

DETROIT NATIVE SUN

Telford Telescope: Athletes, Activism, & Apple Boughs

Top tips to win a college scholarship

By Dr. John Telford
SUN COLUMNIST



My second book of poetry--'Athletes, Activism, & Apple Boughs - A DETROIT Poetic Epic'--is out now. (See its cover featuring photos of athletes I raced against or coached and of the many ladies in my long life.) Having outrun five Olympic gold medalists, and having coached high school and collegiate champions, I poeticize those experiences in the 'Athletes' part of the book's title in this collection of hundreds of poems; e.g., my quatrain 'The Great Gray Ghost' - Hannibal and Balthazar / Cast him stardust from a star. / He was famed from near and far-- / Olympic sprinter Henry Carr. (Hannibal and Balthazar were historic African figures. I had a hand in coaching future Olympic 200-meter champion Carr when in 1961 he tied the world 220-yard record as a student at Northwestern High, where the school colors are red and gray.)

Having been a lifelong human-rights crusader as well, I thus also poeticize my reflections as a social activist; e.g., in the book's parts titled 'Activism' is my meta-

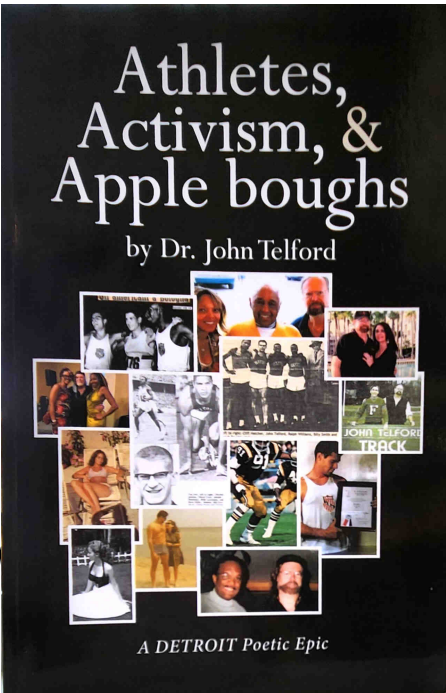
Huger than the heaving
ferns, Looming higher than a hill,
The Thunder Thing at night returns
To seek and find and pounce and kill.
Jungle fires in the night
Flicker into spreading flame
To cast their blazing, blood-red light
Upon the hunter's hiding game.
Found, the tiny quarry flees:
Teeth like scimitars gleam wet
And drip, descending, pierce and seize:
The killer gulps and rears erect.
Body shining slimy red,
Horrid red the staring eye,
Tyrannosaurus turns its head
To move against the midnight sky.
Might once more in fiery glare,
On a new primeval heath,
A brute stalk forth to crush and tear
And cancel history in its teeth?

phorical poem 'Rex Reborn' -
(When I wrote 'Rex Reborn', the 'brute' was
the threat of U.S. - Soviet mutual mass

nuclear annihilation. In those 'Activism' parts, I also include ardent pro-Democrat/ anti-ReTRUMPlican poems.)

In the portions of the book titled 'Apple Boughs' I invoke the introductory poetic line "Now as I was young and easy under the apple boughs" by the late Welsh poet Dylan Thomas, and in those portions I aptly lyricize my eight decades of romances and multiple other dalliances with the fair sex; e.g.,

When I wasn't near to
The girls I loved dearest,
I often would veer to
The ones who were nearest.



Longtime human-rights activist John Telford was a world-ranked sprinter in the 1950s. His first book of poetry--'The lifelong POETIC PRANCINGS of mad John'--was published in 2014. When he taught English and coached track at Pershing High School in the mid-1960s, he was named a Sharon (Connecticut) Creative Arts Foundation Prize Poet. Currently he is the DPSCD Poet-in-Residence and the Michigan Chapter of the Di Medici Society's Professor of Poetry. He writes the 'Poet's Corner' column in the 'Downtown Monitor.'

(StatePoint) More than half of American families used scholarships to pay for college last year. From merit-based to artistic-focused, there are a variety of awards available.

High school senior Grace Vaughn of Trinity, Florida, knows how to successfully secure a college scholarship. After winning the \$10,000 dress grand prize in Duck brand's Stuck at Prom Scholarship Contest in 2022, Vaughn is sharing helpful tips to increase students' odds of earning funds for college:

Research, research, research
Search databases and websites to discover award options that may be new to you. Scholarships.com, FastWeb and Bold.org are resources to help narrow down opportunities that match your interests and unique talents. Vaughn also encourages students to leverage social media, where she discovered the Stuck at Prom contest, which challenges teens to create Duck Tape prom creations for a chance to win cash scholarships.

In addition to researching national opportunities, check in with your school counselor and teachers to learn about any local or regional scholarships that are offered through the school or other nearby organizations.

Apply early and often
Federal Student Aid recommends searching for scholarships during the summer between your junior and senior year, but some awards are open to teens as young as 14. Vaughn says entering Stuck at Prom early on in high school gave her an edge on the competition. When she wasn't selected as a finalist her sophomore year, Vaughn submitted for the contest again as a junior and went on to win the \$10,000 dress grand prize.

"When I began working on my entry in 2022, I already knew how to construct the dress from Duck Tape, so I went into the process with confidence," Vaughn explains.

If you have the time and energy, she suggests applying for multiple awards to increase your chances of securing funds for school.

Leverage your creative side
Not all programs are focused on academics and athletics, so flex your creative side to win scholarships that will



reward artistic abilities in drawing, painting, music and more. Beginning at an early age, Vaughn excelled at visual arts and design, which is how she knew Stuck at Prom was a perfect fit for her.

"Creative awards programs are a good outlet for students to show off their talents outside of typical schoolwork," Vaughn says. "Even if you aren't crafty, scholarship applications could be a chance for you to try something new."

Make scholarships a priority
Vaughn spent 143 hours crafting her prom dress made from Duck Tape to enter Stuck at Prom.

While not all scholarship program submissions will take 143 hours or require making Duck Tape attire, Vaughn says it's important to block off areas on your calendar so you can balance busy school schedules and extracurricular activities along with applications--ensuring there's enough time to work on a polished entry, whether it's creating a piece of art or writing an essay.

While applying for scholarships is time consuming, it can make a huge impact when it comes to paying for college.

Vaughn notes, "It takes commitment and drive to apply for scholarships, but the results are worth it."



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