

# Q&A WITH DAVID WONG

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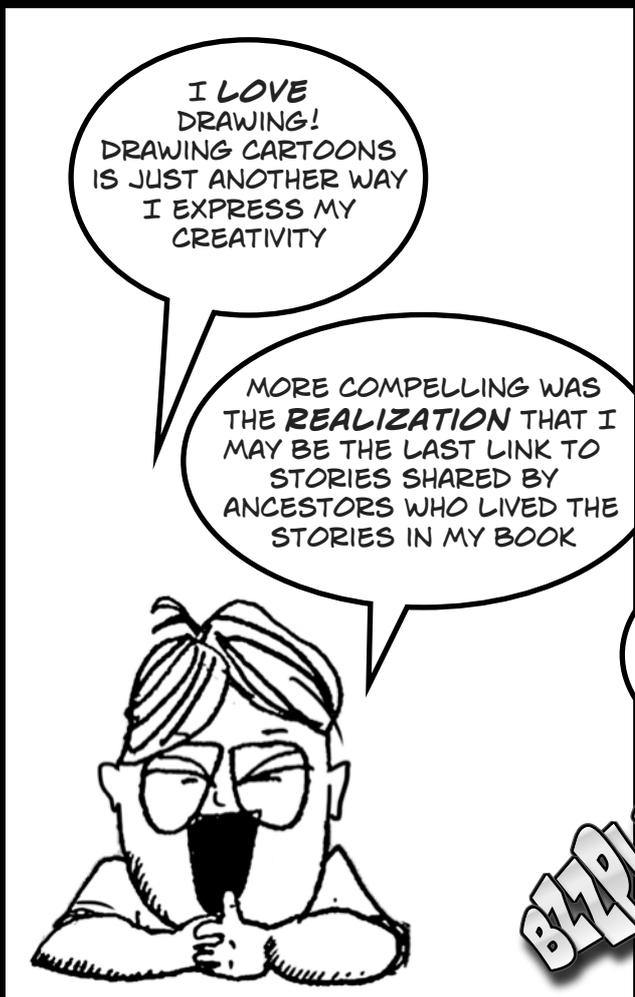
AN INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR OF THE GRAPHIC NOVEL, *ESCAPE TO GOLD MOUNTAIN!*



YOU'RE AN ACCOMPLISHED ARCHITECT IN ONE OF CANADA'S MOST VIBRANT CITIES...

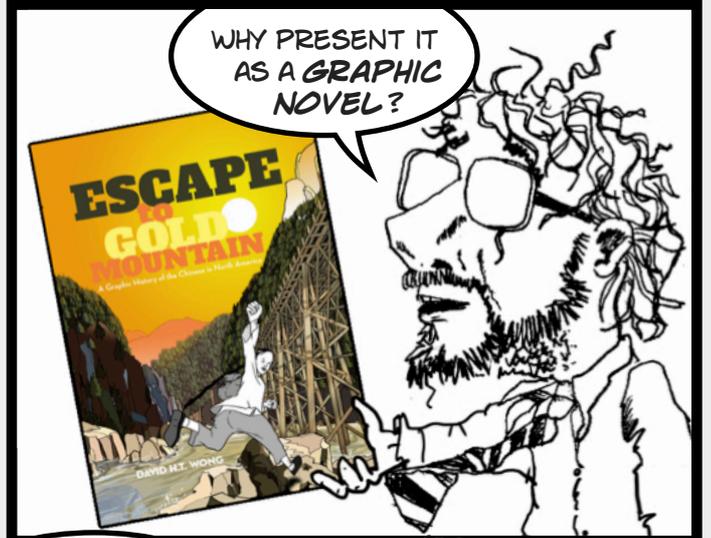


WHAT COMPELLED YOU TO STEP OUTSIDE YOUR PROFESSION AND PEN THE STORY OF CHINESE IMMIGRATION IN NORTH AMERICA?

