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THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

August 17, 1989

New York City

Present: Eido Tai Shimano, Abbot; Andy Afable, Jean Bankier, Denis Kelly, Wilkie Pretorius, Richard Rudin, Yasuko Shimano and Clark Strand

Excused: Karen Barnes, Bernard Spitz

Absent: David Schneyer

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. Eido Roshi said he was pleased to find New York Zendo and Dai Bosatsu Zendo in good shape.

Jean Bankier extended a welcome to Eido Roshi and Yasuko Shimano and then greeted Denis Kelly as an ex officio member of the board.

Committee Reports:

A. New York Zendo.

Clark Strand reported that there were about 150 members of whom about 85 paid dues regularly. Provisional student members were now involved in staff decisions. Contact was made with other Buddhist groups and the sangha was encouraged to participate in outside activities such as volunteer work with the homeless and training with GMHC to work with AIDS patients.

Maintenance to be undertaken included plumbing, rewiring and painting. He suggested that aggressive fund raising be undertaken to help finance these projects.

B. Dai Bosatsu Zendo. Denis Kelly said the financial situation was secure at last mainly because of income generated by Open Center activities.

He said that upon arrival at DBZ he encountered two problems:

1. Financial - There was a \$10,000 debt. The Open Center was started to develop a strong financial base. Outside groups could rent the facility for retreats and workshops and provide income for DBZ. It proved so popular that virtually every weekend this year was already booked.

2. Attitude - He found most residents unhappy and felt that increased activity and more people would counter that. Bi-weekly discussion meetings were initiated and an attitude of generosity and compassion was being cultivated. The result was strong zazen practice.

The monastery was now being utilized and people wanted to be at DBZ. New programs being developed included self-healing (meditation techniques, yoga, shiatsu) and stress management. The latter to be aimed at middle-level corporate executives.

He suggested that the Open Center program eventually be removed from the monastery and intimated that a permanent Open Center be built within five years - a separate building, away from the monastery, with its own meditation hall - and generating income.

During the ensuing discussion Mr. Kelly was asked to consider the probability of DBZ students being used as hotel staff to cater to visitors, and the possible deterioration of zazen practice when most people at DBZ were not Zen students.

Eido Roshi related that monks in Japan worked so hard during the day that evening zazen was often optional. He gathered from Denis Kelly's report that at DBZ zazen practice was strong. He therefore did not particularly object to the Open Space Program as long as that was the case and as long as sesshin was held regularly.

Upon his return in 1990, responsibilities would be divided so that he would be in charge of the "traditional" part (zazen practice and sesshin), and Mr. Kelly would operate the Open Space.

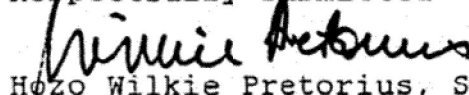
Andy Afable said he felt students were bothered by what they perceived as the erosion of Zen practice at DBZ. He therefore moved that after Eido Roshi's return in 1990, the board should meet to decide how it would want DBZ to develop during the next decade which Eido Roshi termed a decade for survival.

Wilkie Pretorius then read the statement of purpose from the original by-laws of the Zen Studies Society: "The purpose of the Zen Studies Society, Inc., is to undertake the study of Zen Buddhism in its religious, philosophic and psychological aspects, its influence on Oriental cultures, its relation to world religions and philosophies, and its relevance for the life of modern man."

It was agreed that the Board should meet soon after Eido Roshi's return to discuss this further.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

  
Hozo Wilkie Pretorius, Secretary