

MAN #1 OR WOMAN #1

*Note: PRINCIPAL NELSON is played by one actor and all of the other characters are played by another actor. Please be prepared to read for both the PRINCIPAL NELSON track as well as the MULTIPLE CHARACTER track (being conscious of the contrast between each character).*

PRINCIPAL NELSON

Being a principal is like being a juggler, a therapist and a roller derby player all in one. It is my life's work to solve problems, and I get it done, and no one knows how I do it. Heck, I don't even know how, but each night, I know I've made the world a better place than it was in the morning. I make people happy, even if they don't get what they want. I pride myself on my tact and live by a code: You can tell someone to go to hell, but if you do it the right way, they'll look forward to the trip. I can't imagine any other life than this. Being a principal has been a dream come true. I know retirement approaches, but I got a few good years left in me. I can solve any prob -

(the phone  
rings) Jackie Nelson here.

ANGRY MAN

You know you're going to hell.

(CLICK dial tone)

PRINCIPAL NELSON

Parents often call with their concerns and needs. Because he got off the phone so quickly, I wasn't able to really know what his were and hence he did not let me do my work. I can only imagine why I'm going to hell. Perhaps it's the library carrying Huck Finn. We get that alot.

(The phone rings)

TIMID WOMAN

Principal Nelson, this is Margaret Downing. My son Sean is in the tenth grade and he is auditioning for the school musical.

PRINCIPAL NELSON

Congratulations. I encourage all the students to audition.

TIMID WOMAN

You need to choose another show. That show's all about hookers.

PRINCIPAL NELSON

I will take that under advisement. Thank you, Ms.

Downing. (hangs up, then)

Parents have the right to express their concern, and the parents entrust me to set a tone. Hookers? Hmmm, I don't recall that in the script.

(Phone rings)

Each day I come to my office, the phone rings, and like a fireman, I get to put out the fire, but lately, the alarms are ringing more frequently and well, with raised volumes. (ring)

ANGRY MOTHER

This show says that it's okay to knock off an ATM instead of getting a real job.

(ring)

ANGRY FATHER

This show says that there's no consequences of doing drugs and having sex.

(ring)

ANGRY MOTHER

This show tells you that performance art is an accepted form of expressing yourself.

(ring)

SNOOTY OLD MAN

I'm just not a fan. All the music sounds the same. Give me a good Jerry Herman showtune.

CALM FATHER

It just sends the wrong message. Look, as much as I don't wanna admit it, I know my daughter is well-aware that there are gays out there and that folks her age do drugs, but this show glorifies some very dangerous behavior.

PRINCIPAL NELSON

When Mr. Powell told me he wanted to do this show, he told me that this show is bigger than the songs and the story and the characters, that when he saw it, there was a feeling of community on stage so big it spread over the 1200 or so people in the audience. The show is about friendship and love and hope and

PARENT 1

Sex.

PARENT 2

Drugs.

PARENT 3

Homosexuality

PARENT 4

Lying.

PARENT 5

Stealing.

PARENT 6

Hating your parents

PARENT 7

It's anti-family

PARENT 8

It's anti-American.

PRINCIPAL

NELSON (losing it)

Thank you for your concern! Please let me get back to  
you! (calming down, then:)

Like I said, being a principal is like being a juggler, a  
therapist and a roller derby player all in one. And a  
punching bag.

(presses a button on her desk)

Mr. Powell, will you please come to my office? Thank you.

DAVE AT THE SCHOOLBOARD MEETING

DAVE

Thank you, Margaret, for the treasury report. Okay, I see old business is wrapped up? Any new business? No? Okay, I think the meeting is done.

(Angry mob reaction)

Whoa - easy there, just kidding, trying to lighten things up. Tough room. It's been pretty tense, as you all know. That's why we're here at the auditorium since the town hall couldn't accommodate all the people who wanted to talk tonight. It's nice to see so many faces here. So many angry faces. Yikes.

(no one is amused. He's trying)

Okay, well, our purpose here is to hear everyone out at this meeting, and then we will take everything into account, make a decision, and let y'all know next week. It's in our by-laws to open the floor to an open debate. So I hope everyone brought their crash helmets.

(checks the mic)

Is this thing on? All right, who would like to go first

