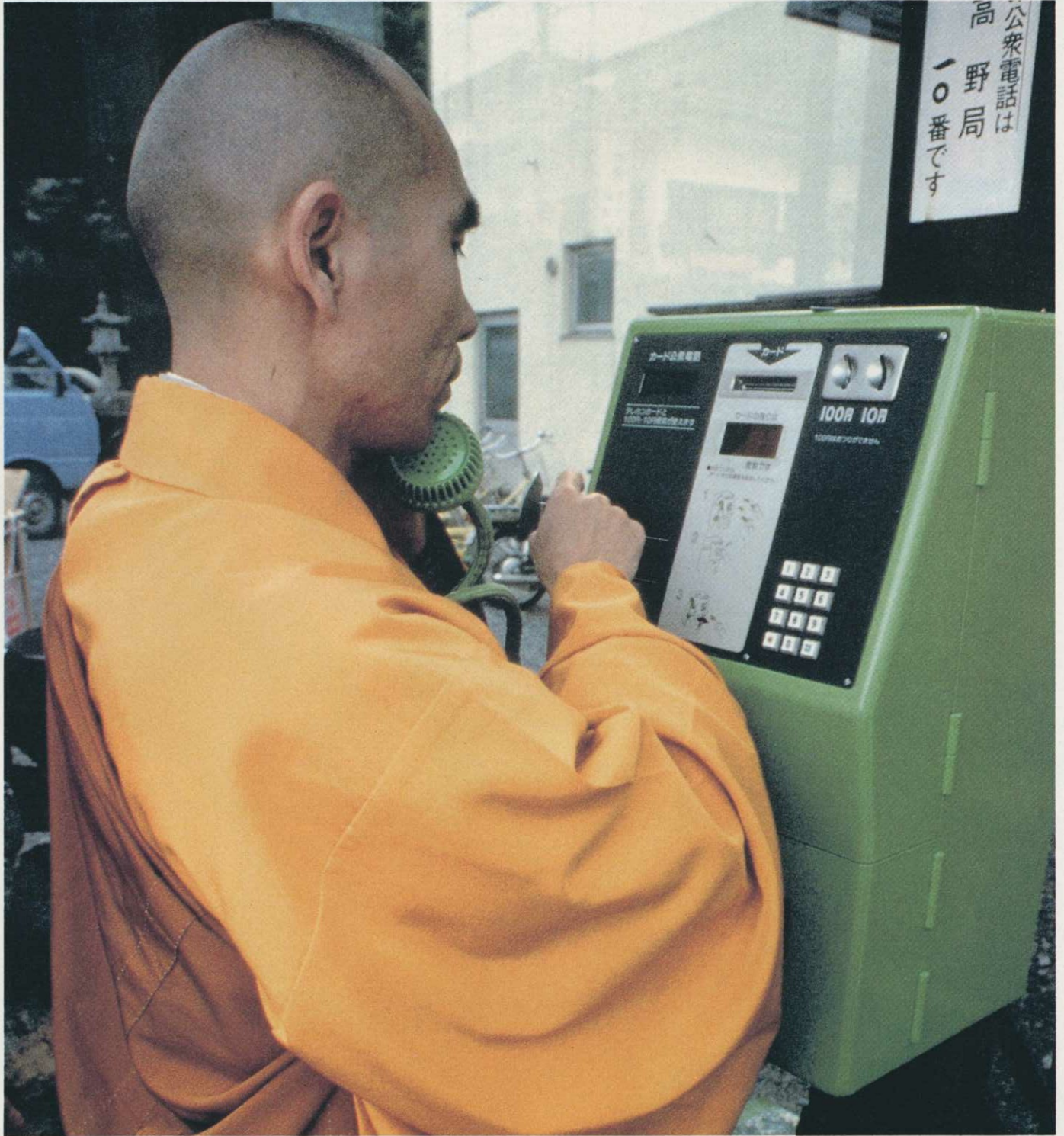


Call Me

Photos by Sonia Katchian



Sonia Katchian is an independent photographer based in Tokyo.



What better way to share your pride in passing the University of Tokyo's entrance exams—or the bitterness of failing—than a quick phone call (above)? To make it easier, NTT set up special phone tents and sold the necessary telephone cards.

Staying in touch through green card phones eliminates the jingle of coins in a Shingon monk's robes (opposite page).

The traditional squat, red phones (this page, top left) eat ¥10 coins at the rate of one every three minutes for local calls. The long, intimate conversations customary between teenagers the world over are possible in public places—provided you have a fistful of change and don't mind standing up.

Nothing can ruin a contemplative state of mind more quickly than remembering something urgent left undone. The reassuring sign announcing the presence of a public phone (this page, lower left) is a boon to the absentminded.

