

Viewpoint

Spring break is one day away. What ever preparations you need to make had better be done. Your plane tickets should be in your hand and your money should be in your pocket. Stop and think. Have you forgotten anything? Passport, credit card, condoms, funnel? Have you packed everything? Well I know that there is one thing that you have all forgot to pack. You forgot to pack your good kung-fu.

"I don't know any kung-fu," you cry in indignation. "My mother only took me to one month of karate. How can I have any good kung-fu?"

That's not true. Everyone has the power within them to have good kung-fu. All you have to do is reach inside yourself, summon up your Chi force and strike a Tiger stance.

Now I know what you're thinking. Where does this gwai-lo get off saying everybody can do kung-fu? When I say kung-fu, I only partially mean flying death kicks and back flips. I'm mostly talking about a state of mind. It's a way of looking at the world.

Look at every kung-fu movie and you will see what I mean, and I'm not talking about this "Rumble in the Bronx" or "Blackbelt Jones" stuff. You need to watch the good, old kung-fu movies like "The Drunken Master," "36 Chambers of Shaolin" or "The Big Boss."

Those movies are all the perfect metaphor for life. True, we all don't get chased down by Triads with a vendetta, but it still works.

For the most part, all the movies are pretty much the same. The same plots, the same lines, the same motives. That's just like all of us. We're all the same, just trying to make it through this life as best we can, holding every moment and trying to get the most out our "scenes."

The only thing that separates the movies, and all of us, is the kung-fu. It's true, every movie has it's own different style of kung-fu. Be it Bruce Lee's Jeet Kune Do or Jackie Chan's monkey style, everybody has their own special moves, their own special way of doing things.

Our kung-fu is our individuality. It's what sets us apart from the crowd. Everyone has their own style and technique. It's our sense of humor, our love and the way we live our life. If we lose sight of who we are and our style of kung-fu then we are nothing, just a faceless stuntman.

Keep your kung-fu sharp and your individuality intact. Make the most out of your life, make sure that you stand out for who you are.

May you all have good kung-fu.

• Chuck "Wong Fei Hung" Buckley Focus Editor

Go ahead and puff the cake

Everybody ready? This is going to be a real shocker. I'm talking major, "HOLY LORD!" time here. Are you sitting down? Okay, Ready. One...Two...Three...

I smoke pot. Surprise! Betcha didn't see that one coming from a mile away.

Let me just clarify here. I am a social smoker. I have never specifically gone out with the intention of getting high (well maybe once or twice), nor have I ever purchased any marijuana (but I have thrown in). The only time I've ever smoked up is when I'm over at a friend's house and the inevitable cry of "Bong hits!" is heard.

Even then, there have been many occasions where I say, "No, thank you," and continue my life in a merry, cheerful, not stoned sort of way.

I am writing this column in response to last week's Focus section which asked the question, "Should marijuana be legalized?"

For this particular argument I think it would be best if I let my darker half out of my subconscious and host a debate between **Conservative Chuck** and **Liberal Chuck**.

I think that marijuana should be legalized. There are many uses for the substance, both industrial and medical. I think that if a person is of a certain age, they should have the right to enjoy smoking pot with-

out fear of incarceration or a criminal record.

Marijuana is a narcotic. It is mind altering substance. If we legalize pot the government is condoning the use of drugs and medicines for recreational reasons. If we accept that then we are only steps away from allowing the use of harder drugs like LSD, cocaine and

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heroin.

First of all marijuana is nothing like LSD, cocaine and heroin. They will affect you permanently, pot will not. Another thing, tobacco and alcohol are just as or more dangerous than weed.

I think that a positive step forward for marijuana would be for the government to sell it in ABC style stores. It would fall under the jurisdiction of the ATF(M) and would be treated just like hard liquor, you could only get it in certain places, You could only have so much, you can only use it in designated areas and you have to be 21.

Marijuana is nothing like alcohol and tobacco! Marijuana is an addictive drug. It's a gateway drug! It will ruin your mind. I've seen people addicted to

marijuana. People who just have to have another hit of "kynd" bud.

Oh! So you're saying that we can't legalize weed because it's addictive? So alcohol and tobacco are little petty addictions? AA and Nicotrol are just a fad?



M a k i n g something illegal doesn't mean you destroy it. Making something illegal means it goes underground. It means that it gets less safe and costs more. It means organized crime steps in to regulate things because the government is too scared.

Imagine what would happen if we made cupcakes illegal. There would be blackmarket cupcake sales. Unsanitary illegal bakeries that are worked by immigrants and "cake"heads. It would be a diabetic nightmare.

Well making it legal won't solve the problem.

Then you have a better idea? Something that will make everyone happy.

....uh....

No, huh? Back in your box, Conservative Chuck! Pot needs to be legalized. It makes sense for so many reasons. It's only right.

THE PENDULUM

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The purpose of *The Pendulum* shall be to inform and entertain the Elon College community. *The Pendulum* shall be a forum where all members of the college community are able to express their ideas and opinions.

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Speaking of ... Spring Break

What are your plans for Spring Break 1999?



Sean Maroney, sophomore: I'm going down to Ft. Lauderdale with a bunch of my friends to wreak havoc.

Jason Snyder, freshman: Going home. I have to play in a golf tournament.



Steve Held, freshman: I'm going to go home and work. I need to earn some money.

Amanda Ford, senior: Going home. I need to finish making summer wedding plans



Steven Ryan, sophomore: Panama City.

Shalorene Hairston, freshman: Going home to relax, and get some sleep. Maybe play some basketball.

compiled and photographed by Chris Rash