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Saturday Gig

SEP 28 1974

By Mick Cochran

Kung fu has always been a mysterious Oriental martial art. Somehow it has retained its shroud of secrecy where karate and the other martial arts have more or less openly revealed their philosophies to the world.

That's probably why there is so much skepticism surrounding the kung fu demonstration which will be held for the second time tonight at the Illinois

Master Ling Chi

State Fairgrounds Coliseum. The first performance was Friday night, and since this column was written earlier in the week, I will assume that Master Ling Chi did in fact catch a bullet in his hands and did survive being run over by a truck.

Ling Chi is the head master of the Golden Dragon Kung Fu School, formally called a Kwoon, in Springfield. He has about 80 students, all avid devotees of the art of kung fu.

Ling Chi was working at the Coliseum, Thursday preparing the ground where he and two of his students will lie down and let a 10,000 pound truck drive over their bodies. The demonstration looks physically possible, at least in the way Ling Chi explained it.

He was digging out the dirt from between several 6x6 planks he had laid in the ground days before. Ling Chi and his students will lie down on the ground with several sheets of plywood over them (protection from the truck's tires) and let another student drive the truck over them.

"The planks are a safety precaution," he said. "When the truck goes over us, we will be driven into the ground. We work on the compression principle. The planks will prevent our bodies from being smashed by the truck, they will only let our bodies expand so far."

The truck demonstration is one of two of the master's hardest demonstrations he will perform. The other is his catching of a hollow point 22 magnum bullet fired by a policeman about 25 yards away.

Ling Chi says he has been practicing with the policeman for several days just to get the demonstration down pat. But he's worried now about proof that he did in fact catch the bullet.

"I'm thinking of using two sheets of glass, one in front of me and one behind me. The bullet will go through one sheet of glass and I'll catch it, preventing the bullet from smashing the other sheet of glass behind me."

That would be good proof, but catching a hollow point bullet which has already hit a sheet of glass isn't going to make the task any easier.

Ling Chi showed me three scars on his forearm when I asked if he'd ever tried the trick before. He implied that they were bullet wounds.

The master's background is a bit sketchy. He learned the art from his father, who had learned it from a Mr. Chun in China during World War II. Chi began the physical plan of kung fu when he was four years old and became a master when his father died, the traditional way students become masters.

"There are two ways that a student becomes a master," Ling Chi said. "You can become a master when your father dies, or the rank can be given to you by another master, but that takes a long time."



SEP 27 1974 Kung-Fu fete

Master Ling Chi walks barefoot on a burning charcoal bed Friday in an exhibition for newsmen at Holiday Inn South. Chi, who operates the Society of Golden Dragon School of Kung Fu here, will star in a show of Kung Fu fetes at the fairgrounds coliseum Sept. 27-28. (Staff photo)

TOPICS by . . .



Toby McDaniel

MAR 8 1974

THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE. Civic leaders unite and invite every red-blooded goose-pimpled American streaker to Springfield for a national streak-off.

It could be the biggest thing since Dollar Day. Just the shot-in-the-arm our tourism industry may need this year.

Streaking, in case you haven't heard, is the sport of kings and queens these days. It's the reeeeeeaaal thing.

The "streaker" strips to the buff, then runs for his or her life through a specified zone. Across a campus, down a street, through a building, etc. General idea is to startle those who stare and then sprint into the sunset without getting snared by the law.

How about a streak-off here on the Fourth of July? Should be nice and warm. Springfield won't be doing anything that day anyway. Hundreds of streakers could be turned on to our town.

Without delay, the city council should appropriate \$1,500 to publicize the event. Then apply to the federal government for matching funds, just for the heck of it.

Thousands would jam the downtown area for such a gala event. It would be like a world's fair. Every traffic warden would need two whistles.

To insure a mardi gras atmosphere, SCADA could pass out smile buttons. A sunburn treatment station could be manned by the Red Cross. And the WCTU could sell blind-folds.

Another stand operated by the John Birch Society could sell bumper stickers: "STREAKING IS BEAUTIFUL," "WIN WITH SKIN," "STREAKERS STRUT THEIR STUFF," "SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL STREAKER," and "HUFF & PUFF IN THE BUFF."

