

*Anaya, Rudolfo - "Bless me Ultima" - Censorship-Banned Books*

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**Norwood**

**schools ban book**

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**KRO**

Feb 3 2005, 06:26 PM

By Electa Draper  
Denver Post Staff Writer  
Thursday, February 03, 2005 -

Superintendent upset by profanity in "Bless Me, Ultima"

EXCERPT

The Norwood superintendent of schools has banned an internationally acclaimed book because, he said, it is too full of profanity for English classes at the 96-student high school.

Superintendent Bob Conder said some parents were offended by obscene language and paganistic practices in "Bless Me, Ultima," a 1972 coming-of-age novel by Rudolfo Anaya about a 7-year-old boy who experiences life through the different prisms of his staunch-Catholic mother Luna and Ultima, a curandera who uses herbs and magic to heal.

"There weren't so many parents who were concerned, but when it was brought to my attention I was concerned," Conder said Wednesday. "It's less a matter of censorship than a matter of sponsorship. That's not the kind of garbage I want to sponsor at this high school."

Conder, who hasn't read the book in its entirety, said his main concern was "filthy" language. He granted a parent's request that he turn over two dozen of the books so that the parent could destroy them. He said the teacher who ordered the book has apologized for an error in judgment in a letter to parents. She won't be disciplined, he said.

Anaya, a professor emeritus of English at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, said he wasn't surprised that parents and educators who haven't read the book would be frightened by harsh language when plucked randomly from the story.

/VV\snip/VV\

President Bush awarded Anaya the National Medal of Arts in 2002. First lady Laura Bush has listed "Bless Me, Ultima" as ninth on a list of 12 books that she highly recommends.

/VV\snip/VV\

Full Story:

<http://www.denverpost.com/cda/article/prin...2689296,00.html>

### DoD Smackdown

Feb 3 2005, 06:37 PM

Who cares? \* It's not as if the kids haven't seen or heard profanity before.

\* (about the profanity, I mean, not the banning of the book.)

### Firestorm

Feb 3 2005, 06:41 PM



That was one of the books I read back in high school.

Folks, that jackass of a principal has clearly over-reacted. Just read back at his words.

Cursing? Yeah. Death? Yeah. House of ill repute? Yeah. Does the overall message of the book inspire enough to be allowed in a classroom? Yeah.

### Jamescush

Feb 3 2005, 06:51 PM

**Conder, who hasn't read the book in its entirety, said his main concern was "filthy" language. He granted a parent's request that he turn over two dozen of the books so that the parent could destroy them**

Will they be making S'Mores while they book burn?



### JDavidB

Feb 4 2005, 08:11 AM

Why do we want our educators to stoop to the lowest form of literature and language? We hear profanity and gutter language all the time, but why? There are so many wonderful words and books to choose and use, why do we recommend the vile ones? (That being said, who decides what are bad words?) Lets publish "A Rapper's View of the Galaxy" and include all the gangsta rap crap and put that in our schools. Would that be OK? Let me be clear: DO NOT BAN OR DESTROY ANY BOOK!! Let's recommend great books to our students to read--Lord knows they read precious little as it is. (ramble ramble ramble)

**va1**

Feb 4 2005, 11:59 AM

This is a sneaky way of getting the kids to read,if you tell them they can't read or ban it they will find a way to read it and see what all the fuss is about,remember when you were a kid, and Mom said no cookies, well that was a challenge to find some way to get the cookies and not get caught. Very clever

**lawstud6**

Feb 4 2005, 12:19 PM

Parents concerned about cussing?????? Geeeee, for real cussing, just hang out on the hockey teams bench during a game. It's a real education!!

**I\_Am\_the\_Lizard\_Queen**

Feb 4 2005, 12:29 PM

The Catcher in the Rye has a lot of profanity in it. Should that book be banned, in spite of its message? I'm sorry, but I don't believe in banning books. We're reading Huckleberry Finn in English. That one's been banned from everywhere for every reason from the 'n-word' to the lesbian couple and Huck and Jim's 'gay' relationship. It's stupid. Kids should be mature enough to handle some dirty language.

-Lizzie

**Buster**

Feb 4 2005, 12:57 PM

A 96-student school? Must be a very small town. It's probably just a case of "small-town values" here. It's not the end of the world.

**Mrdirt73**

Feb 4 2005, 01:03 PM

**QUOTE(va1 @ Feb 4 2005, 11:59 AM)**

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Sooooo, that's why my parents said no to broccoli?

Anyway, I have no problem with the principle taking this off the reading list if several parents want it off. I do think that it is a little ridiculous to turn all the books over to the parent for a book burning. They should have just been put in the school library, or donated to a nearby library.

**JimNEPA**

Feb 4 2005, 01:18 PM

I had to read "Alive" in the 9th grade. How do they feel about being forced to read about real-life **cannabilism?** (even if I'm not sure how to spell it.)

**grimvader**

Feb 4 2005, 03:09 PM

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Hey man, I had to read a lot of Edgar Allen Poe in highschool. And if memory serves, he didn't write about bunnies and stuff.

Grim

**floridamom**

Feb 4 2005, 03:24 PM

The school principal and the students' parents have every right to have a say in what the school is endorsing through it's curriculum. It's not like these kids can't go buy the book if they want.

**Lori**

Feb 4 2005, 04:09 PM

**QUOTE(Jamescush @ Feb 3 2005, 08:51 PM)**

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Roasted marshmallows are yummy.



<- roasted marshmallows

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Grim



Oh man that would have been cool!!!

Dead, drunk and vengeful bunnies!!!

Quoth the Bunny: NEVERMORE!!!

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