

# Straley, 90, council member, activist

**BY JAKE POTTER**  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

A man who left a lasting impression on both the town and the University passed away Wednesday.

Joe W. Straley, a peace and justice activist, former Chapel Hill Town Council member and University professor, died at approximately 2 p.m. Wednesday at UNC Hospitals. He was 90.

Straley is survived by his wife, Lucy, sons, David and Joe Jr., and daughter, Lesley. Also surviving are his sister, Miriam Smith, and his brother, Huston.

Straley, born in Paulding, Ohio in 1914, served one term on the council, from 1979 to 1982. He also taught physics at the University and was active in the civil rights movement.

He helped bolster various organizations working in Latin America as coordinator of the Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America.

Joe Straley Jr. said he has tre-



Councilman **Joe Straley** passed away Wednesday after a lifetime of service in local groups.

mendous respect for his father's contributions to the town.

"I do think it's important that he was opposed to segregation in the '50s, that he opposed almost every war that occurred in his lifetime," Straley Jr. said. "He was in favor of economic justice, and he got to this from his own upbringing on a small farm during the Depression."

Mayor Kevin Foy said one of Straley's greatest gifts to Chapel Hill was his relentless political activism.

"Joe really held everyone's feet to the fire," he said. "He was extraordinarily persistent. He never changed or wavered."

Straley's was visible as well as persistent.

"The first time I ever saw Joe Straley, he was being carried bodily out of a lie-in on the corner of Franklin and Columbia streets," recalled friend Jerry Markatos of a protest against movie theater segregation in the mid-'60s. "He set a really lasting example."

N.C. Peace Action honored Straley with the Peacemaker Award in 2003 for his efforts in Chapel Hill and worldwide.

Straley also served several decades as Greenwold precinct's chairman.

Tom Jensen, a UNC senior, worked with Straley on the precinct last year.

"I served as chair and he served under me as vice chair, which was a total joke because he had so much wisdom and knowledge," Jensen said. "He was a phenomenal man."

Even in retirement, Straley continued protesting war, going as far

as to push the council in 2003 to adopt a resolution condemning the Iraq conflict.

But the younger Straley said his father's impact transcended the political realm.

"I'm also a physics professor, and one of the things I do is lecture demonstrations, and that was something he was really interested in," Straley Jr. said.

"He would show you the laws of physics at work, and some of my best presentations are ones that I stole from him."

A memorial service is scheduled for 2 p.m. Oct. 29 at the Community Church of Chapel Hill.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Straley's name to CITCA/Witness-for-Peace Youth Delegation Support Fund, care of CITCA, PO Box 1188, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## BENEFIT

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supporting musicians, a practice that Scott Morgan, frontman for Memphis, said is an ongoing tradition.

"Musicians have always done that," he said. "I don't mind giving money to old Fats (Domino) to get him back on his feet."

The Cradle is not the only venue helping victims — local businesses also are helping out with fundraisers of their own, Heath said.

"The outpouring of effort of

everyone involved and all around the country sort of speaks for itself."

The night's diverse lineup could help get a wide variety of people out to the Cradle, increasing the show's chance for success, said Ryan Davis, the bassist for Memphis.

"All different walks of life will be able to find some part of that evening that's special to them and be able to make it worthwhile for everybody."

Contact the A&E Editor at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

## CUBA

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alone.

The experiences you have while abroad are ones you can neither replicate nor forget.

Going randomly door-to-door with a few hundred dollars, trying to find and pay Cubans for illegal cable so we could watch the Tar Heels play for the national championship, is a memory I share with only five other Americans. And also a few Cubans, who were confused by animated foreigners screaming at the 20-inch television screen.

Like an inside joke, you just had to be there.

When you arrive back on campus, everything suddenly isn't clear, every theory learned in class automatically isn't validated by your experience and you suddenly don't want to drop your pre-med major to join Greenpeace.

To be honest, a lot of your experience begins to fade and you can't remember those things you swore you'd never forget. But if you really think about it, you begin to realize how much you have changed.

Having spent a semester watching premier league soccer, you have a lot more to talk about with the foreign exchange student who sits next to you in your policy class, and you have a new friend to help you

paint the town on Friday night.

After spending a summer teaching in Africa, you might use an APPLS course to spend two days a week helping out in a learning disabilities middle school class.

These aren't just random scenarios I've imagined; these are my personal experiences.

Travel of any kind, be it a week-long trip during winter break or a yearlong study abroad program, can have a profound impact on you as a person and as a student.

I've yet to meet anyone who has gone abroad and has returned wishing she had never gone.

Many people come in with a four-year college plan they feel has no room for travel. They have clubs, classes and life plans that can in no way be compromised to accommodate an international experience.

Travel of any kind affords you a break, a moment to catch your breath and gather yourself again.

