

My friend and colleague and "Aiiieeeee!" co-editor, Jeffery Paul Chan, passed away this morning after battling cancer for years. Jeff was the very first Asian American writer I met in 1968 at San Francisco State. He introduced me to Frank Chin and the rest is Asian American literary history. I urge all of you to read his novel, "Eat Everything Before You Die" (University of Washington Press), a classic story about a Chinatown and a Chinese America so refreshingly original and insightful. Beautiful prose and a distinct narrative voice like no other. Jeff also taught the very first Asian American literature class in the US as a professor at SF State. I visited with him about three weeks ago and we "talked story," as they say in Hawai'i. He was a natural storyteller with great comic timing to the end.