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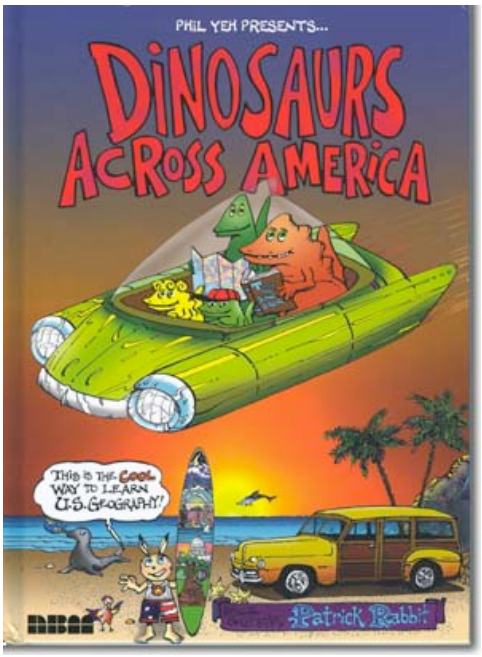
Contact LINDA ADAMS: 909-725-7337

**GODFATHER OF THE AMERICAN GRAPHIC NOVEL PHIL YEH TO CONDUCT WORKSHOP AT SANTA BARBARA LIBRARY AND SIGN BOOKS AT BARNES & NOBLE ON SATURDAY JUNE 21, 2008**

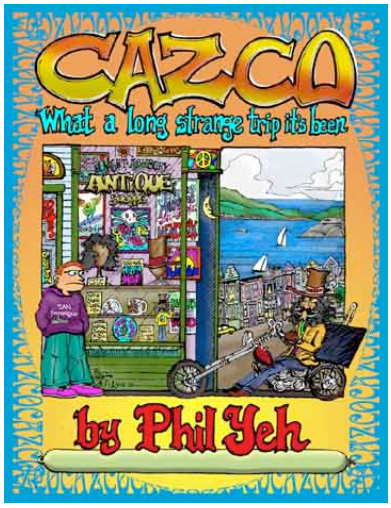



Phil Yeh, often called the Godfather of the modern American Graphic Novel, will conduct a graphic novel workshop at the Santa Barbara Library from 10 am to 12 noon on Saturday, June 21, 2008. These workshops are for all ages and designed to encourage people to create their own comics and books. The library is located at 40 East Anampamu Street.

Yeh will sign copies of his new book *"Dinosaurs Across America"* at Barnes & Noble Booksellers at 1 pm. The bookstore is located at 829 State Street. *Dinosaurs Across America* is a fun way for all ages to learn about U.S. history and geography. The book was recently named one of the best 25 graphic novels by the *School Library Journal* In their March Issue. This new full-color hardcover edition is suitable for all ages and is perfect for home, school, and public libraries.

Yeh, who founded *Cartoonists Across America & The World* in 1985, is on the 23rd year of his world tour promoting literacy and the arts with humor and cartoons. 2007 marked the 30th anniversary of Yeh's 1977 landmark graphic album, *Even Cazco Gets the Blues,* which was one of the very first all new-material modern American graphic novels. Yeh pioneered the graphic

novel form along with NBM in the U.S. and encouraged his fellow artists in North America to embrace the new format and consider the bookstore and library market well before the majority of publishers in his field. *Even Cazco Gets The Blues* featured introductions by *MAD* magazine cartoonist Sergio Aragones and the late Golden Age comic book creator Don Rico and was a real departure from the normal super-hero storytelling in the comic book field. Cazco made his debut in Yeh's college newspaper at California State University Long Beach in the fall of 1972 as a daily comic strip, and 2007 marked the 35th anniversary of the character's first appearance. What makes this character appeal to all generations is the universal story told of a struggling artist against all odds. Cazco travels all around the world and often touches on the lives of real people that Yeh has met personally in his own artistic journey from the creator of the Beats, Herbert Huncke, to noted people around the world such as Ray Bradbury, Jean Moebius Giraud, Rick Griffin, Flavia, Charles Schulz, Steven Spielberg, and hundreds of others.




Currently, Yeh is working on a new Cazco graphic novel covering the past few decades. The new book is called *Cazco; What a Long Strange Trip It's Been* will cover the period of 1972 to 2007. It shows the last 35 years in context to the times that we live, and hopefully, helps explain the world a bit better for both Yeh's baby boomer generation and the current generation which include Yeh's own three sons now in their 20s. The full 200+ page graphic novel will be completed in the summer of 2009. It is designed to be a G-rated version of the past 35 years so that it can easily reach all ages and cultures as Yeh continues his 25-year campaign to promote literacy and the arts all around the world. The tour ends in 2010 when Yeh plans to finish his feature length documentary about his journey for a quarter century spent on the road trying to get people to see the importance of the written

word and especially his own comic art form. The documentary film is called *Planet Literacy: The Cartoonists Across America Story* and features artists from all fields as Yeh and his band of artists have painted more than 1700 murals around the world. Cartoonists Across America's Baltimore office chief Richard Dinges, himself a filmmaker, actor, and musician has recently been editing clips from the *Planet Literacy* film for You Tube.

Yeh currently has an exhibition of his work at Artistic Edge gallery in Long Beach running through July 19. The show features new work by Yeh and his colorist Lieve Jerger and Geoff Bevington. Bevington's Chicago based company Is now printing a full line of fine art prints based on Yeh's work.

In addition to all his mural and book projects, Yeh continues to speak at schools, libraries and conventions all over the world about the importance of art and literacy. For more information about Cartoonists Across America & The World's ongoing campaign to promote literacy: please check out our website at: www.wingedtiger.com

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