Ahhhhh, we can see it all now.

Mayor **WILLIAM TELFORD**, after leading the pace lap in his "Cadillac" golf cart, escorts Miss Nude America to the reviewing stand in front of the Lincoln Home.

Indianapolis Speedway owner **TONY HULMAN** rises, closes his eyes and gives the order the anxious streakers have been waiting for: "Ladies and gentlemen, take off your clothes."

Gov. **DAN WALKER** swishes a green flag.

Up the 8th Street Mall and past city hall to the governor's mansion, over the wall, then to the Statehouse and through the rotunda. Up Capitol Avenue, through the massage parlor on 4th Street and to the AMTRAK depot. Then down the alley, through Smokey's Den, past police headquarters and to the finish line in front of the Cinema Arts Theater.

There to greet the winner is **MARILYN ("Green Door") CHAMBERS**, star of stage, screen and Sangamon County Circuit Court. For the winner, a pair of bronzed sneakers and a trenchcoat.

By the way, this event rated X.

MAR 8 1974

City Joins Fad, Streakers Streak

Rumors of "streakers" that have run rampant throughout Springfield college campuses this week came true Thursday night with the first Capitol City appearance of nude runners in public places.

The McDonald's Restaurant on 1825 S. MacArthur Blvd. was the scene of a "streakthrough" at 10:22 p.m. Thursday.

One normally observant newsman reported a glimpse of six young men, clad only in orange hats; that report was confirmed by city police.

The sextette reportedly ran to oblivion . . . and a waiting car. The "Springfield Streaker Six" shouldn't be hard to find though; they were "barely" concealed. No descriptions, however, were available.

In Urbana Thursday, streakers made their presence known in a spectacular, 3,200-foot nude parachute jump to a perfect target landing on the quadrangle behind the busy Student Union in Urbana.

A crowd of 2,500 students chanted, "streak, streak, STREAK!" to the four, all parachute instructors. After an impromptu press conference with reporters and onlookers, the four ran, untouched, to freedom.

Scrap, see - Great life & customs - 1955-74 1970-74

Police Impound 'Get-Away' Car; Streaker Left Without Clothing

By CATHE WITHROW

"Streaking" ahead in the new found fad in the U.S., Springfield's youth is not to be left behind in the nationwide contest "au naturel."

Four local students daringly sprinted past the city police station early one Saturday morning several weeks ago and all but one were arrested for disorderly conduct — even the "get-a-way"

drivers. The remaining streaker was trying to elude a fireman and was slowed just enough to notice the oncoming policemen. He had difficulty getting home, however, as his clothes were locked in the "get-a-way" car which was impounded by the police. Two hours in the cold morning without your clothes isn't much fun according to the elusive streak-

er.

Meanwhile the "captured" streakers spent the night in jail and each had to post a \$25 bond. At their trial a week later, they were sentenced to 60 days probation with good behavior.

It was also reported that the Downtown Mall was the scene for some impromptu exhibitionism. A female and several males were appre-

hended by police during the first week of intense "streak-erism."

Although condemned by many, streaking proved to calm the crowds at one local high school as an unclad student pranced across the school lawn easing the tension. That just goes to show that some good can be found in everything if you "look" hard enough.

Area students primarily have frolicked near local "teen hang-outs" and area schools much to the delight of cheering spectators.

A local restaurant which attracts a large youth clientele was forced to close early one night when MacArthur Blvd. was mass confusion and the parking lot was filled with expectant "streaker seekers."

MAR 22 1974

STREAKING BRIEFS: A man streaked the stage during a performance of "Marriage of Mr. Mississippi" at SSU's downtown campus the other night. It was so much of a streak that some spectators are still wondering if it really happened. . . . Boyard Insurance Agency at Effingham is pitch: "You Are Covered When You Are Uncovered." But anyone interested in a policy is urged to wear clothes when applying. . . . A bakery in the student union at Indiana University has marked the streaking era by selling "streaking" cookies. They're shaped to resemble a nude person on the run and sell for 30 cents each.