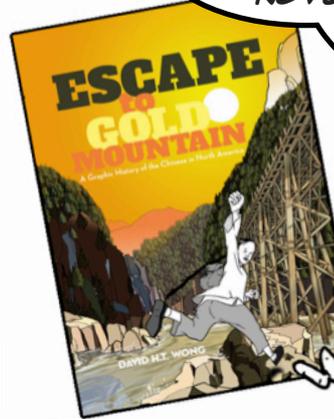


I LOVE DRAWING! DRAWING CARTOONS IS JUST ANOTHER WAY I EXPRESS MY CREATIVITY

MORE COMPELLING WAS THE REALIZATION THAT I MAY BE THE LAST LINK TO STORIES SHARED BY ANCESTORS WHO LIVED THE STORIES IN MY BOOK



WHY PRESENT IT AS A GRAPHIC NOVEL?

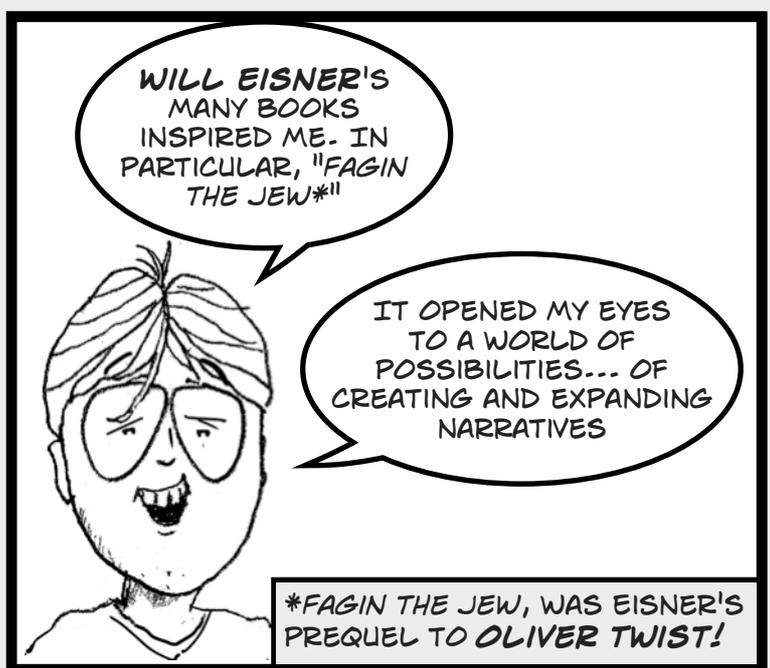
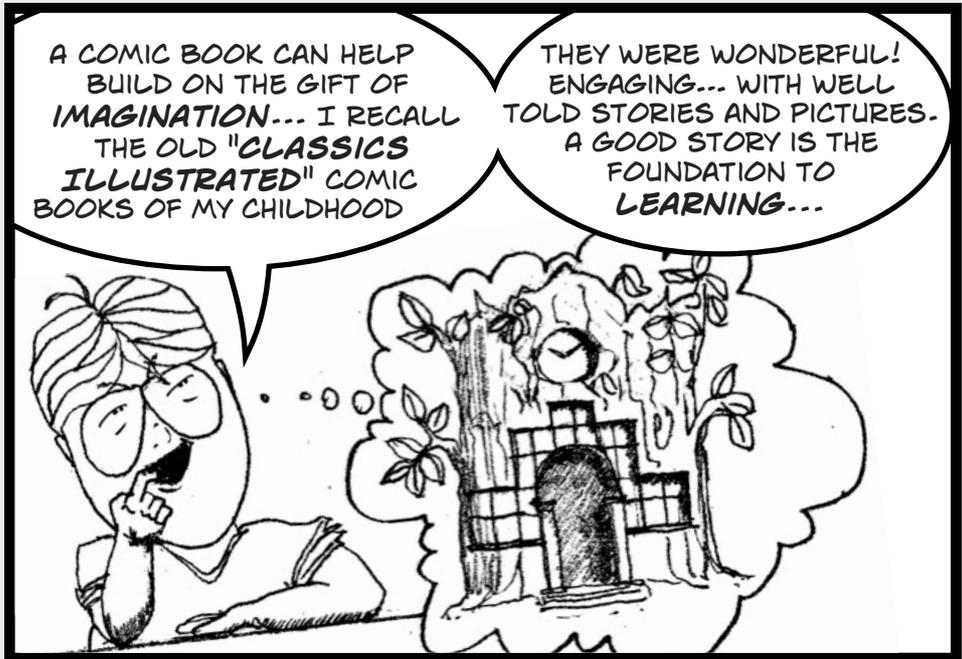
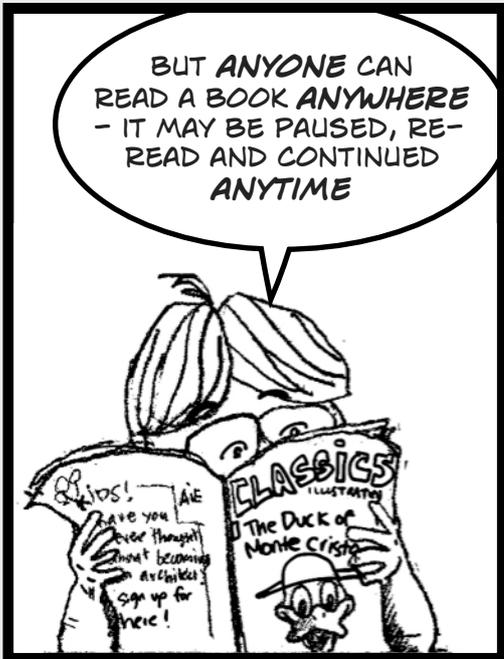


