

IN PRINT

Dumbing Us Down

New Society Publishers; 1992
By JOHN TAYLOR GATTO

Dumbing Us Down reveals the deadening heart of compulsory state schooling: assumptions and structures that stamp out the self-knowledge, curiosity, concentration and solitude essential to learning. Between schooling and television, our children have precious little time to learn for themselves about the community they live in, or the lives they might lead. Instead, they are schooled to merely obey orders and become smoothly functioning cogs in the industrial machine.

In his 26 years of teaching, John Taylor Gatto has found that independent study, community service, large doses of solitude, and a thousand different apprenticeships with adults of all walks of life are the keys to helping children break the thrall of our conforming society. For the sake of our children and our communities, John Taylor Gatto urges all of us to get schools out of the way and find ways

to re-engage children and families in actively controlling our culture, economy, and society.

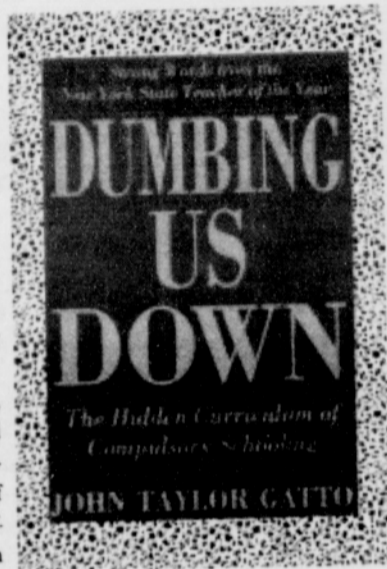
An Excerpt: The heart of the defense for the cherished American ideals of privacy, variety, and individual-

from their chance at community; interrupt kids with bells and horns all the time and they will learn that nothing is important; for them to plead for the natural right to the toilet and they will become liars and toadies; ridicule them and they will retreat from human association; shame them and they will find a hundred ways to get even.

The habits taught in large-scale organizations are deadly.

On the other hand, individuality, family, and community are, by definition, expressions of singular organization, never of "one-right-way" thinking on the grand scale. Private time is absolutely essential if a private identity is going to develop, and private time is

equally essential to the development of a code of private values, without which we aren't really individuals at all. Children and families need some relief from government surveillance and intimidation if original expressions belonging to them are to develop. Without these, freedom has no meaning.



ity lies in the way we bring up our young. Children learn what they live. Put kids in a class and they will live out their lives in an invisible cage, isolated

The Parent's Guide to Alternatives in Education

Shambhala; 1997
By RONALD E. KOETZSCH Ph.D

Today, many parents are searching for an alternative to mainstream public education in the United States. Until now, there has been no in-depth guide providing the information they need to decide among the sometimes bewildering array of options, including homeschooling, charter schools, Montessori, Waldorf, and others.

The Parent's Guide to Alternatives in Education begins with an overview of the development of public education in the

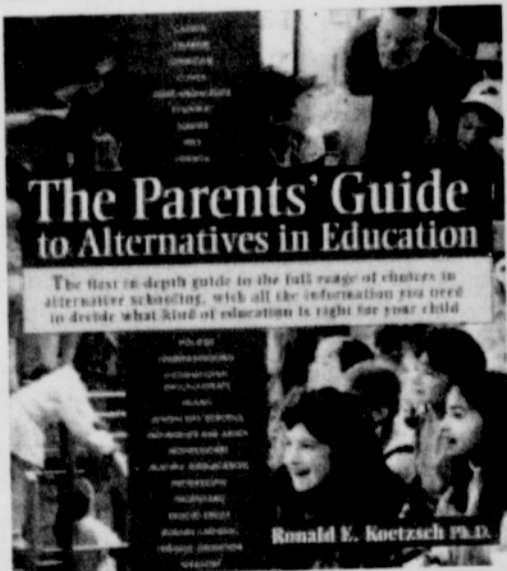
principles, and the practical strategies of each alternative approach to education

- Profiles of representative schools based on visits by the author

- Lists of sources of further information with contact addresses and phone numbers

- An annotated reading list

A final section provides chapters on how to choose a school or start your own school.



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