

Boosting college chances includes juggling busy high school schedule

By Gerri Cunningham
THE CHARLOTTE POST

From school to cheerleader practice, to work, to homework.

"To be multitasked and successful at the same time is to have a excruciating headache," says Ashe Grant, 16.

In order to be accepted to good colleges, it helps when students have participated in various activities at once, because it shows responsibility, but longevity is also a key

factor meaning some teens may go their entire high school career trying to juggle different clubs. Whether a child is an athlete or selected as a class officer, it means they will need to devote time to stay after school, for practice or a meeting. A few students explained how they get through and deal with full schedules, for college.

Vinita Patel, a rising senior at West Mecklenburg is the perfect example of a multi-tasked student. Patel, 17 is a

teammate on the varsity tennis team, a member of Hosa, National Honor's Society and the International Club and an employee at Byrum's Food Mart. Patel maintains a 4.21 GPA and is in the top 25 percent of her class.

"I just started working in mid-July so I haven't had to work and go to school, my mom and dad wouldn't allow me. But the clubs I'm involved in only meet like once a month during the school year and I have plenty of time after tennis practice and meets to do homework, actually I have a lot more time on my hands than I'd like. I plan to volunteer for the American Cross and do community service."

Ashlei Grant, a rising junior at Garinger High

See GETTING/4B

Director: Thug life overshadows value of education

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn.—Spike Lee says the value of education is being overshadowed by the images that gangsta rap glorifies.

"Young black kids didn't grow up wanting to be a pimp or a stripper like they do now," Lee said of his youth in Brooklyn.


He drew two standing ovations Wednesday night as a featured speaker at a conference on cultural diversity at Middle Tennessee State University.

The 48-year-old filmmaker, who is working on a documentary on Hurricane Katrina, urged students to find a way to make being educated cool again.

"Back then, we were not called sellouts for using our brains. And being intelligent was not frowned upon," Lee said.

He likened the images from some rap videos to the distorted view minstrel shows of the 19th century gave most of the world about American blacks.

Lee said he has tried through his films, which include "School Daze," "Do the Right Thing," "Jungle Fever" and "Malcolm X," to show the diversity of the black experience.



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