

"Equal Opportunity" by Jim Wong-Chu

in early canada
when railways were highways

each stop brought new opportunities

there was a rule

the chinese could only ride
the last two cars
of the trains

that is

until a train derailed
killing all those
in front

(the chinese erected an altar and thanked buddha)

a new rule was made

the chinese must ride
the front two cars
of the trains

that is

until another accident
claimed everyone
in the back

(the chinese erected an altar and thanked buddha)

after much debate
common sense prevailed

the chinese are now allowed
to sit anywhere
on any train