

THORPE

FROM PAGE 3

nection to our community history. He often contexts our decisions in the history of the town."

Council members did not know any details about the leave or what the council plans to do in his absence.

Thorpe moved to Chapel Hill with his family in 1970 and has been a civil servant ever since, said Fred Battle, Thorpe's long-time friend and former president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"Bill is known for serving the people and their needs," Battle said. "He has done a lot for the citizens

"He is the connection to our community history. He often contexts our decisions in the history of the town."

MARK KLEINSCHMIDT,
CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER

and for the town staff.

"He is a grassroots politician." Attempts to reach Thorpe were unsuccessful.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

SMITH

FROM PAGE 3

eficiaries of that."

Smith said he hopes to spur discussion, not dominate it, which he feels will be more interesting and beneficial for those who attend.

"We want to have more conversation than oration ... geared toward questions relating to the issues that are happening now."

Although Jordan said the event primarily is intended to prompt live debate, the Stone Center also will broadcast the discussion on its Web site.

"We're not offering our vision," Jordan said. "We're asking people to come and bring up conversation."

The event is the first in a series, intended to reflect on the civil rights movement of 1968 and 1969, that is being offered by the Stone Center.

Other events will include movie screenings, discussions and readings about the cultural climate during the 1960s and 1970s.

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

National and World News

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

McCain, Obama pause for Sept. 11

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MCT) — In a departure from the increasingly nasty environment of the presidential campaign, candidates Barack Obama and John McCain will make a joint appearance Thursday in New York to honor the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

It's the kind of politics that the public rarely gets.

The candidates plan to visit the site of the World Trade Center, which was destroyed in the terrorist attack seven years ago. They also have agreed to suspend television ads on Thursday.

The event will mark the first time since each was nominated that they have appeared together.

Pirates plunder Somalian waters

(MCT) — Wednesday was another banner day for the pirates who travel the lawless waters off of Somalia.

Unidentified pirates hijacked a South Korean cargo ship with 21 crew members in the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday, according to the International Maritime Bureau. The Yonhap news agency of South Korea said the crew included eight South Koreans.

Also Wednesday, the maritime bureau said pirates in speedboats fired machine gun rounds at a Greek vessel.

Wednesday's attacks brought the number of attacks on ships off the coast of Somalia this year to at least 49. The total for all of 2007 was 34.

As the situation in Somalia gets worse, piracy is more lucrative than ever. Andrew Mwangura, a watchdog who works out of Kenya, reports that Somali pirates have demanded a \$1.4 million ransom for a French couple whose yacht was hijacked on Sept. 3.

Cuban efforts at Ike recovery begin

HAVANA (MCT) — Hurricane Ike's 41-hour journey across Cuba may be over, but its stay will be long remembered.

The storm left a destructive trail stretching hundreds of miles.

On Tuesday night most of Cuba remained without electricity, at least four people were dead, dilapidated buildings in the colonial capital lay in ruins and more than 1 million people forced from their homes by the storm began returning to see what, if anything, remained.

Heavy rains caused at least 16 partial building collapses in the capital, authorities said. Four aging houses on a single block crumbled into rubble. And it may not be over: More collapses are probable in the coming days as weakened buildings dry out.

As Ike headed off toward the Gulf of Mexico on Tuesday afternoon, recovery efforts had already begun where the storm first struck Sunday night.

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