



Affecting both young and old, rich and poor, addictions strip their victims of any sense of self-control. **pages 8-9**

the high LIFE

Currently, 400,000 military personnel are completing surveys in



which they are answering questions about anticipated problems in sharing living quarters and bathrooms with other soldiers identified as homosexuals. In a nation where all citizens are to be treated equally, how can a policy such as 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' exist?

Jacob Sechter

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News

Still rivals after five decades, GHS and Page compete on and off the field, but when did this contention begin?

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Opinion

Patients should not always trust a physicians' diagnoses; doctors are human beings who make mistakes.

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Supernatural enthusiasts enjoy tours from Carolina History and Haunts, especially at Halloween time.

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UNC football coaches and athletes must answer to several allegations of offering and accepting perks.

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Maurice 'Mo' Green visits journalists, shares insights regarding his position

BY JUSTINE REVELLE
Reporter

Superintendent of Guilford County Schools, Maurice "Mo" Green has served the district for over two years. Previously, he supervised over the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Schools that included about 140,000 students. He moved to the smaller Guilford County district with a dream of revision. In an interview in the newspaper class on October 8, he shared his outlook on education as well as a few details about his personal life, including his favorite activities as a high school student himself.

A Georgia native, Green attended college and earned his law degree. Once a licensed attorney, he explained that after making partner in his firm, he changed directions and sought a career in education, perhaps because he has two children of his own. He shared that his career in law ironically helped shape his career in education and claimed that by combining aspects of both positions, he has been able to make the transition easily.

"When I started working in Charlotte for a law firm, one of the first clients I worked with was the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education. I had a keen interest in what they were doing, and I wanted to help them in any way that I could. I was inspired by their organization and wanted to make a tremendous difference for young people. I thought it may be a great idea ultimately for me to combine law with education," said Green.

Regarding differences between Guilford County and Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Green believes the two actually share far more similarities.

"I would say both school districts are very progressive. They both are doing tremendous things for young people, such as the International Baccalaureate Program, Advanced Placement courses, and the Early Middle Colleges. I would also say demographics of the districts are very similar; both are majority minority students, and both have free and reduced lunch systems, which involves slightly over 50 percent of the students. The biggest difference would be size," said Green.

Having served on boards for the YMCA, Arts and Science Council, and Crisis and Assistance, Green's work within the

community is very commendable. He connects his work with these organizations to his job as a superintendent.

"A lot of the boards I have served on are human relations organizations. They also have a great connection to young people. Working with these organizations has allowed me to expand my knowledge with different ways in which our society can have an impact on our young people and what we can do to make a difference [in their lives]," said Green.

Green described Crisis and Assistance as an organization created for people on the verge of becoming homeless.

"Many of the people whom we helped were, in fact, students," said Green.

Judging by all of Green's work within the community, he has touched the lives of many grateful individuals. However, Green still wants more. He hopes to transform Guilford County by putting many new programs in place to do so.

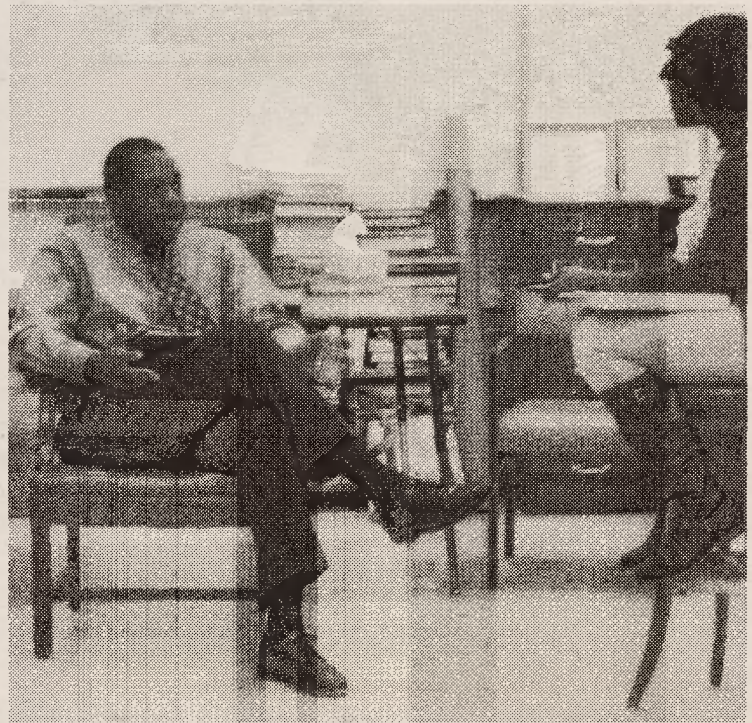
"If you look at the strategic plan, you will see how we're trying to roll out many initiatives that will help us get to a place of true excellence. We really want to lift up character development and perfect academic achievement. We will also implement service learning, which will be a part of our Character Development Program.

"With the economy being what it is, the school district has had to make a few cut backs, including the loss of teachers and limits on paper. We have been fortunate not to lose many teachers, and although the economy has brought on limitations, the district has tried its best to preserve arts and athletic programs," said Green. "We have not had to eliminate actual people, but we have had to eliminate positions."

Comprised of 121 schools, the district has lost approximately 120 teachers, so on average, about one per school. We also eliminated a lot of downtown, central office positions. We have done a pretty good job of trying to protect athletics and the arts. To me, it's been more of a situation where we really have not advanced as much as we would like to," said Green.

Green has highlighted three main goals to execute this particular school year.

"The first would be to enforce character development and



Senior Justine Revelle interviews the superintendent during her newspaper journalism class. Other visitors included Central Region Superintendent Dr. Terry Worrell and Principal Anna Brady. *Elliott Photo*

service learning within the system; the second would be that we have a number of low performing schools, known as Priority One Schools, so we have identified 11 that we will lift up this school year; and third, I would say literacy throughout the district. The district has made substantial progress over the last two years in regards to literacy and literacy results, but we are not where we want to be," said Green.

Green then spoke of the challenges he faces as the superintendent of the district.

"I would say certainly say my greatest challenge would be making sure that people understand the expectations and that they are arriving to that level. That requires the folks within the school district to pick up their game, and it also requires that as we're going out to hire new teachers and administrators, we find the very best people possible to get the job done right," said Green.

Recalling his own education, Green spoke about his participation in various activities aside from studying.

"I enjoyed school, and teachers would say that I did pretty well. I certainly got involved in lots of different things while I was in school. I enjoyed all of my subjects, but particularly favored math," said Green.

He realized at a young age that he wanted to study law, so he "liked things that [he] thought lined up with a career in law." Mentioning some of his

favorite electives and extracurricular activities, he could not help but smile.

"I really liked being on the yearbook staff. I was the editor of the yearbook my senior year, and it was a pretty big publication back in those days. I also played football. By the time I was toward the end of my tenure in high school, I was more of an on-the-team player than a true player. I really enjoyed playing football in school and later baseball," said Green.

Although the superintendent does not admit to having a favorite book, he said that he has enjoyed author Dan Brown's works. He also has no favorite television show or movie, but he is most certain of his favorite sports team.

"I tend to be a hometown type of person, so having grown up in Georgia, I am an Atlanta Braves fan. After having moved to Charlotte, I became a Carolina Panthers Fan," said Green.

Maurice "Mo" Green is a man of many talents, as evident through his work in the district and on various non-profit boards.

Assessing his career thus far, Green was quite clear.

"The most rewarding thing is seeing young people doing well and hearing about those young people doing well...also seeing them excited about what they have accomplished as well as what they are going to accomplish," said Green.