

# The Charger *Slant*

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News from a different angle

April, 2009

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**Student Voice**

Tell us your best dating ideas!

*Alicia B., junior, says:* One time, my boyfriend took me to the local aquarium. I had the time of my life! Who knew staring at fishes could be so much fun. After that we went for some sushi.

*Brandon U., sophomore, says:* I work for my dad, who owns a butcher shop. For a fun date, I'll take my girl into the back and let her tenderize some of my meat. It's a great way to relieve stress, gets a bit messy though. Always use a rubber, a rubber tenderizing hammer.

*Marc L., sophomore, says:* Try sports. Once, for a date, me and my girlfriend did some boxing. We both had a great time, until she hit me too hard in the eye and detached my retina. Now I always joke that she's a... "sight for sore eyes."

*Sam L., senior, says:* Video games – it's a dead lock. I've found that one of the best ways to impress a female is to repeatedly annihilate her starship armada over the internet. That's how I met my girlfriend; we've been dating for three years. She's so pretty that she doesn't even send me any pictures, to keep it a surprise for when we finally meet.

**Artists' Corner**

*"My Love for You"*  
By Michael W.

Oh, how I love you, dearest girlfriend;  
I know you would never abandon me!  
We will always be together 'til the end –  
And you are so much hotter than your one friend.

My love for you is like an ocean,  
Because you can drown in it.  
But it's a good thing I am a lifeguard,  
And into a life vest you can fit.

I love being around you!  
Because with you I am never blue...  
But you would be blue,  
If you drowned,  
In my love.

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throughout his office. While none of them appear to be very complex, useful, aesthetically appealing, or in any way interesting, he assures me that they are truly works of art.

Students here have already expressed great interest in learning the ways of Paper Master Al'Jharibi. Says freshman Mykella Williams: "I saw Paper Master Al'Jharibi giving a demonstration on the news the other day. It caught my interest – I think that if I take a unique class like Advanced Paper Folding, I would have better chances of getting into a good college." According to Edward Gee Jones, Head Academical Coordinator at Clark, many students have already signed up to take the class next year. "It is certainly a fascinating topic," he says. There is already mention amongst the faculty of adding an Advanced Paper Folding magnet program to the school's curriculum, in addition to the existing AMSAT, AOF, and TEACH programs.

Al'Jharibi warns, ominously, that Advanced Paper Folding is not all fun and games. "Many of my colleagues have died learning Advanced Paper Folding, of some of the most horrendous paper cuts I have ever seen. This should not be a problem in the class I plan to teach, though, as we will only use very small pieces of paper with beginning students."

Al'Jharibi also stresses that Advanced Paper Folding is NOT the same as Origami, the ancient Japanese art of folding paper. "This isn't about making swans! I despise [Origami artists]; they have no talent or class whatsoever." When I asked Al'Jharibi about the difference between Advanced Paper Folding and Origami, however, his answer was cryptic at best: "The rigidity of Origami is too constricting," pointing and nodding at an Origami textbook on his desk, the pages of which have been crudely drawn on and defaced.

*If you are a student at Clark High School and are interested in taking Advanced Paper Folding during the 2009-2010 school year, please contact your counselor to register for the course.*

## Local aquarium nearly sleeping with the fishes Curator barely able to keep aquarium afloat

*By J. Bouti, March 19, 2009*

The North African sucking fish is one of the deadliest fishes known to man.

You wouldn't know it to look at it. In fact, it quite resembles a goldfish, and it has often been mistaken as such by many an amateur fish enthusiast. Almost all amateur fish enthusiasts who have made that mistake are now dead. (I will spare you the details of how the North African sucking fish kills its prey.)

Thankfully, Francis M. Warner is no amateur fish enthusiast, as he has a North African sucking fish swimming lazily around a tank in his office as I speak with him – it happens to be one of his favorite breeds. The particular specimen in question is named Annie; though frighteningly vicious when feeding, Annie is completely harmless across the Plexiglas.

Curator of the Las Vegas Aquarium since it was founded in 1952, Warner has seen almost every species of fish known to man, and a few that are not known to man. "Sea life was my second love. My first love and I divorced in '56; so now sea life is my only love."

