

**DON'T GO
TO COLLEGE,
GO TO EUROPE
FOR LESS**



***Don't Go to College,
Go to Europe for Less***

Jimmy Huston

International Edition

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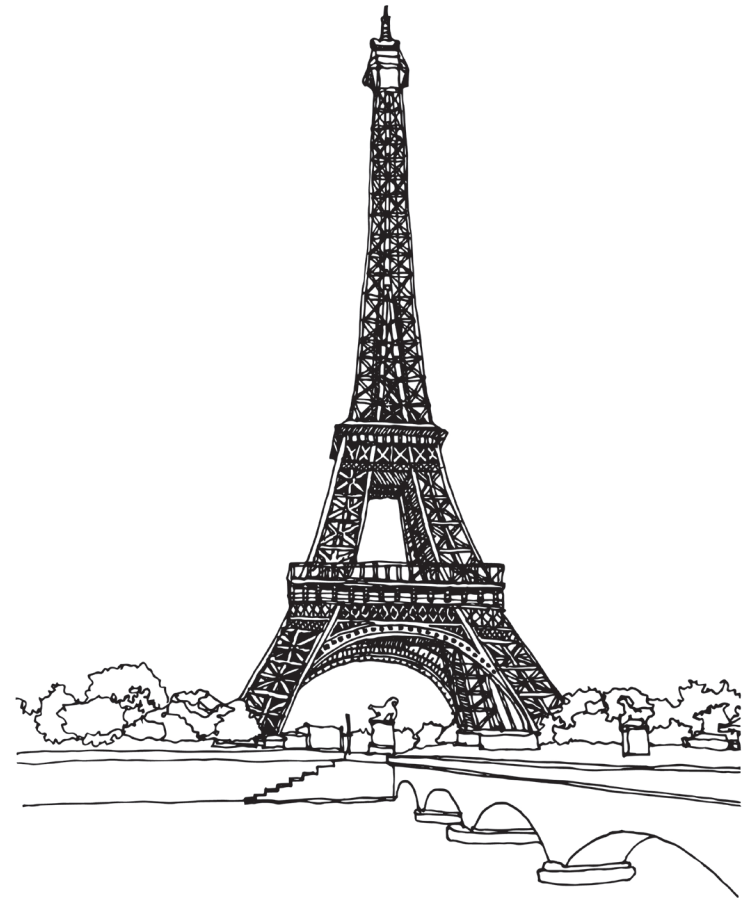
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This book is dedicated to paying off student loans.

