

Award-winning comedian graces Comedy Night

"Steve Hofstetter's new book covers a variety of topics from stalking to getting the most out of your classes."

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Contributing Writer

Have you been checking his away messages? Driving by his apartment? Getting to know his closest friends? Then you may be one of many students amused by Steve Hofstetter's new book, *Student Body Shots: A Sarcastic Look at the Best 4-6 Years of Your Life*.

In his book he writes, "Did you know that girls are part of a vast network of spies? When a guy likes a girl, his friends might

mention if they saw her talking to another guy. When a girl has a crush on someone, her friends memorize his class schedule, know where he ate lunch, and call her every time they see someone wearing the same jacket."

Hofstetter, a 23-year-old Columbia University graduate and winner of Columbia's Gollin Prize for "promising talent in journalism and media," covers a variety of topics in his book, ranging from stalking to getting the most out of your classes. He takes brave stabs at the college world we have all grown to love and ridicule. It takes real talent to make midterms amusing, and

Hofstetter does it well.

Meredith students are in luck! Hofstetter will be performing passages from his book as well as original pieces at MEA's Comedy Night this Saturday at 8 p.m. alongside the CHiPs improvisational group, and the stand-up routine of Meredith senior Pat Newton. Comedy Night, which is free of charge, promises to be an entertaining and enjoyable evening for all Meredith students and their guests. If you don't come for the laughs, at least come to buy Hofstetter's book for \$11.95, with \$1 of the price going to the Make-a-Wish Foundation®.

Plus/Minus Grading Continued from Page 2

"I don't see the benefit to the plus/minus system." She said the plus/minus system brings up too many "hag-gling points" that students will want to debate.

North Carolina State University Registrar Louis Hunt said NCSU has had the plus/minus grading system since the fall of 1994. He said the system brought minimal change to the majority of students' GPAs, but it has given faculty the advantage of giving students more precise grades. Hunt said that students had initial concern that "it would result in lower grade point averages" but "so far we have not seen that effect."

Todd said that if the change is proposed by the Instruction Committee, it would be heard by the Academic Council. The council meets once a month and has a representative from each department or school. All policies must

be presented in two readings to the council.

"I don't recall this issue ever making it all the way to the Academic Council," Todd said. "But it still could."

Todd said any change or lack of change in the grading system will have little affect on the Office of the Registrar. "For us, it's really just a matter of how we set up the computers to handle the data," she said.

Todd said that a change to the grading system would be problematic if it affected quality points students had already accumulated. "It would be unfair to change the weight of grades already earned and could affect some students with their graduation requirements," she said.

Meredith students have mixed opinions about the possible change. Some, like freshman Jessica Conicelli, support the proposed change.

"I would prefer the plus/minus grading system," said Conicelli. "It would better show how you

performed in your classes."

Others, like senior Chessica Allen, oppose it saying it would only cause students additional pressure.

Allen said, "It would cause pressure that is unnecessary. If I work hard enough to get a 90, I wouldn't want to have points subtracted because it was an A-."

"I transferred to State from ECU so I've experienced both systems," said NCSU junior Kelly Peele. "Personally, I prefer not having the plus/minus system because it usually ends up hurting my GPA rather than helping it."

Other students from NCSU supported the university's plus/minus grading scale.

"I like it," said sophomore Adam Paisley. "It gives a more accurate reflection of how you did in the class."

Senior Lee Brann also thought the system was beneficial. "It distinguishes the difference between someone who made an 80 and an 89."



The latest news from Meredith's only course devoted to campaign issues and registering you to vote.

Voting for Freedom

Meredith Votes has verified that 87.5% of full time faculty have registered to vote. In the following departments, every full time faculty member is now registered: Art, Biology & Health Sciences, Business & Economics, Chemistry & Physical Science, Education, English, Foreign Languages & Literatures, Health, Physical Education & Dance, History & Politics, Math & Computer Science, Psychology, and Religion & Philosophy. Our goal is to verify the registration of 100% of the full time faculty. We need to contact just 17 more faculty members to achieve that goal.

The Meredith faculty has provided an excellent example for students. One reason, Meredith faculty members have registered to vote is because they recognize the importance of participating in elections. This election promises to be especially important. At the national level, control of both houses of Congress is up for grabs and the central issues of the upcoming election are of obvious and fundamental importance: Should we go to war with Iraq? How can we reform American business practices to promote continued prosperity? At the state level, party control of both houses of the General Assembly is also up in the air at a time when the state is facing crucial budgetary challenges.

Faculty members also registered because they recognize that doing so is a

fundamental obligation of citizenship. After the attacks on the World Trade Center, Americans reaffirmed our commitment to liberty. Even though liberty may make us vulnerable, it is what we prize most. Unfortunately, in spite of our celebration of liberty, many Americans ignore Thomas Jefferson's warning that "The Price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

Instead of being vigilant, we are often asleep at the wheel. More Americans can identify Bart Simpson than the Vice-President of the United States. We have enjoyed liberty for so long that we seem to have forgotten how fragile it is. Anyone who celebrates liberty but disdains participation in politics is fooling themselves. The only reason they can enjoy liberty is because others don't follow their example.

Don't take chances with something as precious as your liberty. Register at one of the sites on campus. Take the opportunity that some instructors are providing in class. Come to dorm meetings on September 25. Meredith Votes has made it easy for you to register, the rest is up to you.