



EXPERIENCE:

Craig DeRousse and his mother, Carol, share the value of Soka education.

pages 4-5

Periodical Postage Paid at Santa Monica, CA 90401 and at additional mailing offices
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: SGI-USA Subscribers, 606 Wilshire Blvd., PO Box 1427 Santa Monica, CA 90406-9907

No. 3309

\$2.00

SEPTEMBER 1, 2000

SGI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE STUDENT DIVISION CONFERENCE AT THE FNCC, AUG. 17-20

EMBRACE THE SUN OF INFINITE HOPE

'All I want to ask of you is to engage dauntlessly in the battle of right and just speech,' SGI President Ikeda says.

To my most cherished SGI-USA Student Division members, young representatives of hope and intellect:

My sincere congratulations on your training course where determined hearts abound! Nothing encourages and delights me more than the growth of many sharp, young people.

Nichiren Daishonin states, "The lion king fears no other beast" (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 997). You have nothing to fear, as you have embraced the sun of infinite hope. All I want to ask of you is to engage dauntlessly in the battle of right and just speech, always brightly, always cheerfully, in a manner that suits youth. Creating circles of friendship with the youth of the world, I hope you will beautifully advance as you correctly lead them into the 21st century.

Toward this end, I hope you will seriously challenge your studies at school and assiduously polish your intellect. I say this because today the vital issue is how to develop wisdom that serves as the foundation of value creation—the type of wisdom that will enable you to inspire others, guide people to happiness, and bring prosperity to society. Faith is the source of such wisdom, and enables us to live an unswayed, indestructible existence. My heart rejoices, imagining each of you playing a major role in your great cause on the stage of the new century.

I hope you, my beloved members of the SGI-USA Student Division, will advance day by day, step by step, with patience, thus living a brilliant youth of great value-creation and victory. I end my message with a heartfelt prayer for your meaningful student experience, where you put priority on study, action and good health.

Daisaku Ikeda

August 2000



Photo by GEORGE RYU

The Student Division Conference was held Aug. 17-20 at the Florida Nature and Culture Center with 183 representatives from throughout the United States. The 'Seize the Day' pullout section in the Sept. 15 issue will carry in-depth coverage of the activity, which centered on the theme 'Become Courageous Leaders of the New Century.'

New Orleans Celebrates 'Voices of the Ages'

By **KIMBERLY MARTIN**
MISSISSIPPI CORRESPONDENT

The New Orleans Area hosted its first Culture Festival on July 30 at the Louisiana State University Union Theater in Baton Rouge, La. With short notice, members put together a spectacular event. The youth devoted every weekend for two months to rehearsals.

Brian Nakamura, area junior/high school coordinator, said: "I thought it brought everyone closer and raised their spirits. I think we have a bright future with all these active youth here."

The show opened with a touching slide presentation, "Voices of the Ages," honoring

the pioneer members who had dedicated their lives to SGI-USA in the South. A powerful taiko drum performance followed.

Three young ladies danced a graceful classical Japanese dance, celebrating the blossoming of the cherry tree in the aftermath of war, followed by an energized hip-hop dance number.

An emotionally stirring moment came when the youth performed a Victory Over Violence skit that they had written themselves based on an average day at school. It was both disturbing and moving, displaying the reality our youth face on a daily basis. They also reminded us that one person can make a difference.

The audience cheered enthusiastically as the North Louisiana

District members joyfully performed a Caribbean-style song "Voices Through the Ages: Power of One."

The World Peace Movement Band, comprising professional singers and musicians of New Orleans, gave a truly incredible performance. Other performances included poetry readings, chorus, gymnastics, Brazilian dancers, a flamenco

Photo by KIMBERLY MARTIN



Hip-hop dancers perform at the first New Orleans Area Culture Festival, July 30.

dancer and clowns. All performers joined in the finale, singing a traditional Louisiana song "Iko Iko."

Donna Fabian, Atlanta Region youth leader, said: "Wow! I'm speechless. That doesn't happen often!" **WT**

Participants at the Student Division Conference at the FNCC

Next year we will witness a milestone in the development of humanistic education with the opening of Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo campus, in Orange County, Calif. To honor and show our support for all university students of the SGI-USA who possess such a lofty mission and responsibility for the future, we print here the names of the Student Division Conference participants at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, Aug. 17-20.

Satoshi Abe, Tucson, Ariz.
Suguru Abe, Tempe, Ariz.
Katie Anderson, Santa Barbara, Calif.
Nanci Andrade, Richmond, Calif.
Amy Berenz, Evanston, Ill.
Caroline Bergui, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Taeko Bishoff, San Antonio, Texas
Siobhan Boland, San Francisco
Erin Boll, Honolulu
Fletcher Boll, Honolulu
Nina Brown, North Versailles, Pa.
Kasey Brummett, Huntington Beach, Calif.
Brian Burki, San Francisco
Christina Busby, Honolulu
Theresa Charles, Atlanta
Ying Chien, Gahanna, Ohio
Alice Choe, Washington, D.C.
Susan Choe, Springfield, Pa.
Lansil Choi, Anaheim, Calif.
Myeong Chung, Los Angeles
Hana Chung, Anaheim, Calif.
Sara Curley, Carmichael, Calif.
Lea Dean, Takoma Park, Md.
Yadiell Deautriell, Weston, Fla.
Cherie Dennis, Scarsdale, N.Y.
David Dens, Gretna, La.
Alysa DePuydt, Rohnert Park, Calif.
Craig DeRousse, Manhattan Beach, Calif.
Wendy DeSouza, Santa Monica, Calif.
Kathryn Dean, Gig Harbor, Wash.
Ken Dick, Sterling Heights, Mich.
Patricia Donze, Shawnee, Kan.
Ian Ehrenreich, Citrus Heights, Calif.
Bernard Ellorin, San Diego
Jason Evans, Norfolk, Va.
Ed Feasel, Aliso Viejo, Calif.
Stella Flores, Albuquerque, N.M.

Tamara Frazier, Jersey City, N.J.
Andrew Fujimoto, Honolulu
Anthony Geisler, Rockville, Md.
Nicole Goldberg, New York City
Marian Goodenough, Portland, Ore.
Wendi Gotanda, Gardena, Calif.
Kaori Habuki, Calabasas, Calif.
Akiko Hagiwara, Bloomington, Ind.
Meghan Hearn, East Orange, N.J.
James Herrmann, Los Angeles
Shinsuke Higuchi, Tucson, Ariz.
Maki Hirata, Tustin, Calif.
Nobumasa Hiroi, Cupertino, Calif.
Nikita Hodge, Cheverly, Md.
Mariko Holcombe, Millilani, Hawaii
Heidi Hou, Oakland, Calif.
Sophie Hou, Oakland, Calif.
Naomi Hoyle, Mount Vernon, Wash.
Quincy Hou, Oakland, Calif.
Sherry Hsieh, Las Vegas
Kai Hsu, Shoreline, Wash.
Mitsue Ibe, San Antonio, Texas
Takako Ichinomiya, Madison, Wisc.
Hiromi Ikeda, Long Beach, Calif.
Susan Ikeda, Montebello, Calif.
Nobuaki Ishikawa, Hendersonville, N.C.
Emily Jen, Los Angeles
Il-yong Jeong, Santa Clara, Calif.
Renu Jiandani, Santa Monica, Calif.
D'Angelo Jones, Scottsdale, Ariz.
Jackie Jones, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Maya Joseph, Oak Park, Ill.
Grace Jun, Carritos, Calif.
Yukie Kamiya, Sunnyvale, Calif.
Chu Kang, Buena Park, Calif.
Julie Kang, Lawrenceville, Ga.
Lew Kang, North Miami Beach, Fla.

Jeff Kim, Allston, Mass.
Misook Kim, St. Paul, Minn.
Mitsuko Kinoshita, Torrance, Calif.
Mari Kubotani, Oceanside, Calif.
Yoko Kubotani, Oceanside, Calif.
Kuniko Kodama, Santa Cruz, Calif.
Yuko Kusano, Las Vegas
Mireya Lagunas, Lake Forest, Calif.
Brad Larsen, Chicago
Wah Tung Lau, Albuquerque, N.M.
Kwang-sig Lee, Ames, Iowa
Sung Chun Lee, Los Angeles
Nicole Leiser, San Diego
Daisaku Leslie, Santa Monica, Calif.
Judy Liang, Villa Park, Calif.
Tiane Loredo, Pearl City, Hawaii
Valerie Loredo, Pearl City, Hawaii
Marsha Lucas, Cheverly, Md.
Heather MacDonald, San Francisco
Echern Mark, Monterey Park, Calif.
Andrea Martinez, Brookline, Mass.
Audrey Martinez, Brookline, Mass.
Ko-ichi Mashiah, Bridgeport, Conn.
Junko Matsuda, Los Angeles
Taka Matsudo, Reseda, Calif.
Grif McDaniel, Palo Alto, Calif.
Flora McGill, Seattle
Maria Mellano, Cambridge, Mass.
Jessica L. Mentzer, Cheshire, Ore.
Kevin Michael, Goleta, Calif.
Alison Middleton, Clinton, Md.
Mayumi Miura, Weston, Fla.
Yukari Miyahara, New York City
Kimiko Miyoshi, Honolulu
Tal Mizrah, Boulder, Colo.
Malinda Mochizuki, Riverdale, Md.
Shawn Moore, Medical Lake, Wash.