His passion for aquatic creatures was clear to me from the instant I met him, and as we spoke he regaled me with tales of swashbuckling oceanographic adventures taken place hundreds of miles from the nearest dry land. He spent a summer in the Indian Ocean tracking the elusive manta turtle; for two years he sailed the Arctic Ocean, seeking evidence of the mysterious Welch's jellyfish. He nearly lost his life in a chance encounter with a giant octopus deep in the south Pacific, which happened to be entirely unintentional but very educational. "Giant octopuses are incredibly stupid. Their intelligence isn't even a fraction of that of their smaller counterparts. It's no wonder that one rammed headfirst into my boat."

Many of the fruits of Warner's labor have found their way to his aquarium, one of the most famous and richly populated aquariums in the Western hemisphere. The LVA is home to over 14,000 aquatic creatures, of which staggering amounts are incredibly rare and unique. Warner boasted, "Ever seen a black-tailed minnow? You haven't if you've never been to my aquarium before. We own the only eight specimens known to exist."

But with the way things are playing out for the aquarium nowadays, you may never have the chance to see a black-tailed minnow in your life. No one seems to want to support the aquarium any more; businesses and lawmakers have turned their back on Warner. Says entrepreneur and caviar connoisseur Rich Sonova, "Sure, having an aquarium around here would be great – kids love that stuff. But these things cost money, and is it really worth the cash to have a few sharks swimming around in a glass bowl? People have bills to pay, reality shows to watch. Save yourself some trouble – if you really like fish that much, go out and eat some sushi."

Without crucial funds, Warner's aquarium (an expensive operation, to be sure) has been taking on water, and is on the very brink of going under.

"Where will all the fishes go? I'll answer that, nowhere, dammit. This town is a desert, dry as gin, and if they close this aquarium every single one of them will die.... And where will I go? This aquarium is like my home... I don't know what I would do without all of this." Warner sheds a tear as he says this, visibly distressed – and so is Annie, the North African sucking fish, who ferociously disembowels a piece of chum floating in her tank.

*There is hope for Mr. Warner. With increasing awareness of the plight of the LVA, the local community is pitching in to preserve the cultural gem that is the Las Vegas Aquarium. If you have a soft spot for the likes of Ariel, Sebastian, and Flounder, please donate any funds within your means to the Las Vegas Aquatic Society, located at 2500, South Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV, 89172.*

## Students sign up in droves for Advanced Paper Folding class It's not Origami

*By J. Bouti, March 28, 2009*

Like the Holy Grail, the art of Advanced Paper Folding has been a mystery for millennia, its techniques and methods shrouded in secrecy. Unlike the Holy Grail, this lost art form has, recently, been re-discovered, and has been steadily increasing in popularity.

Paper Master Duqat Al'Jharibi is one of the leading practitioners of modern Advanced Paper Folding. He stands an imposing 6'4", his graying hair accentuating his handsome features. Al'Jharibi was one of the first people to take up the arcane study ever since it all but vanished over nine centuries ago, its last traces seen in the ancient kingdom of Lesser Canadia.

"Within the world of Advanced Paper Folding is an immense wealth of practical and useful techniques which can be readily applied to daily life," says the Paper Master. "This is why I have devoted my life to its study – for several decades I have been steeped in ancient texts and archaeological excavations, re-learning the ways of the ancient masters. Now, I have made it my mission to spread Advanced Paper Folding throughout the globe."

This is exactly what he has accomplished. While, in its infancy in the 1980s, Advanced Paper Folding was only known to members of high society – politicians, scholars, hip-hop artists – it is now becoming easily accessible to the masses, with books being printed and websites being set up to promote the discipline. Next year, our school, Clark High School, will be home to the first ever high school class dedicated to the subject, to be taught by Al'Jharibi himself.

"I wish to spread the joy of Advanced Paper Folding to the youth of this generation. Who knew that so much happiness could be achieved through a commonplace item such as paper?" As I interview him, Al'Jharibi gestures to the numerous paper items he has crafted over the years that are displayed