



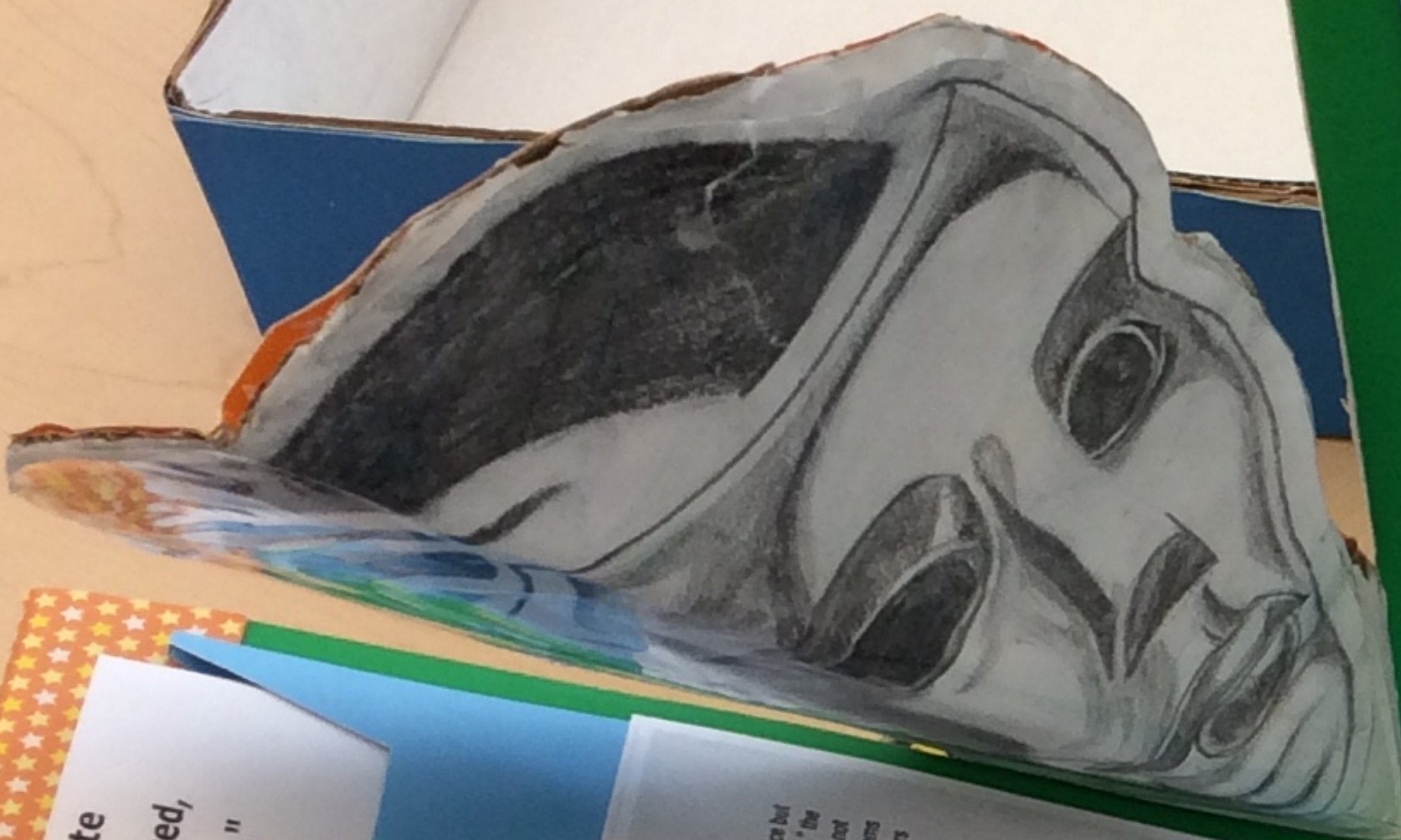
"Your English is good... for an International #ThisIs2016"

A Chinese student at Michigan State University finds his car spray-painted, "Go back home," the words reading "Go back home."

Sam Cheng Laundry

Faced with continuous discrimination in Canada, Chinese immigrants had little choice but to create their own economic niche. While whites viewed laundry as "women's work," the Chinese saw laundry as an opportunity to make a living. Hand laundry presses gave rise to such a niche, washboard, and irons. Hand laundry work was incredibly difficult, as women endured long hours of physically demanding work.

John Hoo, arrived in Canada in 1922 when he was 15 years old. He worked in his father's cafe at first and then took over his uncle's business in Hamilton, Ontario. Sam Cheng Laundry workers, paying them \$10/week. His wife and children also contributed to the laundry as boys knitted coats and the girls stitched up socks. The family recalls the laundry as both difficult and repetitive. In the end, the laundry served many customers in the Hamilton community, including the team uniforms of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.