YOUNG MINDS ARE EASILY DISTRACTED WITH THE MANY COMPETING TECHNOLOGIES OUT THERE...

**BZZP! BZZP!**  
**U WIN AGAIN!**



*Escape to Gold Mountain: A Graphic History of the Chinese in North America* by David H. T. Wong. \$19.95. Ages 12+. Publishing Fall 2012 from Arsenal Pulp Press. [www.arsenalpulp.com](http://www.arsenalpulp.com)



WERE YOU INSPIRED BY ANY OTHER MINORITY NARRATIVES?

MY CHILDREN AND I HAD THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE HAD WONDERFUL ABORIGINAL (NATIVE AMERICAN) FRIENDS.

DAVID! DID YOU EAT UP ALL THE BANNOCK... AGAIN?

*David Wong*

A MOST FAVOURITE EVENT FOR THE YOUNG AND OLD WERE THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS...

EVERYONE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE STORIES OF CREATION AND THE STORIES OF THE TRICKSTER (I.E. RAVEN)!

IN ADDITION, GRANDMA TOLD ME STORIES OF HER YOUTH... WITH MANY CHINESE FOLKTALES

I'm Skyfighter! Hyah Yah!!

I'm mighty Monkey King!

CRASH! Pow! Blam!

GRANDMA! Turn down your Chinese Opera !!!

*David Wong*



HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED **PREJUDICE** OR **RACISM** BECAUSE OF YOUR CHINESE HERITAGE, OR BECAUSE OF YOUR FAMILY'S IMMIGRANT HISTORY?



