

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Reflections on the commodification of education

**If schools were restaurants
what would they serve?**

**Would they dish out dull recipes
or cook with originality?**

**Would menus be broad
or devoid of choice?**

**Would customers be forced to clean their plates
whether or not
they fulfilled consumers tastes?**

**What sort of food
would be in the dining space?**

**Would management
care about consumer health
or merely profit rates?**

Satoru: If schools were restaurants, wouldn't most be out of business?

Liao: (shrugging his shoulders) Who knows? All of us need to be more selective about quality control.

Melissa: (nodding enthusiastically) The voices of students seldom count. Wouldn't you say most curricular-menu changes are cosmetic?

Tim: (yawning for a dramatic pause, then pretending to be serious) Yeah. Don't most schools turn students into Mickey-Mouse consumers?

Liao: (gesturing in disagreement) Schools are only partly to blame. The mass media and most home environments make people dumber than they should be.

Satoru: In cynical moments, I wonder if that's merely an accident. . .

- T Newfields

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