

The Fayetteville Observer

2 REGION STOPS

Clinton spouse stumps today

By Don Worthington
Staff writer

PEMBROKE — Former President Clinton begins a four-stop tour of North Carolina for his wife, Hillary, this morning at the Jones Athletic Center at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

The 8:30 a.m. event is free. Doors open about 7:45 a.m.

President Clinton generally does not use notes during these "Solutions for America" appearances. He is expected to talk about the economy, higher education and health care — issues Hillary Rodham Clinton frequently speaks about in her quest for the presidency.

From Robeson County, President Clinton will head to St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg. He is expected to speak there at 10:15 a.m. He will make stops in Monroe and Char-

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CLINTON'S SCHEDULE

Former President Clinton returns to North Carolina today to campaign for his wife, Sen. Hillary Clinton. All events are free and open to the public. No tickets are required.

Here's the schedule announced by Sen. Clinton's campaign:

8:30 a.m.

Clinton attends a Solutions for America event at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. The speech is in the Jones Athletic Center on University Drive.

10:15 a.m.

Clinton appears at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg for a similar event. The venue is DeFamble Terrace, 1700 Dogwood Mile.

1 p.m.

Clinton will speak in Union County at the Agricultural Conference Center in Monroe.

3 p.m.

His final stop is at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte's James H. Barnhardt Student Activity Center.

LAURINBURG INSTITUTE

4 in the Final Four



Staff photos by Raul R. Rubiera

Colin Sing, 19, a senior from Liverpool, England, dunks a basketball on a broken backboard at the Laurinburg Institute. Marvin Adu, 20, a student from Hamburg, Germany, is at right. The school's trophies, top, are on display in the lobby of the administration offices.

Despite the prestige of its graduates' accomplishments, a boarding school that has been churning out Division I basketball players in recent years falls further into disrepair as its alumni largely ignore it.

By Michael N. Graff
Staff writer

LAURINBURG — At the Laurinburg Institute, they talk about footprints.

Robert Dozier left one. So did three other University of Memphis basketball players who will be in San Antonio on Saturday night for the Final Four.

Just follow their lead, current players often are told. Just survive Laurinburg and you'll survive anywhere.

There's truth to that. If the past is any indication, almost all of today's players at the Laurinburg Institute will land at Division I programs. Some will reach the NBA. But few will ever revisit the tiny boarding school that fixed them up and shipped them off to stardom.

Dozier rarely looks back, and when he does, the memories are rarely fond.

"We didn't live so great. We stayed in condemned dorms. We slept with the

roaches and ants every night," the junior said this week while preparing to play against UCLA. "I'll probably never go back to Laurinburg in my life."

And so the century-old Laurinburg Institute will sink even further, having been used and left behind — trampled by the footprints it so celebrates.

Opened in 1904 as a boarding school for black students, the institute has sent more than 20 players to Division I basketball programs in the last five years. Three of the current Memphis players — Dozier, Antonio Anderson and Chance McGrady — were part of the 2005 Laurinburg team that went 40-0 and won the unofficial national championship for prep schools.

But the Laurinburg Institute hasn't seen much benefit. The school's most recent available tax forms, from 2005,

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INSIDE

■ This year's matchups feature some rock-solid programs. Find out how the teams stack up against one another,

Page 1C

Sheriff orders outside audit

Off-duty work under review

By John Ramsey
Staff writer

Sheriff Moose Butler has ordered an outside audit of his deputies' off-duty employment, saying in a memo to all personnel that reports of double-dipping by two former supervisors have embarrassed the Sheriff's Office.

The county's internal auditor will review records of all employees who have public, off-duty jobs, said Debbie Tanna, a Sheriff's Office spokeswoman.

The memo, dated Wednesday, says Butler expects his deputies not to "cheat in any manner," including with their time cards. He asks anyone who knows of wrongdoing to tell him or a supervisor.



Butler

In addition to the audit, the Sheriff's Office is reviewing its policies concerning off-duty employment, the memo said.

The agency is looking into the practices after two supervisors lost their jobs last month. A Fayetteville Observer review of time sheets and other records found that Capt. LaRue Windham and Lt. Neelis Smith billed the school system and Crown Center for some security jobs at overlapping times and at different locations. They earned thousands of dollars each year from the jobs.