APR 19 1974

TALK ABOUT FIDDLING while Rome burns, our city council was playing with poetry about home run king HANK AARON this week while the Berwyn city council was being entertained by a streaker. Barring all to aging Berwyn Mayor EMIL VACIN and a half-dozen aldermen was a 22-year-old woman who identified herself as ANGEL STAR. She paraded in the buff slowly past a number of off-duty policemen who were witnessing enactment of a new wage contract. Miss Star walked up to Hishonor. "Get away from me. Shame on you, shame on you," the mayor blurted. "Arrest her, why don't you arrest her?" one alderman yelled to the policemen. Finally, one of the officers responded and made the pinch.

MAR 26 1974

City streaker braves cold

A foul weather streaker braved the overnight cold and sprinted in the all-together past the Lakelawn IGA Store at 1630 Stevenson Drive, sheriff's deputies said this morning.

The lone streaker reportedly ran past the store entrance at about 11 p.m. Monday, entered an unoccupied car and drove away.

NOTE PAD — Circuit Clerk EDWARD RYAN took his office staff to the races at Catoka Downs the other night. The eighth race was dubbed for the group. And a horse in the 10th race was named "Circuit Court Jr." in honor of the Springfield delegation. Everyone put their money on that horse, of course. It was driven by a jockey by the name of Walker, and that's exactly what the nag did — WALK. Flash: A streaker, wearing a shirt and a hat with a feather in it, stunned diners at the Fleetwood Restaurant with a dash at 3 a.m.

JUN 14 1974

A STREAKER was arrested

ed by city police early Saturday morning after a chase near the downtown area. Richard P. Curry, 22, of 1215 E. Edwards St. was arrested at 12:25 a.m.

Police said he reportedly streaked near 9th Street and South Grand Avenue East and was chased through an area between 11th and 12th Streets and Brown Street and South Grand Avenue East. JUN 29 1975 At the time of his cap-

APR 26 1974

STREAKING BRIEFS: Ladies of the Wednesday night Elks bowling league were finishing a banquet dinner when a streaker raced through the dining room. Lights were low but spectators suspected he may have been wearing flesh colored underwear. . . . Bumper sticker on a jalopy at George Lindsay's Family Steakhouse: "I'M A STREAKER—BARE WITH ME." . . . Mayor WILLIAM TELFORD took a liking to the record, "The Streak," when he first heard it on the radio while driving through Georgia. It wasn't easy but he finally found a copy of it at the Platter last Friday. He rushed back to city hall and canvassed several offices for a record player.

QUOTABLE — A 59-year-old gent standing nude on a downtown street corner was pinched by city police. He continued "streaking" in a county jail holding cell. When he appeared before a judge, the questions and answers went something like this:

"I'm a veteran of World War One and fought in one of the biggest battles," he told the judge.

"What happened?" the judge asked.

"I was killed," he spat out.

The aged streaker was transferred to McFarland Zone Center.

Streakers Sans Sneakers Are In For Trouble

MAR 22 1974

"Streakers should wear sneakers," is the advice issued Thursday by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Dr. Joyce Lashof, health department director, said, "While streaking is illegal in most communities, and considered improper by many, indications are that as warm weather approaches, more and more young people will engage in this activity."

"Therefore," she continued, "we are issuing health recommendations to those who contemplate streaking this spring."

She said that, while a brisk jog in the fresh air has always been considered beneficial by health experts, streakers should be sure to wear sneakers.

"Running without shoes," she said, "could be a health hazard, especially for those streakers who are not fully protected against tetanus."

She also cautioned potential streakers who may have heart conditions, respiratory ailments or other medical problems. "If any of these conditions exist," she warned, "check with your physician before streaking."

She added that for those who are in good health, there seems to be no apparent health hazard directly associated with the practice of streaking.