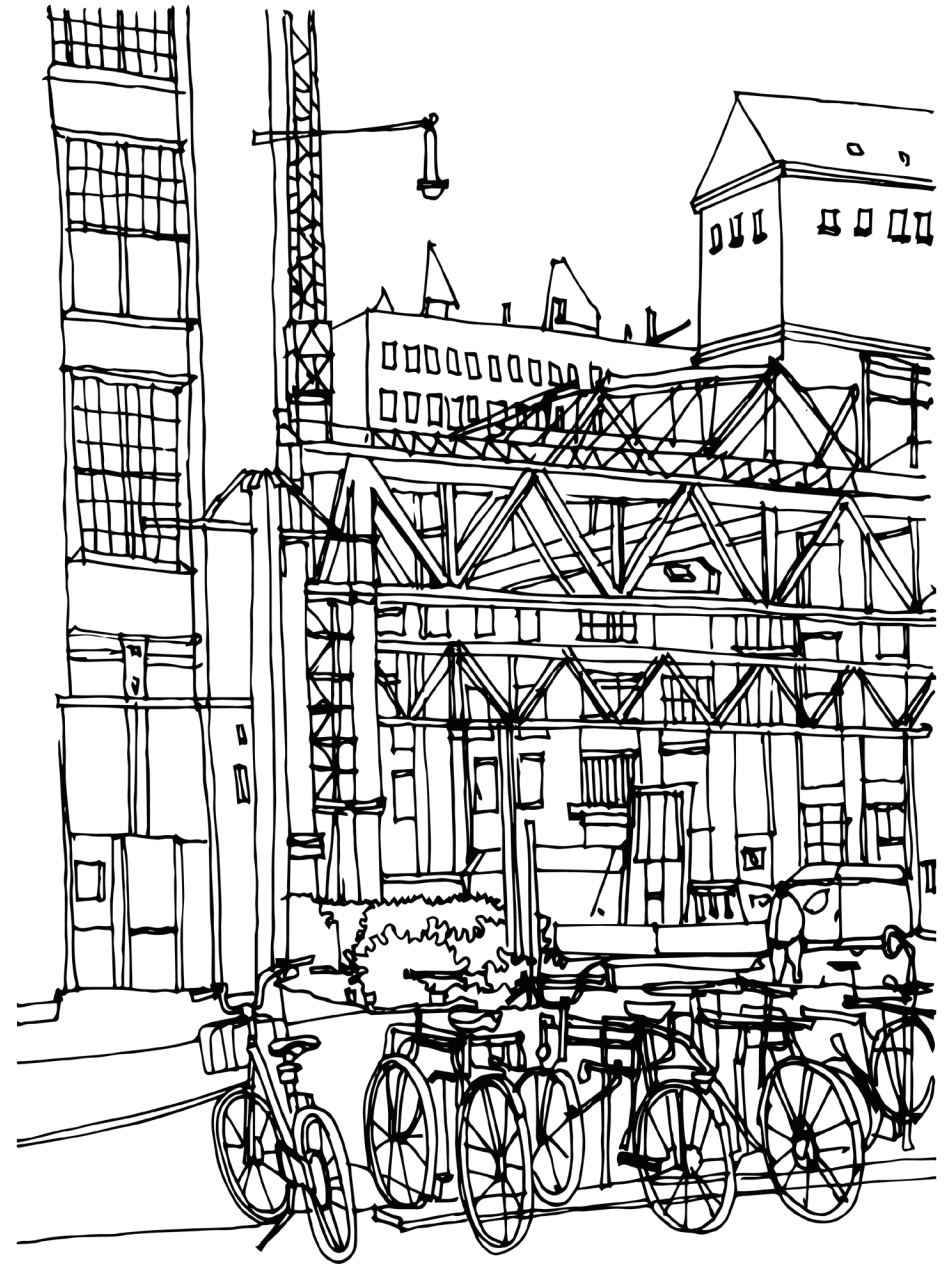


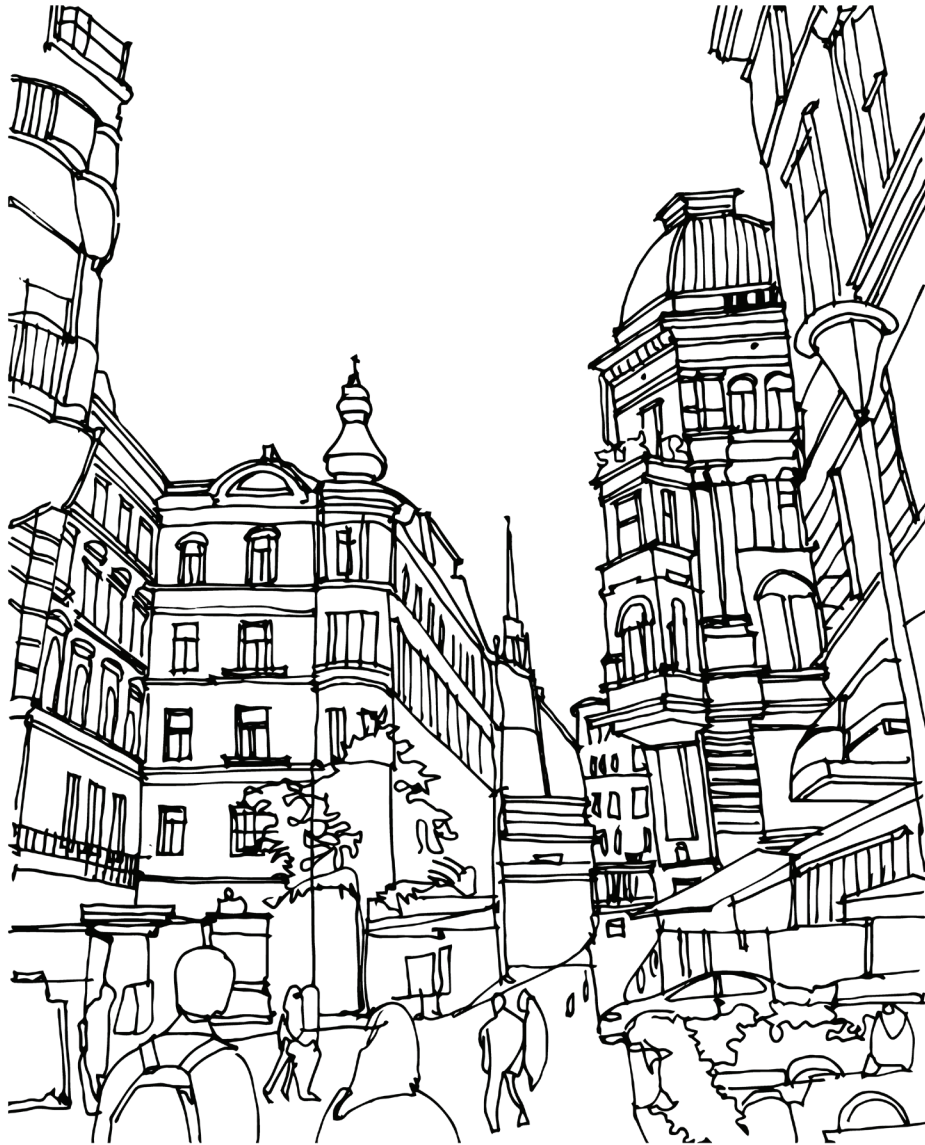
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Top Ten Reasons Not to Go to College

1. Too damned expensive.
2. Costs too much.
3. Ridiculously out of reach financially.
4. You can't afford it.
5. You don't have enough money.
6. It's really just for rich folks.
7. Priced out of reach.
8. Not worth the money.
9. Overslept.
10. Too damned expensive.





Introduction

This is a silly book.

You already know the general premise and you know it's ridiculous – but you're reading anyway. That's good. It may mean that you have an open mind (which college would probably slam shut).

This book isn't for everyone. If you're going to be a surgeon, by all means go to college. Or an astronaut. You'll go to Europe later, when you're in your fifties. Sure, you'll be looking at all the kids around you having fun and wishing you'd done it earlier, but you'll know you made the practical decision instead. Good for you.

Granted, there are many fields where resumes are critical and studies are essential, so perhaps college is for you. Good luck, and please hand this book to

another kid (or parent).

If, however, you're having doubts, this book provides an arguably acceptable alternative.

It would be spurious to suggest that Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, and Steve Jobs were college dropouts, except that – well, they were. Admittedly, their situation is not remotely the same as yours but things worked out pretty well for them as they transformed modern life around the entire globe and became incredibly wealthy. But – their parents wanted them to go to college.

There is no rational conventional explanation for these dropouts' behavior, going against the grain in every sense. They'll be sorry. No reunion.

Most readers of this book are probably high schoolers who are approaching graduation. Maybe you've looked around and noticed that you can't get a very good job with just a high school diploma. To most bosses you're still a kid and you don't know much about anything. They're not about to give you a high paying job, or even a decent paying job. You're too damn young. So maybe you should hide out in college for four years.

That's the grownups' dirty little secret – that college is just to keep you off the streets until you're old enough to get a decent job. Sure, you'll learn something in college, but you'd also learn stuff if you spent four years in prison or just about anywhere else except for a coma.

You've already been in school for twelve or more

years and that didn't do it. Why is another four years going to suddenly do the trick? Maybe there's another way.

There's Europe.

This is *not* a vacation. To be successful you will have to put every bit as much work and thought into this venture as you would four years of college. As a result, you will inadvertently become educated.

No tests. No grades. No student debt.

This is a serious book.



