

The Charger *Slant*

News from a different angle

September, 2009

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Student Voice

How did you spend your summer?

Wayne C., senior, says: I went on tour with my band, Crucial Taunt... partied for hours after every show! Man, I had some of the best nights of my life this summer. And hey, I would tell you all about them if I had only been sober enough to remember anything.

Hudson O., senior, says: This summer, I made it my goal to accomplish absolutely nothing. Unfortunately, I failed, because I wound up accomplishing that goal. I guess I'll try harder next time.

Harmony C., junior, says: Study – educate myself! I know that I will never be happy or worry-free until I build a good career and become financially sound. Just look at my parents – they've got high-powered jobs and are very wealthy, and so it's no stress at all for them to pay for their antidepressants and divorce counseling.

Brad K., senior, says: I fell passionately in love with a beautiful girl this summer. I poured every last fiber of my soul into her – and boy, did I get every last fiber of clothing off of her.

Artists' Corner

So Stressed
by *Harmony C.*

My life is like a rice cooker;
It fills up with heat and I want to explode.
Maybe I should become a hooker –
My parents say –
That's what I'll be if my academics slow.

SAT prep and college classes,
And STUCO and key club and playing my cello.
My social life moves as fast as molasses.
Curse my parents for making my skin yellow!

This is what life is for me;
Practice exams, and playing in orchestra.
But I know, in the end, I'll be happy;
Because I will surely be able to get a

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Similarly, the homeless of downtown Las Vegas have responded enthusiastically to McCormick's efforts of late. Says Trip Addams, who claims not to have slept on a mattress indoors for over eighty years, and not to have touched a computer for almost ninety: "Lord knows that McCormick fellow is a saint – that's the truth! It used to be a struggle for me to so much as get a bite of hot food to eat. But now all those problems seem so small and far away. I'm just so happy I can log on to Twitter now!" Addams' Tweets are comprised of such jubilant proclamations as, "just found a box of donuts! its only 1/2 empty, and not very moldy ether, LOL", and "OMG! ! a dog shited on the park bench where I slepe. Now what will I do?LOL". Likewise, many of Addams' destitute contemporaries are using their newfound technological freedom to establish Facebook accounts and even start publishing their very own blogs.

McCormick's volunteer workers have great faith in the power of electronics as well. "Those homeless folks, I can tell it just makes them so happy when we give them these devices!" exclaims Cornelia Adler, organizing boxes of Palm handheld smartphones in a storage facility as I interview her. "Their faces light up, just like the touch screens. Often, the very first text message they ever send is to say 'thank you' to us! Oh, and it's so worthwhile, you know. It sure beats working at the soup kitchens; here, there isn't hardly as much cleaning to do!" she says with a hearty laugh.

Opinions of *iHelp iTinerants* are not, however, unanimously supportive. Las Vegas' mayor asserts: "At this point in time, all Mr. McCormick is accomplishing is causing even more shelterless individuals to converge in the downtown metropolitan nonsuburban area. It's a blow to business and a blow to tourism! At the end of the day, I am irrefragably in opposition to this so-called 'charity.'" In the same vein, homeless Korean War veteran Doug Blythe astutely points out, as I interview him on the way to the free clinic: "We is all becoming commies! Next they is going to start giving away social security, or – God forbid – health care. I ain't gonna stand for it! I don't even know how to use the damn things!"

Inspired by McCormick's generosity? Contribute to iHelp iTinerants with a donation of your money, your old electronics, or even of your time; volunteers to help distribute handheld devices are being gratefully accepted.

How to attract men

6 easy tips that will get you knocked up in no time

By R. Wanda, August 22, 2009

Let's face it, ladies. Men are frequently hard – hard to attract. The mass media constantly dishes out a steamy onslaught of gorgeous, desirable women whom most of you could never compete with for all the boys to gobble up; they are prettier than you, they are richer than you, and they have more Botox than you. No girls next door really live next door these days – unless you happen live in Beverly Hills.