STREAKING in Springfield has resulted in a night in the cooler for one gal and eight guys so far. They bonded out the next morning on disorderly conduct charges. Police Chief BILL HALL says he hasn't issued a "blanket" order for any crackdown on streaking but warns that anyone caught will be charged. . . . Just heard of a wise guy who has offered to sponsor a streaking team if someone will furnish the shoes. . . . Remember, not so long ago, when a streaker was considered a pervert? . . . P.S. If you spot a streaker doing anything besides running, call a cop.

MAR 15 1974

MAIL BAG — From LARRY SWINYER of Springfield: "Oh, come on now Toby. We don't want our annual Fourth of July parade spiced up with a streak-off, unless you are the only contestant. Remember, our slogan is 'Show Your Colors,' not 'Show Your . . .'"

NOTE: After you, Larry. — T.M.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Will Streaking Lead To Worse?

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter deals so reasonably and constructively with the "streaking" fad that it was deemed worthy of special presentation.

JOURNAL EDITOR MAR 17 1974

WE HAVE heard many "excuses" from psychologists as to the reasons behind this streaking fad. None, however, have made the least bit of sense or given us any reasons why this is being allowed. Some examples of their idiotic psychology are, "they are letting off steam." To my understanding of human nature and the fundamentals of nature, streaking is quite the opposite. Running nude en masse and observing same when involving both males and females will, in fact, build up steam (in a sense).

We've also heard from another psychologist that he "would rather see streaking than the burning of buildings and dope", and that streaking isn't hurting anyone. I must ask the gentleman who made this statement, this: If streakers aren't hurting anyone by their sexual deviations then why can't we allow the pot smokers and pill poppers to openly practice their means of "letting off steam" and "relieving their frustrations" as they aren't actually hurting anyone either.

AND, I must also ask the same gentleman if he really believes that streaking will stop the dope? The eight-year-old girl from Kansas City seems to have more logic than our learned psychologists when she stated that "maybe they're trying to tell the difference between the boys and the girls."

Maybe, at the moment, the streakers aren't hurting anyone, but remember this: Pornography and lewd, illicit literature has, through studies, been definitely linked to sex murders and rape. Therefore, if public nudity and exhibitionists are left unpunished we must naturally expect them to go even further with their quests as did the phone booth stuffers and gold fish eaters of earlier days. The idea was that of going one step further and each time doing something a little hard to believe. My question, then, is — what next?

Mrs. Marilyn Reiser
Petersburg

City's First Streakers Get Their Day In Court

MAR 16 1974

The first streakers arrested in Springfield went to court Friday.

Six boys and one girl who appeared in person to answer disorderly conduct charges were granted a 60-day continuance. Two other boys entered innocent pleas through an attorney. Trial for them was set for April 9.

Associate Judge I. J. Feuer postponed arraignment of the seven on recommendation of Asst. State's Atty. Robert Lauritzson. Lauritzson said the course of action to be taken up by his office will be determined when the case comes up May 15.

Arraignment proceedings were delayed 45 minutes Friday afternoon while parents of some of the defendants and their attorneys conferred with Lauritzson and State's Atty. Joseph Cavanagh outside a courtroom. That discussion followed requests for dismissal of the charges.

Feuer warned the seven to "be on your best behavior" during the next 60 days. Further streaking by any of the defendants probably will result in the state's attorney

recommending the maximum penalty and the court likely will follow the recommendation, Feuer said.

Disorderly conduct is a misdemeanor which carries a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine and 30 days in jail. City police arrested the youths for streaking

downtown area last weekend. Five of them were arrested in connection with a streak past police headquarters.

Formal complaints charge that the streakers "alarmed and disturbed" police officers, and "provoked a breach of the peace."

City Streakers Arrested

MAR 16 1974

Police Headquarters. Coel rains apparently were responsible for few streaking attempts in the city Saturday, by sundown Saturday, only one other streak was reported.

Two men and a woman streaked through Herron's Tavern at 709 S. Spring St. at mid-afternoon. They were not apprehended by police.

Two boys and a girl were arrested along with a waiting driver and his passenger after they streaked through the Old Capitol Mall. At 1 a.m. three boys aged 17 and 18 were arrested along with a waiting driver and his passenger after they streaked through Springfield.

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