Jean Lumb: Entrepreneur, Activist & Mother

Early Chinese workers in Canada were primarily male mainly because Confucianism dictated that it was a man's job to go away and provide for the family while women stayed at home to take care of the children and the home. After 1885, the fifty dollar head tax was introduced and raised to \$500 to prevent further immigration of Chinese. On July 1, 1923, Canada passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which banned all Chinese from immigrating with the exception of merchants and diplomats. Canada did not welcome Chinese as they saw them as cheap labourers who would take away their jobs, and saw them as vulgar and uncivilized. Anti-immigration laws also prevented many women from entering Canada and being part of the labour force in the early years.

Jean Lumb was born in Henan, BC to parents who came from Guangdong province, China. In Nanaimo she went to a segregated school. At the age of twelve, she left school to work in her father's fruit store. She gave up school to help the business and let her brothers stay in school, as a boy's education was often seen as more important than a girl's. At 16 years old, Jean moved to Toronto to help her mother, who was a matchmaker to many Oyle Lumb, a Chinese national. Jean would operate grocery stores, for Chinese with little education or capital to earn a living. At 19 years old, she was married to Henry Oyle. As an entrepreneur, she was stripped of Chinese citizenship since she married Doyle. In 1957, she met with Prime Minister Diefenbaker to discuss raising anti-immigration laws against Chinese, and fought for the reunification of family members. It wasn't until 1967 that anti-immigration laws were lifted in Canada. Jean was also an activist in saving Toronto's West Chinatown from demolition. She has been awarded Governor's General award and the Order of Canada for her activism and endless community work.

By 1900, salmon was abundant in the Fraser River, salmon became the second-most valuable export in British Columbia. As the fish industry grew, cheap labour was needed to keep up with demand. Chinese played a vital role in the canning industry on the West Coast. Whites generally avoided working in canneries, as the work was seasonal (July-August) and the conditions were tough to endure. Chinese canner workers were paid \$20-\$30 a month while a white worker received the same wage at the end of the season. By 1950, cannery workers unionized and the unfair contract system was abandoned. After deducting money for room and board, each crew member received the wage at the end of the season. Chinese canner workers performed under a contract system. Cannery forming and working in canneries. An experienced butcher like Jimmy Hing could butcher 4-5 salmon in the morning. Jimmy Hing was a contract worker. In the morning, he would be paid \$20 for the day's work, including cutting sheet metal bunks in one house. Property houses, which were known as "China Houses." Up to 100 Chinese would bunk in one house.

Best Fresh Canned Sockeye Salmon

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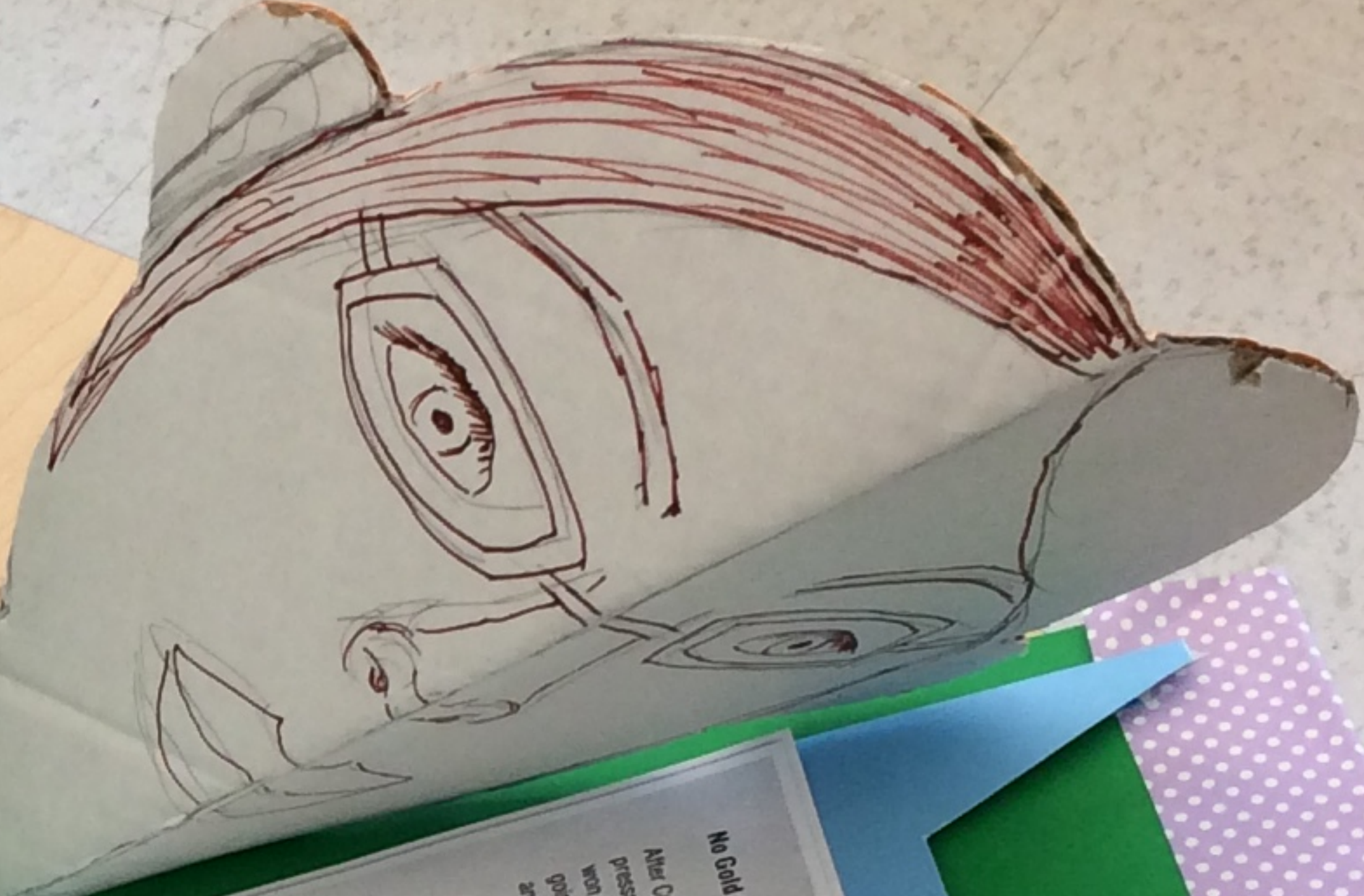
Public Lunch

