

FOURTEEN RULES

(That you won't learn in school - Charles J. Sykes)

1. Life is not fair. Get used to it.
2. The real world won't care about your self-esteem. It will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.
3. You will NOT make \$40,000 a year right out of high school. And you won't be a vice president with a company car, until you earn both.
4. If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss. He doesn't have tenure. When you mess up, he is not going to ask you how you feel about it.
5. Flipping burgers is NOT beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping: opportunity. They weren't embarrassed making minimum wage either.
6. It's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes. Learn from them and take responsibility.
7. Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So, before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try "delousing" the closet in your own room.
8. Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not. In some schools they have abolished failing grades; they'll give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.
9. Life is NOT divided into semesters, and you don't get summers off. Employers expect you to show up every day, for EIGHT HOURS, and very few are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.
10. Television is NOT real life. Your problems will not be solved in 30 minutes. In real life, people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.
11. Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.
12. Smoking does NOT make you look cool. It makes you look moronic.
13. You are not immortal.
14. Enjoy this while you can. Sure parents are a pain, school's a bother, and life can be depressing. But, someday you'll realize how wonderful it was to be a kid. Start now. You're welcome.