擊廣宣流布運動。這就是宗教寬容和冷漠必須分辨清楚之處。

總之，我們努力闡釋正確的大聖人佛法修行之道，以有別於日顯，這一份努力就是慈悲的行為，解救了正被導向不幸和苦惱之路的人們，也申張了我們宗教信仰自由的權益。

池田會長最近說過：「忽略差異和實之不理，看起來好像是慈悲的行為，實際上是對惡缺乏義憤之感，一種道德微弱的表現。不重視道德問題是道德淪喪的開端。」

池田會長一直致力於一種革命運動——以確認生命價值的大聖人的正法取代使人屈從、痛苦的錯誤理念。我們也必須在美國的土地上實現這個目標。

那麼，對我們而言，宗門問題的意義和重要性在於接受我們是美國國土上的地涌菩薩的身份和使命。繼承大聖人的精神就是從事折伏活動。我們的使命就是面對這個挑戰！