After the railroad was completed, many Chinese went back to China. However, many could not afford the journey back home. Many took up work in hand laundries and restaurants that did not require much capital, training and knowledge of English.

Chinese still immigrated to Canada in hopes of a better life. In 1898, Wong Yet arrived in Olds, Alberta to open its first hand laundry, Star Laundry. His business flourished and expanded to include a bakery and restaurant. In 1918, Public Lunch was opened and was run by Wong Yet's son Frank. Frank retired in 1972, his son Stewart would reluctantly run Public Lunch for over 30 years. Running a restaurant was a 7-day-a-week job with 12 hour days and no holidays. Wages and menu items like pork chop dinners were kept low in order to keep regular customers coming back. Although Stewart Wong doesn't regret selling the cafe, he does recall it being an important gathering place for people in the town.

Mei Gail Fong on the Railroad

After Confederation in 1867, Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald was under great pressure to complete the transcontinental railway. Vancouver western portion of the railroad was the last to complete the transcontinental railway. He collected the building of many tunnels and bridges. Around this time, China was going through a multitude of turmoil: civil war, corruption, drought, and labor. From 1881-1885, 17,000 Chinese were recruited to work on the railroad. Many of the workers were from southern China. In the late 1880s, Chinese workers raised. Many of the workers had a new life, but they were not provided with food and shelter. Seasonal loans and cash advances were provided to the most back-breaking and tedious work. Chinese workers, Chinese, building tunnels. Many one thousand workers died in the process of building the railway. Many workers were assigned to the most back-breaking and tedious work. Chinese workers, Chinese, building tunnels. Many one thousand workers died in the process of building the railway.



