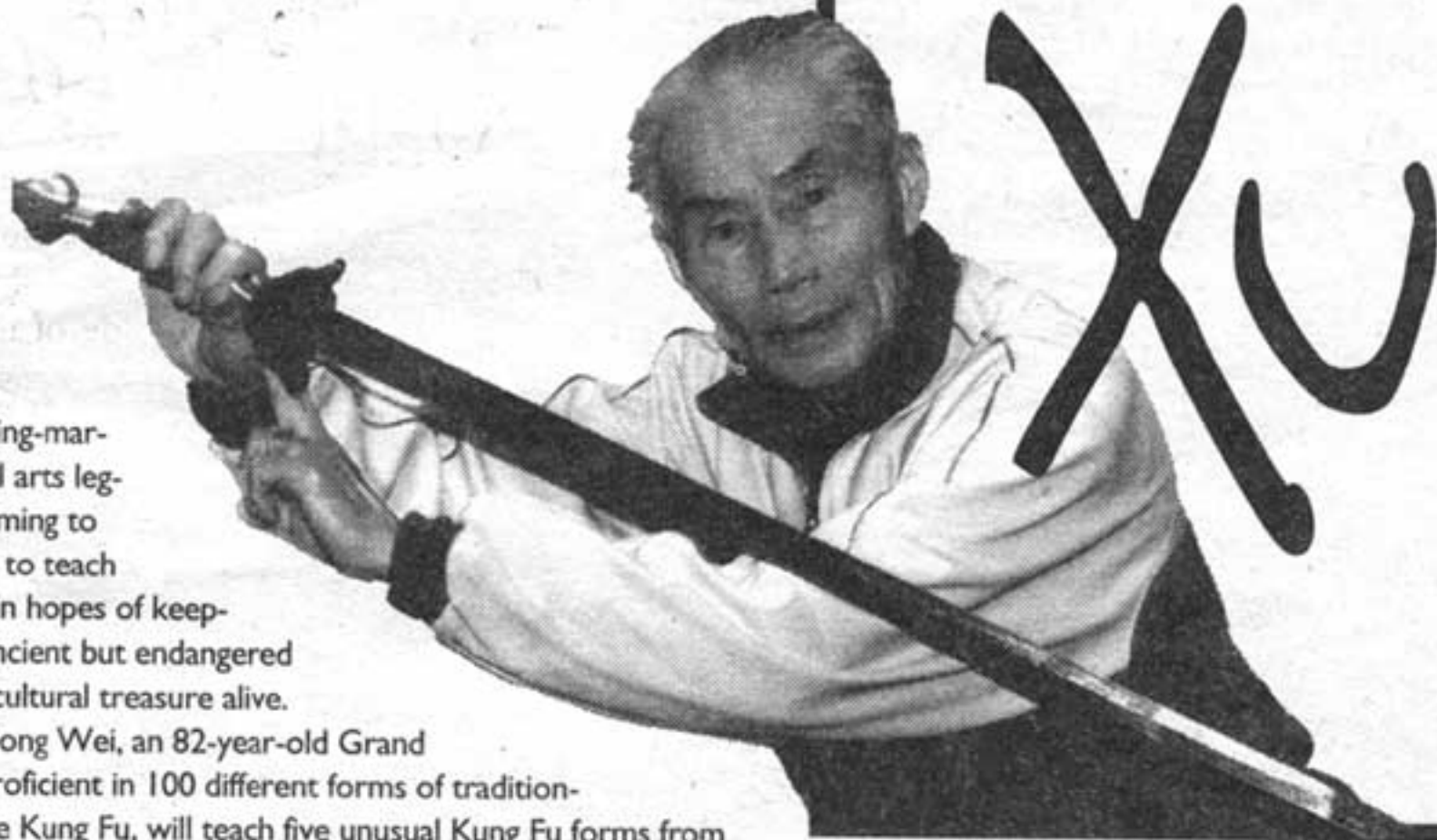


Grand Master



**Xu Gong Wei:
banned in China**

A living-martial arts legend is coming to Montreal to teach Kung Fu in hopes of keeping this ancient but endangered Chinese cultural treasure alive.

Xu Gong Wei, an 82-year-old Grand Master proficient in 100 different forms of traditional Chinese Kung Fu, will teach five unusual Kung Fu forms from northern China to the public during October. The forms are rarely seen outside China because most Chinese émigrés come from the southern provinces, where the style of martial arts is very different.

Xu's love of Kung Fu cost him dearly during the Cultural Revolution, when he was imprisoned for 10 years for teaching martial arts, which was banned by Mao's Communist government. Xu (pronounced "Shu") left Shanghai a decade ago and settled in Vancouver.

He is one of the few Western specialists in the Muslim Kung Fu styles – renowned for their ferocity and developed by the Muslim Hui people of China, who as an oppressed minority often had to battle better-armed government soldiers to survive.

Xu comes from a line of famous masters. One of his teachers lived to be 116 years old, another was a member of the Imperial Guard of Empress Dowager, the last effective monarch of China.

For info, call the White Crane Kung Fu Club of Montreal at 842-5177.

Alex Roslin