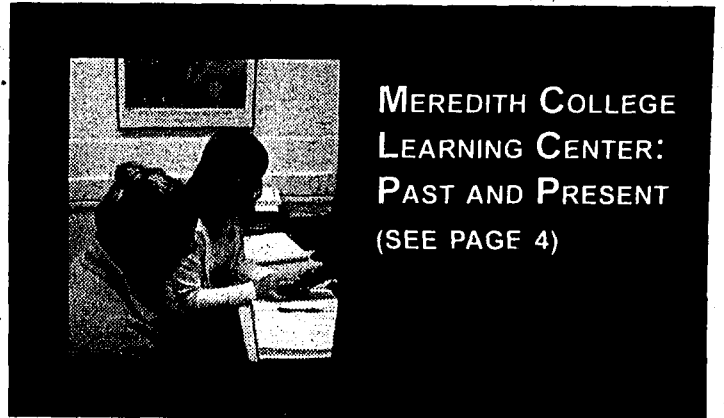
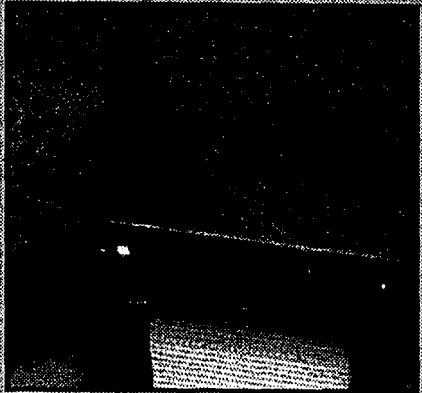


the MEREDITH **Her**ald



MEREDITH COLLEGE
LEARNING CENTER:
PAST AND PRESENT
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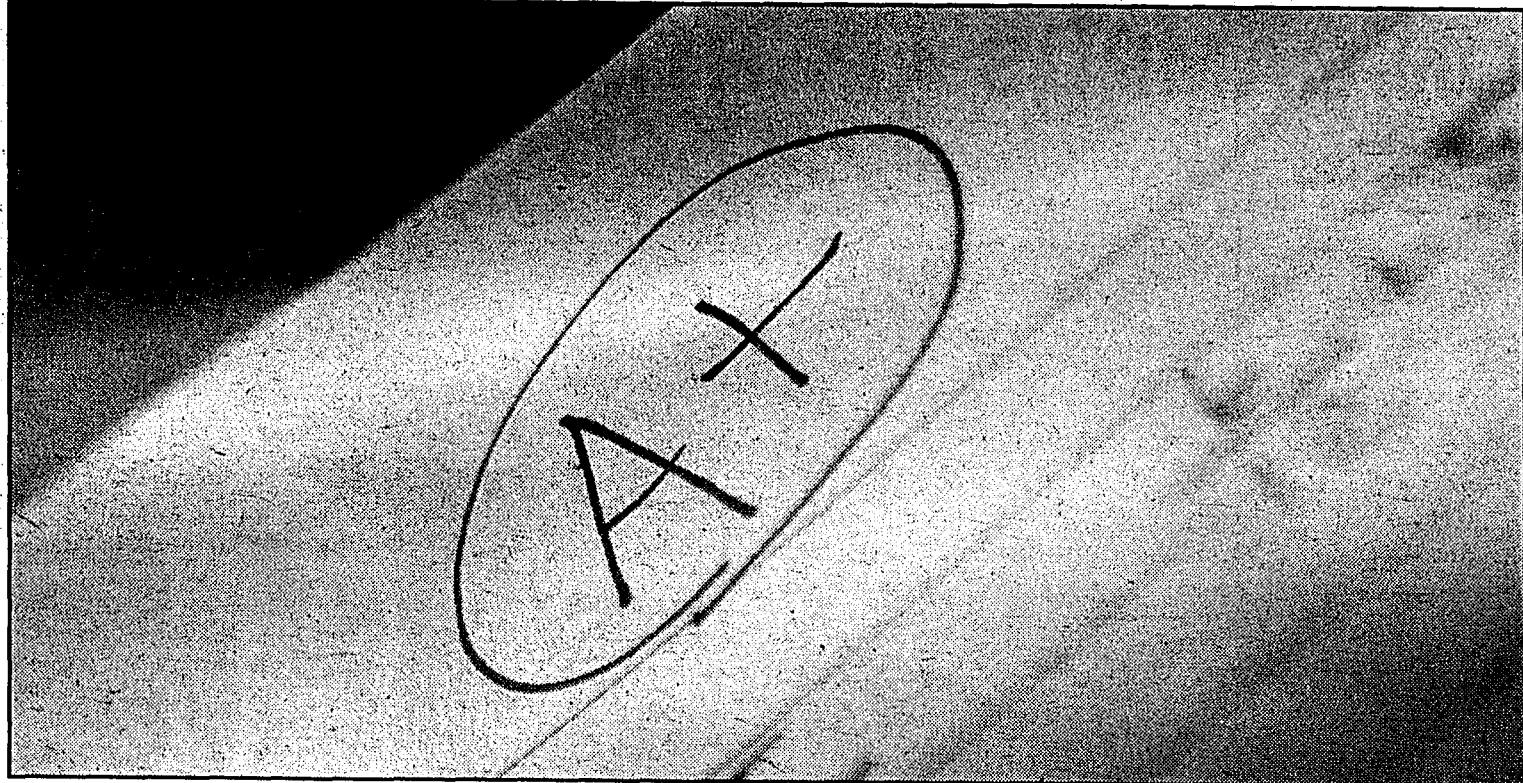