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workers, paying them \$10/week. His wife and children also contributed to the laundry. The
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difficult and repetitive. In the end, the laundry served many customers in the Hamilton
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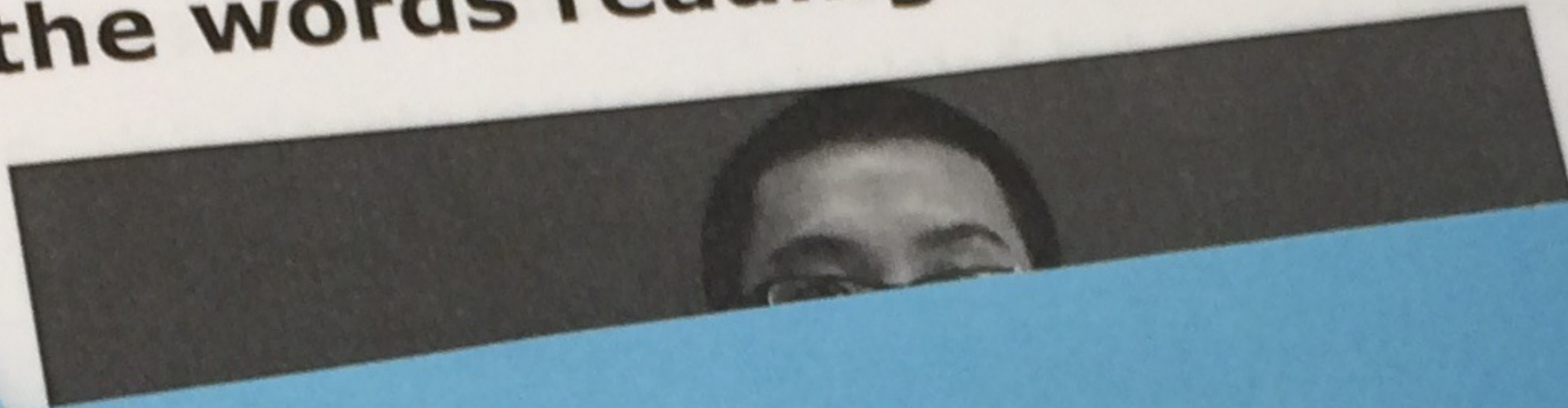
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Best Fresh Canned Sockeye Salmon

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In the early days, all aspects of canning were done by hand, including cutting sheet metal, forming and soldering. An experienced butcher like Jimmy Hing could butcher 4-5 salmon in five minutes. Chinese cannery workers performed under a contract system. Cannery owners paid the Chinese contractors according to the number of cases packed per season. After deducting money for room and board, each crew member received his wage at the end of the season. By 1950, cannery workers unionized and the unfair contract system was abandoned.

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Sam Chong Laundry

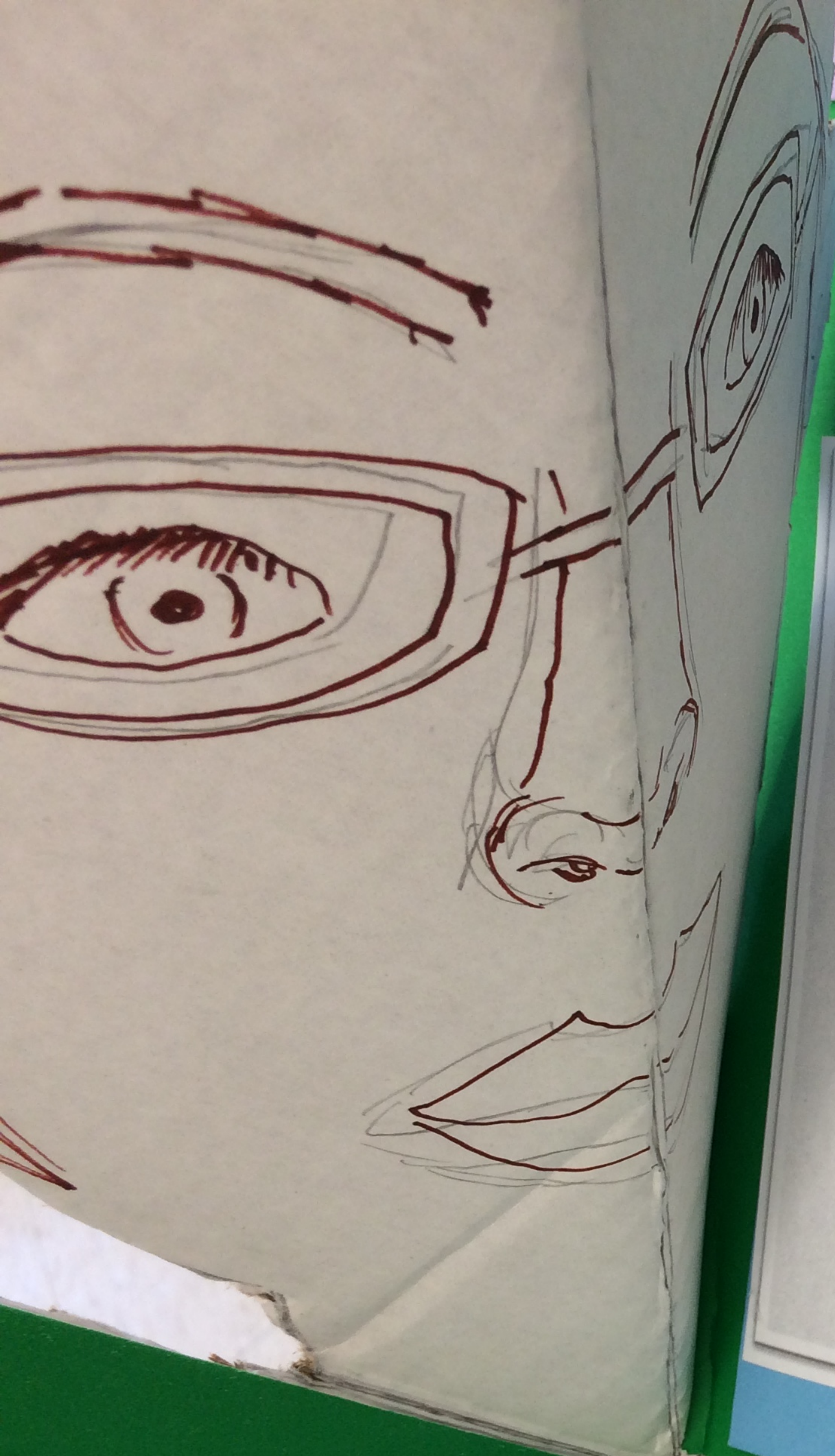
Faced with continuous discrimination in Canada, Chinese immigrants had little choice but to create their own economic niche. While whites viewed laundry as "women's work," the Chinese saw laundry as an opportunity to make a living. Hand laundries generally did not require much capital; one needed a source to heat water, space to hang laundry and items such as kettle, washboard, and irons. Hand laundry work was incredibly difficult, as workers endured long hours of physically demanding work.

