

## To The Future, Blackwards

Hello, I'm the new editor of the *Black Ink*.

Any publication tends to bear the distinctive stamp of its editor and editorial staff, so to fully understand why certain articles were written, one must also understand the writers. In the coming weeks, I will try to help you know me through my opinions as expressed in what I will call the "Issue of the Week." Let me reiterate that this is my opinion and not that of my trusty staff. So without further adieu, let me tell you:

**Why I prefer "black" as a race description over all other alternatives, including "African American."**

I have no objections to usage of the term "African American" in written or oral discourse; I am just confused by some of our leaders who push for this word to the exclusion of the powerfully simple "black." It is disheartening to hear the Rev. Jesse Jackson and others claim that "black" represents only a color and nothing more. History proves this way of thinking to be merely cynical oversimplification. "Black" is a creation of our own, unlike the terms "negro" and "colored," which were more or less saddled upon us by white popular will. In protest to the overt racist practices pervading the nation in the 1950s and 1960s, we coined the phrase ourselves, and it represented the first time in American history we participated in our own naming. So "black" represents not only the skin color brown, but a race's self-determination and self-reliance.

Proponents of "African American" say that this word tells the nation and the world at-large about our collective history, i.e., where we came from. But one glance at my skin instantly tells the most obtuse person from where and from what people I descended. Do you think it is a coincidence that ignorant racists (a redundancy?) have been known to call American blacks "jungle bunnies" and "spearchuckers"? To what continent are we encouraged to return when we really aggravate the white establishment?

The point is that either term, "black" or "African American," is perfectly legitimate. Even though the latter makes our race sound like immigrants (such as Italian Americans or Asian Americans) when in fact we are ex-slaves, it is still a black creation. And when I use "African American," I'm recognizing the legitimacy and utility of the term while at the same time, not abandoning "black," the original and best. The *Black Ink* will continue to use the two terms interchangeably.

To wrap up, let me open up our pages to anyone with a conflicting or corresponding viewpoint to the ones you read in our biweekly newspaper. We always accept letters from our readers because that is how true diversity of opinion is achieved. If the staff does not hear from you, the UNC community, then we can only assume that our printed word is generally agreed upon and can take pride in the fact that we truly represent the interests of this campus.

God Bless,  
Myron B. Pitts

## Black Ink

"The essence of freedom is understanding"

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## Inside Black Ink

Tuesday, October 1, 1991

### Cover Story

#### NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Chuck Stone has been just about everywhere and done nearly everything. Now the 67-year-old is trying his hand at teaching...and making a big impression at the University. Page 4

#### MOORE SPEAKS HIS MIND

Tim Moore, controversial Speaker of Student Congress, still holds that the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association deserves no student funding. But other minority groups should not feel threatened, he says. Page 3

#### AFTER 11 YEARS, NADA

The Black Cultural Center has yet to find a home of its own, and the University has no plans on the book for building one. Page 5.

#### BISA'S BACK

After 10 years, the Black Interdominational Association returns to campus with a mission to recruit members from varied religions. Page 6.

#### REMEMBERING A WOMAN WARRIOR

BISA Chaplain Jo Watson, former BSM President, writes a resolution for her mentor, late professor Sonja H. Stone. Page 6

#### BLACK TRACKS

*Ink* reviewers take a look at Queen Latifah, Lisa Lisa & Cult Jam, Naughty By Nature and Vanessa Williams. Page 7

#### "CARS DRIVE BY WITH THE BOOMING SYSTEM"

But does this translate into a booming bankbook? See what Wonderboy says. Page 8

#### About the Cover

Chuck Stone, celebrated journalist, lectures to his censorship class. The syndicated columnist and former senior editor of *The Philadelphia Daily News* was chosen from more than 80 applicants to fill the Walter Spearman professorship in the School of Journalism. See story, Page 4

*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.