The Observer reported Thursday that Windham also appeared to have taught some classes at Fayetteville Technical Community College while on the clock at the Sheriff's Office. That violated an FTCC policy that part-time instructors aren't supposed to be paid by other employers during teaching time.

Butler has refused requests for an interview on the subject, citing personnel laws and a pending criminal probe by the State Bureau of Investigation. Windham and Smith have not commented.

Butler said in his memo that "individuals who violated the trust that the Sheriff's Office and public put in them has embarrassed the Sheriff's Office."

"No law enforcement officer can afford

See **SHERIFF**, Page 5A

A high-tech census? Don't count on it

■ Costs balloon to \$14 billion even as plans to use computers for the 2010 survey fizzle.

By Stephen Ohlemacher
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After stumbling over its multibillion-dollar plans for a high-tech census, the government says it will go back to counting the

nation's 300 million people the old-fashioned way — with paper and pencil.

Help wanted: 600,000 temporary workers to do the job.

Commerce Secretary Carlos

Gutierrez told Congress on Thursday his department will scrap plans to use handheld computers to collect information from the millions of Americans who don't return the census forms that come in the mail.

That's one of a number of changes that will add as much as \$3 billion to the constitutionally mandated 2010 count, pushing the overall cost to

more than \$14 billion.

This was to be the first truly high-tech count in the nation's history. The Census Bureau had awarded a contract to purchase 500,000 of the computers, at a cost of more than \$600 million. The contract is now projected to balloon to \$1.3 billion,

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TOMORROW

■ **Saturday Extra:** Nonprofit homes for troubled children ask for help in a food drive.
■ **Sports:** We'll help you get ready for the Final Four on Saturday in San Antonio.

WEATHER



■ Warm with storms; high around 82, 6B

Coming Saturday

■ Beginning Saturday, our new Web site, www.910crime.com, will offer a searchable map that shows crimes reported in Fayetteville. Find out for yourself where break-ins are happening and where your car is more likely to be stolen.

■ A special edition of **Saturday Extra** will explain how to use the site and offer tips for staying safe.





'To be quite frank, we've been very successful in basketball, but it hasn't been very successful for us.'

Frances McDuffie,
Laurinburg Institute
vice president



Staff photos by Raul R. Rubiera

Laurinburg Institute instructor and basketball coach Derrick Bond, left, teaches Marvin Adu and Colin Sing in the cafeteria.

Institute: School is on an NCAA list for review

From **Page 1A**

show a negative balance of nearly \$100,000.

Teachers make less than \$20,000 a year. One current coach works the night shift at Food Lion to make ends meet.

The campus buildings need about \$10 million for full restoration.

"To be quite frank, we've been very successful in basketball, but it hasn't been very successful for us," said Frances McDuffie, the institute's vice president.

A shabby black cat waits outside the cafeteria door around lunchtime, whining at anyone who might listen.

But sympathetic ears are hard to find here. Desperation is a part of the fabric of the Laurinburg Institute these days.

Just six of the 13 buildings on campus are habitable. Moss grows on the old, flat roofs. A parked school bus has spider-web cracks in the windshield. A residence hall is still hollow after a recent fire. The pavement is broken into chunks. The wooden fences are unsealed and splintered.

In the back corner of the property, seniors Marvin Adu and Colin Sing take practice shots on a broken backboard that hangs vertically.

It's the only place to shoot hoops at this so-called "basketball factory."

Sing, who came here last year from Liverpool, England, is the class president.

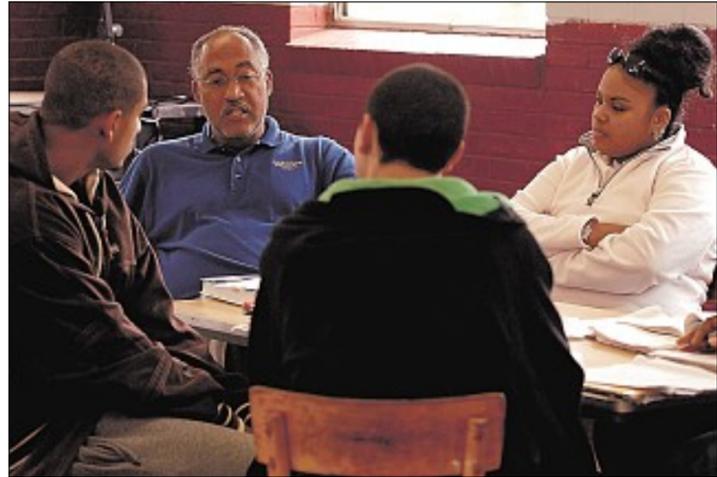
"It's made me appreciate a lot of things from back home," he said.

