

**RADICAL
EDUCATION
FANZINE N°3
SEPT 2007**

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My dearest Pinky,

I'm so sad that I won't have a chance to watch you grow up, I will be missing you so much. Learn to read the world, and know that knowledge is worth sacrificing for. To guide you:

1. Be curious, open, honest.
2. Know yourself.
3. Cultivate compassion, respect everyone.
4. Give yourself time to think, listen, and reflect.
5. Do your own analyses, base them on your experiences.
6. Understand the ways of human beings and institutions.
7. Learn to see the unseen.
8. Be strong and know how to fight (you'll need it).
9. Fulfill your responsibilities.
10. Never give up.

Love always,

Mommy



Pinky's Picture Diary

Entry number 6:
I remember school.

It's not as if I dislike the
idea of schools.



For the most part I think the
teachers really did believe
they were helping us...

Oh really? And how
do you think you're
going to earn a
living with that?



Who told you that?
What book did you
read that in?



Never heard of it.



Who can tell me why
we had to drop the
atomic bomb on
Japan? Anyone?



It would have been
so much nicer if
you had stayed
inside the lines.



Well if you think
our country is so
horrible then why
don't you move to
another country?



Why? Because it's
going to be on the
test.



Eyes on your own
work!



No.



Recess!



Are you saying you
think you're smarter
than the authors of
this textbook?



We don't have time
to go into that.



I wasn't talking
to you.



I'm so bored...

I HEARD THAT!!!



Typical American TV news story, reenacted by Pinky & Bunny

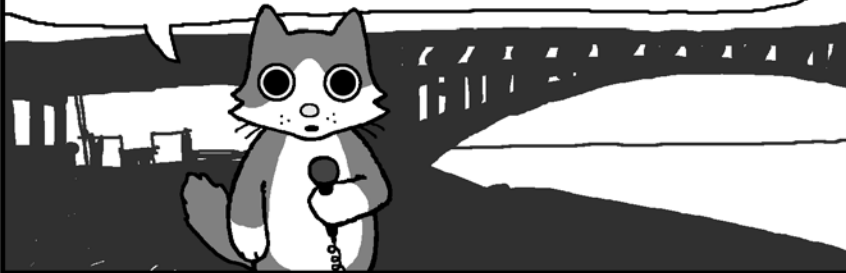


And welcome back. We now turn to Bunny, reporting live from Minnesota, who will tell us about a controversial art project that some say amounts to nothing more than an attack against America on our own soil. Bunny?



Channel 5 NEWS

Yes Pinky, people around the country are understandably outraged by this so-called art project, paid for by tax dollars I'm sure, and recently installed here on the banks of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. It's by an American Indian artist named Hachivi Edgar Heap of Birds, and it's basically a bunch of signs planted in a row with confrontational words on them...



The artist's last name is "Heap of Birds"? That's hilarious...

Bunny: Yes, Pinky, it is. But what's not hilarious is the anger this project is stirring...



The art piece includes 39 metal signs, each with the name of an Indian executed in 1862 and 1865 as part of the U.S. Government's cleansing of this area...



But is it Art?: Mr. Heap of Birds with his signs.

Here's a close up of one of the signs. It reads "Honor Wa-kan-ughzhubuh... Medicine Bottle - which I suppose is the name of one of the 39 unlucky Indians - Death by Hanging, etc."

HONOR
Wa-kan-o-zha-zha
Medicine Bottle
DEATH
BY
HANGING

NOV. 11, 1865. FORT SNELLING, MN. - EXECUTION ORDER ISSUED BY PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES - ANDREW JOHNSON

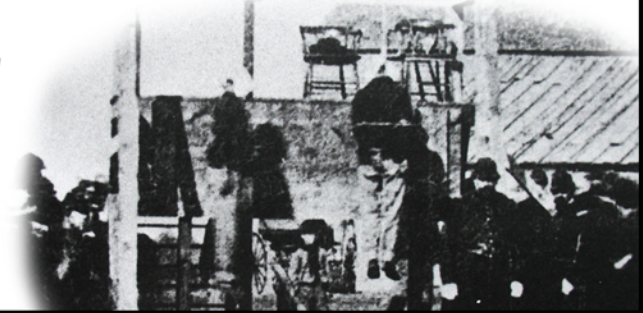
Bunny, is this real history or just a made-up story?



Channel 5 NEWS

Well Pinky the executions really did happen. But what people find offensive is that the signs only present one side of the story. The signs implicitly suggest that executing native people was part of a larger campaign to secure the land of this area for the commercial interests of the white settlers...

