The Emperor Has No Clothes:
Hacking the Education System Series

THE CULTURE OF SCHOOLING CARTOON BOOK

SHIKSHANTAR ANDOLAN PRESENTS
"Schooling is not just limited to a building or what happens in a classroom. There is an entire (mono-)culture, stories and assumptions about life, a value system, a schooled mindset, which it seeks to reproduce in society."

Is more formal education the solution to all of our problems? Or is part of the problem?

This is a collection of some of our favorite cartoons about the culture of schooling which we collected from the web. We hope you discuss and circulate them with your friends and families and join us in hacking the education system. A good cartoon is worth a thousand lectures.
Honey, when you grow up
I want you to be assertive,
independent and strong-willed.
But while you're a kid,
I want you to be passive,
pliable and obedient.
We'll give him another chance. Hopefully you can straighten him out soon.
"How do we make sure the students' voices are heard, but get them to be quiet at the same time?"
YES, MA'AM?
MY NAME?

MY NAME IS SALLY BROWN,
AND I HATE SCHOOL!

PLEASE, DON'T CRY...
CALVIN, YOUR MOM AND I LOOKED OVER YOUR REPORT CARD, AND WE THINK YOU COULD BE DOING BETTER.

BUT I DON'T LIKE SCHOOL.

WHY NOT? YOU LIKE TO READ AND YOU LIKE TO LEARN. I KNOW YOU DO.

I MEAN, YOU'VE READ EVERY DINOSAUR BOOK EVER WRITTEN, AND YOU'VE LEARNED A LOT, RIGHT? READING AND LEARNING ARE FUN.

YEAH...

SO WHY DON'T YOU LIKE SCHOOL?

WE DON'T READ ABOUT DINOSAURS.
You are an idiot.

I am an idiot.

You are an idiot.

I am an idiot.

You are an idiot.

I am an idiot.
CHILDREN, TODAY WE'RE GOING TO LEARN CODE! IT'S IMPORTANT FOR A PROSPEROUS FUTURE!

TEACHER, AFTER THAT, COULD WE LEARN HOW TO SURVIVE IN A CIVILIZATION THREATENED BY ECOSYSTEM COLLAPSE, RISING SEA LEVELS AND THE RESULTING GEO-POLITICAL TURMOIL, ARMED CONFLICT AND THE INCREASING POLARIZATION OF IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATIONS, AND HUMANITY'S SEEMINGLY INSATIABLE APPETITE FOR STUFF?
“If we aren’t being taught how to grow our own food, how to take care of ourselves and our families, and how to live without the need for huge governments, banks and corporations - as our ancestors once did - then we aren’t being educated; we’re being indoctrinated to be dependent and subservient to the system.”

- Gavin Nascimento
Miss Wormwood, I have a question about this math lesson.

Yes?

Given that, sooner or later, we're all just going to die, what's the point of learning about integers?

Turn to page 83, class.

Nobody likes us "big picture" people.
Name these brands
Name these plants

This slaps you in the face with reality
If a single teacher can't teach all the subjects, then how can you expect a single student to learn all subjects?
Looks silly, but the kids are finally listening to her!
"I wish they'd educate us with something besides school."
“My presentation lacks power and it has no point. I assumed the software would take care of that!”
Test:

1. When did the Pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock?

1620.

As you can see, I've memorized this utterly useless fact long enough to pass a test question. I now intend to forget it forever. You've taught me nothing except how to cynically manipulate the system. Congratulations.
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FOR A FAIR SELECTION EVERYBODY HAS TO TAKE THE SAME EXAM: PLEASE CLIMB THAT TREE
Personal qualities not measured by tests:

- Sense of wonder
- Resourcefulness
- Motivation
- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Self-discipline
- Sense of beauty
- Empathy
- Compassion
- Reliability
- Self-awareness
- Spontaneity
- Enthusiasm
- Humility
- Courage
- Civic mindedness
- Resilience
- Endurance
- Grit
- Persistence
- Determination
- Curiosity
- Humor
- Question asking
- Leadership
COME AWAY FROM THE WINDOW! YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A CHILD LEFT BEHIND, DO YOU?

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!
SEE! THIS IS CALLED THE OUTDOORS

OH, I'VE SEEN THIS LEVEL ON MY VIDEO GAMES
"I'm majoring in obedience. You?"
I see you did well in school, but what real-world skills do you have?

Tests. I can take tests.
“What did you expect from a failing educational system?”
OH, RIGHT. YOU'RE TOO SMART.

BELIEVE IT, LADY. YOU KNOW HOW EINSTEIN GOT BAD GRADES AS A KID? WELL, MINE ARE EVEN WORSE!
The Purpose of...

assessment is to **INCREASE** quality.

evaluation is to **JUDGE** quality.