SADLY, YES



THERE ISN'T A YEAR THAT PASSES BY WHEN I OR A FAMILY MEMBER DOES NOT EXPERIENCE **RACISM**



SOMETIMES THE **PREJUDICE** IS NOT BASED ON RACE

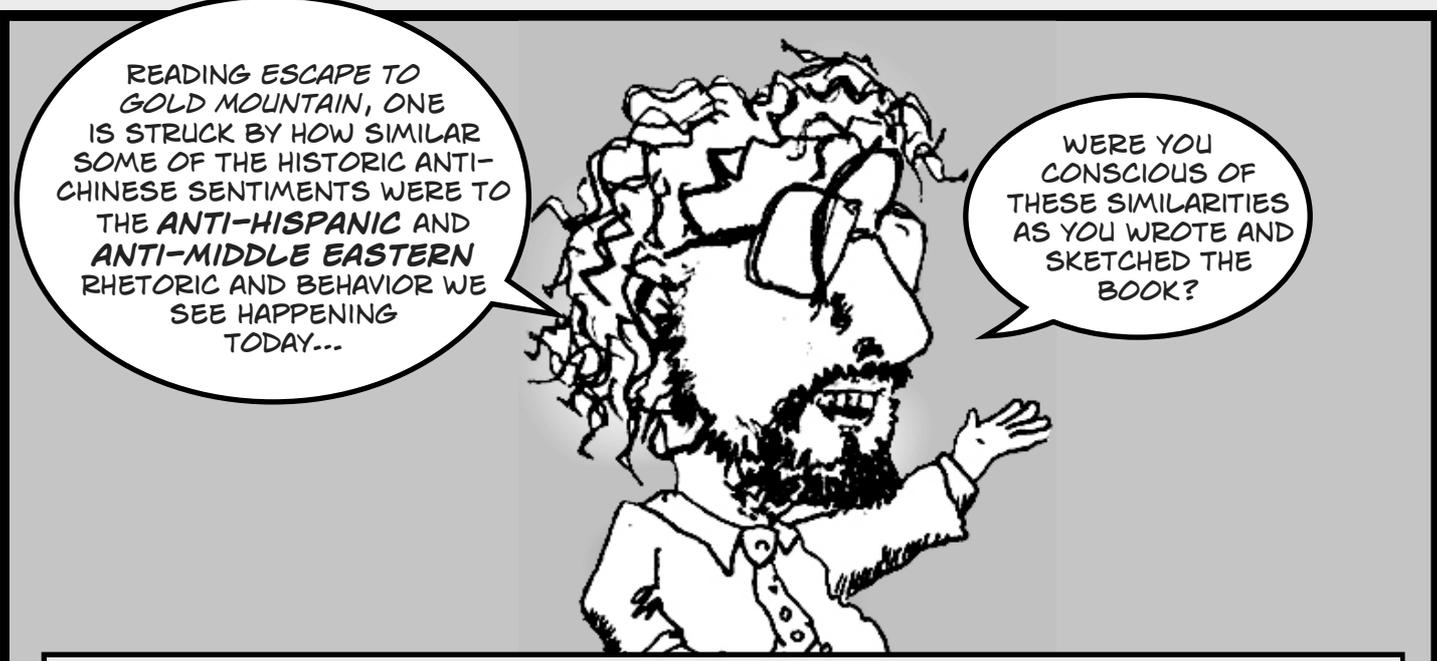


I'VE ALSO EXPERIENCED BIAS FROM OTHER **ASIANS**

SOME OF OUR NEW CITIZENS TO OUR NATION LOOK DOWN AT MULTI-GENERATIONAL **CBCS/ ABCS** FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO SPEAK CHINESE

