

Getting into college includes juggling activities

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School explained how she feels emotionally drained at the end of the day.

"I had so many things going on at once, my grades dropped because I chose to sleep instead of study or do homework," she said. "I go through the whole day in a zone, unless I've had 10 hours of sleep and a full course breakfast. I just try to think the harder I work on everything the closer I am to going away to college to be a adult."

Brady Cathey, a counselor at West Meck, insists it's necessary to juggle activities.

"Colleges want students who perform well academically and well in their communities also. Students should strive to be well rounded in everything they do so they'll be good candidates for which university they want to attend."

Students understand the importance of multi-tasking and sacrifice. Allison Downing works at Eckerd's drug store and is a varsity cheerleader at West Meck. It's as difficult to deal with wins as losses.

"I was stuck between two hard places during the summer," she said. "Do I cheer and lose out on spending money or do I work and miss out on what makes me happy? Ultimately my dad told me he'd help out and advised me to cheer, because in the future I may regret I didn't. In the end I decided to do both. I won't get a lot of money but it's better than none."

Quentin Jamal Jackson, 17 has shared the same experience.

"I wanted to play football last year at West Meck but they don't leave practice until like seven so I decided to work. Football can't buy me the clothes and shoes anyway, that I so desperately need, unless I get inducted

into the NFL."

Patel and Jackson handle concentration in the classroom in different ways.

"I only fall asleep if the teacher is babbling on about

nothing, then I lose my focus and it goes on to other things," Patel said. "I didn't know on clocks the minute hand moves little by little every second, until I was

bored in class one morning."

Jackson says he rarely sleeps in class.

"I've fallen asleep in class before but now I have a phobia that I'll doze off and wake

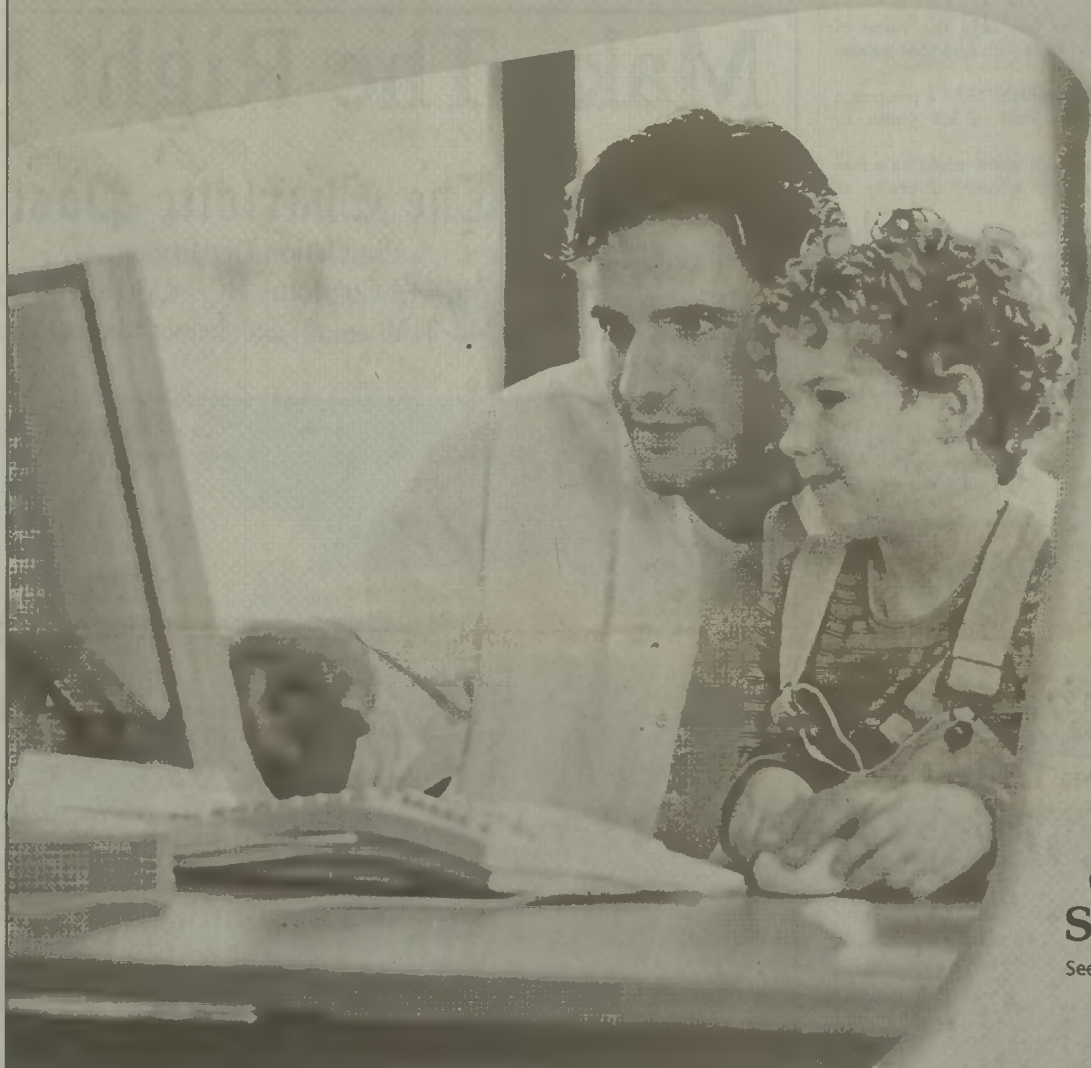
up with my pockets empty."

"I know it'll be days where I'm like 'do I have to go to work or do I have to wake up early in the morning,' but it's what I have to do," Patel said.

"I can't slack because there's a person who wants to go to (UNC) Chapel Hill just like I do and me dropping a club I'm in can mean that student is getting in and I'm not."

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