John Hoo, arrived to Canada in 1922, when he was 15 years old. He worked in his father's cafe at first and then took over his uncle's business in Hamilton, Sam Chong Laundry, in 1934. No matter how hard John worked, he only made \$50-\$60 week. He often hired extra workers, paying them \$10/week. His wife and children also contributed to the laundry. The boys hauled coal and the girls stitched up socks. The family recalls the laundry as being difficult and repetitive. In the end, the laundry served many customers in the Hamilton community, including the team uniforms of the Hamilton Tiger Cats.

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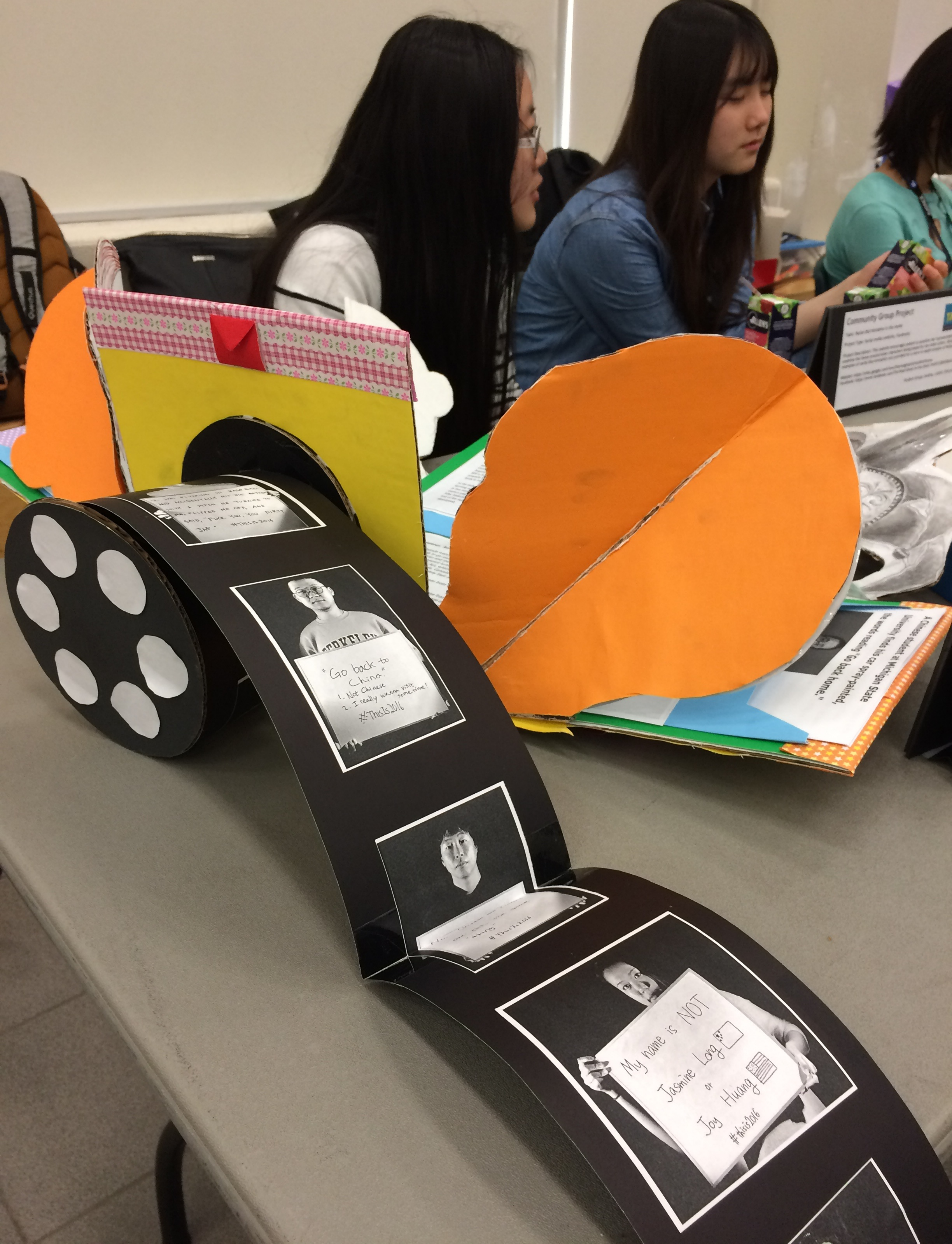