Kazuki Muramatsu, San Diego
Linda Nagaria, Boynton Beach, Fla.
Danny Nagashima, Los Angeles
Julie Nagashima, Los Angeles
Yoko Nakamura, Boston
Akiko Nakaniwa, Santa Monica, Calif.
Kazumi Nomura, Snellville, Ga.
Mitsuko Noro, Allston, Mass.
Fujio Omori, Raleigh, N.C.
Hironori Otsubo, Tucson, Ariz.
Phillippa Palacio, Corona, Calif.
Cody Paul, Albuquerque, N.M.
Mario Perez, Ventura, Calif.
Pamela Pina, Costa Mesa, Calif.
Christine Pinson, Fullerton, Calif.
Shelia Porter, Albany, Calif.
Keith Price, Houston
Anthony Richardson, Glenside, Pa.
Armand Rivers, Philadelphia
David Rosales, Aliso Viejo, Calif.
Karla Roush, San Antonio, Texas
Teresa Ruby, Takoma Park, Md.
Yuka Sakamoto, Cambridge, Mass.
Natalia Samano, Dallas
Kazufumi Sato, Miami
Nobuo Sekine, Monterey, Calif.
Erika Sepassi, San Diego
Erika Sewell, Atlanta
Harold Sheppard, Philadelphia
Tomomi Shimizu, Honolulu
Olivia Shure, Augusta, Ga.
Sasha Siefman, Los Angeles
Margaret Smith, San Francisco
Stacey Smith, Bladenburg, Md.
Robert Snowden, Oklahoma City
Robert Squire, Miami
Sachiko Sugai, San Antonio, Texas

Melissa Sylvester, San Rafael, Calif.
Winnie Szu, Sugarland, Texas
Stanley Tay, Huntington Beach, Calif.
Yuko Tai, Sunnyvale, Calif.
Mitsuko Takahashi, Honolulu
Yukie Takemura, New York City
Brian Tanaka, Mission Hills, Calif.
Shinsuke Tanaka, Sunnyvale, Calif.
John Taylor, Columbia, S.C.
Andrew Templeman, San Jose, Calif.
Mitsuko Terayama, Los Angeles
Alphonzo Terrell, Amherst, Mass.
Kyle Thomas, Chicago
Naruto Tokairin, Gardena, Calif.
Brian Tomaszewski, Albuquerque, N.M.
Kiyoshi Tomita, Allston, Mass.
Yoko Totsu, Tucson, Ariz.
Roy Uehara, Berkeley, Calif.
Yoshie Ushimaru, New York City
Andrew Utada, Lafayette Hill, Pa.
Constance Utada, Wayne, Pa.
Adonis Van Campen, Huntington Beach, CA
Timothy Van Campen, Huntington Beach, CA
Andrew Van den Houten, New York City
Alfredo Vargas, Pembroke Pines, Fla.
Natalia Villegas, Weston, Fla.
Irene Wang, Los Angeles
Iris Widman, Long Beach, Calif.
Kount Williams, Orlando, Fla.
Ben Williamson, Lake Forest, Calif.
Nicolas Witkowski, Jackson Heights, N.Y.
Kae Yabuki, Los Angeles
Saori Yada, San Francisco
Shin'ichi Yamamoto, Honolulu
Megumi Yamasaki, St. Paul, Minn.
Chi Hang "Crystal" Yan, Los Angeles
Debbie Yan, Los Angeles
Ryan Yi, Arlington, Texas

Karma

Back to the Basics
By DAVID JORAY
SGI-USA YOUTH DIVISION STUDY COMMITTEE

Karma has a funny way of creeping up on you. When something unexplainable happens in your life, and you just cannot seem to figure it out, it is very easy to say, "This is my karma." While this statement can be true, it is important to realize that all your karma is based on the principle of cause and effect. And that what you have just experienced, whether good or bad, was an effect of something you did in the past. Buddhism teaches that "if you want to understand the causes that existed in the past, look at the results as they are manifested in the present. And if you want to understand what results will be manifested in the future, look at the causes that exist in the present" (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 279). Your karma does not descend on you from above — it comes out from your life based on what you have done.

count — you put money in, you take money out. But in this case, your deposits and withdrawals are all the thoughts, words and actions that you have created in the past and will create in the future. You certainly cannot withdraw what you have not deposited!

Karma is actually neither good nor bad. It is simply a collection of causes and their corresponding effects. However, as most of us have realized, there are many causes that we have

made that we do not necessarily want to feel the effects of again. Also, there are many causes for the future that we would not particularly like to carry out. By practicing Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism, we have the ability to change poison into medicine; by basing our lives on faith, we can change all those nasty causes that we have made (and might still make) into good for-

ture for our lives. Plus, we can develop the wisdom to control what kinds of causes we make from now on. In "Lessening One's Karmic Retribution," the Daishonin states, "If one's heavy karma from the past is not expiated within this lifetime, one must undergo the sufferings of hell in the future, but if one experiences extreme hardship in this life [because of the Lotus

Sutra], the sufferings of hell will vanish instantly" (WND, p. 199). By exercising true faith in the Lotus Sutra and continually striving to advance in our daily practice, we come to see our problems as opportunities to change our negative karma. The Daishonin's Buddhism is so wonderful — it gives us the ability to take charge of our karma and lead value-creating lives. **WT**

Subscribe yourself or share it with a friend.

To subscribe, send in the order form below with your payment enclosed. No cash, please. Call 1-800-835-4558 if you have questions. Please check the appropriate boxes.



The SGI-USA's Weekly Newspaper

The *World Tribune* (692-720) is published weekly by the SGI-USA, 606 Wilshire Blvd., PO Box 1427 Santa Monica, CA 90406-9907; (310) 260-8900; FAX (310) 260-8910; E-mail: wt@sgi-usa.org SGISUBS@aol.com

Periodical Postage Paid at Santa Monica, CA, and at additional mailing offices. Return To: SGI-USA Subscriptions, 606 Wilshire Blvd., PO Box 1427 Santa Monica, CA 90406-9907

Subscription Rates (subject to state taxes) \$15 for Three Months; \$28 for Six Months; \$50 for One Year; \$85 for Two Years; \$125 for Three Years

Printed on 100% recycled paper
Copyright © 2000 by SGI-USA.
All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

WORLD TRIBUNE <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months \$15 (13 issues) Save \$11 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 months \$28 (26 issues) Save \$24 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year \$50 (52 issues) Save \$54 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years \$85 (104 issues) Save \$123 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years \$110 (156 issues) Save \$202		LIVING BUDDHISM <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months \$15 (3 issues) Save \$3 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 months \$28 (6 issues) Save \$8 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year \$50 (12 issues) Save \$22 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years \$90 (24 issues) Save \$54 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years \$125 (36 issues) Save \$91		If you wish, please select one free optional language supplement of the World Tribune. <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Korean <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese
Are you a new subscriber? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
Charge my VISA <input type="checkbox"/> or Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Card # _____ Expiration date _____ Signature _____		U.S. rates only. International rates vary.		
Name _____ Address _____ Apt. # _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____				
(For gift subscription, please indicate gift giver) SEND TO: SGI-USA Subscriptions, PO Box 1427, Santa Monica, CA 90406-9907				

Karma is like a checking ac-

AN ESSAY BY SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA

SUA Is a Great Light of Hope and Peace

‘The Aliso Viejo, Orange County, campus of SUA — which is destined to become a great light of hope and peace for the 21st century — will finally open its doors on May 3, 2001,’ SGI President Ikeda writes. ‘I can hardly contain my excitement.’

Where there is hope, there is peace,” wrote the great French writer Victor Hugo in his last years, while in exile on the isle of Guernsey. Those words, in his own writing, together with a photographic portrait of a white-bearded Hugo, are among the treasures of Soka University of America.

The Aliso Viejo, Orange County, campus of SUA — which is destined to become a great light of hope and peace for the 21st century — will finally open its doors on May 3, 2001. I can hardly contain my excitement.

