

**Below are some additional interesting responses Patrick gave to the corresponding questions which were cut from the above condensed interview:**

**Do you know the story of Yang Ch'eng-fu being locked up, or was it beaten up?**

Not beaten up, but locked up...

By the way, it's interesting to note that Yang Ch'eng-fu couldn't read or write, and as Professor Cheng said: "If you're ever told that Yang Ch'eng-fu wrote something, you ask to see the original documents because they'll be in my handwriting. I was the one who wrote for him, I was his scribe; anything he is said to have written would have been in my calligraphy."

Professor Cheng's style is very clear and easily recognizable, so anything that the Yang family has which they claim is in Yang Ch'eng-fu's handwriting is really Professor Cheng's calligraphy.

**What about the proving stories?**

PW: No, we'll leave that for another time. Proving stories I'll put in another article. We hope to publish them in the future, chapter by chapter, in the T' ai Chi Press, until we have enough to come out as a book.

**I'd like to ask you about your own beginnings as a teacher of T'ai Chi. Is it true that you originally taught at the Esalen Institute?**

Oscar was the one who was instrumental in persuading me to move out of the calm of the West (San Francisco) to New York City with its energy and vitality. I'd left my job, a good civil service position as a senior aquatic instructor for the San Francisco City and County Recreation and Parks Department, and here I was with no money, starving in New York City. I didn't know whether I was going to have to buy a space blanket and move into Central Park during the winter or not. Oscar said that wouldn't be necessary for this lifetime. And so far that's been true.

**What was it like in the early days of the School in New York?**

We started in a place on East 68th St. and Third Avenue which we called Concrete Park. It was, literally, a concrete park, without grass and with just a few trees in the middle of these concrete blocks. We were surrounded by vehicles on three sides so it was quite noisy; our voices got real strong!

We moved from place to place in those days until we got our own space in the Village on West 4th Street on the fifth floor, above Jimmy Day's Bar. Meher Baba's students rented space there, so did Rev. Moon's people. Meher Baba's people were really quite wonderful and loving--they even studied "Eight Ways" with us. The T'ai Chi children's games also got started at this studio.

We started teaching classes at our present location on West 13th St. in 1981. All through that time we've moved in tandem with Manhattan Design, and it's been nice to have an award-winning design studio in the front of our facility.

In our original staff we had Pat Gorman of Manhattan Design, Margaret Matsumoto, Sherri Kent, and Marilyn Graham. These ladies were the first and then Dito Staley and Greg Woodson were among the first males to join us. Some of the people who attended those first classes were John Bleibtreu, Robert Dickman, Connie Nerrie, Tina Curran, among others. Some would come and go, some would stick to it, some wouldn't, some would return in later years and some even came back to be apprentices and join our program.

**Where do you see the School right now, and what do you see for its future?**

I remember sitting next to a woman during a question and answer session at the Arica Reunion in Hawaii in 1990. When Oscar was asked the question, "What's the percentage chance of survival that we have on the planet?" he said, "5%." This woman went right into panic and alarm. I turned to her and said, "Look, this is why T' ai Chi is so important: if we have even one tenth of a hundredth of a percent chance that's enough. Five percent to us is a lot." It all depends upon your perspective.

In this School we've been trained to sacrifice, and we've learned to work with nothing. Certainly the School of T'ai Chi Chuan has woven whole cloth from nothing; we've had to scrape and scratch for everything. I'm totally appreciative of the many, many people who have contributed to forming and maintaining the School. The training has given us a strength so that when push comes to shove, and we only have a 5% chance, we won't buckle under or surrender. To yield is OK, but don't surrender. It's all about working within principle--if we stick with principle we'll find the solution and we'll be able to get through the tough times.