I urge you not to take time to smell the roses, but to take time to go to Ecuador and see the rose farms where they grow.

The next time you see a rose, it'll mean a lot more than a bunch of clichés.

Contact Andrew Patterson at [hopa@email.unc.edu](mailto:hopa@email.unc.edu).

# Speaker stresses youth, cultural integration

**BY KATHERINE EVANS**  
STAFF WRITER

Bakari Kitwana's last visit to UNC was under different circumstances.

Kitwana, a hip-hop journalist who spoke in Wilson Library on Thursday, was rejected from the master's program in English in 1988. But, he said, it is a good thing he wasn't accepted.

"I'd probably be standing here talking about some egghead book that 50 other people have read," he told the audience with a laugh.

Instead, the former executive editor of The Source magazine, spoke on his provocatively titled new book

"Why White Kids Love Hip Hop: Wangstas, Wiggers, Wannabes and the New Reality of Race in America." The reading was sponsored both by the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History and by the Bull's Head Bookshop.

Kitwana said that he likes to "give academics a hard time because they give me a hard time," but that he was nevertheless adamant about the sophisticated and intellectual dialogue he hoped his book would stimulate.

The book explores the cross-cultural appeal of hip-hop music.

"There is something new that is

happening," he said. "Young white Americans have access to black culture, and it's changed the way black and white kids are interacting."

Kitwana said he wanted to examine the misconceptions surrounding white hip-hop fans, arguing that they are either vilified for stealing black culture or snubbed by whites for embracing it.

But he stressed that white people who enjoy hip hop also must have an appreciation for its origins.

The broad appeal of hip hop, Kitwana said, creates an unprecedented vehicle for political action.

"There are issues that mean a lot to young people across race," he said. "A youth agenda that cuts across race is a much harder animal to defeat."

This role of popular culture in political struggle will be explored

throughout the year in various programs offered by the Stone Center.

Kitwana's reading, and the subsequent symposium with journalist Raquel Rivera Thursday, kicked off the center's yearlong initiative.

"We need to reorient folks so they understand that in every legitimate substantive movement there has been a cultural component," said center Director Joseph Jordan.

Students said conversations about the accepted notions of race and its implications for politics are important, though controversial.

"Race and hip hop is kind of the elephant in the room," said Martin Johnson, a recent UNC graduate who attended the event.

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### THE Daily Crossword

By Robert H. Wolfe

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**ACROSS**

- 1 Yankee or Oriole, briefly
- 5 Starter course
- 10 Blabbed
- 14 Faultless
- 15 Prefix for savings
- 16 Front of a vessel
- 17 How to test an herb?
- 20 Loose
- 21 Buckeye
- 22 Moroccan city to some
- 23 Face part
- 24 Braved white water
- 25 Vocalize an ache
- 29 A mean Amin
- 32 Plaudits
- 33 Bani of Iran
- 34 Arabian port
- 35 Herb from the distant past?
- 38 Charged particles
- 39 Pen points
- 40 One of the strings
- 41 Ages and ages
- 42 Vocalist James
- 43 Ned or Warren
- 44 Top cards
- 45 Prickly husk
- 46 Actress
- 47 Donahue
- 49 Mediterranean island
- 54 Herb's organic process?
- 56 Elliptical track
- 57 Beatles song

**DOWN**

- 1 Copies
- 2 De (sumptuously)
- 3 While lead-in
- 4 Agents, briefly
- 5 Scarched
- 6 Farming plots
- 7 Togo's capital
- 8 Singer DiFranco
- 9 Part of the doctor's creed
- 10 European country
- 11 Woody's son
- 12 Vincent Lopez theme
- 13 Mistress of Charles II
- 18 Overrefined

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ASEA INANE ESTH

THE CARTHATHITIME

RE MELT A IREDALE

IN STEPS RAE

SOIR PHASES

STAR OTIS ASTIN

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## FORUM

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Gering and Stevens both said they would like to see higher density development to preserve open spaces.

"It makes the most sense economically and for the quality of life to attract nonpolluting industries," Gering said.

"Part of building a sustainable community is to provide people with jobs and recreation that don't rely on automobiles. ... To avoid development that can be classified as urban sprawl."

Stevens said he would like to see the community work together to define itself.

One upcoming project is the Eno River Walk, which Gering said is nearing planning stages.

"I'm optimistic that we'll see the river walk starting next year," he said. "It helps protect and celebrate the Eno, one of our most precious resources."

The Sierra Club will hold its next forum for Chapel Hill candidates Sept. 27 in Town Hall.

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Volleyball vs. Virginia Tech 7:00pm Smith Center	Field Hockey vs. Duke 7:00pm Henry Stadium	<b>Men's Tennis</b> <b>UNC Fall Invitational</b> All day Friday - Sunday Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center

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