Looking back, it was in autumn 50 years ago that my mentor, second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda said to me: “Daisaku, let’s found a Soka University. It would be wonderful if we could realize this while I am still alive and well, but it may not be possible. If that should be the case, Daisaku, then I will leave it to you. Let’s make it the best university in the world.”

Though his business was in a crisis then, Mr. Toda gazed out toward the world with bright, optimistic eyes. He envisioned a grand future.

On another occasion, he declared to a group of youthful followers, “Since you uphold the greatest philosophy in the world, you are already world leaders!” Engraving his profound conviction in my heart, I vowed to reach out and embrace the world, and make it the stage of my activities. I pledged that a steady stream of capable leaders for the 21st century would flow from the great reservoir of talent of the Soka Gakkai. That is why, from the time I founded Soka University in Japan, in 1971, I have been determined to

someday build a university overseas that will contribute to the welfare of humanity.

The first step was the establishment of the Soka University Los Angeles campus in Calabasas, Calif., which opened in 1987. Now, more than 10 years later, the time has come for Soka education to spread its wings and soar into the next millennium.

◆◆◆◆

Located about 56 miles southeast of Los Angeles, the Aliso Viejo campus is being built on a hilltop gently caressed by fresh breezes from the Pacific Ocean. The weather there is sunny and warm. The campus covers some 103 acres and is surrounded on three sides by lovely valleys. It is here that this glistening new school, its design based on images of water, greenery and sunshine, is now taking shape.

The university has received a number of commendations and awards from the local community, including a Welcome Resolution from the Orange County Board of Supervisors in July 1995, an Ethics in America Award from the South Orange County Chamber of Commerce in June 1998 and an award from a local citizen’s group acknowledging SUA’s accessibility and spirit to contribute to the community. The design of the campus, aimed at bringing nature and people together in exquisite harmony, also received a Merit Award for Planning and Urban Design from the American Society of Landscape Architects in November 1997.

I am overjoyed that the university will open amid friendship and the welcoming applause of the community.

◆◆◆◆

SUA will begin as a four-year liberal arts college. This is a traditional structure for a university, focusing on fostering well-rounded, capable individuals, as well as developing knowledge in specialized fields of learning. In a liberal arts college, education takes priority over research, and class size is kept to a minimum to cultivate a close, informal relationship among teachers and students. Most of America’s best private universities with the longest, proudest traditions began as liberal arts colleges.



The Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda Library on the Aliso Viejo campus of SUA.

I want to nurture talented individuals and leaders for the new century, and SUA will be a leading seat of humanistic education for that purpose. In the words of Charles William Eliot, one of the greatest presidents of Harvard University, “Enter to grow in wisdom; depart to serve thy country and thy kind.” SUA is generations younger than Harvard, but I hope it will advance with the noble spirit to produce people who, when they leave its doors, will dedicate themselves to the causes of peace and human happiness.

As SUA founder, I recently offered some guidelines or goals to which I hope the school will commit itself:

- 1) Fostering leaders of culture in the community
 - 2) Fostering leaders of humanitarianism in society
 - 3) Fostering leaders of pacifism in the world.
- To these three, I now want to add a fourth:
- 4) Fostering leaders for the creative coexistence of nature and humanity.

These four principles articulate qualities that, I believe, civilization in the new century will require of human beings, particularly leaders.

◆◆◆◆

The great educator Robert M. Hutchins, who became University of Chicago president at the young age of 30 in 1929, predicted, “In the 21st century, education may at last come into its own.” He was looking forward to the arrival of a “learning society,” in which education would no longer follow the dictates of government and business but would instead be the main focus; a society in which all institutions would

strive to enable people to realize their full potential and live with utmost dignity.

For decades, I have been calling for the establishment of education as a separate function of government existing alongside but not as part of the legislative, judicial and executive branches, as well as for the creation of a “United Nations of Education.” Let’s make the 21st century a century of education! This goal resonates deeply with the mission of the SGI to realize a century of humanism.

The students are central to any university; they are its life. Universities originated from students who wanted to further their studies coming together to form a learning community.

Why do we study? The greater and more profound our reason to study is, the brighter and higher will burn the flames of our desire to learn.

Applications for the first class of SUA are now pouring in to the admissions office from people of exceptional talent the world over. The applicants transcend barriers of race, religion and language. It is my wish to meet and speak with the students and also give lectures from time to time at this brilliant new campus, which shines as a sun of hope for the new century ahead.

The SUA staff and faculty are working very hard to be ready for the school’s bright start next year. I am deeply grateful for the wholehearted efforts of SUA President Daniel Habuki, a member of the first graduating class of Soka University in Japan, Graduate School Dean Tomoko Takahashi, Vice President for Academic Affairs Eric Hauber, Dean of Faculty Gail Thomas, Dean of Students Edward Feasel, Vice President for Administra-

tion Arnold Kawasaki, Vice President for Administrative Affairs Archibald Asawa and every other member of the dedicated staff.

My profound gratitude also to the SGI-USA members for their tremendous support, directly and indirectly. They are all comrades united by lofty ideals whom I regard as the university’s founders, as magnificent pioneers and builders. All of their sweat and hard work will without a doubt give rise to a noble, immortal legacy of achievement.

◆◆◆◆

Soka University in Hachioji, Japan, opened in 1971, the year marking the centennial of first Soka Gakkai president Tsunesaburo Makiguchi’s birth. And this year, as we celebrate the centennial of Mr. Toda’s birth, construction work on SUA’s new campus is nearing completion, with the school scheduled to open next year, the 30th anniversary of the founding of Soka University in Japan. How happy this would surely make both Mr. Makiguchi and Mr. Toda!

Recently, a trail leading around the campus was designated a Community Millennium Trail by the White House Millennium Council. Young lions who will shoulder the next century will make their start from this trail! Leaders dedicated to peace in the new millennium will depart from this dawning path!

I can hear the sound of their lively advance, brimming with boundless passion and intellect. And I live my days with their vibrant youth and vitality as my greatest hope and joy.

This essay was published in the “Thoughts on *The New Human Revolution*” series in the Aug. 2 *Seikyo Shimbun*, the Soka Gakkai’s daily newspaper.

Correction: The page one photo of the soaring bird in the Aug. 11 *World Tribune* was taken by photographer Susan Brumfield. It was incorrectly attributed to Jonathan Wilson. We apologize for the confusion this caused.

EXPERIENCE — CRAIG DEROUSSE, MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIF.

The Most Valuable Four Years

SOKA Education

Craig DeRousse attributes his many personal successes to his undergraduate education at Soka University.

Every dream I held close to my heart as a child has come true, and way more! As an SGI kid growing up in Southern California, I often dreamed of attending a Soka school. Visiting Soka University in Tokyo for the first time at age 16, I knew it was the place for me. The awesome thought of an entire school filled with students dedicated to improving their inner selves and working for world peace deeply inspired me.

Since there was no Soka University of America at the time, my only choice was to go to Japan. The problem was, I didn't speak Japanese!

I studied hard, began learning basic Japanese, and gradu-



Craig DeRousse

ated from high school early. Chanting up to three hours a day and participating in every possible SGI activity, my life-condition soared along with my

level Japanese proficiency test and every examination required to enter Soka University of Tokyo as a regular, full-time student. My dream finally came true!

GPA and SAT scores. (I even managed to have a social life!) Although my academic success gave me the opportunity to attend any American university I wanted, I headed straight to Tokyo.

I spoke almost no Japanese upon arrival, but Soka University's world-class teachers helped me master the language in one year. I then passed the highest-

As a Soka University student, I also realized a secondary dream by studying in Spain for six months. In 1994, after excruciatingly hard work, human revolution and millions of daimoku, I became the first American man from the SGI-USA to earn a bachelor's degree from Soka University, graduating summa cum laude.

Last week, while attending a life-changing Florida Nature and Culture Center student division conference, I shared in the struggles and dreams of fellow SGI-USA students from all over America. The conference brought back happy memories of the emotional and psychological benefits of attending Soka University — which, in my opinion, far outweigh the academic benefits.

While the facilities, faculty and every detail of education I received at Soka University was "simply the best," one of the greatest ongoing rewards of my time there is the heart-to-heart bond that exists among Soka University students. Soka graduates are like one huge extended family. In my experience, the profound sense of camaraderie shared by Soka University students is unsurpassed by any other in-

stitution of higher learning.

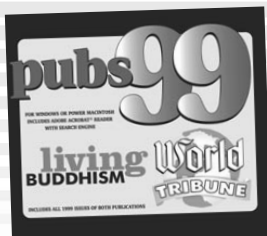
I believe Soka students develop remarkably deep, sibling-like bonds thanks to a school environment that promotes higher feeling in addition to higher learning. Soka schools' guiding principles are based on the humanistic philosophy of Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, founder of the Soka Gakkai, so it's only natural they promote the "whole person" development of their students. I am not aware of any other school system that places such genuine emphasis on each individual's personal happiness.