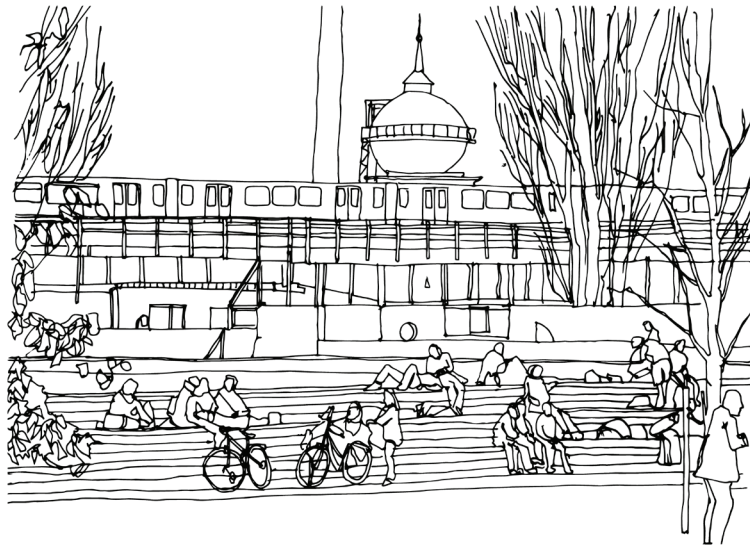
Chapter One

Skip College? Really?

After high school, Federico Fellini enrolled in law school, but never attended a single class. A college dropout – doomed – he barely won five Oscars, the Legion of Honor, and the Praemium Imperiale, considered to be on the level of the Nobel Prize.

Admittedly, this book presents a dangerous idea. In order for it to work, you'll have to be ambitious, aggressive, relentless, and personable. You're going to have to rethink everything you know about how things work – but then that's the whole idea anyway.

Instead of spending four years in some stupid dorm room living with a stranger chosen at random



– spend that time traveling in Europe.

You're not going to be a tourist – a visitor. You're going to be a *resident*. An urban guerrilla.

You probably have doubts about college already. Maybe it's been "the plan" for as long as you can remember. Maybe your parents expect it. Or demand it.

But –

College is static. Even the best college is essentially a bunch of buildings with lots of people scrambling around inside them, trying to gain an edge. In any college you're going to spend a lot of time sitting in a room listening to someone tell you things that you won't remember. Sure, there'll be activities and projects and discussions, but it's mostly a crock.

There's always the chance that you'll meet a wise man or woman who will mentor you and change your life. But ask around. It happens, but not for

everyone. Not for most people. Most of your teachers and professors are only concerned about getting published, or applying for a grant, or reaching tenure. The rest of your instructors will be graduate students who are only a few pages ahead of you in the textbook.

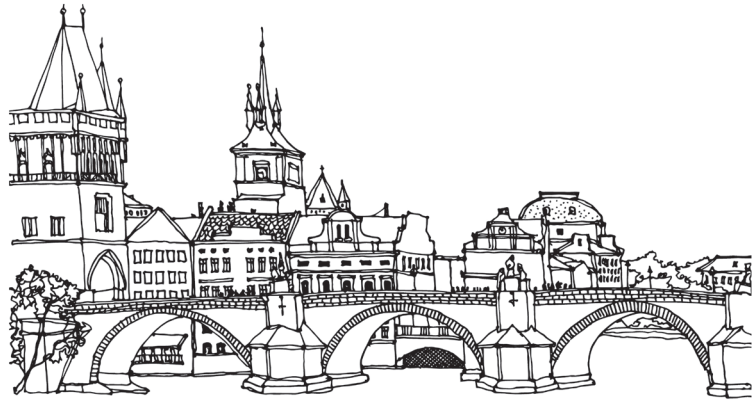
In olden days, young men would leave home and travel to places of distinction to learn the ways of the world and seek their fortunes. Even the young women of renowned had to strike out on their own, though it wasn't usually approved of.

So, besides your parents, who's been telling you that you need a college degree?

Teachers!

What does college do? It provides jobs for teachers! And it creates too many college graduates who aren't qualified to do anything except teach, thus extending the cycle. By the way, ask your teachers if they've been to Europe. Many can't afford it because they're paying off student loans.