Too short and not enough leaves. C-
So, you were educated in the public school system—what does that qualify you to do?

Is that a multiple choice, true-false or fill-in-the blank question?
ATTENTION...
THIS IS A TEST...
THIS IS A TEST OF THE
NATION'S EDUCATION SYSTEM...
IF THIS WERE A REAL
EMERGENCY, WE'D FIND
A BETTER SOLUTION THAN
MORE AND MORE TESTS...
THIS IS A TEST...
SON - WE'RE STUCK. MIND GIVING US A HAND WITH YOUR HOMEWORK?
“We’ll discuss your misbehavior in a moment Billy, but in the meantime, why don’t you help yourself to a nice piece of candy?”
BUNTY'S FIRST BIRTHDAY IS COMING UP NEXT MONTH AND WE HAVE NOT YET ENROLLED HIM IN THE 17 YEAR COACHING PROGRAM FOR IIT JEE...
“We’ve been thinking a lot about what we want to do with your life.”
"...And this is our spare son in case the first one doesn't live up to expectations"
"I don't believe in pressuring my children. When the time is right, they'll arrive at the default choice and go to law school."
TO ADD VALUE TO MY EDUCATION.

PITAJI - I'VE PUT MY TENTH STANDARD CERTIFICATE IN A 24 CARAT GOLD FRAME!
Our little boy's first day of school...
It makes me want to cry.

Yeah, I just saw his education costs too!
HAVE YOU CALCULATED HOW LONG UNTIL YOU PAY OFF YOUR STUDENT LOANS?

YES. I'VE STILL GOT 29 MORE YEARS...
CONGRATULATIONS, KID! GO CHASE YOUR DREAMS!
Instead of repaying my student loan, I'm returning my diploma... It didn't work.
Maybe school's a good thing...

I mean... Where else do hundreds of people with similar backgrounds come together under one roof... all following a daily routine... with guidance and supervision to better themselves and society?

Ya know... Besides prison?
“You hate your boss, you hate your CEO, you hate politicians, you hate rich people. If successful people are so bad, why do you want me to study hard and do well in school?”
SURE THE HOURS ARE LONG AND THE WAGES ARE LOW, BUT AT LEAST WE HAVE JOB SECURITY.
"This test will determine which of you gets the position. Who wants to jump first?"
Is this what we want?

Shopping  School  Mail
Work      Meeting  Relax
News      Art      Sex
Movie     Bills    Chat
100% RATIONAL

100% FOCUSED ON MONEY AS AN INCENTIVE

HOMO ECONOMICUS
I'm depressed. I think I'll go shopping.

The economy is counting on your continued unhappiness.
SURE, I'M A CRIMINAL PSYCHOPATH, BUT JUST LOOK AT ALL THE JOBS I CREATED!
SUCCESSFUL MAN

UNSUCCESSFUL MAN

SINGER
No son, it's power, it's food, it's health, it's survival, it's happiness, it's self-worth...

Piece of paper?
Here son, I saved all this money for your future
“I’ve decided to leave the company. Could I have my soul back?”
"Finally, a succinct corporate mission statement."
making someone smaller does not make you bigger.
I just got my MBA, and I'm here to solve all of your problems.

Our products are junk and we're completely out of capital.

Have you tried jargon?
I have 1,800 nuclear missiles, 283 battleships, 9,400 planes... I spend more on my military than the next 12 nations combined and despite spending more every year I still feel insecure!

It's simple, you have a military-industrial complex.
"Military Industrial Complex? Isn’t that the new mall just opened downtown?"
where is poor ??
Today's Society

Sure glad the hole isn't at our end.
RESEARCH CONCLUDES:

We Are Destroying The EARTH!!

Yes but it turns out that it is very Profitable!!
DEVELOPMENT

BEFORE

African hut with chickens and a family of four.

AFTER

Urban scene with various signs, including "Spare Change." The family is now living in a more urban environment.
They're fighting over which religion is the most peaceful!
"I used to be considered a cog in their wheel but now I'm thought of as a glitch in their computer software."
NO ONE IS GOING TO GIVE YOU THE EDUCATION YOU NEED TO OVERTHROW THEM.
What are you throwing away?

Oh just some old ideas and beliefs that were taking up too much space.
For Further Conversations

Which cartoons touched you deeply?

What are your personal horror stories with factory schooling?

How does the culture of schooling affect your mindset, personal life, relationships, community, work, neighborhood, city, country?

What do we need to unlearn from factory schooling?

What have been some of your most powerful learning experiences?
Did you enjoy this cartoon book?

We invite you to make your own cartoons based on your experiences and feelings and share them with us at <shikshantar@yahoo.com>. We would love to make another book with cartoons made by friends. And remember, cartoons don't need elaborate drawings; they can be effectively made with even basic stick figures.