

## Barbie fails math(ematicians)

What a putdown! I've been a fan of Barbie since I was a little girl, and I always wished she could talk to me. Now, finally, she can, but this, of all things, is what she has to say: "Math class is tough." Let's face it: Barbie personifies many stereotypes with her blond hair, blue eyes, and tall voluptuous figure, but she doesn't need another supposed attribute to add to her list.

Maybe mathematicians are making a mountain out of a mole hill over Barbie's little announcement, but I can see where they're coming from. Being a math major at Meredith, I have had to fight long and hard against the old cliché that "girls don't do math." When I tell people my major, some seem surprised that Meredith even offers such a degree, and then they say, "Oh, are you going to be a teacher?" For some reason a lot of

people consider applied mathematics to be unfeminine.

I think the main problem with Barbie's declaration is that it's too matter-of-fact. She doesn't say, "Math class can be tough." She says, "Math class is tough." Little girls think Barbie can do anything. I fear some little girls will say to themselves, "If Barbie thinks math is tough, I'd better not even try it." Also, the statement is unnecessarily negative. She could say, "Math class is fun and challenging." This would still convey the idea that math can be difficult without suggesting that

math is impossible for girls to comprehend. Mattel assumed an enormous responsibility when it de-

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Mary Dana Morrill



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## Bill Clinton's record

Submitted by College Democrats

### The Clinton Record on Education

- Under Bill Clinton test scores in Arkansas for elementary reading and math skills have gone up 35% and 40%, respectively.

- Under Clinton, high school graduation by seniors in Arkansas has risen 34%.

- Clinton has set higher standards for all Arkansas schools, requiring intensive instruction in basic skills, offering a broader range of advanced courses, strictly limiting class sizes and regularly testing student and teacher performance.

- In 1991, Clinton provided teachers with an average \$4,000 salary increase, the highest percentage increase in the nation that year.

- Governor Clinton created the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarships to provide college scholarships to middle and low-income high school students who achieve a 2.5 GPA in a college-core curriculum, score 19 on the ACT, and stay off drugs.

- Clinton will establish a set of national standards for elementary and high school students and will increase Chapter One funding to reduce class size in schools serving children from lower and middle-income families.

- Clinton will fully fund Head Start.

- Clinton will establish a National Service Trust Fund, making college tuition available to all Americans. The money may be paid back as part of their income or through community service.

### The Clinton Record on Jobs and the Economy

- Bill Clinton has created manufacturing jobs at ten times the national average, and Arkansas leads the nation in job growth.

- Arkansas citizens are enjoying income growth at twice the national average.

- Clinton has balanced eleven consecutive budgets since taking office.

- Far from a tax-and-spend liberal, Governor Clinton has helped 17,000 welfare recipients in Arkansas to move from welfare rolls to payrolls.

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The Meredith Herald is published by the College throughout the academic year. The paper is funded by the college and through advertising. The Herald retains the right not to publish materials containing personal attacks, insults, ridicule, or libelous statements. All letters to the editor must be signed. The opinions expressed in editorial columns do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty, or student body.

### Letters to the Editor Policy

Everyone in the Meredith community is invited to write a letter to the editor. All published letters must be typewritten with contact name and address and telephone number. All letters must be signed by the author, but names will be withheld upon request.

## Letters to the Editor

Computer director responds to editorial

I agree with Amity Brown on the fact that some things at Meredith don't work BUT that is primarily because PEOPLE don't make them work. As Director of Academic Computing it is my responsibility to manage the computer labs. Note that I said manage— my belief is that the labs belong to the college—each student needs to take responsibility for her computer use. When you use a typewriter, you don't expect someone to put paper in the typewriter. Why then do students insist on putting signs on the printers saying the printer is broken when the printer is out

paper or when the paper is loaded incorrectly? Yesterday, I received a complaint that "None of the printers in the Harris 102 lab were working." Within 10 minutes every one was working. None was really broken. Problems were no paper, paper not loaded correctly, ribbon not loaded correctly, printer switch (printer shared by two computers) not set correctly.

I believe that complaining does absolutely no good UNLESS you tell the correct person. I also believe in doing something to correct situations and doing something so the situation does not happen again.

So, in the Harris computer labs,

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