

**PROBATION**

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discovered that Lovette had never seen his probation officer face-to-face in the months before he was charged with first-degree murder in Carson's death.

The report found that Thomas had not completed basic training, failed to report being twice caught driving under while intoxicated and broke department rules by not reporting her failed attempts to locate Lovette until after the 17-year-old was fingered in Carson's death.

The report also showed that Atwater's case was handled by 10 probation officers in three years and that Atwater went four months without being seen.

Department spokesman Keith Acree blamed the missteps on inadequate screening of new employees stemming from a death of applicants.

Guy reiterated those complaints Friday and said fixing the problems would require more funding.

Statewide there are 1,790 probation officers who handle cases, according to Department of Correction data.

They are responsible for monitoring the 114,340 people on probation in North Carolina, as of early March 2008.

"If anything positive can come out of the tragedies that have occurred, I hope it will be that we can get the resources that we need," Durham County Commissioner and Crime Cabinet Co-chairwoman Ellen Reckhow said at the meeting, according to ABC 11.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

**CLEFS**

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doesn't end there. The Clefs and the General Alumni Association, the group's official sponsor, have planned a weekend of activities for Clefs both old and new to get to know each other. A basketball tournament and a luncheon, with the singers' families, are planned.

The Clefs have evolved through the years from a strict four-part harmony to sing rap, country and rock, among others.

Audience members should expect Clef concert staples such as "Carolina in My Mind" and "Africa," songs which, Desai said, have been iconic of the group for years.

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

**FAMILY**

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pray," Shannon said. "It gives you some hope. It gives you something to believe in other than this world. God's done miracles in my life."

The Greens have had four homes burn down and were forced to start over each time.

Shannon said he once had \$54,000 in the bank. But a couple of months ago he and his wife, Billie Jean, were homeless and fighting to keep Mitchell and his brother, Micheal, 12, from social services.

Shannon stayed at the men's shelter with the dog, and Billie Jean stayed at the women's shelter with Mitchell and Micheal.

Joel Duvall, a real estate agent who attends Orange United Methodist Church with the family, heard of the Greens and the next day helped to reduce the rent on an unoccupied house to \$400 per month so the

family could be together.

"There's more than just the government out there to help," Duvall said. "People need to help each other when they're in a position to do so."

The Greens struggle to pay that rent with Social Security disability checks and any odd jobs that Shannon finds.

Billie Jean is the more pessimistic of the couple. She has lost two children in pregnancy. Her mom was shot in the head, and a man with whom she went on a few dates burned down the family house and shot two of the dogs in 2004, they said.

She takes care of Mitchell full time. His blond hair hides scars from two major brain surgeries. Doctors said at birth he would never walk or talk. But as he watches "Curious George," he laughs and speaks, and the family understands.

And Micheal, who is in fifth grade at Seawell Elementary

School, talks and acts with a seriousness unlike his age.

"It's been sort of like an adventure for me, moving from place to place, seeing new places," he said. "I hate moving, but it's something I've got to deal with for a while till we can get settled in the right spot."

The Greens use furniture donated by church members, but when the rent goes up again this summer, they don't know where they will go.

"It kind of makes you feel, well, God ... what have I done that's so bad? Why are you doing this to me? Why are you allowing the devil to work in my life like this?" Shannon said.

"But ... it just makes me stronger, you know. Every time it gets better and better and better. But I'm just tired of that every time. I want this to be the end of it."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

**BORDER**

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into Alamance, I'd be grateful," hay farmer Claude Lynch said.

He said he owns about 250 acres in Alamance and about 65 in Orange.

The line winds somewhere through his hay field, easily accessible only by all-terrain vehicle. It's now marked by a small flag attached to a worn, wooden post.

Tax assessor data says he owns 249.87 acres in Alamance with a total market value of \$696,913, including his house.

In Orange, he owns 263.3 acres worth \$739,449.40, according to tax data.

Smith said that differences between where the two counties think the lines are can cause such discrepancies but that he doesn't think anyone has been double billed.

If people think they are, Smith said they should tell Smith immediately.

Anyone who feels slighted by the changes will have recourse. The line determined by the N.C. Geodetic Survey is not immediately binding.

The board of commissioners in both Orange and Alamance counties must approve it, Smith said.

The appeal method has not yet been formulated.

Such an appeals process was last offered 25 to 30 years ago, Smith said, so nobody has had any experience with it.

"But they'll want to be as fair as they can be," he said.

Chatham County went through the boundary settlement process with Orange County a few years ago. After the survey, a N.C. General Assembly bill officially set the boundary based on latitude and longitude coordinates.

"With information getting more precise, we wanted to pick up the property actually in Chatham County," said Mary Phillips, of the Chatham County mapping department. "It's made it more straightforward over who has jurisdiction."

Chatham County sent letters to its residents near the border as the process reached an end. Phillips said that she got calls asking her to explain what was happening, but that she didn't hear any complaints.

But Lynch said he would be wary of Orange County exercising more control over his land after the revision. He said he worries about what might happen to two old homes on his land, one built in 1826, the other in 1877.

And some residents just want things left the way they are.

The boundary line passes straight through a stand of pine trees in Jimmy Thompson's front yard.

Most of his land is in Alamance, which suits him just fine.

"Alamance is pretty bad but the taxes aren't as high," Thompson said. "I hope they leave it alone."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

**BATTLE**

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The 11-month-long debate highlighted still-present local divisions on race issues, but Battle said Chapel Hill came together.

"We had the community around us in terms of support," he said. "Not just the black community but the white community, also."

Friends call him "Toro," after the lawn mower brand because of his physical and mental strength.

Even though Battle had a prostate operation and suffered a stroke within a couple of weeks in February, he still commanded attention at Saturday's meeting.

"He's anybody's leader," said First Vice President Eugene Farrar, who will take Battle's place June 1.

Battle said he is stepping down at his doctor's advice.

"The illness is nothing to play with. I want to be around for a long time," he said. "In order to be around ... I'm going to have to cut back on some of my responsibilities."

Battle was part of the group that helped to revive the local NAACP in 1989. He became president in 1994.

Farrar played basketball and football with Battle at Lincoln High School. When Farrar moved back to Chapel Hill in 2001, Battle invited him for lunch at Mama Dip's.

"He's my bridge to get to the

other side," Farrar said. "I couldn't ask for anyone better than Fred Battle to walk behind."

Battle said he will continue to attend NAACP meetings and serve on local and statewide committees.

The local branch still must advocate for affordable housing and education access, he said.

"I'm going to keep the struggle alive while I'm in good health, and you keep the struggle alive."

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