I believe it was this emphasis on the development of my whole being, and the character-building life-lessons I experienced as a result, that has led to my happiness and success in the "real world." After graduation, I returned to America and worked as an SGI-USA staff member for a few years. I then received a full scholarship from a private foundation to pursue a graduate degree.

I am currently working toward a master of fine arts at UCLA. I also co-founded an Internet service that is now one

PLEASE SEE EXPERIENCE, 5

NEW from World Tribune Press

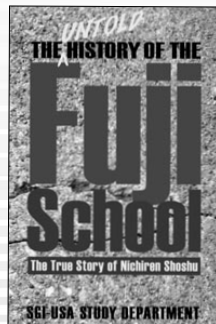


Pubs99 CD-ROM

All 1999 World Tribune and Living Buddhism issues in searchable format. \$25.00, M/O #: 4511

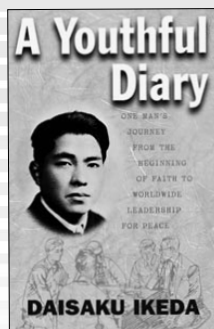
The Untold History of the Fuji School

By the SGI-USA Study Department
Gain new insight into the current problems within Nichiren Shoshu. Paperback, \$9.95, M/O #: 4102



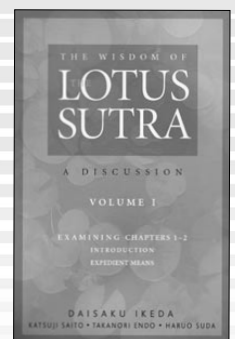
A Youthful Diary

Daisaku Ikeda
Youthful inspiration for all of us.
Hardcover, \$23.95, M/O #: 4101



The Wisdom of the Lotus Sutra: A Discussion, Volume I

Daisaku Ikeda, Katsuji Saito, Takanori Endo, Haruo Suda
In clear, down-to-earth terms, this book explores the profound meaning of the Lotus Sutra. Paperback, \$9.95, M/O #: 4281



Faith into Action

Daisaku Ikeda
Guidance by subject. A great reference. Paperback, \$12.95, M/O #: 4135



Available at all SGI-USA bookstores
Or purchase your copies via mail order:
1-800-626-1313;
sgiusamoc@aol.com

EXPERIENCE — CAROL DEROUSSE-HOLLADAY, DEL MAR, CALIF.

Being a Soka University Mom

SOKA Education

'I feel immense gratitude toward and deep pride in the Soka school system,' says Carol DeRousse-Holladay. 'Not only did Soka University develop my son's intellect, it developed his wisdom.'

Ten years ago, I really didn't think I'd ever be writing this article. At that time, my only child, Craig, made his final decision to enter Soka University of Tokyo's undergraduate program. Although he would be the first American young man to do so, it was not a total surprise to me. Craig had even wanted to attend Soka High School! Nevertheless, I had my doubts it would ever really happen.

After all, upon graduation from high school, he didn't speak Japanese, and he wasn't eligible for financial aid from American sources (since he would be enrolled in a foreign school) and he didn't even have one friend in Japan! Honestly, I thought he would end up at Stanford or UCLA.

I soon learned, however, never to underestimate the power of a student division member. In 1990, I found myself at Soka University, interpreter in tow, attending Craig's "entry ceremony" to the 20th freshman class. I then realized that attending Soka University

was Craig's calling—an integral part of his mission in life.

Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, founder of Soka University, mentioned in his welcome speech that day that the number 20 holds great significance in Japan—indicating "coming of age." He said that looking out over the powerful group of students known as the 20th class, he felt Soka University had truly come of age. In many ways, I felt both Soka University and Craig had come of age together.

Now, a decade later, as Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo prepares to take its place in the prestigious lineage of Soka schools, I would like to briefly share with you some experiences of being a Soka University mom. I would also like to address some common misunderstandings about Soka schools.

My initial concerns included thoughts like: "Is this school really right for my son?" "Will this school prepare him to do the things he wants to do in life?" "Will he receive the best education his talents qualify him to receive?" After investigating, I discovered that Soka University's curriculum would indeed support Craig's goals in life. I also found the faculty to be a group of highly educated, deeply motivated people, dedicated to providing Soka students with the best of everything. Many of Craig's professors at Soka University had published well-known books and were highly regarded in their fields.

I also learned that about half of Craig's professors were not Soka Gakkai members. In fact, most of the department chiefs at Soka University are not members. Also, at no time in Craig's four years there did any class curriculum include the Soka Gakkai. Craig told me the Soka Gakkai was mentioned only briefly as part of one elective

philosophy class.

Religion is simply not an issue at Soka schools—there is no quota for members vs. non-members in either faculty or student body. In fact, it turns out that one of Craig's favorite teachers during his senior year was somewhat biased against the Soka Gakkai. This led to enriching conversations (outside the classroom) for both the teacher and Craig.

Another important question on my mind was "Can we afford this?" To my relief, Soka University ended up being more helpful with financial assistance than any university I've ever heard of. Although it was not easy, everything worked out in the end.

I feel immense gratitude toward and deep pride in the Soka school system. However, I do feel it's important to understand that Soka University is simply not right for everyone. Just because it's a Soka school doesn't mean it's the best school for every SGI student. In fact, the vast majority of SGI students will never be able to attend a Soka school, simply due to lack of openings. I feel it's also important for SGI members to remember that entry tests at Soka schools are not tests of faith—they are simply entry requirements, like at every other school.

If you or someone you love applies to SUA and is not accepted, or if your dream is to attend another school, or if your circumstances simply lead you elsewhere—I hope you will feel total confidence that your path is the correct one for your life. I believe every student has their own unique mission that will be played out in the perfect environment for them.

Whatever your dreams may be, I hope you discuss the details of your goals with the outstanding staff of SUA before applying. It is my understanding that SUA staff do not want students to attend SUA just for the sake



Carol DeRousse-Holladay with son, Craig.

of attending. I believe it is their sincere wish for each student to find the best school for their individual needs and happiness, whether that is SUA or not.

With that in mind, I'd like to close by mentioning some of the greatest benefits I perceive in the Soka schools. Soka education is truly dedicated to creating global citizens. I watched as my son became well prepared to go anywhere in the world and function effectively for the sake of peace, culture and education. His confidence level was high upon entering Soka University, but grew higher than I imagined possible by graduation.

Not only did Soka University develop my son's intellect, it developed his wisdom. The strength of his character, the strength of his friendships with fellow Soka University students, the strength of his convictions to help relieve the sufferings of others throughout the world—these are all unfathomably profound to me, and I give most of the credit for them to his Soka education. Most of all, I am

deeply indebted to Soka University for nurturing my son's individuality and encouraging him to respect himself for who he is. As a result, he returned a much happier person after studying at Soka University.

Although I couldn't have imagined it at first, I can now imagine no more appropriate place for my son to have earned his undergraduate degree. It was the perfect time, the perfect place and the perfect school for his mission in life. Now, part of his mission and mine, as one of the first American Soka University moms, is to support both SUA and SGI-USA students everywhere.

In that spirit, I wish for every student reading this to find his or her own perfect time, perfect place and perfect school for their beautifully sublime missions in life, wherever that may be. **W**

If you have any questions about your subscription to the World Tribune or Living Buddhism magazine, please call

1-800-835-4558

FROM EXPERIENCE, 4

of the fastest growing sites on the Web. We officially launched on May 3 this year, and now have more than 1.5 million subscribers nationwide. In addition, I authored a book on an unrelated subject that will soon be released by a major publisher. From the bottom of my heart, I know these

victories are a direct result of my attending Soka University.

There is so much more I would like to say about the merits of Soka education and the personal successes I attribute to it. Suffice to say that Soka education showed me how to become a happier and healthier person, teaching me to cherish myself for who I am while developing the compassion to re-

spect others for who they are.

Soka education nourished my life as well as my mind. Soka education manifested and celebrated my uniqueness, while showing me how to utilize those qualities to create value in both my personal life and my community.

In case you couldn't tell, I love Soka education and I love Soka University. The pride

and joy I feel watching SUA, Aliso Viejo emerge from Southern California, where I was born and raised, defies expression. I am fully confident that SUA will take Soka education to an even greater level than its predecessor in Tokyo has. I and all of my Soka alumni brothers and sisters (more than 400 in the United States now) have been

waiting for this day with our favorite teacher, Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, for many years.