College is not the only path and there are certainly young people who are not college bound. Plenty of good, honorable jobs require training, but not college. There are factory jobs, service jobs, construction jobs, and such – mostly good-paying blue collar jobs – and some even offer the possibility of advancement into careers in management. It's worth mentioning that many of these jobs require physical labor and some of them require workers to get dirty. There's nothing wrong with that, but it's a choice



you have to live with, perhaps for a long, long time.

Traditional apprenticeships have been around for centuries, preparing young people for jobs. These paths were rigid and tedious, never leading beyond the trade they supported, but they worked.

Today, some non-college kids choose to enlist in the armed forces, partly because of the siren call to “See the World!” The assumption is that their time in the service will provide a broad spectrum of experience, training and, in many cases, travel to exotic lands. That sounds like a good idea.

The hidden flaw in this course of action is that there is a tacit, unspoken understanding that your primary obligation is to support an unspecified potential war effort. In other words, you may be expected to kill. Even worse, there is a reciprocal possibility that people will try to kill you. The reason no one expresses this clearly is that it’s quite a bad deal.

No matter what the recruiter swears to you, there

is a very legal and serious hidden clause that says they have the right to ignore all their promises and put you to work wherever they need you – including combat.

So how do all these choices fail, thus justifying your going to Europe instead of attending college? Is this rational? How can it possibly work? Are you insane?

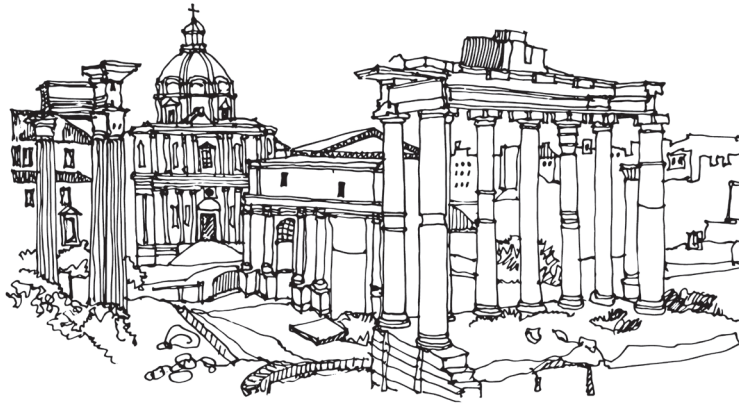
Think of this European expedition as your “walk-about.” When a young Australian Aborigine approaches manhood, he sets off alone into the wilderness to prove he’s ready to be an adult.

Likewise, the Mormon church sends its young men all around the world for two years as missionaries. This is meant to spread the word about their religion, but it’s also a period of maturation for the young men, exposing them to the ways of the world and teaching them to manage their goals.

The Amish have *rumspringa*, a time when a young person is allowed to leave the familiar surroundings of the like-minded and be exposed to the rest of the world’s peculiarities.

So college isn’t the only path to knowledge. There are multitudes of unexpected paths to success and countless examples of successful people who never attended college.

If Herman Melville hadn’t spent his twenties as a sailor on whaling ships, *Moby Dick* might have merely been a story about a white cow chasing someone around a pasture. Would he have been a



better writer if he'd gone to college? Really?

The father of our country, George Washington, never went to college. Although he traveled to Barbados at twenty-one (where he contracted smallpox), he received his "education" on his return when he commanded the Virginia militia during the French and Indian War, successfully leading a critical ambush in the initial battle. This experience led directly to his becoming Commander in Chief of the American Army and the first President of the United States. He didn't need a resume.

