

NO CHILD LEFT

by

Craig Pospisil

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(MRS. O'REILLY, a primly dressed woman, enters with an armload of books. She smiles out to the audience.)

MRS. O'REILLY

Good morning, class. Welcome back. I hope you all had a nice vacation. I'm your new teacher, Mrs. O'Reilly, and I'm very happy to be here, shaping your young minds. What? No, Miss Lincoln won't be coming back. No, I don't know why, but it had nothing to do with her remarks about the president. And I'm certainly not going to spread any of those awful rumors that she's a drug addicted whore.

Now, there are some very exciting changes here at school, and it's all thanks to President Bush, who doesn't want any of you to be left behind. Isn't that wonderful?

The first thing you should know is there will be a lot of tests coming up, and those of you who don't do well on those tests will be responsible when the government cuts funds for this school. But let's not dwell on which of you will be ruining things for everyone else. First, I want everyone to get out their old text books, because we need to go over some of the changes, so we can be prepared to answer President Bush's question: Is our children learning?

Let's start with English. Now, English is very important, because we all need it to be able to read and write and even talk. Isn't that right, Jose? Habla Ingles? Oh, you do? Well, what a surprise.

Now, in the past people have made English much harder than it should be. This year I'll teach you that the great thing about English is that it's so adaptablistic. Now, I bet some of you are thinking, "Wait, 'adaptablistic' isn't a word." But you'd be wrong. Because one of the new things you'll be learning is that it's perfectly all right to make up new words.

From now on, if you squish a couple words together or

MRS. O'REILLY (CONT.)

add extra syllables, but people can still guesstimate what you mean, then you've invented a new word. And you'll get extra credit for that. And it doesn't mean you're dumb, don't know what you're talking about, or you're trying to duck a question from some pesky reporter.

English is hard. Just ask little Juan up here. Hmm? Right, right, Jose, whatever. What are all these tenses: past, present, future, pluperfect? What do those things really mean, and Why do they have to "agree?" Don't we know what someone means when they say "Teach a child to read, and he or her will be able to pass a literacy test?" Or "Reading is the basics for all learning." Of course we do. All right, let's move on to history.

Have you ever wondered how we know what really happened in the past? Is it just because somebody wrote something down? What if history books were written by angry, bitter people, like Democrats, who didn't get to turn America into a godless, socialist nightmare and decided to make up a bunch of stuff? Wouldn't it be awful if we taught you things that weren't true?

You bet it would. And that's why our school has ordered new history text books that are being written by the fair and balanced people at Fox News. They'll write about what really happened all those years ago in Vietnam, Iraq and Florida and Ohio, and let you decide what's right and what's a lot of nonsense made up by sore losers.

Okay, next is math. Now you might think, "Math is math. It can't change." but you'd be as wrong as the Democrats, who think life isn't sacred and want to kill little babies not much younger than you. The new thing I'll teach you is that everything thing is the opposite of what it seems.

For example, I'm sure you've all heard of the economy. Can anyone tell me what it is? Put your hand down, Jose. When people talk about the economy what they mean is, "How much money do your mommy and daddy have?" Now a few years ago, our government had what's called a surplus. That's from Latin. "Sur" meaning "above" or

MRS. O'REILLY (CONT.)

“beyond” and “plus” meaning “plus.” Back then America had double plus more money than it needed. That’s a very good thing for a person or for a business, but it’s very bad for a country. When a country has extra money it wastes it protecting butterfly habitats, or teaching sex education, when all you need to know is that if you have sex before marriage you’ll die and go to hell. And how terrible that that money isn’t out in the economy where the deserving and put-upon top 5% of the people can use it to make more money. So, President Bush decided to make the government steal less from your mommy and daddy, and spend more on important things, like bailing out companies like Enron or paying workers’ pensions when an airline decides it doesn’t want to anymore.

Thankfully, America now has a deficit, which means we don’t have enough money to pay for things, and have to borrow money to be able to bail out more companies. Which is good, because that means money is out in the economy as God intended. That’s why our money says, “In God we trust.” So, in short, positive is negative and negative is positive, okay?

Let’s move on. Science, . . . well, the less said about that the better. This book is filled with more unfacts than a filibustering Democrat. Just look at the table of contents: “Darwin and Evolution,” “The Big Bang,” “Global Warming.” It just makes me want to vomit. I’d have you rip out those pages, but there’d be nothing left. So I want each of you to throw the whole book away and pick up your new text book. Did you all find a copy of that new text book on your desks? The one labeled “the Holy Bible?” Yes? Good.

What’s that, Rachel? Religion? Well, yes, it is religion. It’s also the bedrock this nation was founded on. What? The Constitution? I don’t think I like your tone, young lady. In fact, I think you’d better march right down to the principal’s office so he can call your parents and tell them you’ve been suspended. That’s right, get going. Move it! Anyone else? I didn’t think so.

I’m sorry about that, boys and girls. It’s always upsetting

MRS. O'REILLY (CONT.)

to find there are people in this country who just don't love America. But don't you worry. Our president is doing everything he can to get rid of them.

Now, before we get started, please stand and join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The new words are posted on the wall. Right next to the Ten Commandments.

(She places her right hand over her heart.)

I pledge allegiance to the God of the United States of America, and to the Right public which stands Him up, one nation, with one god, united, not divided, with liberty and justice for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

(She gives a fascist salute, but with three fingers splayed out like a "W" instead of with a flat hand.

She holds as the lights fade to black.)