I hope you or someone you love will have the great fortune to attend SUA now or in the future. If your experience is anything close to what I've gained from my Soka education, it's bound to become the most valuable four years of your entire life. **W**

Building Bridges of Peace' in Minnesota

By ANGEL LATTERELL
MINNESOTA CORRESPONDENT

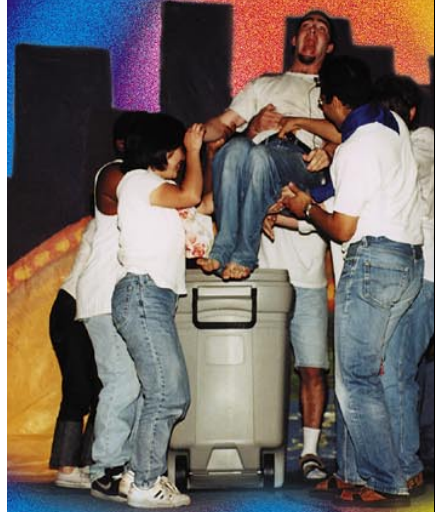
On July 30, more than 300 people attended the Minnesota Area Culture Festival at the Labor Union Hall in St. Paul, Minn. A total of nearly 100 participants worked to support the performance and the accompanying art and information exhibits, as well as the pre-performance picnic.

The theme "Building Bridges of Peace" was decided upon to challenge the participants to build new bonds within the community. Their hope was that the culture festival would be a way to bring the ideals of the SGI to the public of Minnesota and help each individual show growth in his or her life.

The audience was treated to the story of a choir whose bus breaks down in a deserted lot. Negativity, in the form of a grumbling man living inside a trash can, tries to create disunity among them, but is thwarted be-

cause one person stands up to take action and responsibility for her environment. "I must understand that change starts with myself," she said, "my ability to communicate, my ability to facilitate dialogue, my ability not to hate and my ability to create change in my environment." Her words struck the hearts of each person on stage and the ugly lot is transformed into a place of joy and beauty. Even the unhappy trash can man learned that he too has the power to transform his environment.

Everyone left the festival feeling encouraged and guests left asking questions about Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. For those who had worked for months behind the scenes, the feeling of accomplishment was strong. They introduced people to the SGI. They united to create value. They learned about themselves and proved to themselves that by chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo, they could accomplish anything. **WT**



Photos by Kathy Osmomson

'Spreading Peace Through Culture' in Trinidad & Tobago

By **MICHAEL HENRY**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO CORRESPONDENT

SGI-Trinidad & Tobago held its first ever Youth Culture Festival on July 15. With the theme "Spreading Peace Through Culture," the festival was held in commemoration of the United Nations International Year for a Culture of Peace and the 40th anniversary of President Ikeda's leadership of the SGI.

One observer described the event as a "World Culture Youth Festival." Both the performers and performances straddled the rich and diverse ethnic and cultural milieu of Trinidad and Tobago. The cultural acts included poems, classical East Indian, calypso and Latin dancing, African drumming, story telling, and more.

The audience included invitees from the Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs, the Office of the Mayor of Port-of-Spain, the local United Nations Economic, Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Office

and representatives from other religious and civic organizations from the wider community. The minister of Sports & Youth Affairs sent a message congratulating SGI-T&T for taking the initiative to stage such a festival. He saw the festival as providing a medium for young people to freely express their many and varied talents.

Following the festival, Port-of-Spain City Councilor Alvin Narine invited the SGI-T&T to collaborate with the Port-of-Spain City Corporation to stage a similar event first in Port-of-Spain, and then in smaller towns and villages in various parts of Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative is to be sponsored by the Port-of-Spain City Corporation.

In congratulating the SGI, Mr. Narine remarked that "this was not just a professional event; it wasn't acts just coming and going on and off stage. The entire show had a positive vibe that gripped you from the beginning to the end." **WT**



S.G.I. - TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
YOUTH FESTIVAL 2000
"Spreading Peace through Culture"



SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S JULY 18 SPEECH — PART 1

Hearts of Quiet Commitment and Passionate Resolve

'Let us put our minds to work,' SGI President Ikeda says, 'bringing forth unlimited wisdom, and strive to expand the flow of kosen-rufu with quiet commitment and passionate resolve.'

Part 1 of SGI President Ikeda's speech at the 48th Soka Gakkai Headquarters Leaders Meeting, held at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji, July 18.

Today, I want to talk with you in an informal, relaxed manner.

The other day, a well-known Japanese intellectual said to me, "The leaders meetings of the Soka Gakkai are unparalleled summits of life-to-life exchange, summits of heart-to-heart communication between human beings." As you can see, aware and intelligent individuals give credit where it's due. Let us advance, proudly regarding our leaders meetings as unpretentious yet infinitely noble summits of the people. [This Headquarters Leaders Meeting was held a few days before the Okinawa G-8 Summit Meeting began.]

The corrupting nature of power always lurks in government authority. Religion, too, has both good and evil sides. Corrupt government oppresses the people. Corrupt religion gradually poisons people's innermost being. Both treat human beings as little more than a means for enriching themselves.

The most correct path is humanism. That is why the Soka Gakkai's advance is so important.

SGI-USA has been moving forward at an astonishing pace.

Soka University of America's new campus in Aliso Viejo, in California's Orange County, is nearing completion. [It is scheduled to open in May

2001.] I propose that at the new campus—choosing an appropriately significant date—we fly the flags of the 50 states of the United States, along with the Soka Gakkai flags for each prefecture and division in Japan. In addition, I propose that we erect a plaque engraved with the names of Japanese cities, towns and communities where our organization has made great strides in kosen-rufu, along with the names of outstanding representatives of those local organizations, thus preserving their legacy for all time.

SGI-USA has been moving forward at an astonishing pace under the leadership of General Director Danny Nagashima. I pledge to support and encourage that progress with all my strength.

America is today a pivotal world center and, for that reason, I want to leave a record there for posterity of the people and places that have greatly advanced kosen-rufu. [The names of 20 cities, towns and communities in Japan where the Soka Gakkai organization has shown tremendous growth and development were then announced.] Congratulations! We will make another announcement of leading communities next year.

As long as we are engaged in this struggle, let us challenge ourselves cheerfully, triumph cheerfully and leave a momentous history of achievement for future generations. Let us put our minds to work, bringing forth unlimited wisdom, and strive to expand the flow of kosen-rufu with quiet commitment and passionate resolve.

Let us achieve a resounding victory in 2001.

We have with us today several women educators from abroad. From the United States, we have Ms. Sherry Breskin, a high school principal. And from France, we have Ms. Betty Mori, a junior high school English teacher who is the women's leader of SGI-France, Ms. Marie-Lise Rescoussié, a kindergarten principal, and Ms. Annie Becquet, an elementary school principal. Thank you for coming all this way. I deeply appreciate your efforts!

Seventy years ago, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, then an elementary school principal, published his treatise *The System of Value-creating Educa-*

tion. How happy he would be to see you, educators from distant shores, here with us today! I thank you on behalf of Mr. Makiguchi.

My gratitude also to all the other visiting SGI members who have joined us at today's meeting. Thank you for traveling from so far away!

The Lotus Sutra says, "If you see a person who accepts and upholds this sutra, you should rise and greet him from afar, showing him the same respect you would a Buddha" (*The Lotus Sutra*, p. 324). I hope you will always treasure and respect your fellow members who seek the way and exert themselves for kosen-rufu. Greet them warmly, and welcome them with open arms.

The SGI's goal is kosen-rufu. Nichiren Daishonin tells us, "All phenomena in the universe are manifestations of the Bud-

low members unhappy and miserable by scolding and criticizing them, give them hope and encouragement so that they can confidently face the future. Creating an environment where members can work happily together for kosen-rufu is a leader's mission. It is also the measure of a leader's greatness.

The treasure of the SGI is that we are many in body but one in mind.

It is beautiful when people can get along and work well together. Buddhism is a doctrine of cooperation and harmony. This spirit of friendship is articulated as many in body but one in mind and is the SGI's foremost treasure.

To talk behind others' backs, to carp and complain, to plot and scheme—such behavior points to selfishness and ego. It points to prejudice and narrow-

scending or arrogant manner. You have no right to do so.

Men and women are equal. The Daishonin states, "There should be no discrimination among those who propagate the five characters of Myohorenge-kyo in the Latter Day of the Law, be they men or women" (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 385). I hope that the men and young men will always be gentlemen who respect and value women. That is a tradition of the SGI.

Similarly, it is important for leaders to warmly thank their fellow members for their efforts and hard work. Simple expressions of thoughtfulness and concern—"Thank you," "Please take care," "Don't catch cold"—warm people's hearts and spread a lovely spirit of humanity throughout our organization. The SGI is a realm of beautiful human ties.