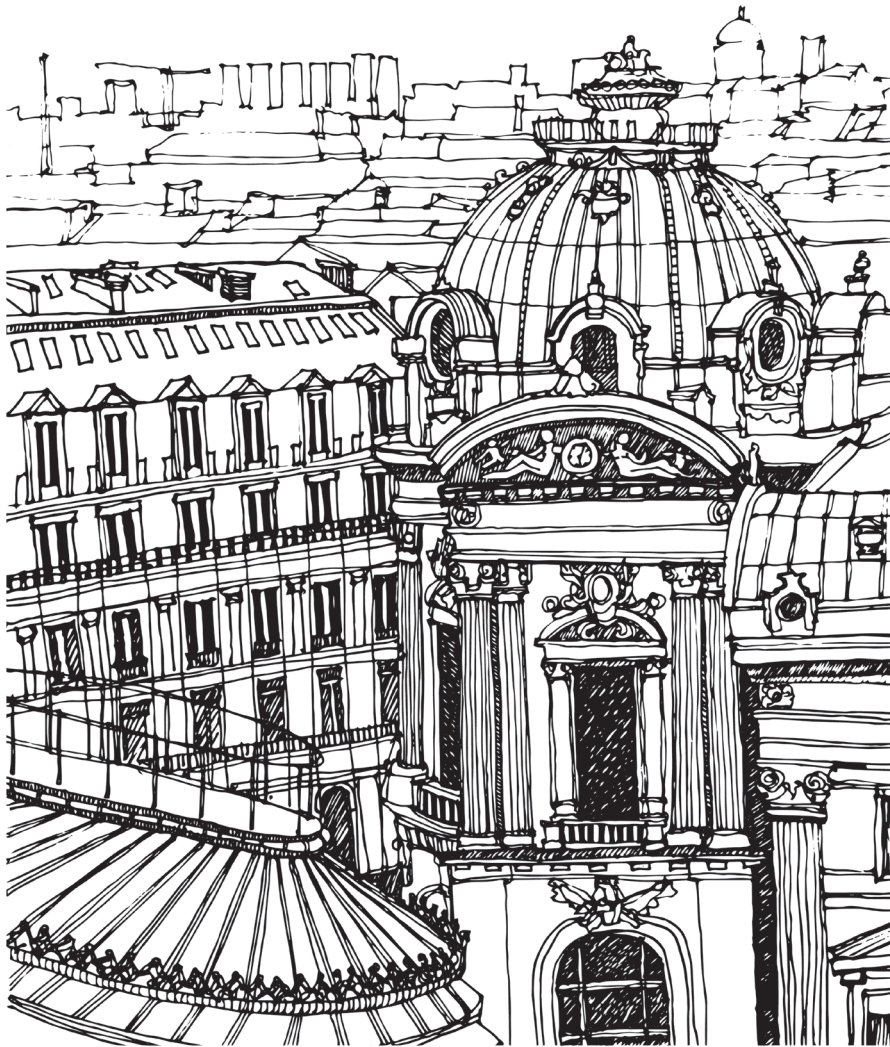
Benjamin Franklin traveled to London at an early age where he worked in a print shop instead of attending college. That experience helped him on his path to become a well known writer, as well as a renowned inventor and political figure. His time abroad, among other things, led to his becoming a diplomat to France during the Revolutionary War.

Even Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness. No college whatsoever.

Yes, of course, things have changed since those guys struck out on their own to make their fortunes, but talk to some adults in today's work force. Ask them what they studied in college. Many, many people do not work in their college field of study. In some cases it's because a different opportunity presented itself. Some of these people find that their interests have changed. Others are unable to find jobs that match their years of preparation. There are no guarantees.

This book offers that same guarantee – none whatsoever.

Nevertheless, you are going to take the money that you and your parents were planning to pay your college and you are going to spend it on yourself – in Europe. You are going to *invest* that money in yourself. And, along the way, you're going to have the time of your life.



Chapter Two

Travel the World? Really?

Amelia Earhart quit college on several occasions, never graduating, yet she was allowed to teach college. That may be all you need to know about college. (She was also interested in aviation.)

This is not about a gap year. If you can afford a gap year, that's great. Have fun.

This book is about all the kids who don't know what the hell they want to do and, for no good reason, are about to settle for some arbitrary college program and hundreds of thousands of dollars in student loan debt.

Colleges today push study abroad as a major as-

Pages 14-113 are not shown in this sample.

Is this crazy?
**EUROPE
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THAN COLLEGE!**

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