...OR BECAUSE WE NO LONGER SHARE THEIR MANNERISMS OR VALUES ...AND SEE US AS **OUTSIDERS**

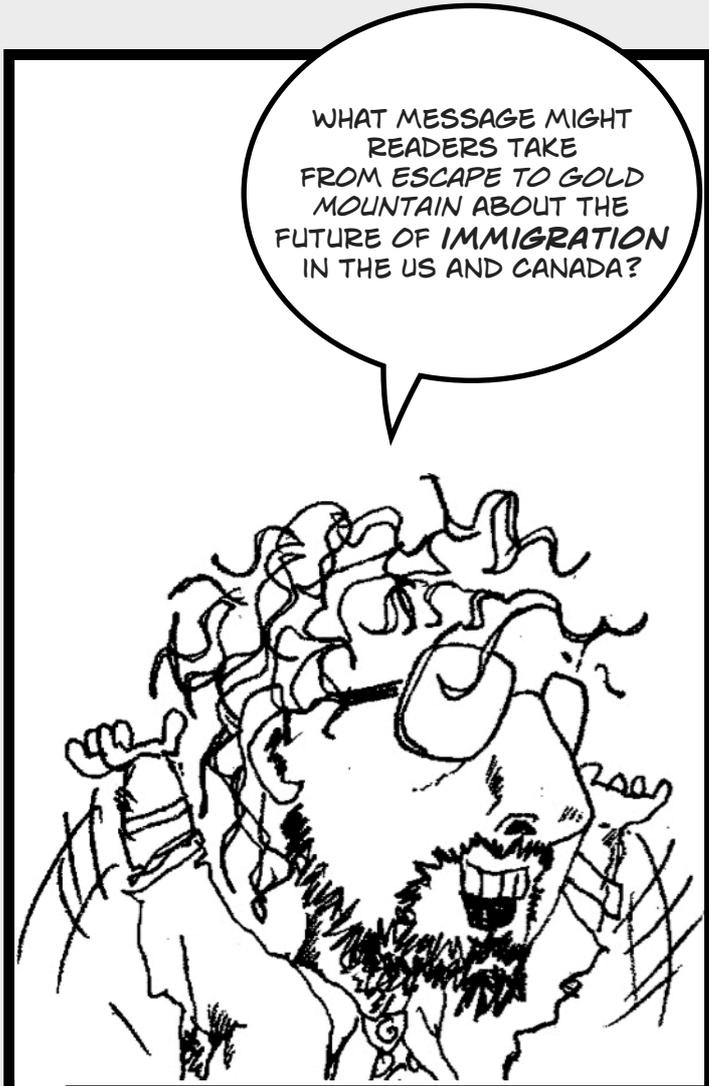
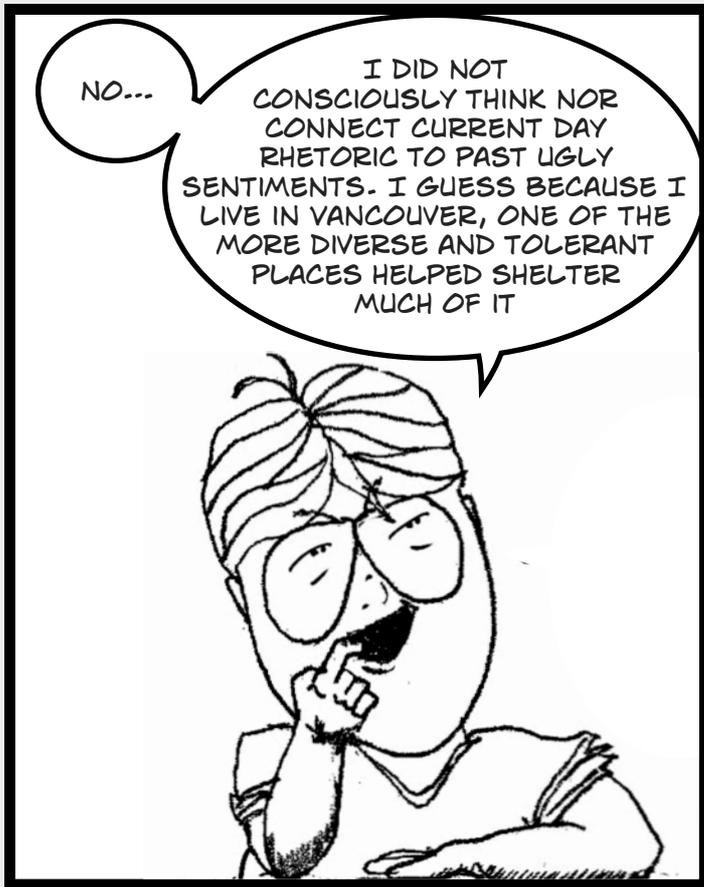
\***CBC/ABC**: CANADIAN BORN CHINESE/ AMERICAN BORN CHINESE



READING *ESCAPE TO GOLD MOUNTAIN*, ONE IS STRUCK BY HOW SIMILAR SOME OF THE HISTORIC ANTI-CHINESE SENTIMENTS WERE TO THE **ANTI-HISPANIC** AND **ANTI-MIDDLE EASTERN** RHETORIC AND BEHAVIOR WE SEE HAPPENING TODAY...



WERE YOU CONSCIOUS OF THESE SIMILARITIES AS YOU WROTE AND SKETCHED THE BOOK?