Sixty members from 17 countries and regions are among the participants at the 48th Headquarters Leaders Meeting, held at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji, July 18.

dhist Law" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 564). Therefore, all our efforts contribute to kosen-rufu. Everything forms part of our struggle, our Buddhist practice, toward developing and expanding our faith.

Let us achieve a resounding victory next year, in what will be the first important challenge of the new century. Remember that everything we do for the sake of kosen-rufu also benefits our lives. A person who can impart that conviction to others and foster an atmosphere where all can strive joyfully is a great leader.

Instead of making your fel-

lucity, and it always leads to the most grave of offenses in Buddhism, disrupting the harmonious unity of believers.

I hope that, should a problem or disagreement arise, the parties involved will talk about it directly until they resolve it to everyone's satisfaction. The ideal path of a harmonious Buddhist organization is to advance together, always wisely and always based on faith.

I ask the men and young men to be courteous when talking to our women and young women. Please never shout at them or speak in a haughty, conde-

In a successful organization, the leaders take action first.

What is it that distinguishes a successful organization? Leaders who take committed action, who make unstinting, all-out efforts, who lead the way in visiting individual members at home to offer words of encouragement and guidance. This is what makes for a successful organization. Our organization in Kansai is a perfect model of this.

PLEASE SEE SPEECH, 9

Courtesy of SEIKYO PRESS



SGI President Ikeda encourages SGI-USA leaders, including General Director Danny Nagashima (left), at the 48th Headquarters Leaders Meeting, July 18.

FROM SPEECH, 8

“Leading the way”—this is the virtue of Bodhisattva Superior Practices. It is contemptible not to make any effort oneself but get others to do all the hard work. It is arrogant and exploitative.

Momentous changes confront us as we enter the 21st century. Everywhere people are fighting a desperate struggle for survival. It is win or lose.

Since Buddhism is a battle, we must fight and win. It is our only option. I have fought and won through all struggles across the decades. Not putting up a struggle is defeat. Only by being victorious can we attain Buddhahood.

That is why I want you to strive hard, for yourselves and your communities. That is why I want you to win.

Remember, too, that both good and evil can manifest themselves in the written reports and letters you may deal with as a leader. Some people are always trying to blame things on others. Some people are very clever with words.

It is important for leaders not to make misjudgments in such matters or to be manipulated by words. Leaders must always ascertain the facts and look at every situation in a fair, balanced manner.

Allowing lies to prevail will mean the destruction of Buddhism. The Nikken sect is the prime example of this.

An organization pervaded by warmth, sincere faith, concern for fellow members, unity and devotion to kosen-rufu—an organization whose members’ hearts are fused together in faith—this is the SGI. Let us always maintain this tradition.

Let us make our way into the 21st century, further strengthening our organizations and leadership lineups in each area so that we can forge ahead toward kosen-rufu.

The Italian freedom fighter Giuseppe Mazzini says: “Association multiplies your strength a hundredfold.” “Youth lives on movement, grows great in enthusiasm and faith.” This is a perfect description of the SGI’s way of life.

The Russian author Leo Tolstoy was fond of these words by the German writer Lichtenberg: “Arm yourself with courage to speak the truth for the good of your fellow man.” A person who speaks the truth is a person of faith. For the sake of peace, let us arm ourselves with courage. This is the secret of the Soka Gakkai. This is why we are so strong.

The Okinawan members are realizing a peaceful, prosperous society through Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism.

In a few days time, on July 21, the much-awaited Okinawa G-8 Summit will get under way. I pray that this historic meeting will be a great success.

As you may know, I first visited Okinawa 40 years ago—on July 16, 1960. It was the hottest time of the year in Okinawa. The day of my arrival marked the 700th anniversary of Nichiren Daishonin submitting his treatise of remonstrance, “On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land,” to the ruling authorities.

I selected that day of tremendous historical importance for my visit. Okinawa was experiencing a difficult period in its

history. [After Japan’s defeat in World War II, the islands of Okinawa were occupied by the United States and remained under American rule until 1972.] I took that opportunity to encourage our members. “Okinawa,” I said, “will become the Hawaii of Asia in the future. It will become a destination that people the world over will flock to.”

Okinawa suffered more horribly in World War II than perhaps any other place in Japan. [One third of the civilian population was killed in the war. Okinawa was treated as a kind of shield to protect the Japanese main islands.] That is precisely why Okinawa must win unparalleled peace and happiness for itself! This is Okinawa’s mission and Okinawa’s challenge.

That was my fervent wish, determination, and absolute belief in 1960. And I am convinced that that wish has now become a reality.

On my first visit, I went to see the Star Lily Monument, dedicated to teenage Okinawan nurses and others who lost their lives, where I chanted daimoku for the eternal happiness of the war victims. I thought: “The future is what counts now. What kind of future will we create here?”

I am always concerned with the future. The Daishonin speaks of the “far distant future of the ten thousand years and more of the Latter Day of the Law.” I have continued to work quietly behind the scenes for the future of Okinawa.

And it was for all these reasons that I chose my beloved Okinawa as the place to begin writing my novel *The Human Revolution*.

Our noble Okinawan members have devoted themselves

in complete accord with the Daishonin’s intent, striving “with all their might and unswerving dedication”—as go the lyrics of one of my favorite Soka Gakkai songs, “Heroes of Okinawa.” Today, Okinawa is marking the fastest advance in kosen-rufu in the world.

Our members there have pushed through the fields of grass, unafraid of poisonous snakes, weathered stormy seas and blazed a trail of kosen-rufu where none was before. Compared to Okinawa, our members in Tokyo have it too easy.

The growth of the Soka Gakkai in Okinawa and the neighboring Amami Islands has been remarkable. It is a golden achievement that will shine in world religious history forever. One of Japan’s leading scholars of the sociology of religion, the late Shin Anzai of Sophia University, recognized this achievement. Professor Anzai, who has died, was a dear friend. I will never forget our friendship.

I offer my sincerest praise and congratulations to our Okinawa and Amami members for the magnificent history they have created. It is also wonderful that, hand in hand with the spread of the Daishonin’s Buddhism, Okinawa has been walking a path to admirable prosperity. The great light of peace—of the ideal of realizing a peaceful, prosperous so-

ciety through Buddhism—has begun to shine with ever-growing brilliance as we make our way into the 21st century.

It is important to note that our members, not only in Okinawa and the neighboring Amami Islands, but on all of Japan’s remoter islands, are extremely active. These islands are important. Their communities are close-knit, and neighbors know each other. They know who the Soka Gakkai members are. It is important for members on those small islands to steadily gain the trust of their neighbors, demonstrating what it means to win in life.

This is why I have placed so much emphasis on such island communities as models of kosen-rufu. I have sent the warmest encouragement to isolated places where no top Soka Gakkai leaders ever go.

Our members on the island of Sado off the coast of Niigata, a place I cherish fond memories of, have reported to me on the success of their activities. They have designated July 20 as Sado Day.

It was on that day 42 years ago that I first visited the island. We have representatives from Niigata here with us today. Please give my best regards to the members on Sado!

(To be continued in the Sept. 8 issue)

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Hopes for Next Year

From This Speech:

Let us achieve a resounding victory next year, in what will be the first important challenge of the new century. Remember that everything we do for the sake of kosen-rufu also benefits our lives. A person who can impart that conviction to others and foster an atmosphere where all can strive joyfully is a great leader.

- 1) Have you started thinking about your personal goals for 2001? If so, what are they?
- 2) Have you accomplished all your personal goals for 2000? If not, how are you still trying to accomplish them?
- 3) What would you like to see your district accomplish next year, “the first important challenge of the new century”? What would you like to see SGI-USA as a whole accomplish?
- 4) What are the most important things we can do to achieve our goals, be they personal or organizational?
- 5) President Ikeda reminds us that “everything we do for the sake of kosen-rufu also benefits our lives.” Have you experienced this in 2000? What were the most memorable activities you did? How did they benefit you?
- 6) How can we best teach others that efforts for kosen-rufu come back to us as benefit? How can we set the example?

the new HUMAN REVOLUTION

SGI President Ikeda's novelized history of the Soka Gakkai

'AT THE HELM'

VOLUME 7, CHAPTER 4, PARTS 37-38

The priest Shinno Abe, who will later become the 67th high priest, Nikken, speaks on his departure for the first Gohonzon-conferral ceremonies in America. 'Even as he spoke of worldwide kosen-rufu as if he meant every word, Abe may well have been smirking inwardly, thinking of the hedonistic pleasures that he could indulge himself in the United States.'

