

## CIAA always jumping, win or lose

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Then you have the recent grads who return to the tournament-maybe fresh off a championship game appearance or win-wearing their letterman's jackets. (At least on the first few days anyway.) They sit in the stands and cheer their alma mater on and even do a little arm-chair coaching.

I'm torn between going to basketball games or the parties and live performances. Watching games from the press table isn't easy. Tuesday night, Johnson C. Smith University's women made history. They were the first team to beat Shaw University in the tournament in five years. I wanted to jump out of my seat and cheer - especially since

Shaw's pep band had been heckling the Smith fans all night. But just like the International Institution of Sound said at last year's tourney-'where we at? Charlotte!'

So now the week winds down and the parties and crowds heat up. It's time to go shopping, because you can't walk around uptown without the proper clothes.

But with this fickle weather, you have to be careful about pulling out capris and sandals too soon.

Today the men start to play and there's sure to be dazzling dunks and a lot more trash talking. But then again, there's a day party that is sure to be exciting. What to do, what to do?

## It's always good time to get a jump on family genealogy

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on pictures with ink, ink bleeds over time." Rhue said the majority of the questions she receives are about photos and scrapbooks. "The proper way to do a scrapbook, in order to make sure the materials



Rhue

last longer is to put bulky items at the back of the book."

Preserve Pro began offering training in 2005, going to churches, organizations or families and teaching them the necessary tools to preserve their records. "I have taken archival methodology and broken it down into its simplest concepts to be used by anybody," said Rhue. Courses

include the optimizing church records workshop, a partnership with Central Piedmont Community College to offer optimizing your genealogy research, and there are plans to launch online courses, available during the summer.

"I'm very proud," said Rhue. "It's a lot of work to make this happen...but it's up to the community to be

receptive." In addition to families and churches, Rhue said the courses are good for researchers preparing information for books, and film.

For more information or to find out about course offerings call (704) 995-0731 or e-mail [Preservepro@earthlink.net](mailto:Preservepro@earthlink.net). A website is under construction.

## Transplants saved Superman's life

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of machines. In the hospital bed he looked so small and so weak. So human, because to me he's always been Superman.

He was stoic in the search for a kidney, not wanting anyone in the family to be a donor, despite the fact that he had nieces, children and his sister ready and willing to go on the table.

African-Americans are hit especially hard by kidney disease. One out of every three people with kidney failure is African American, compared to only one in eight in the general population. High blood pressure

and diabetes are the leading causes of kidney failure.

African Americans are under-represented in those who are living donors as well as cadaveric donors. Although 33 percent of those waiting for kidneys are African American, only 16 percent of living kidney donors between 1988 and 2001 were African American. During that same time period, only 11 percent of cadaveric donors were African Americans.

Knowing those statistics made it seem as if the day would never come when my dad found a kidney.

Last Thursday, my father underwent a successful kidney transplant. The surgery fused the new kidney with the non-functioning one through the main artery. For the next few weeks, his blood will be monitored for creatinine, a substance that is filtered out of the blood stream by the kidneys. He'll take an anti-rejection medicine that will lower his immune system, so anyone with a cold or infection can't be around him for a while.

The most important thing about my father's surgery is that it has reinforced my belief that African Americans must become

organ donors. There are too many lives out there that need to be saved. I've heard some people say they're not organ donors because they believe hospitals harvest organs from blacks to save other people's lives. Not only is that the stupidest thing I've ever heard, but if that was true my father wouldn't have received one organ transplant, let alone two.

But with the history of the Tuskegee Experiment, it's somewhat understandable why some blacks would be wary about checking that box on their driver's license. However, how would you feel if it was your loved one in need of an organ?

## Enjoying history, culture and nightlife in Naptown!

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River State Park, listed as water landmarks and historic places, but it was Indiana Avenue and the history of this historic area that drew me to Indianapolis.

When it was first founded, Indianapolis was built on a mile square, designed a little like Washington, D.C., with a circle in the middle of town, around a monument, and avenues that go out from four spokes. Indiana Avenue is one of the roads that went out from the spoke, in the northwest corner of town, and it was mainly the black neighborhood of town.

In the 1800s, when the Canal was originally built, the black neighborhood included the canal area, due to the mosquitoes it was considered an unhealthy part of town. Now, it's considered healthy living to be near water, and the Canal is prime real estate, explained Indy native A'lelia Bundles. But what was once the black neighborhood is being rebuilt around the legacy of one of African Americans most notable women, Madame C.J. Walker.

We've all heard the story of Madame Walker, the first America female self-made millionaire, but in Indy you can get the truth. "She didn't invent the straightening comb," explained Bundles, author of "On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madame C.J. Walker." "She was however a pioneer of the modern cosmetics industry, founder of the Madam C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company, and the creator of marketing schemes, training opportunities, and distribution strategies as innovative as those of any entrepreneur of her time."

Walker moved to Indianapolis in 1910, and built her first factory within a year. Though the plant operated until 1979, the neighborhood around it was greatly changed from Walker's day.

"They tore our neighborhoods down," Bundles said. "They didn't value our buildings and our neighborhoods. But now...this is the last area that was designated as a cultural district. All of this used to be store fronts...they've leveled all of those buildings...and will be rebuilding restaurants and stores. [The Walker Theater is] the anchor of the Indiana Avenue Cultural district."

Bundles would know. She grew up in the Walker building as Walker's great, great granddaughter.

"As a little girl, I would walk through here and it seemed like it would just go on, and on," said Bundles.

Madame Walker planned the building, but died before its completion in 1927, by her daughter A'lelia, for whom Bundles is named.

"This was the place that all the black clubs had their parties and dances," said Bundles. The Walker closed in the 1960s but was renovated and reopened in 1988. Today the Walker continues to be a center for activity, adding new events weekly. In its 80th year, enjoy Jazz on the Avenue, live musical performances; Laughing on the Avenue, comedy performances; and even Salsa and Stepping on the Avenue, all at the Walker Theater.

The Walker was called a "City within a building," as it included a beauty shop, a drug store, restaurant, grocery store, and nightclub all catering to the black community. Today, the location of the beauty shop, still houses a salon, the building is also home to a museum to Madame Walker's accomplishments, and Freetown Village, a living history museum that symbolizes the many black communities that were scattered throughout Indiana in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Walker is not the only history that remains on Indiana Avenue. Crispus Attucks High School opened in 1927 as the first all black high school in Indianapolis. Though it was converted to a middle school in 1986, a museum was built at the rear of the school that focused on the history of the original high school. Indy's cultural accomplishments don't end on Indiana Avenue, the city boasts the largest and longest running exposition of its kind in the nation, celebrating African-American culture and heritage with the Indiana Black Expo Summer Celebration. This year's 37th Annual 10 day Summer Celebration runs from July 16-22.

Sports lovers also know Indy for the two largest single sporting events in the world, the Indianapolis 500 and the Allstate 400 at Brickyard, but over the past 23 years, the Circle City Classic has gained notoriety as more than just a football game. This year the Winston-Salem State University Rams face off against the Florida A&M University Rattlers on October 6.

A newly opened luxury suite will allow you to stay in celebrity style, if you so chose while in Indy. The Luxus two bedroom suite offers a wood burning fire place, private chef, in-house spa, limo service and roof-top view of the city.

Not on a baller budget, but want something unique, stay in the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center at Union Station. Housed within America's first Union Station and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Crowne Plaza is best known for its 26 authentic Pullman train car sleeping rooms, named and decorated after famous personalities from the early 1900s.

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