

## Wind Bell Beginnings

Looking through the Zen Center archives in preparation for this issue, we came across a Zen Center history project undertaken in 1969-70 by Peter Schneider. We reprint here the section on the beginnings of the *Wind Bell* as viewed sixteen years ago.

WIND BELL: Whose idea was the *Wind Bell*?

SUZUKI-ROSHI: Not my idea or some other's idea. Dick and some other students were always writing down my lectures and asking me many questions about them. What I said in my lectures with my broken English was very different from what I had in my mind, so I had to write down something. We thought the *Wind Bell* may be a good idea. But in the *Wind Bell* they didn't get the original talk, just my broken English corrected by someone else, like Dick.

DELLA GOERTZ: Wasn't the *Wind Bell* part of our early organization plan? It was Bob Hense's idea that we had to keep track of people, get a mailing list and advertise ourselves.

BETTY WARREN: Who did we send them to at first? We posted them on bulletin boards in colleges.

DELLA GOERTZ: And we used to have newspaper ads, but they never really brought many people, did they?

BETTY WARREN: We used to worry about getting people to come.

J. J. WILSON: So everybody was asking, 'Well, what should we call it (the *Wind Bell*),' and everyone had ideas, like *Zen Center Newsletter*. And actually that was one thing kept, that he was going to do. He would have a name for it. And we waited and waited. And then finally one day we came to Roshi — I guess it was because we were going to go to press — and said, 'We want the name for that.' So he went upstairs to his room and he came down again in about twenty minutes and he had written on a piece of paper WIND BELL.

I remember Suzuki-roshi helping. We couldn't run that Japanese mimeograph machine. We'd start to print and the print would fade. So Roshi came. And actually he helped me learn how to work because I was very cautious and tentative at that stage. And what he would do is just spill ink all over himself. He'd get down there and spill ink and get everything messy. And then after we'd gotten everything messy, we'd begin to clean it up.

GRAHAME PETCHY: It appeared one Saturday morning. The first edition. Single, rather dirtily duplicated sheets, and I remember you and I, Dick, looking at one another saying what the devil do we need a newspaper for?

DICK BAKER: Who thought it up?

GRAHAME PETCHY: I think Roshi did. I'm not sure about why, but he wanted it, I think.

PHILLIP WILSON: I'm not sure if I did the first ones or if Bill Kwong did. I don't remember anyone doing them before me, but they may have. Suzuki-roshi would write it up and then I would write out a form. And the form I love best is the shape of the Buddha. I always wanted to keep the *Wind Bell* simple. And not very big. And I don't know why I didn't want it big. When they were talking about five or six pages I couldn't understand it. But what I could understand was different people doing the *Wind Bell* so that it would never remain the sole possession of one person.

GRAHAME PETCHY: I was doing the thing myself, pretty much. I mean just writing it up and so on. And people gave me stuff to put in it. Dick always gave the roshi's lecture. And then at some point Dick took over.

DICK BAKER: Yes, everyone was going to take it, one a month, and take turns. And I did it one month and then no one wanted to do it, so I did it two months and I still couldn't find anyone to take it. And then Grahame said, 'Well, you did such a good job, why don't you continue?' It was kind of a chore. I didn't want to do the chore, and then I began taking interest in it and then I became 'attached' to it.

## Wind Bell

*Hanging in space by his teeth,  
his whole body in his mouth.*

*Eastwind, Southwind, West, North  
he does not care.*

*He talks for others in many ways,  
Always Prajnaparamita*

*Tsu Chan Tsun Ryan  
Tsu Chin Ryan.*

— Dogen-Zenji

