

"Went to school, and there no one knew me, come on teacher tell me whats my lesson, look right through me look right through me. (popular song.) Teachers, we are the few who never escaped the system, the butt of the school bully's jokes come to seek revenge on ourselves. Now we have the right to inflict the rules on others. We have no choice, no say, no thought. The rote still rules. Theres sufty in the staffroom telling tales on the kid of our choice, sneaking on them to the others, revenge is sweet, we always have the last laugh. Play the system is the name of the game, yet the grade, the department, never forget the worse the teacher the more chance of promotion. We dont like you, but we are the ones who stand to gain, dont tip the balance, dont rock the boat, keep your opinions to yourself, above all dont knock the rules, its the politics of obsequiousness but theres always the classroom to relive frustrations.

In my limited experience of teachers and education one aspect has always remained constant and thats the overwhelming sterility of the whole system, like a continuous diet of cold porridge, its result is revulsion.

In a teacher training college the nails are hammered down, and usually out. The "new" ideas of education are thouroughly examined, enthused over and ignored completely after the book has shut. The system sits back and laughs as any new ideas are nailed to cross to be worshiped, but not followed.

The method of recruiting new teachers is as follows: advertise for those straight from school, no experience necessary, only low grades required, Then eliminate anyone with any peculiarities, honesty (I want to teach for the money, holidays!!) handicaps (deaf, disabled physically, sorry) or social deviants (not in a suit, no places left sorry) and what you have left is the perfect teacher. After the enlightenment of four more years education, you've been in the education system for 18 years solid, so you should slot back in nicely, dont forget theres no need to wear a school uniform, apart, that is, from the regulation collar and tie, and suit, and dont you think your hair's a little long, we've got to set an example you know.

Is this an education for life? What life and who's life? Teachers are the bastion of the aspiring middle classes, and their background may fit perfectly well with those kids of similar origin, but what of the others? How many teachers live in the catchment areas of their schools, precious few. How many teachers know what why and who they are teaching?

Teaching has long been seen as an indoctrination, but what can be done about it? Community schooling has long been seen as an antidote but has never been fully implimented on a large scale, there are many pro's and cons on this issue, and I have very strong leanings towards it, but thats another story.

The Education system is a well established beast and there is no St George going to beat it single handedly, to beat the system it needs fighting from within, and with its staff supporting recruitment system, it's got good armour, also most teachers are politically conservative, they will not oppose this government unless it attacks their cosy world or their pockets (Grant Cuts issue.) So what have the other parties to offer, dont ask me, ask them.

The education system is a dead horse being unmercifully flogged, and doing quite nicely out of it, thank you.

What needs doing is a total restructuring of the whole thing top to bottom. Get rid of the inflexible 9.30 to 3.15, 5 day week for the first twelve fun years routine. Education should be encouraged for all not forced down the throats of the few, to be regurgitated when required ad nauseum. Learning should be for those who want it or need it, it should be an enjoyment not a chore and should be relatable to everyday life.

Why are kids with nothing more in common than chronological age lumped into groups of thirty to be herded from class to class when their needs are totally different? Why do we have such artificial limits put at the end of the specified years 16, "O" levels, out with the failures into manual work, 18, "A" levels, failed tough luck into middle management, got them on to college, son. 22, Degree and the worlds your monopoly board, no experience, not necessary. The whole things a load of bollocks, it stinks.

Education should be available to anyone of any age, it should be free. Scrap the Private sector it perpetuates inequality and class hate. Scrap the exam system, continuous assessment or nothing, prefferably nothing. If you can justify being given education at any level then you should have it. Anarchy, Chaos, and the country in ruins, thank fuck for that. Start again.

This essay is a revolt against the purile essay form which dominates higher education it is unacademic, illiterate., unjustified and immature and I love it.

It will not be marked by a lecturer, that strange beast found only in Ivory towers, removed from reality, which only emerges to masturbate its ego in front of so called intelligent people.

I make no apologies for any generalisations as generalisations are useful when dealing with a mass.
And now a few cliches to finish.

Those who can, do.

Those who cant, teach.

Those who cant teach, teach others.

Those who cant teach others, lecture.

Teachers are men among'st kids, but kids amon'st men.

Taff

xxx

PS. All this crap from a 23 year old who is still in education.