No Gold Found on the Railroad

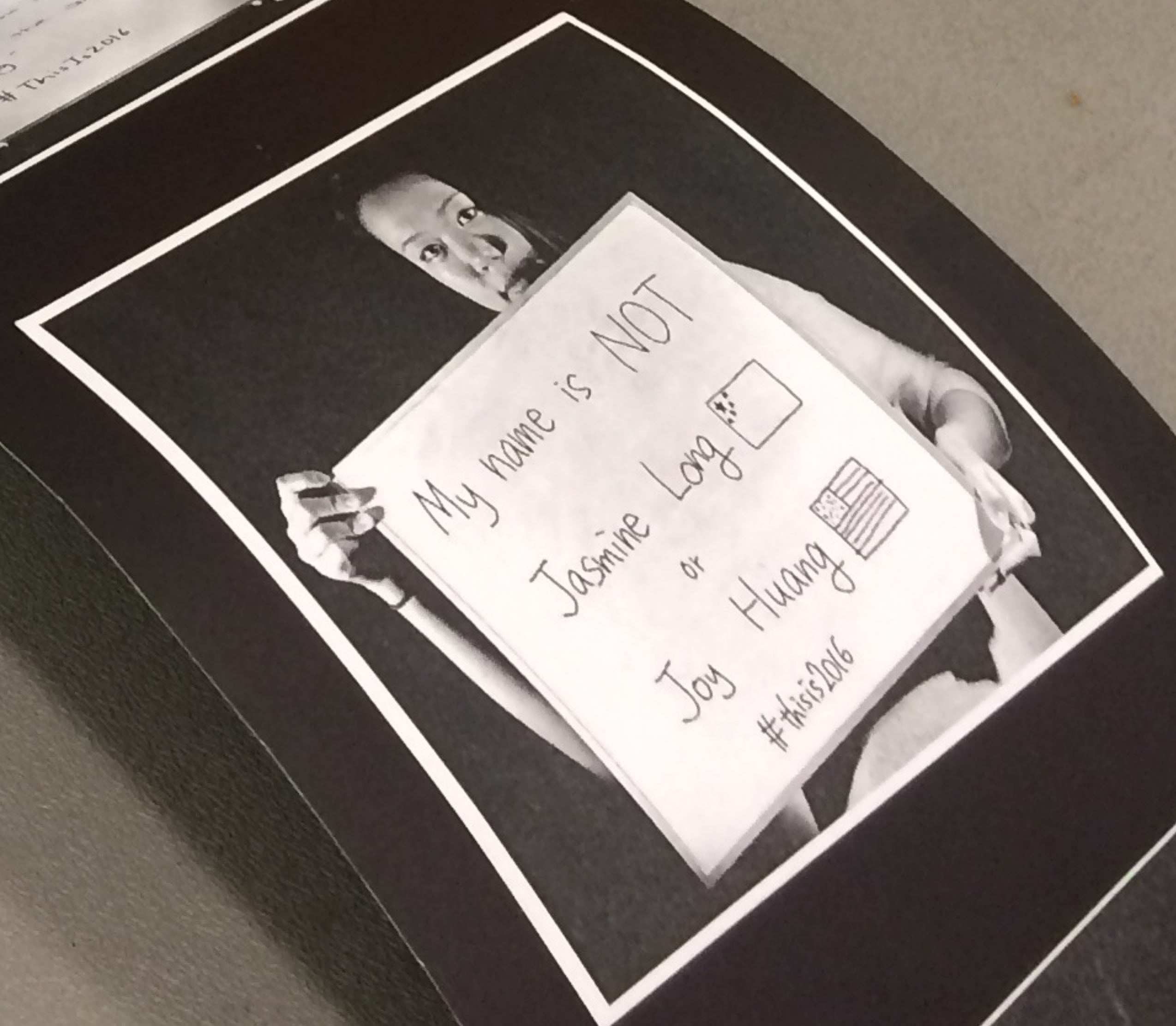
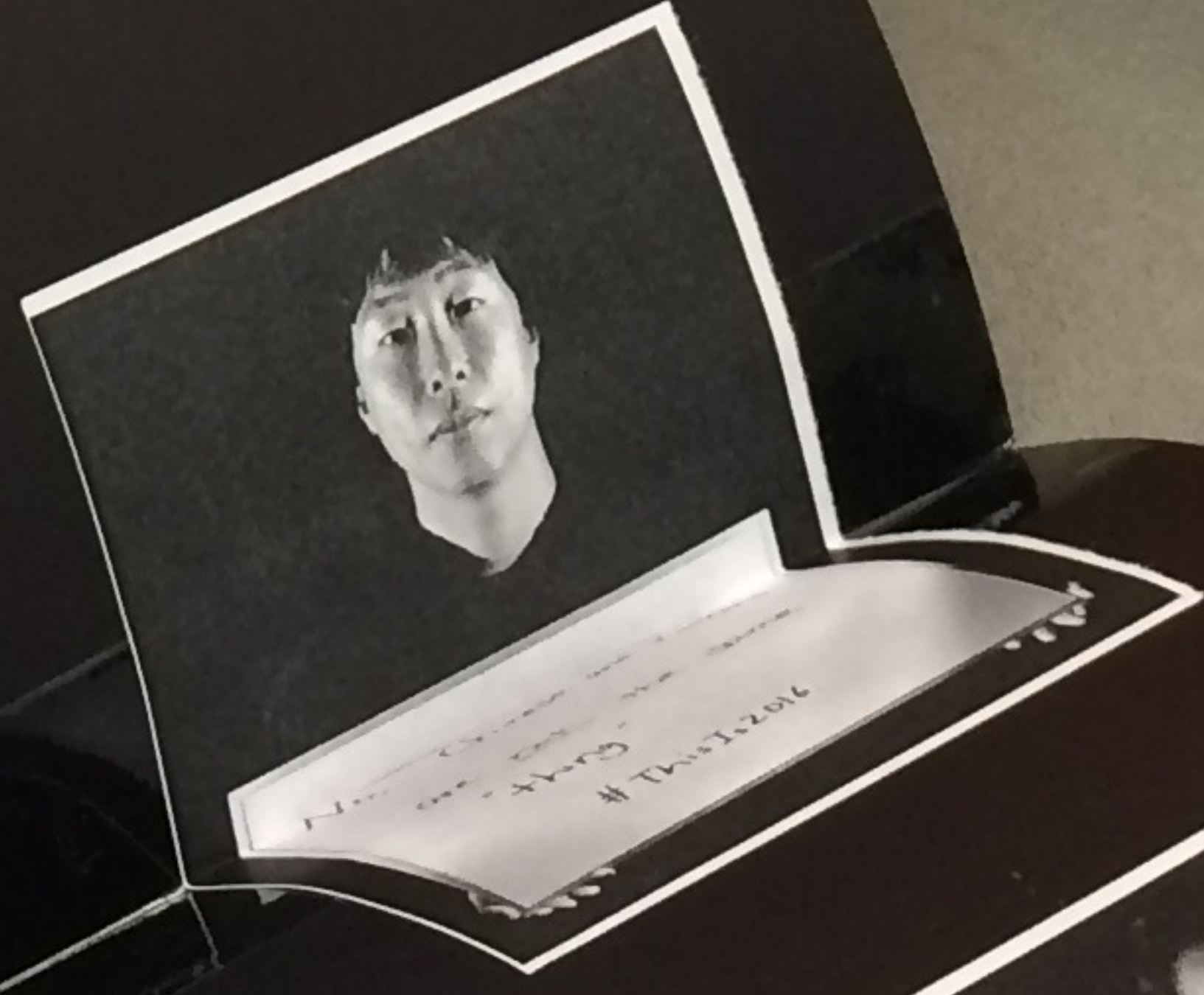
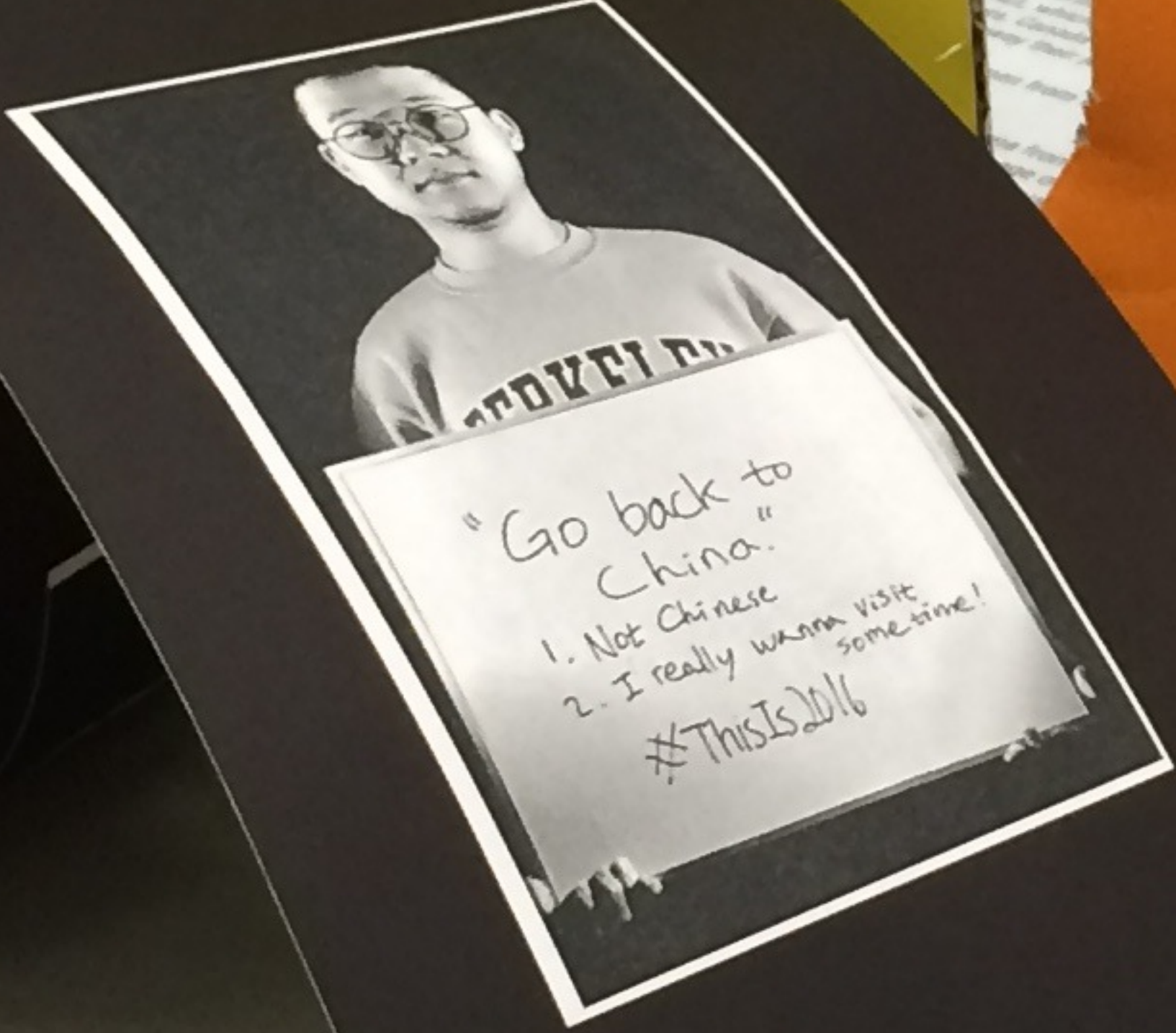
After Confederation in 1867, Prime Minister Sir John A. MacDonald was under great pressure to build a transcontinental railroad. Andrew Onderdonk, an American Engineer, won the bid to complete the mountainous, treacherous western portion of the railroad going through the Rocky Mountains. His contract required the building of many tunnels and bridges.

Around this time, China was going through a multitude of turmoils: civil war, corruption, drought, and starvation. Onderdonk realized that the only way to complete the railway was to hire cheap labour. From 1881-1885, 17,000 Chinese were recruited to work on the railroad. Many of the workers thought that this was their opportunity to find "Gold Mountain" since gold was found in Western Canada in the late 1850s. This was their chance send money home and start a new life, but this was not the case. Chinese workers were paid one dollar per day, half that of whites, and were not provided with food and lodging unlike white workers. Chinese were assigned the most back-breaking and tasks such as clearing, grading roadbeds, blasting tunnels. Nearly one thousand workers died in landslides and dynamite blasts.

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When someone says "Go back to China" I get angry. I tell them I'm not Chinese and I really want to visit sometime! #ThisIs2016



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Community Group Project