Soka Gakkai General Director Koichi Harayama's remarks at the VIP waiting room, applauding the first overseas trip for the conferral of Gohonzon, articulated the feeling of the members at that time. [Members had gathered at the Tokyo International Airport in Haneda to see off two priests who would be traveling to the United States to conduct the first Gohonzon-conferral ceremonies abroad.]

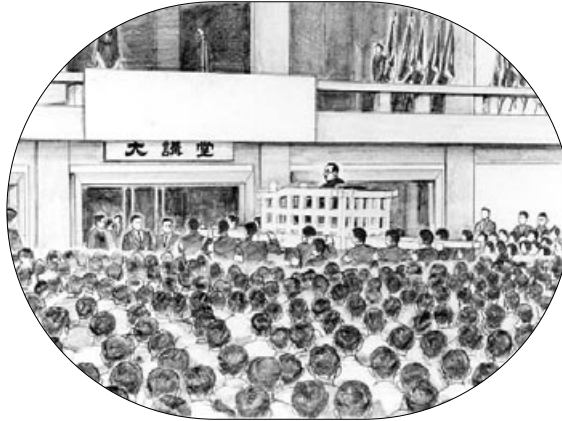
The thought that Nichiren Shoshu priests would travel abroad to confer Gohonzon and advance kosen-rufu filled the members with a sense of appreciation and joy. As it turned out, however, Shinno Abe's sojourn overseas would ultimately leave an unprecedented, eternal blemish on the history of Nichiren Shoshu. [Abe would later become the 67th high priest, Nikken.]

Abe spoke next. Quietly clearing his throat, he surveyed the gathering with a regal air and began speaking in a slow, deliberate manner: "Based on a request from President Yamamoto and at the wise, gracious behest of the high priest, we are embarking on this overseas journey as the high priest's emissaries. With clear awareness of the significance of this trip as a first step toward the worldwide spread of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism and of our responsibility as Nichiren Shoshu priests, we will carry out our duty in conferring Gohonzon with the

spirit to make a truly lasting contribution to the future realization of kosen-rufu in the United States. We will talk with local members and do our utmost to fulfill our mission."

The airport waiting room erupted with applause. Tears of emotion moistened the eyes of many of the members.

However, even as he spoke of worldwide kosen-rufu as if he meant every word, Abe may well have been smirking inwardly, thinking of the hedonistic pleasures that he could indulge himself in the United States. [Abe on this trip became involved in the Seattle Incident, his dispute with prostitutes that led to a run-in with Seattle police.]



agance, he squandered the members' sincere donations, lost in blind pursuit of amusement. Finally, because it wanted to have direct control over the members, the priesthood excommunicated the Soka Gakkai and expelled Shin'ichi Yamamoto, who had done more than anyone to bring about the school's prosperity.

To the crafty, evil-hearted Abe, deceiving the sincere members who had come to see him off that day in 1963 must have been child's play.

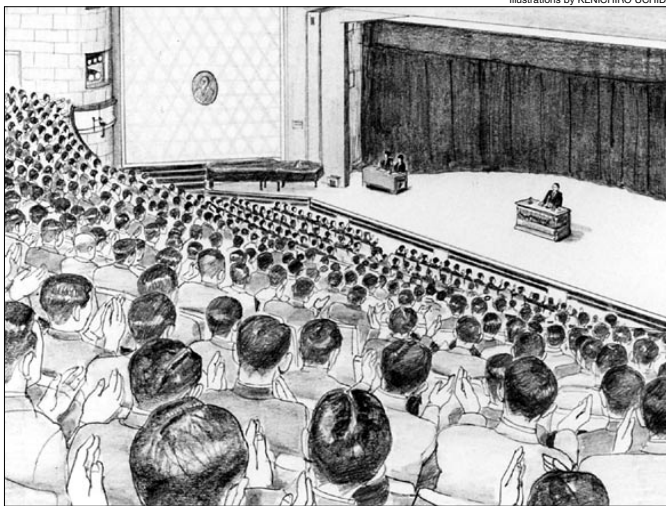
A youth division speech contest was held that same evening, March 16, at the Hibiya Civic

every last ounce of strength, he entrusted the future of the Soka Gakkai's movement in its entirety to Shin'ichi and the other youth present.

Toda's spirit lay in achieving peace and happiness for all Japan's — no, all the world's — people. Making their mentor's spirit their own, the youth had been working tirelessly to realize the spread of the Daishonin's Buddhism.

The auditorium where the speech contest was held brimmed with the Soka Gakkai youth's passionate commitment to champion and defend the people. The entrants delivered impassioned speeches with such titles as "A Case for Reforming the Mass Media," "Critiquing Today's Social Critics" and "A Look at the Real Tokyo Metropolitan Government." All demonstrated great powers of critical analysis. Their indignation and outrage at utterly irresponsible members of the media, feckless social commentators and corrupt politicians fueled their speeches.

With the increasing prosperity that accompanied Japan's entry into a period of high economic growth, many young people were succumbing to the "money is everything" mentality. Material wealth and outward appearances were beginning to replace traditional standards of good and bad, and right and wrong, as the criteria for value judgments. This tendency was creating a climate that sustained social injustice and gave rise to high-handed dealing and corruption in government.



Illustrations by KENICHIRO UCHIDA

Years later, when he became high priest, Abe wrung huge financial contributions from the unsuspecting Soka Gakkai members — the noble children of the Buddha — and from the Soka Gakkai organization. Reveling in luxury and extrav-

Hall in Tokyo, with President Yamamoto attending. On this very day five years earlier, Josei Toda, despite his frail condition, had gone ahead and presided over the milestone ceremony passing on the mission of kosen-rufu. Summoning

Any evil that causes human suffering must absolutely not be allowed to persist — this was Toda's conviction and his teaching. Who will fight against injustice if not the youth? Who will speak out? Who will lead the way and take action?

If youth see people suffering as a result of blatant injustice and abuses, and feel not the slightest bit angered, then they are not genuine youth. They are miserable, unfeeling people whose spirits are old and withered.

On the other hand, the spirit of those who, regardless of their advancing years, continue to resolutely challenge wrongdoing, without retreating a single step, is eternally youthful.

The network of the Soka Gakkai is formed from the life-to-life bonds of people who embody this noble spirit of eternal youth. It is an alliance of people committed to championing the cause of truth and justice.

In the fervent speeches of these young people, who sought to eradicate all evil and injustice, Shin'ichi felt he could hear a clarion bell of hope signaling a new dawn that would dispel the darkness of society.

In his address, Shin'ichi concluded his remarks to these youthful successors of the Soka Gakkai by stressing: "Kosen-rufu must be achieved through the efforts of the youth. Therefore, I hope that you, my young friends of the youth division, will seek to gain a thorough understanding of the philosophy of Buddhism by diligently studying the Daishonin's writings, which elucidate the guiding principles for all human endeavors and set forth the fundamental standards for humankind.

"I also hope that you will chant abundant daimoku, regarding the Gohonzon as your greatest treasure, thus experiencing the wonderful benefit of the Mystic Law with your own life. I want you to gain unshakable conviction that the Daishonin's Buddhism is absolute."

Conviction is the heart of faith. Shin'ichi wished to instill the significance of this truth in the young people present.

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



Q & A WITH SUA

ALISO VIEJO CAMPUS

Send in your own questions, and we'll share the answers!

Question:

Why doesn't SUA's brochure/application list any required grade point average or SAT and ACT scores? Does this mean that any grade point average, SAT or ACT score is OK?

Answer:

SUA, Aliso Viejo has cho-

sen not to rely on strict numerical standards (except for TOEFL), because they can easily cut off applicants who may possess other desirable qualities that remain unexplored.

SUA seeks strong students, and because we are a new school accepting only 100 students for fall 2001, we are able to build our admission process differently. The opportunity is exhilarat-

ing! The admission committee at SUA will use a more holistic approach that is student-centered and allows SUA to evaluate each individual's applicant with care.

Here is a brief example: A candidate, for a variety of reasons, may have had one poor semester or year in an otherwise good high school career. If SUA used numerical cutoffs, this good student would possibly be bypassed. Other factors might make this student an excellent choice for SUA. Such factors might include: language ability, community service, extracurricular or club activities, special talents and personal motivation. This holistic approach frees SUA to more personally evaluate each student.

Aliso Viejo's first 100

students will be expected to undertake a rigorous academic curriculum, learn a foreign language, participate in community service, successfully complete an international internship or study abroad experience and participate in laying the foundation for SUA. If you are or know of a student who might be interested in the adventure of a lifetime, please contact SUA or visit our Web site at www.soka.edu!

If you have questions of any kind about SUA, please send them to SUA at either admission@soka.edu or info@soka.edu. We will use this World Tribune column to share our answer with others who might have the same questions.



