

“What may set Indianapolis apart, though, is the local emphasis on getting along. Being a team player, fitting in, seems more crucial here than in many other places. To get ahead in Indy, you mustn’t want to change things, but improve them, oh so gradually.” ~ David Hoppe, *NUVO* magazine columnist

“The most frightening thing about Indianapolis is Indianapolis, the fact that it continues to undermine itself by being someone other than what it is or who it is.” ~ Transcript from Callers #43-#47, *The Manufactured History of Indianapolis*

Here’s link to the considerate and courageous letter of support from *Recorder* president, Mr. Robert Shegog, and the *Recorder* family for our efforts to both 1) let our city know that 9 years of the *Recorder* are missing: <https://ulib.iupui.edu/digitalcollections/IRecorder>, and 2) let others know of our efforts to locate any semblance of the missing editions: <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/02.09.2022-Indianapolis-Recorder-Letter-of-Support-Beginning-to-solve-the-mystery-of-the-9-years-of-missing-Recorder-newspapers.pdf>.

You see, from my standpoint, the missing *Recorders* are a metaphor for Naptown, or as I repeat what Mari Evans says, “Indianapolis is truly dichotomous; a city in which contradictions is truly the norm. It is easy to be deluded here, especially when one prefers delusion to clarity.”

Indeed, we may never find a single missing edition. Nonetheless, we have no choice but to keep searching. Once our city accepts that 9 years of the *Recorder* are gone and nothing can be done about it, we will continue to be lulled into what Mari Even says about how we act here: “Don’t make waves; don’t be unpleasant; and if Truth is unpleasant, then avoid Truth.” Consequently, according to Mari, “...we are programmed to disbelieve what we experience.”

This impacts how we view ourselves and enables a self-image that feeds on the low expectation of a city that’s missing something and won’t or can’t face it. When things don’t go well here, when violence and racism prevail, we have an excuse, “Hey, we’re Naptown.”

“This city shows us the things we want to see while we ignore the things you cannot face. In this way the city becomes a fractured mirror.” ~ “Axes & Mirrors” *The Manufactured History of Indianapolis*

An unquestioned legacy of the missing *Recorders* then becomes a scar that won’t go away; a reminder that we will never really know who we are; that we are controlled by forces of an unknown history that blinds us from the truth, making us stuck in some perpetual adolescence as we seek an authentic identity.

With the *Recorder* validation, this is no longer the case. Now Indianapolis can live up to the challenge of the 1619 Project, and uncover, analyze, and acknowledge all of our past.

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“I woke up in the middle of the night screaming from a dream. This had never happened to me before. I was running in downtown [Indianapolis] through a park filled with war memorials and tombstones, giant obelisks and monuments to the dead, and a small man stood on the marble steps, his face covered by a hood and he told me to turn around, but I did not.” ~ Transcript from Caller #12, *The Manufactured History of Indianapolis* (Reeves, 2013)