IT WOULD BE BETTER IF PEOPLE **EXPLORE THE BEAUTY** AND **JOY OF DIVERSITY** - HOW **MAGIC** IS CREATED WHEN **CULTURES** AND **PEOPLES** INTERMINGLE...



THE **BLOSSOMING** AND **SYNERGY** OF IDEAS WHEN **PEOPLES** AND **IMAGINATIONS** ARE **CROSS POLLINATED**. THAT'S THE **ENGINE OF INNOVATION**



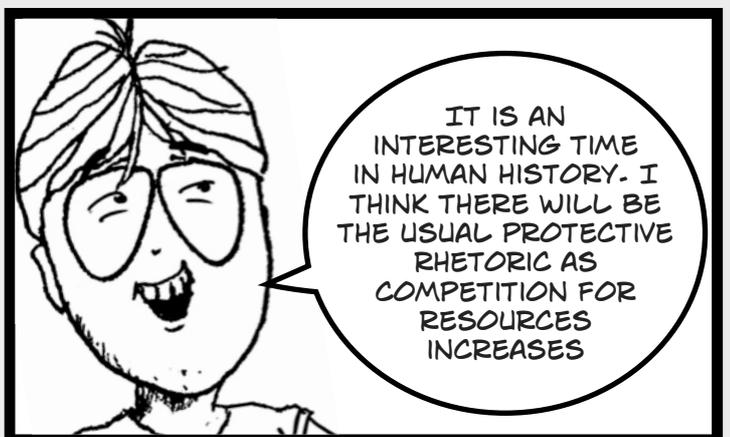
THE **INCUBATION** OF THE MANY **SUCCESSFUL** **TECHNOLOGY** AND **CREATIVE** **INDUSTRIES** IN THE **PACIFIC NORTHWEST** IS A **SOLID** **RECENT** **EXAMPLE** OF THIS **FUSION** OF **IDEAS** AND **CULTURES**



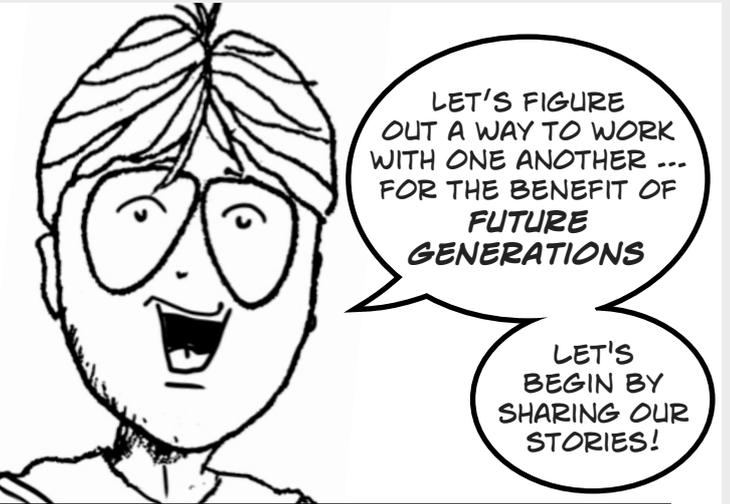
SO **IMMIGRATION** SHOULD BE **SHOWCASED** AS A **BENEFICIAL** **INGREDIENT** TO THE **OVERALL** **HEALTH** OF A **COMMUNITY**



ANY **THOUGHTS** ABOUT THE **POLITICAL** AND **SOCIAL** **RELATIONSHIPS** BETWEEN THE **US**, **CANADA**, AND **CHINA**?



IT IS AN **INTERESTING** **TIME** IN **HUMAN** **HISTORY**. I **THINK** THERE WILL BE THE **USUAL** **PROTECTIVE** **RHETORIC** AS **COMPETITION** FOR **RESOURCES** **INCREASES**



LET'S **FIGURE** **OUT** A **WAY** TO **WORK** WITH **ONE** **ANOTHER** ... FOR THE **BENEFIT** OF **FUTURE** **GENERATIONS**

LET'S **BEGIN** BY **SHARING** OUR **STORIES!**