

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**IN THE FACE OF CENSORSHIP CONTROVERSY, *THE WANG: THE BIG ONE* SET FOR
SEPTEMBER DEBUT.**

What happens when Denver-based humorist, Stan Yan puts an image of a vibrator on the cover of the soon-to-be-released graphic novel? It raises more than a few eyebrows.

Diamond Comic Book Distributors Inc. (Diamond), the world's largest distributor of English-language comics and related merchandise through its *Previews* catalog recently extended Yan a distribution contact for his debut graphic novel release, "The Wang: The BIG One" (96 pp., tpb, \$9.95 US), a story about the misadventures of Eugene Wang, graduating college student and the spiritual, neurotic, and erotic awakening of he and the very few other people in his lonely life.

Shortly before going to press with its July *Previews*, Diamond refused to run the listing with the actual cover image citing that they wanted to maintain a "PG" environment within the catalog, and the cover image was "too PG-13."

"I respect their decision as a private business," says Yan, "but in a catalog that is rife with images of scantily-clad women in suggestive poses, I'm frankly surprised that *this* is where they chose to draw the line. It's not like the image on my book is an anatomically correct sex toy, and it's not in any sexual context whatsoever. I think what they have done is a disservice to retailers' ability to make an educated buying decision based on the actual cover art." The 2001 Denver Comic Art Festival award winner has already received accolades for this book, but worries that confusion or backlash could harm debut sales.

Stan Yan works as freelance illustrator, does a daily financial web cartoon for MarketWise University's Innerworth.com, and runs distribution for Squid Works, a Denver-based comic book creator cooperative at www.squidworks.com.

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