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# THE ENQUIRER

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Last Updated: 1:45 pm | Saturday, May 24, 2008

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# Dayton Class of '08 hears '53 alum

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

**THE SCHOOL:** Dayton High School

**WHERE:** The gymnasium

**THE SCENE:**

Rainy weather moved the graduation from the football field into the gym, but it didn't dampen the spirits of the graduates. They entered the gym two-by-two, reached the basketball baseline under the raised backboard and marched to half court, where they split up and walked individually to their seats under the opposing raised goal - all to the cheers, and a bull horn, of friends and families.

**GRADUATES:**

61 graduates. Women wore white robes and caps with white and green tassels. Men wore green robes and caps with green and white tassels.

**THE SPEAKER:** Russell Brewer, Dayton Class of '53.

**WHAT HE SAID:**

"What an honor it is for me to come back 55 years after graduation. Imagine, if you will, going home, hanging your diploma on the wall and being asked in 2063 to come back and speak."

He spoke to them, "Senior to seniors."

**DAYTON TRADITION:**

This was the 118th class of Dayton High School. On the 100th anniversary, 1990, faculty began wearing robes and hoods and marching with the students.

**ONE LAST TIME:**

Faculty tried to keep the students corralled before the ceremony in the school library across the hall from the gym.

"I have to say hello to my mother," said one escaping girl.

"You can say hello to her later," countered a guidance counselor.

"I have to go to the bathroom then," said the girl.

Smiling, the counselor relented.

**STILL ROOTING FOR THE HOME TEAM:**

Although there was no opposing team, parents and family filled the "Home" side of the gym first. Latecomers - reluctantly - trickled to the "Visitors" side. By show time, it was standing room only.

**BRITNEY BARNES? BRITNEY BARNES?:** The name went down the line as a stern-looking man in a checked shirt and jeans holding a bouquet of pink and white roses entered the library. Brittney weaves her way to the front of the line, takes the roses, trades kisses with her grandfather and returns to her place. Next time he kisses her she'll be a graduate.

"He comes to everything," a teacher said.

"That's what she would have wanted," said Brittney's grandmother.

Did she mean the roses or to see her grandfather?

**PROUD FATHER?:**

A man entered the gym late. Looped around one arm is a camera. Around the other is a baby in a bassinette. The baby hand holds a camera; the other hand is frantically texting. He spots his party and a woman relieves him of ... the baby.

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