

After listening to ABC Radio on the topic of boys not doing well in education, I decided to compose this letter.

I was born in 1956, Melbourne and lived in West Brunswick. The only child of European Migrant parents. My father was an abusive alcoholic. On my first day at Moonee Ponds Central I hardly knew any English. By fourth grade I was in top five of the class. As this was a central school it went to form two. I loved English and science, I remember our science teacher taking us to the Moonee Ponds creek and teaching us about ecology and how our survival depended upon the chain of interaction of every living organism.

I won a scholarship to attend Uni. High, but by form four I was failing badly. This was due to the fact that I had become aware of what was going on in the world, and there was and is no respect for the planet. I came to the conclusion that the education system was teaching one thing and the powers that be were doing the absolute opposite. I left school got a job and discovered sex drugs and Rock and Roll.

By twenty three I ran two small businesses and was married. My son was born in 1984 and my daughter was born in 1986. I also had a step daughter who was 13 at this time.

It was two days after my daughter was born that I had my first "psychotic episode". In fact it was an Eastern Mystical experience experienced in Western society.

In the following eight years I was hospitalised 13 times. During those years I read thousands of books to gain knowledge of what I was going through. I now know that I went through the process of awakening the Kundalini. As I had done this without any spiritual training the effects were symptoms of schizophrenia. After being diagnosed as Manic depressive in the morning and paranoid schizophrenic in the afternoon by two different doctors, I resorted to Alternative treatment.

This course cost me my marriage and many thousands of dollars, but I had to regain my sanity.

The world is a complicated place with mixed messages flying around everywhere. My son became troublesome at a very early age at school in primary. He ended up in Eltham High School (No uniforms, middle class suburb). The pressure on his mother and myself being at the lowest end of the income scale to buy brand clothes was enormous. There were drug dealers offering Heroin tasting kits for nothing. I knew he smoked pot the only advice I could give him was never touch tablets or powders and let him smoke.

At the moment he is in the high risk of youth suicide category. He is the perfect archetype of boys gone wrong in our society. And I fear he will become another statistic.

In this Brave New World there is more disinformation than information. The media, the music world, and the internet are a dangerous play ground for young minds. These instruments of communication if regulated could be used to enrich young minds instead of destroying them.

I find that 90% of television is an insult to my intelligence.

Every form of Govt. whether it is Communist, Capitalist or socialist in pure form can build a healthy society.

I love Australia, but some times I wish we had a dictator so we can form our own culture instead of being just another state of America.

Looking at the dysfunctional environment my children were raised in, I suggest you head your study in the direction of the effects of television and other forms of media are having on our children

You could start with a study of when The Simpsons came on our television and the ages of when children watching then and the correlation of boys behaving badly at school.

I truly believe the whole education system has to be overhauled. We are doomed to failure if we plant our seeds in a spiritually bereft society.

I am at a stage of my life were I am still in a healing process and I feel I have a lot to offer to something like a think tank on issues such as these.

I hope my candid letter would be of some use to you.