So with all the guys' standards set so high, it seems like all we can do to spread nasty rumors and wear skimpy clothes and abandon all modesty, right? Right! And in this article I'm going to show you all how to do all of those things.

1. Spread nasty rumors

Most guys I know won't "get" with a girl if he thinks he'll "get" anything else from her. If some chick happens to be a few notches above you on the attractiveness scale and seems to be taking all the attention that should be yours, just throw in a good word for her with your girlfriends. Once it's public knowledge that Ms. Prettier-than-you is public property, any boy with a sense of self-preservation will be after you instead of her in no time flat.

2. Wear skimpy clothes

Men are shallow – it's a fact. And the longer your skirt gets, the shorter his attention span becomes. Unless the object of your affection is some kind of creative Picasso, leave as little as you can to his dull imagination – and let your skin paint the picture.

3. Act dumb

Smart girls know what's best for them, which is also what makes them so unappealing to all guys. Leave the boring, intelligent librarian-type chicks to

drool over their soggy romance novels – and be nothing like them. Fool your man into thinking he can fool you into anything and he'll be yours to be played by. Understand? ...Of course not!

4. Be someone you aren't

Nothing fires up relationship better than a good lie – reality is often too drab and off-putting to make you attractive to anybody, so why bother acknowledging it? On the other hand, once your dishonesty falls apart, and your beau begins to see through the fake you, your romance will soon follow. But as long as you make sure your fibs are solid, you might even get yourself to believe that your love is true.

5. Cling to him

Every man loves to feel big – he wants to own everything, including you. Body language always says more to men than anything that could ever come out of your mouth; so whenever you're hanging out with a guy, sugar-coat yourself and become a hot, sticky-sweet piece of arm candy. It'll earn him some real respect from all his guy-pals, and he'll eat just eat you up. Act attached and dependent enough toward your date and you'll make him feel like he actually means something to you.

6. Hold nothing back

Most guys don't have the patience to so much as wait in line for a hamburger – let alone get to know you and take the time to figure out how to push your buttons. So save him the trouble! Forget about being mysterious or toying with him; all that will accomplish is to make him frustrated and confused with you. Forget decency, and gratify his every impulse – and always leave him begging you for more.

Still not attracting any interest from the guys? Just get drunk. Really drunk. It works great!

Handheld humanitarianism

Helping the homeless, one pixel at a time

By J. Bouti, August 19, 2009

Comforts are few and far between in the life of a homeless person.

An occasional passing feral (and possibly rabid) cat for company; a rusty shopping cart; a damp park bench; and a bottle of Jack Daniels drying up faster than the Sahara desert after a rainstorm: these are the scant amenities by which many a Las Vegas vagrant or vagabond must subside – these, and, perhaps, a lukewarm dinner every evening at the Our Lady of the Strip soup kitchen.

At least, so it was, until benevolent Franklin McCormick came the vision of a charity to help those living on the street to connect to the Web, called “iHelp iTinerants.”

“The poor, downtrodden people living on the streets have places they can go to to get food for free. So why not give them mobile devices such as iPhones for free?” McCormick's argument certainly holds water in today's digitally-grounded society; the hip and youthful are as often to be seen sending “text messages” and utilizing “apps” as they are carrying out simple, commonplace activities like eating or commuting – or even merely talking. Indeed, the thumb has begun to supersede the mouth as mankind's preferred method of communication. “I hope to usher in a new age of connectivity for homeless people, who often have little else in the way of socialization,” explains McCormick.

The approachable and kind McCormick is by no means a stranger to the world of philanthropy. He has spent many years overseas, helping to supply basic needs to the people of the war-torn nation of Djibabwe. “Clean water, palatable and healthful foods, simple medical supplies – all of these things were badly needed by those sad, persecuted souls for whom I had served in Africa. But you should have seen the looks on their faces when I started handing out iPod minis!”