Sing is at the institute because he wanted to come to the United States, where basketball is bigger. He's a low-Division I prospect.

Most of his classmates, though, come to improve their grades or standardized test scores. It's the final hurdle on their way to big-time college basketball. For them, this proud but disheveled boarding school is a last resort.

"Most of these kids are basically big-time players where they come from," said former coach Chris Chaney, who left for the Patterson School after the 40-0 season in 2005. "The kids need to get grounded a little bit. They put themselves in this situation. It's time for them to grow up and play for an experienced coach that's going to push them to the limit."

Because they're here for



Laurinburg Institute Headmaster Bishop McDuffie, second from left, talks to students who recently returned from spring break.

only short periods, players don't leave with a sense of connection to the school, Chaney said.

The result is an endowment that's only at \$150,000 after more than 100 years of producing graduates.

So Headmaster Bishop McDuffie isn't expecting large donations from Dozier, Anderson, McGrady and Joey Dorsey (a 2004 graduate) when they move on from Memphis.

"The Memphis program will probably get them to the NBA," McDuffie said. "But most of those kids will not end up giving back to the high school they went to or to the community they came out of. That's the tragedy. That's not unique to us."

The boys' dorm that caught fire in November wasn't insured. It can't be restored unless the institute raises money.

Worse, about 15 of the 35 students who were enrolled at the time of the fire decided not to return when the school reopened. Enrollment numbers are key at the private school because tuition is the primary source of income. Only one of the remaining students is paying full tuition of \$16,000, the McDuffies said. The rest receive financial aid discounts.

On Tuesday, eight students were on campus. The other dozen or so hadn't returned from spring break, Bishop McDuffie said.

McDuffie said this is one of the low points in the long history of a school that has done nothing if not survive.

In 1904, McDuffie's grandfather and grandmother accepted an offer and challenge from Booker T. Washington to move from Alabama and start a boarding school for blacks in

North Carolina.

They opened it with 75 cents, Bishop McDuffie said.

For decades, it was the only school in the region available to black students.

Sam Jones, an NBA Hall of Famer, Charlie Scott, the first black scholarship athlete at the University of North Carolina, and jazz artist Dizzy Gillespie are among the notable alumni.

After integration in the 1950s and '60s, the institute's enrollment suffered. But it has remained in operation, and it has remained in the family.

Bishop McDuffie's wife, Cynthia, is the institute's principal. Both are graduates of North Carolina. Frances, the McDuffies' daughter, is a Duke graduate.

Bishop McDuffie, now 56, plans to hand the school over to one of his three children when he retires.

While the school struggles financially, the McDuffies live off their family money and real estate assets.

"The McDuffie family was the pillar of our community," said Curtis Leak, a four-term city councilman in Laurinburg. "They've still got their hand in the community. ... I wish they would update and bring their

campus back to the glory days."

Two years ago, the school was threatened with closure, but not because of financial reasons.

The NCAA conducted a widespread investigation of prep school basketball programs, hoping to weed out counterfeit schools that had been started for the sole purpose of passing premier athletes.

Several schools lost their accreditation. Laurinburg Institute did not.

But it was put on a list with 22 others that were subject to further review. The NCAA this week did not respond to interview requests for an update on the extra review.

"There's a bad stigma" with prep schools, said Tim Thomas, a former institute assistant coach who now works as the director of basketball operations at Marshall University. "A couple people have abused the rules. But I know when we were there, our kids went to class. If they didn't, they weren't going to play."

In 2003, McDuffie and other administrators dismissed Michael Beasley — the Kansas State star and likely No. 1

pick in the NBA draft this year — for not attending class.

Hazael Andrew graduated in 2003, having accepted a scholarship to the institute from the tiny Caribbean island of Dominica. He played collegiately at Fayetteville State University, where he had nearly a 4.0 grade-point average. He is now pursuing his master's degree in business administration from Mississippi State University.

