

## Loud and True (continued)

On Tuesday, August 6, Dr. Stone, 52, was found unconscious in her Durham home by her son, Robert Stone. She was rushed to Duke University Medical Center and diagnosed as having suffered a massive aneurysm in her brain. She lay in a coma in intensive care for days and was diagnosed as brain dead. Her family held on, hoping for a miracle that would bring the dynamic scholar and activist back. She died Saturday, August 10, at about 1:15 p.m.

We mourn her loss deeply. I am at a loss for words to describe this truly phenomenal woman and the impact she had on so many lives. Their voices ring loud and true.

"She was inspiring," senior Tara D. Owens, a health behavior and health education major, said. "I'd never been one to really get involved in class discussions. I preferred to just get the notes and get out of there. You didn't get away with that in her class. You didn't want to. She got people involved. She taught us how our history as black people was very important and very misunderstood. I wanted to learn more about my culture—myself. She sparked something in me that's still there. I'm still learning, thanks to her."

"She was more than a teacher to her students," 1991 graduate Tara L. Patterson, an African American studies major, said. "She put a personal responsibility in each student. Not too many professors want to do that. She did it, because she really cared. She saw us as

individuals, not just as her class. She wanted to do what she could for everyone she met. Carolina has lost one of their best teachers."

"I knew her as a teacher, a mentor and a colleague," Assistant Dean Harold Woodard said. "I met her in 1974 while I was a freshman here. I was in two of her classes. She informed us about events in the black experience that helped us appreciate more the strength of the black folk we studied. Considering the obstacles they faced, it forced us to see how much better the opportunities were for us. She was an incredibly insightful instructor. She kept challenging students to push themselves and become involved both in scholarship and service. That is the legacy she has left us. For that I think her students are most appreciative. She was without peer in terms of her willingness to extent herself to her students. Her commitment to the African/African-American studies curriculum is unparalleled by any other individual here in terms of years of service and consistent advocacy. I hope, in her memory, that students dedicate themselves to the two things she stood for—scholarship and service."

"Sonja was a long distance runner for the race," Margo Crawford, director of the Black Cultural Center, said. "She was a major spokesperson on campus and a social activist in the most powerful way. In the tradition of a Rosa Parks and a Harriet Tubman, she was a person who didn't just simply talk

about solving the problems, she was a person who dedicated her life to strategizing and working toward solutions. She had the strongest sense of self-esteem I had ever seen. It came from her family and the strong bond they shared. She didn't know how not to stand up for herself. She taught theory, but unlike most professors, she didn't stop there. She taught her students to close the gap between theory and reality. She believed it was theory in practice that changed the world. She worked for change and a mission of opposing injustice to the last day of her life."

"Dr. Stone made a tremendous contribution to the University, her students and the African/African-American Studies curriculum," Dr. Audrey Johnson of the School of Social Work said. "She was a role model, mentor, teacher and a friend to me. I'd known her since Chicago over 20 years ago. She struggled with putting forth the ideas and needs of African-American students for years. And she found a brick wall when she got tenured in 1979 and promoted in the mid-80s. She fought for equality all her life. She didn't have time to give up the fight."

These are only a few of the voices who sing her praises. We have lost a remarkable woman, a dedicated teacher and an unyielding social activist. There is a void at the University of North Carolina that may never be filled. I challenge, as I know she would, the African American students who will fight to see that her life's work was not in vain to take up her torch and fight for injustice on every level. One step in that direction is to continue her fight to build an appropriate black cultural center. We should continue the fight and name the completed sanctuary after her. She should also be honored with one of the highest honors of the University, an endowed chair. Go to the Black Cultural Center, the Black Student Movement,

the Collegiate Black Caucus, the Black Alumni Association, and anywhere else African Americans have a voice, and a power base. Find out what you can do to help.

Dr. Sonja H. Stone, an associate professor of African American Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, left her mark on this campus and this country.

She was born in Chicago, Illinois December 14, 1938. She earned her bachelor's degree in social science from Sarah Lawrence College, a master's degree in social work from Atlanta University, a master's in social and ethical philosophy from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a doctoral degree in history and philosophy of education from Northwestern University. She also studied additionally at the Duke University School of Divinity.

She taught at Northeastern Illinois University, where she was assistant director and acting director of its Center for Inner City Studies in Chicago and was chairman of the Department of Inner City Studies. She also worked in the Cook County (Illinois) Office of Economic Opportunity and its Department of Public Aid, as well as in the Los Angeles Department of Community Services.

Dr. Stone came to UNC in 1974 as director of the Curriculum in African American studies. She remained director until 1979. She was founder of the Southeastern Black Press Institute and director from 1977 to 1979. She was chosen for the Favorite Faculty Award by the Class of 1990 and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Woman of the

Year in 1981. In 1990 Dr. Stone was the first recipient of the Outstanding Black Faculty Award from the UNC General Alumni Association. The award recognizes professional and academic achievement and service to the University and its students, with an emphasis on minority involvement.

While at UNC Dr. Stone served on numerous advisory panels, including the Black Cultural Center Planning Committee on Recruitment of Black Faculty and the Campus Y advisory board. She was an adviser for the UNC Collegiate Black Caucus and the African American Studies Club from 1974-1980.

Dr. Stone wrote extensively about the black community. She received numerous awards, including the Black Student Movement Faculty Award in 1983 and its Award for Excellent Academic Achievement in 1980, the N.C. Alumni and Friends Coalition Award for Achievement in Higher Education in 1982 and the National Council for Black Studies Dedicated Service Award in 1978. Dr. Stone served as a director of the Archival Program of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America Inc. in 1986. She was founder and co-chairwoman of the Black Presence Committee of Chapel Hill-Carrboro in 1976-77 and was founder, co-convenor and Piedmont regional director of the North Carolina Conference on Black Studies.

Sonja H. Stone is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell O. Haynes of Durham; a brother, Wendell O. Haynes Jr. of New York City; and two children, Precious Stone of Bethlehem, Pa., and Robert Stone of Durham.

## Black Ink

"The essence of freedom is understanding"

*Editors-in-Chief*

Erika F. Campbell, Akinwale N'Gai Wright

*Staff:* Michelle Thomas, Teresa Jefferson

*Contributors:* Margo Crawford, Arnie Epps, Heather Lynch, D. Soyini Madison, NC Fellows/Leadership Development, Edith Wiggins,

Special Thank You To Dennis, Douglass, Fred, Lee, Renee and Stefan,

We, the Editors of Black Ink,  
lovingly dedicate this issue to  
the memory of Dr. Sonja Stone.  
We will miss her greatly.

*Black Ink*, founded in 1969, is the weekly newspaper of the Black Student Movement at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It is published Mondays during the academic year and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, religion, race, ethnic origin or handicap. All manuscripts, letters, photos, illustrations and other materials submitted are welcome and must be signed. The *Black Ink* office is located in Suite 108-D of the Student Union. Mailing address, CB# 5210 Student Union, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Phone, 962-4336. One year subscription in U.S. and possessions \$20.00. Single copy, \$1.00 (Make checks payable to *Black Ink*). Any announcement or advertisement to be printed must be submitted the Wednesday before any publication date. *Black Ink* is published completely by university students on the SCAPEGOAT desktop publishing system and printed by Village Printing Company.