Photo Courtesy hillsidekids.com

THE PROBLEM WITH GOOD GRADES

Aubrey Jones
Staff Writer

While UNC-Chapel Hill students and faculty are worried about grades being too high, students at Meredith College are hovering at the border of making the honor roll.

A recent report revealed that 45% of UNC-Chapel Hill undergrads were awarded A's in fall 2007. Although many Chapel Hill students are rejoicing in their hard-earned success, others wonder if it was really all that hard-earned. "It's something that the students like because good grades mean good moods, but if you don't go to UNC it [the recent report] just looks bad," said Chapel Hill senior, Patrick Lawler.

Dr. Chuck Grant, head of the Communication Department at Meredith College, says that A's are for those who have mastered the coursework and some students are so used to making A's they aren't accepting of receiving anything lower. "Even if all students are coming in from high school making straight A's, 50% of them aren't going to be doing the same A level work in college," Grant said.

Although UNC-CH has seen their grade-point average rise from 3.145 in 2000 to 3.264 in 2008, Meredith College has seen a drop in undergraduate GPA since 2000.

In fall 2000 the college wide GPA for undergrad courses at Meredith was 3.05 and was 2.90 in fall 2008.

The .15 point drop doesn't bring up any controversy in grade inflation for Meredith, but it does have students concerned about why grades are getting lower.

One senior communication major, Emelia Dunston, thinks it might have to do with student preparedness. "It could have something to do with whether or not new students come in to college properly prepared for the amount of work they are about to receive," Dunston said. This could mean as college courses get tougher, high schools need to raise their academic expectancy for students.

Other students believe the new General Education requirements have caused the grade decline. Student Monica Nayar said, "I think the grades have fallen since 2000 because Meredith changed the gen-ed program. If we went back to the old

course load grades would be higher than they are now." The senior marketing major explained that when her sister, who graduated in 2006, was at Meredith, she had less work than Nayar does now.

Awarding A's to students who haven't mastered the course material is more of a pressure at schools like UNC-CH rather than small private schools like Meredith. Dr. Garry Walton, dean of the school of Humanities and Social Sciences at Meredith, explains, "Institutions that have a higher percentage of students going to professional schools [after graduation] result in more pressures on the faculty, and it is more likely students are going to be given higher grades."

Another reason for awarding high grades to students, undeserving or not, is possibly the weight of student

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Green Tip for the Week of February 11

Save energy, raw materials and landfill space by using reusable shopping bags.

During the 2008-09 academic year, Meredith College's campus theme is "Sustaining our Environment: Developing our Greenprint." To help the Meredith community make daily choices that are beneficial to the environment, Angels for the Environment have compiled a year's worth of tips for greener living. To view green tips from previous weeks, visit www.meredith.edu/campus-theme/environmental-tips.htm.

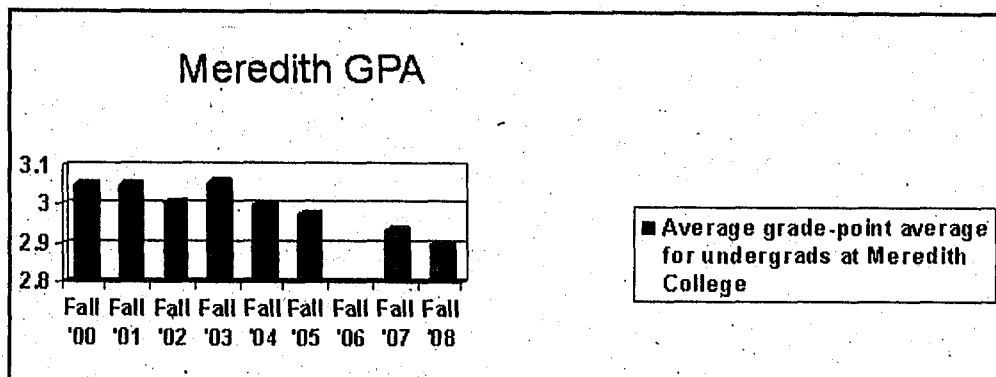


Chart Information Obtained from Dr. Walton, Dean of the school of Humanities. Information from 2006 was missing.

