

THERE'S NO SCHOOL LIKE NO SCHOOL



written and designed by some anarchists



BOMB YOUR EXAMS

WHY DO WE STAY IN SCHOOL
IF WE HATE IT SO MUCH?

How many of us are really doing what we want to do with our lives? Not planning for some ideal future, but actually living the lives we want to lead? It feels like being torn in half sometimes, knowing you need to sit through these months of lectures and essays in order to have any hope for the future, but the present being so hopelessly dull.

IN PURSUIT OF SURVIVAL

For now, it might seem that we have to put up with schooling if we want to join the world of work and earn a wage from our bosses – or maybe the approval of our parents, just one more set of bosses, lecturers, authorities.

Most peoples' lives are structured around meeting the demands of external forces, whether it's in obvious forms – homework assignments, bills in the mail, cops screaming orders – or in subtler ways, like the way we're forced to work in order to take part in even the most basic aspects of life, like eating and sleeping indoors and socializing with people; the way we need to *identify as employees*, to become our work and our resumes, to put our hearts into our jobs and fake a smile until it sticks.

So we stay in our classrooms and workplaces even though we'd rather be anywhere else in the world. We sit in traffic or on trains every day, going back and forth from the same places like a conveyor belt,

human cattle for the market. We rationalize it to ourselves – only one more day until the weekend, only one more month until vacation, only four more decades until retirement.

THE RESISTANCE

There are always those who refuse to take part or are forcibly excluded. Popular myth says that people who don't stay in school are doomed to a life of flipping burgers, although lately there are countless college graduates doing the same. But beyond the dropouts, there are the untold stories of revolt.

In Greece, young kids, college students, and high-schoolers armed with Molotov cocktails and rocks led the charge against the tyrannical junta ruling their country – and police still aren't allowed on university grounds to this day, since the kids have stayed too dangerous to coerce and control. As other parts of the country revolt, young people come to reject their role as “future employees”. In Quebec, in Chile, in the UK, even in the United States, there are students striking, occupying, and rioting, rejecting their role as silent, obedient test-takers on a straight path to a diploma and a career.

There are possibilities beyond killing ourselves slowly with school and work. You only need the will to have a life worth living and the determination to reject everything.

We can find education outside of dusty classrooms and impersonal lecture halls inhabited by rambling instructors. Most of us only memorize our textbooks for as long as it takes to pass our exams. Actual learning and life experience can't be the point, so what is?

Schools and universities were once regarded as the ultimate way of uplifting society and ensuring that everyone would have an equal opportunity in the world. Now, even the fanatical supporters of formal education take a more cynical view: we need a diploma to get a job.

So, in classrooms and lecture halls everywhere, we sit and wait – for the end of the day, for parties on the weekend, for the future when all this boring shit suddenly becomes worthwhile.

WORK: THE OCCUPATION OF OUR LIVES

College education might have a lingering reputation as a form of self-improvement, but universities in the U.S. have mostly abandoned the image of being a hotbed of innovation, intellect, and radical ideas – unless it's profitable.

There are already those who have found a way to resist and subvert the roles forced upon them: students who occupy or attack their schools and turn them into liberated spaces, full of learning but free of teachers; employees who steal from their bosses, the same bosses who stole their employees' time and energy and happiness; citizens who burn ballot boxes, knowing that there will never be a vote for real change.

Even thinking to question the legitimacy of your place in society, and society as a whole, can be a nearly unthinkable act when it seems as though you're surrounded by demands to be a productive worker for half your life and a relentless consumer for the other half. But even taking a single action will lead to others. The first step awaits.

TOWARD A LIFETIME WITHOUT
SCHOOL, TOWARD THE LIVES WE
WOULD LOVE TO LEAD, TOWARD A
WORLD WITHOUT EVEN THE
SUBTLEST AUTHORITIES.

If you want to continue exploring these thoughts, or find new ideas to turn into action, here are a few small suggestions. You'll be able to find most of these for free on the internet. Google creepily saves everything you ever do on their sites, so consider searching for these with DuckDuckGo.com or a similar search engine.

WEBSITES

- crimethinc.com
- theanarchistlibrary.org
- zinelibrary.info

MOVIES

- The Chicago Conspiracy
- Breaking the Spell
- END:CIV

BOOKS

- The Coming Insurrection
by The Invisible Committee
- Work
- Expect Resistance
by CrimethInc.

ZINES

- Fighting For Our Lives
- The Party's Over
- Blockade, Occupy, Strike Back

A diploma is a financial investment like any other. The connections and legitimacy that come with a degree are what lead to a larger paycheck, in theory; but for a long time now, the base level of education needed for employment has climbed higher and higher. As the need for employees shrinks, the market demands the perfect employee even for entry-level jobs: a person willing to invest thousands into their education, work as an unpaid intern, and make their life revolve around becoming the ideal worker, just for the *chance to get a job*.

We'll endure years and years of school just for the chance to endure a lifetime of work.

BOREDOM AND ALIENATION

It's not like it takes any convincing for most people to know that sitting in class sucks. We skip school whenever our GPA isn't under threat. We get a mean pleasure from the days our instructors don't show up to class. We go to parties or sit in front of our computers every night and weekend to let our heads clear from the everyday drudgery.

Even the kids who are lucky enough to be studying something they're passionate about wind up burned out and apathetic by the end of the semester. It's not surprising that practically everybody smokes or drinks or takes Adderall just to cope with it all. It's either that or drop out.