

VANITY FAIR

Letters to the Editor, October 2007

Om Sweet Om

I enjoyed the beautiful "Planet Yoga" portfolio in the June issue. Anything that continues to bring yoga into the mainstream consciousness is welcome. I was also pleased to see the response regarding the absence of black yoga teachers in the August Letters. One of my yoga students brought it to my attention, since I was mentioned in the comments. Black master yoga teachers have been around for a while, including one of my early advisers, Krishna Kaur. The World Peace Festival, at New York's Indian Consulate in July—which featured masters such as Swami Ramananda, Dharma Mittra, and 119-year-old Swami Bua—also had a rainbow of accomplished yogis of color as participants.

As the first African-American to be chair of the board of Yoga Alliance, the organization setting standards for yoga teaching in the U.S., I can certainly say that the industry is becoming truly multicultural. At the Ta Yoga House, in Harlem, which I founded more than five years ago, we have students and teachers who represent the many diverse faces in the yoga world—from black, Hispanic, and Asian to Romanian, French, and Swiss. We even have one teacher who is German and Ethiopian! Let's embrace the growing diversity of this ancient practice and showcase our new ambassadors of peace.

—TERESA KAY-ABA KENNEDY, New York, New York

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