

I want to thank you, the people ... the learners ... for selecting me as all-around outstanding citizen, scholar, athlete, music and drama student. I do not wish to dwell on my accomplishments. Those are known to you only too well. If you are not familiar with my resume, I will have it posted with an autographed picture on my professional web site.

Even though it may be disappointing to you, I will close now. Again, my appreciation for the life-sized statue and the nice plaque. Coming to this award ceremony was optional and I'm flattered that the entire student body chose to attend. Thank you and good night. *(starts to walk away, then looks at the actual audience.) (The speech was in high style. This ending is conversational.)* Practice makes perfect. Well, there you are. That's my acceptance speech. Now ... if I ever win anything, I'm ready.

END

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#130 - The Prize

by Robert L. Crowe

(The speaker is pretending to get an award and pretending that all school students have come to hear his speech. Only at the conclusion does the real audience know that this is a practice run.) Thank you. Thank you. I am humbled by that introduction, even though everything he said about me was true. I am especially proud to be the first recipient of this award and it makes my little heart go pitty-pat to know that everyone in this school was considered ... but it is my name that goes at the top of the trophy. There sits Maynard Kelp, King of the May Dance and captain of the Sudoku team. And over there is Mary Lou Regis, the prettiest girl in the second row of our social studies class. And there are so many other deserving candidates.



While I have the microphone, I would beg a few minutes of your time to reflect upon my academic career. There have been some ups and downs and perhaps some of you choose to dwell on the negative ... those of you who choose to look at the world as a glass 3/4ths empty instead of half full. Perhaps some notes of explanation will help.

First, there was the unfortunate incident about me not being able to get my locker open. Of course, the fact that I was inside the locker at the time added to my

difficulty. I was not ... as some suggested ... hiding from algebra. I was conducting a stake-out to see if I could catch the thief who has been pilfering Milk Duds from my locker. I strongly suspect that it was the thief who gave me the final nudge that wedged my hips against the sides of the locker. Luckily, the night custodian finally heard my scratching ... and I did have the Milk Duds for nourishment.

The panic in the cafeteria is easily explained. When I went through the lunchroom yelling, “Code Orange. Code Orange” it had nothing to do with national security as hundreds of you believed. Perry Whitmore threw an orange at me because I wouldn’t trade him my peanut butter sandwich for his aluminum-foil-wrapped cold broccoli casserole. His mother, as you know, is an award winner with that recipe but that gives him no right to force a trade.

It is true that I ran for class president and didn’t win, which makes today’s recognition even more sweet. I think I could have pulled off the election if the county underwater search team had come at a different time. It was when I stopped my campaign speech to get a drink, that the water fountain got stuck. I truly believe the school secretary over-reacted to my somewhat incoherent yelling about the possible basement flood. The authorities did arrive quickly, though, didn’t they? Let’s give it up for the underwater search and rescue team. *(gives a few feeble claps.)*

Perhaps the most surprised in this school about me receiving this top award are my classmates in Science class. I have explained numerous times that I was trying to create Eggs Benedict to serve as a mid-morning treat. However, I created a new learning situation. It would be many years before we would ordinarily learn how to make hydrogen sulfide gas.... H_2S ... for those who like crossword puzzles. The smell of rotten eggs would have been confined to the classroom if there had not been a strong wind from the south. I learned ... we all learned ... that hydrogen has many uses. I’m pleased to be part of your learning process, however uncomfortable it might have been for a few hours.

Finally, I want you to know that I still have the firm conviction that rules are there to be followed. Having said that, I agree that the campus lock-down was unfortunate. That happened the afternoon that I saw Larry Litchfield with the chewing gum. We all know that chewing gum is strictly against the rules and we all know why. Just think if everyone was smacking chewing gum and spitting it on the floor for the entrapment of our shoes. When I saw Larry pop that stick of gum into his big mouth, I simply wanted to point out that fact when I yelled, “He’s got gum. He’s got gum!” The 911 operator said that 534 of you called in about the same time. The resulting alarm cannot be blamed on me. I think the FBI swat team caused a lot of the confusion.