

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,

During the year Two Thousand Ten, the Eureka High School Graduating Class of Nineteen Forty Five (of which I am a member) held its Sixty Fifth class reunion. Dwindling in size, the class decided that this was to be the last organized reunion. It was also decided that the excess funds, amounting to One Thousand Dollars, be used for two, one time, Five Hundred Dollar scholarships, one for a boy and the other for a girl, deserving Eureka High School seniors who were planning to attend College of the Redwoods. The Eureka High School was notified and one person applied for the girl's scholarship. After reviewing her application, the committee decided that she most certainly met the qualifications. No boy applied for the other scholarship. Two of us attended the Two Thousand Eleven awards program and found it curious that, of all the recipients, very few were boys. The reunion committee decided to keep the other five hundred dollars until Twenty Twelve and again offer it to a boy. This year the search for a male recipient was renewed. The scholarship applications for the current school year closed recently with no boys applying for the Class of Forty Five money. Out of a planned Eureka High graduating class of Three Hundred students, you would think there would be some deserving male student who would apply. This leads to a series of questions: Why aren't more boys applying for scholarships? How does the school publicize scholarships to those students who are eligible? Are the parents given any information so they can encourage their children to apply? Are scholarships of lesser amounts given less attention? How much involved are the teachers and /or the counselors in the encouragement of students to strive toward taking advantage of scholarships? Where does the fault lie in not having more students apply for scholarships in general? Does it lay with the parent, the teacher, the counselor, the principal, the district administration or the school board? If you noticed, I left out the student because they are the ones who are supposed to be taught and directed by all the others. Our committee, three of whom are retired educators, finds it frustrating when all we want to do is give our money to a deserving male student. Under these circumstances, we have decided to withdraw the Five Hundred Dollars and find a more suitable place where the money might be more appreciated and still help out some deserving youth. We wish we had more to offer, but we are limited to the funds on hand. My last question: How many more possible scholarship donors have been left holding the bag (of money that is)?

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