Medicine Bottle and Little Six hanging on the gallows, surrounded by U.S. Army executioners and settler onlookers, 1865.



...but not even a single sign mentions all the positive aspects the white settlers brought to this area - for example, tremendous economic development, and many quality-of-life improvements. So it's quite easy to see why so many people are upset that such a biased presentation of 'history' somehow wound up blocking 400 feet of prime waterfront scenery.



Thanks Bunny, to me they just look like a bunch of signs, ha ha. Next up: Are your breasts too small? Doctors find new evidence that breast implants may be essential for good health...



Bunny's D.I.Y. Mini-Intervention Cards


(a.k.a. business cards)

Business cards are
universally used for
shameless self-promotion
and facilitating commerce.
Which is fine I guess, but
why not use these innocuous
little 3.5 x 2 inch pieces
of paper for more
educational purposes?



Instructions: Pull out this centerfold and make copies with a duplicating machine. Cut along dotted lines. Carry them in your purse or wallet and pass them along to others when necessary.

[Warning: Some recipients may not be amused. Expect punishment in exchange for honesty.]

 Please don't run with scissors.

Dear Teacher,

Your uncritical parroting of official state doctrine is undermining your students' efforts to become fully human. Please reconsider your obligations.

Thank you.

Dear Student,

This is a space of learning. Sexual predation is not welcome here.

Thank you.

Dear Teacher,

I wanted to inform you that your sexist curriculum is hurting your students. Although you are probably under no institutional obligation to change, please note that your status as a sexist has been noted.

Thank you.

Dear Student,

Your self-centered attempts to dominate discussion is annoying and only serves to marginalize less privileged others. Please consider becoming a better listener so that you will not be an obstacle to others' learning.

Thank you.

Dear Teacher,

The official, state-sanctioned version of History you present is simplistic and one-dimensional. Please educate yourself more fully before using your position of authority to silence the many perspectives you've omitted.

Thank you.

Dear Student,

While your commitment to 'high achievement' is admirable, your uncritical acceptance of illegitimate forms of authority is making it difficult for other students to resist. Please reconsider your affiliations.

Thank you.

Dear Teacher,

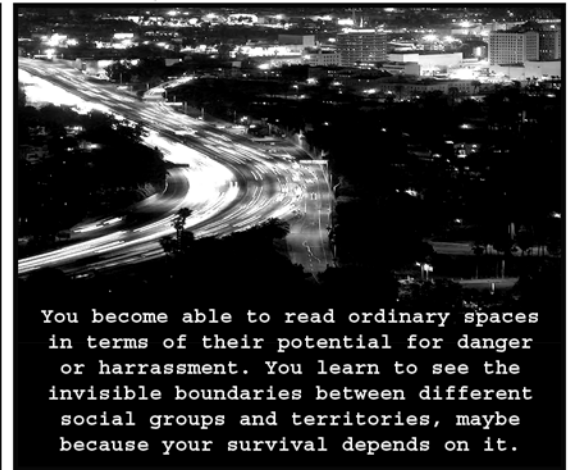
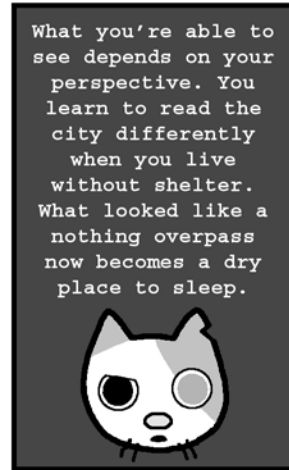
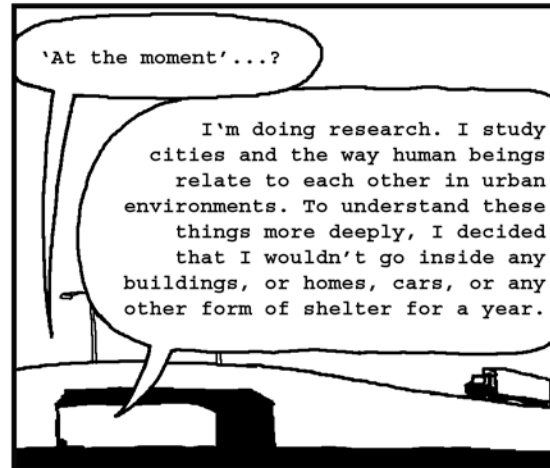
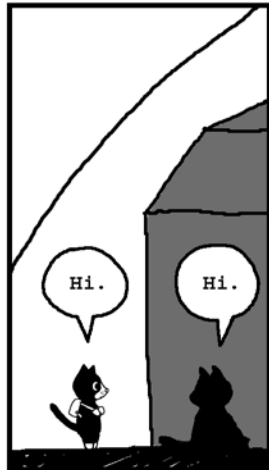
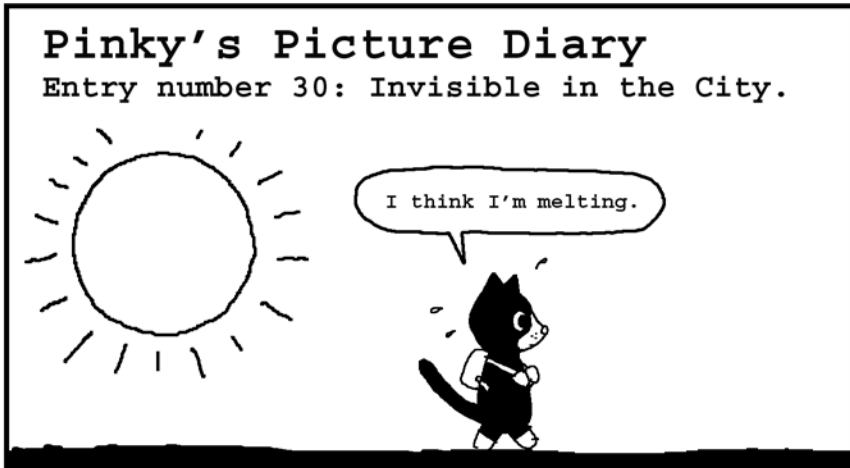
The condescending way in which you address others is not only insulting but also anti-learning. Please be aware that your students and associates may not feel comfortable discussing this with you.

