

# New CIAA host scores

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problem, but I'm scared to take the bus," she said.

Whitfield said for a chance for Charlotte to be the center of black America's sports and social attention, she doesn't mind the hassle.

"This exposes us to a whole different group of people that have never heard of Charlotte or the tournament before," she said.

Johnson C. Smith University graduate Joseph Major said he enjoyed going to Raleigh during the tournament's run there because he likes to travel. Having the tournament at home doesn't give his Golden Bulls a home court advantage, though.

"I don't look at it as being an advantage because there is a strong alumni base from all of the institutions," he said.

One thing Major does like about the tournament in Charlotte is that everything isn't as spread out as it was in Raleigh. With the tournament in the heart of center city, the majority of events are right around Charlotte Bobcats Arena.

"People can stay downtown, park their cars and go out and have a good time," he said. "Everything is in a close vicinity."

Johnny Smith, a loyal CIAA fan who said he'd follow the tournament anywhere, said Charlotte has a ways to go to get on Raleigh's level. His concern was the attendance on Monday and Tuesday for the women's tournament.

"It seems like the first two days in Raleigh there were more people," he said.

Bodies may not have been in the seats, but league officials and Charlotte organizers say the tournament is a sellout. Some people, like North Carolina Central University graduate Edward Cook, waited until midweek to come to Charlotte.

"I'm coming to see what Charlotte has to offer," he said. And in order for him to come back next year, the city has to be hospitable.

"Hospitality is really big for me. Raleigh gave (the tournament) its all," he said.

Cook has had a taste of Charlotte hospitality when his fraternity hosted their national convention here.

"When the Kappas had their conclave, I really enjoyed myself in Charlotte," he said.

And though Herndon and Winston are enjoying themselves, they're not sure if they will be back next year.

"The cost is just too expensive," Winston said about parking. "Maybe if we can get a hotel in downtown, it would be better."

Since Uptown hotels were booked one week after the tournament left Raleigh, if they do return, they'll be making reservations soon.



PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

Sarah Stevenson (center) greets Gerson Stroud as Daisy Spears Stroud looks on at a fund raiser at ImaginOn Tuesday. Proceeds from "Three Daughters from Charlotte" went to scholarships for students at Johnson C. Smith and Fayetteville State universities.

## Fund raiser a labor of love

By Victoria Elmore  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Daisy Stroud is still reaching back to help others in need.

The Three Daughters from Charlotte concert at ImaginOn raised scholarship money for the Gerson L. and Daisy Spears Stroud Foundation.

Daisy Stroud, a Fayetteville State University graduate, and her husband Gerson, a Johnson C. Smith University grad, are longtime champions of education in Charlotte.

"Realizing how many needy capable students there are

today in pursuit of education, I wanted to set motion to a vehicle where in we can give back," Daisy Stroud said. "My dream is to present the first scholarship to a deserving student at Johnson C. Smith University in the name of Gerson L. Stroud Sr."

Political luminaries praised the Strouds for their help in their personal lives. City Council member Anthony Foxx recalled his experience with the couple.

"I grew up in the same neighborhood as (the Strouds). I had three to four principals on either side of

me. I can't imagine living in the 1970s," he said, "but I'm grateful for the time that I did share with you."

County Commissioner Wilhelmina Rembert thanked Daisy for her work in the community.

"It is indeed an honor and privilege to have Mrs. Daisy here. As an educator it's an honor to recognize the leadership of people in our community, she said. "Thank you for your kindness."

After presenting Spears with The County Seal, Rembert said that she hopes to never forget Spears contributions."

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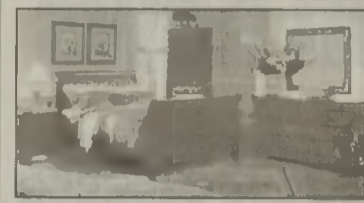
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