Andrew, though, said he wasn't like his peers at the Laurinburg Institute. His success, he said, is more a product of self-motivation.

"It felt like 80 to 90 percent of the players were more concerned about playing basketball," Andrew said. "I came here to get an education. I wasn't going to let that stop me."

Still, the school doesn't apologize for its student selection. One of its missions, the McDuffies say, is to help those who wouldn't succeed otherwise.

Billy Reid came to the institute from New York in the 1970s. He graduated and later played for the Golden State Warriors. Reid coached for one year at Laurinburg Institute in 2005-06, before taking a job as the director of basketball operations at Southern Miss.

"A lot of kids need that school," Reid said. "I did. I was a troublesome kid out of New York."

Jermaine Simpson was a point guard on this year's team.

The senior from South Carolina has the ability to play in the Big 12 conference, his coach said. But he needs to improve his SAT scores.

So on Tuesday, while some of his classmates were still away on spring break, Simpson was in the cafeteria, in class.

"If I don't get my grades, I



Staff graphic by Jim Blaine

won't be able to go to the college of my choice," Simpson said.

And where is that? "Wherever coach sends me," Simpson said.

"They can have winners."

That's the response Thomas, the former assistant coach, got when he brought his undefeated prep school basketball team to a playground in 2005.

The institute had been scheduled to play at a public elementary school in Laurinburg that night. But the school system called that afternoon and said there had been a mix-up, and they were out.

But they had to play. Several college coaches — including the University of Washington's Lorenzo Romar and Nebraska's Barry Collier — had flown in to scout.

The gym at Laurinburg Institute was deemed unfit for play several years earlier. The school still hasn't fixed it.

Without any other option, Thomas asked the college coaches if they wouldn't mind walking down the street to the playground.

The coaches agreed.

But some local teens already had the court. Thomas tried to reason with them, telling them he had major college scouts here and he needed to take the court.

The teens didn't care. "They can have winners," they told him.

So, with players named Dozier, Anderson and McGrady, the best prep basketball team in the country in 2005 took the court against a bunch of locals with a possible scholarship on the line.

Lose, and they couldn't have the court. Win, and they could play on.

They won. Easily.

Three years later, four of them are again succeeding in a high-stakes, win-or-go-home situation. They'll have at least one more of those games Saturday night in San Antonio.

"If Laurinburg Institute wasn't there," Thomas said, "these kids wouldn't have that opportunity."

Staff writer Michael N. Graff can be reached at graffm@fayobserver.com or 486-3591.

PIPELINES

Recent Laurinburg Institute players who have gone on to play Division I basketball (their final year at Laurinburg in parenthesis):

Chance McGrady (2005) — Memphis*

Robert Dozier (2005) — Memphis*

Antonio Anderson (2005) — Memphis*

Joey Dorsey (2004) — Memphis*

Kareem Cooper (2004) — Memphis

Renaldo Balkman (2003) — South Carolina

Shawne Williams (2005) — Memphis

Sai'Quon Stone (2006) — Southern Miss

Delroy James (2006) — Rhode Island

C.J. Anderson (2004) — Xavier

Troy Mathis (2004) — Clemson

Kris Clark (2004) — New Orleans/Utah State

Avery Smith (2005) — Wisconsin/Milwaukee

Arvydas Eitutavicius (2003) — American

Bienvenu Songondo (2004) — Wyoming

Steve Leven (2002) — Auburn/Wyoming

Boubacar Coly (2003) — Xavier/Morgan State

Magnum Rolle (2005) — LSU

Chris Johnson (2005) — LSU

*On this year's Memphis team, which will play Saturday against UCLA in the Final Four.

FAMOUS ALUMS

BASKETBALL

Sam Jones (1951), N.C. Central, Boston Celtics

Jimmy Walker (1963), Providence, Detroit Pistons, Houston Rockets, Kansas City-Omaha Kings

Charlie Scott (1966), UNC, several NBA, ABA teams

Chris Washburn (1984), N.C. State, several NBA teams

MUSIC

Dizzy Gillespie (1935), jazz great

Woody Shaw (1962), jazz great



Antonio Anderson



A fire destroyed a dormitory at the institute in November. It has not been repaired.

Staff graphic