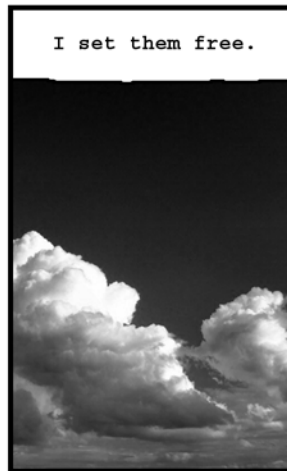
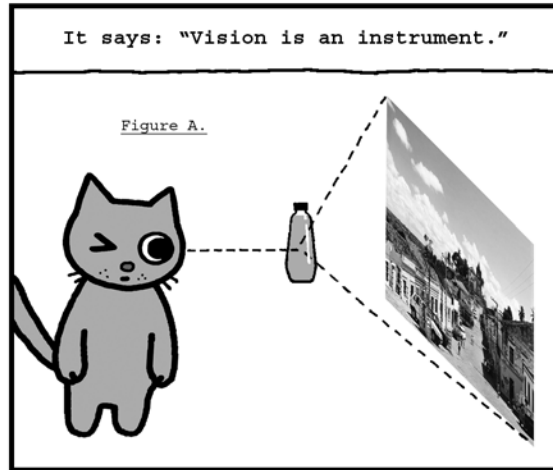
Thank you.

Dear Fellow Student,

We are responsible for our own learning. If we wait for others to create what we desire, we will be complaining amongst ourselves until the end of time.

This is just a friendly reminder: Thank you.





A few notes about this issue.

The ideas in this issue were inspired by the work of artists we respect.

I remember school: the early *Life in Hell* comics by Matt Groening.

TV news segment: Edgar Heap of Birds's 1990 installation *Building Minnesota*. Photos from the artist's website: <http://www.heapofbirds.com/>

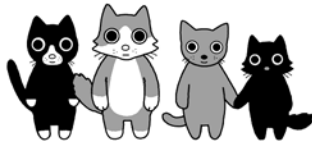
Bunny's D.I.Y. cards: Adrian Piper's *Calling Card* performance (late 1980's).

Invisible in the city: Tehching Hsieh's *One Year Performance*, New York, 1981-1982.

Shampoo Bottle: Hélio Oiticica's street in a bottle.

The list of 10 things to guide you is Pinky's Mommy's definition of radical education, written in a way that cats can understand.

- *Pinky & Bunny, September 2007.*



About the Authors.

Pinky, Bunny, Mimi, and Kim are Associated Animals Inc., a non-profit educational organization that creates *The Pinky Show*. *The Pinky Show* is on the internet at:

<http://www.pinkyshow.org/>

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