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Subject: Grade inflation-- Re: Dyson

Posted by [lon](#) on Wed, 02 Nov 2005 17:55:30 GMT

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I think our narrative has started to ramble. Maybe it's best pursued in mail. Yes, the phenomenon of grade inflation is well known and percolates down to the high school level where there have been as many as 38 valedictorians at one school graduation. In the era of children being raised on Mr. Rogers where everyone is special and above average (Prairie Home Companion) parents have been able to leverage and influence teachers. Recently I was told by a retired university professor that at the end of term, the teacher is required to hand out one of those "how am I doing cards" with the numbers 1 (poor) through 5 (great!) which are reviewed by faculty or somebody. So the teachers have had to become pleasers. On this whole subject of everyone being special and exceptional there is an excellent book which all Americans should read called "Mediated" by Thomas DeZengotita. The author writes for Harpers and has published this book on what he calls the portrayal of the individual as one of flattering representation. It's narcissism by another name and it has affected the national psyche.

Mediated

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