FIGURE 9.15 The OptimisticList class: why validation is needed. Thread A is attempting to remove a node a. While traversing the list, $curr_A$ and all nodes between $curr_A$ and a (including a) might be removed (denoted by a lighter node color). In such a case, thread A would proceed to the point where $curr_A$ points to a, and, without validation, would successfully remove a, even though it is no longer in the list. Validation is required to determine that a is no longer reachable from head.