

Avoid reality, study more



“Those students were most likely driven by fear of failure”

Further study is like putting your hand up and asking the teacher for extra homework. I know what you’re thinking, what a dumbass.

However those students did that for a reason, a thirst for knowledge maybe? ‘Please Sir, I want some more?’ The Oliver Twists of academia, the little bastards will never just sit down. Don’t they realise we’re all starving? Some of us have even sewn our mouths shut. Ironically I do eat oats for breakfast.

Musicals aside those students were most likely driven by fear, fear of failure. I know my grammar school worked relentlessly to create a culture of doom. Need to get those results, it’s make or break. We’re competing for everything, parking spots, partners, jobs, the moral high-ground, resources, it just never ends. Even Olympic athletes have three weeks off a year.

Many of you might have to complete some manner of post-grad study to even be considered for an entry level position in your field. Which let’s be honest, sounds like it blows. If the information

and experience was essential they should include it in the original package. It’s like selling you a TV without an aerial. A joke without a punch-line.

But chin up people, things could be worse. You could have an arts degree. Having a six-pack of beer and no bottle opener. You know it’s only a matter of time before you try to rip the top off on a letter box and cut your hand. Maybe if I drink enough I won’t feel the pain.


Post-grad should be an optional extra. You shouldn’t have to pay for a fucking salad, it should be part of the meal. Unless the steak covers the entire plate, which wouldn’t be such a bad thing. Did you know university used to be free? Not like phone plan free but totally free, like air.

Further study couldn’t be all that bad. You might even find a cure for cancer. But more importantly you can delay entry into the ‘real world’. You know, the place your parents live in. When you always know exactly what day it is. The place where people work regular hours, wear regular clothes.

The place where people look forward to lunch breaks like they’re coming up for air.

People stuck in suits. Stuck in cars. Stuck in traffic. Stuck on the train. Stuck reading newspapers. Do you know why horoscopes still get printed? Deep down, even though they know it’s bullshit, people will still fall over themselves for any ray of insight available. Because if they’re honest, they know they have no fucking idea.

Do it if you have to. Do it if you want to. But remember there is always another option, sure you will have less letters after your name but think of all the money you will save on business cards. Your salary might be a bit smaller and your house might only have two bathrooms instead of five. Your car will go a little slower but it’s not like you’re going to get a chance to punish the needle each morning in traffic.

Don’t forget that 90 per cent of people didn’t want to leave the Matrix, does the consensus make it any less of a prison? 

Tom Cummins



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