The SGI-USA's Weekly Newspaper

General Director
Daniel Nagashima

Publisher
Fred M. Zaitso
Assistant Publisher
Greg Martin
Editor in Chief
Ted Morino

Managing Editor
Marge Hall
mhall@sgi-usa.org

Associate Editor
Jeff Farr
jfarr@sgi-usa.org

Staff Writers
Stephanie Celano
scelano@sgi-usa.org
Jamie Liptan
jliptan@sgi-usa.org

Contributing Writer
Terry Ellis

Contributing Artists
Stephanie Sydney
ssydney@sgi-usa.org
Linda Eberle

Staff Translators
Jeff Kriger
Shin Yatomi

Contributing Photographers

Gregory Nakasuji
Kirk Condyles
Jonathan Wilson
Dixon Hamby
Carol Barnstead
Martin Cohen
Jean Pritchard

Photo Editor
Lisa Hollis
marvilisa@cs.com

Bureau Chiefs
Phil Simpson, Atlanta
Fletcher Dalton, Boston
Veronica Evans, Chicago
Jim Dreisbach, Florida
Joanne Tachibana, Hawaii
Kathleen Slattery, Los Angeles
Cheryl Utley, Midwest
Robert Taliaferro, New York
Dave Shadovitz, Philadelphia
Irene Owada, Rocky Mountain
Liz Anderson, San Diego
Ron Baird, San Francisco
Bill Lawrence, Seattle
Troy Murrain, Texas
Robin Meader, Washington, D.C.

Foreign Language Pages
Chinese: Ingrid Yeh
Korean: Charles Lee
Spanish: Cesarina Caro

READERS COMMENTS
Send to:
Mailbox
606 Wilshire Blvd. PO Box 1427
Santa Monica, CA 90406-9907
or e-mail: wt@sgi-usa.org

SUBSCRIPTIONS
1-800-835-4558
or e-mail: SGISUBS@aol.com

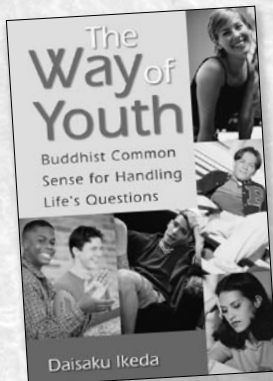
FRIENDS FOR PEACE
ffp@sgi-usa.org

SEIZE THE DAY
seize@sgi-usa.org

FINE PRINT
fineprint@sgi-usa.org

The World Tribune welcomes reader submissions. If you are interested in contributing an article or photograph, please contact us for guidelines. Together we can make a great newspaper.

**NEW FROM
MIDDLEWAY PRESS**



Based on the popular "Discussions on Youth" series in the World Tribune, *The Way of Youth* brings together President Ikeda's responses to questions of today's young people. Edited for a general audience, the book offers insights into a variety of issues of concern to today's young people, including how to build confidence and character,

learning to live with and respect both yourself and others, finding true happiness, dealing with peer pressure and how to contribute to a positive, free and peaceful society. The book is sure to appeal to teens and their parents of all faith.

"An outstanding guide to humanity. I recommend it to all who desire to seek self-improvement."

—Arun Gandhi, Founding Director of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence

"Mr. Ikeda gives young people a way to function in the real world."

—Marion Collins, Principal, Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies



APPLYING BUDDHISM TO DAILY LIFE

Middleway Press books are available at your favorite neighborhood or on-line booksellers.

(Not available at SGI-USA bookstores.)

JOB OPENING

Boston Research Center Seeking a Writer/Editor

Are you a writer/editor/thinker/manager interested in peacework? If so, we need you at the Boston Research Center for the 21st Century, a peace institute founded by SGI President Ikeda in 1993. We seek candidates for a full-time opening to head up our successful publishing program, which includes a thrice-yearly newsletter, books used in college courses on peace studies and comparative religion, and conference reports relating to common values, global citi-

zenship, and women's leadership. Please send resume right away with cover letter and brief writing sample/s to Virginia Straus, Executive Director, by mail, fax or email. For more information on the Center's mission and programs, see our Web site at www.brc21.org.

Boston Research Center
396 Harvard Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
phone: 617-491-1090
fax: 617-491-1169
email: vstraus@brc21.org

Subscribe to the Justice Chronicle

The Justice Chronicle is a free, weekly e-mailer for World Tribune subscribers about the Soka Spirit movement. Its purpose is to support SGI-USA's ongoing education campaign about this subject in the timeliest fashion possible.

The Justice Chronicle will feature the latest Soka Spirit movement news, SGI President Ikeda's recent guidance about it and study articles explaining the difference between Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism and what the temple is teaching.

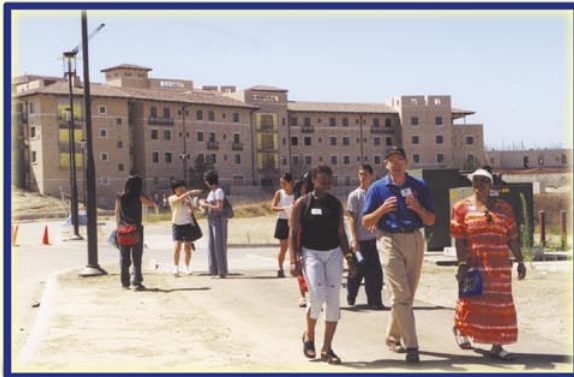
To subscribe to the Justice Chronicle, just follow these three easy steps:

- 1) Open a new e-mail message
- 2) Enter to: ListManager@sgi-usa.org
- 3) Enter message text (first line): SUBSCRIBE chronicle

You'll receive a confirmation message and then a new issue every week!

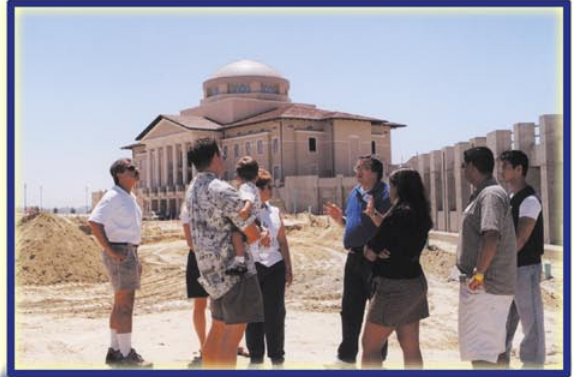
First SUA, Aliso Viejo Family Tour Held

Photos by GREGORY NAKASUJI



Jay Heffron, a professor of history, leads a tour in front of one of the residence halls where freshman students will stay.

Three hundred students, parents and neighbors turned out for Soka University, Aliso Viejo's first Family Tour Day on Aug. 5. Participants took 40-minute walking tours and had a chance to go in a Residence Hall room to see what it was like. The SUA enrollment team was there to advise both parents and students about the application process. Special Q&A sessions were held for both parents and students, and presentations were made on financial aid and technology at the new campus.



Dean of Students Ed Feasel (in blue shirt) explains the excavation of Peace Lake in front of the Student and Community Services Building.



Neighbors of the SUA, Aliso Viejo campus receive general information about the university.

"I can't believe how BIG the campus is!" exclaimed one student. "It's just so beautiful!" Another young man admitted that he came only "because my parents wanted me to come. But now, I think I'd really like to go to school here. It's a special place."

A number of visitors were neighbors whose homes overlook SUA from across the street. "We've been watching it grow," noted one man, "and we couldn't pass up a chance to learn more about it. This is an incredible place, and I want to tell my grandson about it."



SUA faculty and staff conduct a Q and A session for prospective students.



A barbecue lunch is hosted by SUA staff in front of the Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda Library.

SUA's next Family Tour Days will be Oct. 7, 2000, and May 5, 2001. The event is free, but the barbecue lunch (includes vegiburger option!) will cost \$5. Reservations are encouraged to assist SUA with the food order. Please call (949) 472-3051 or e-mail information on the number of people in your party and the number of lunches requested to info@soka.edu. WT



Participants at the SUA, Aliso Viejo Family Tour Day attend a financial aid seminar and parents' Q and A session.



SUA Family Day Reservation Form for:

Oct. 7, 2000 May 5, 2001

Name _____ Address _____

Phone number _____ E-mail address _____

Number of other people attending with you? _____ How many prospective students will be in your group? _____

Lunch reservations requested (at \$5 a person) _____ (Please enclose a check made out to Soka University for this amount.)

Will anyone in your group need special assistance for the tour? _____ If so, please let us know how we can assist you: _____

Please return to: Family Tour Day Reservations
Soka University, Aliso Viejo
1 University Drive
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656