

Carolina!

Getting Tanked!

Too much cleaning kills aquarium fish

By DONNA BUIE
Staff Writer

After talking with residence hall aquarium owners, I've heard the same complaint from just about everyone: "I clean my tank all of the time, but I can't keep the darn things alive."

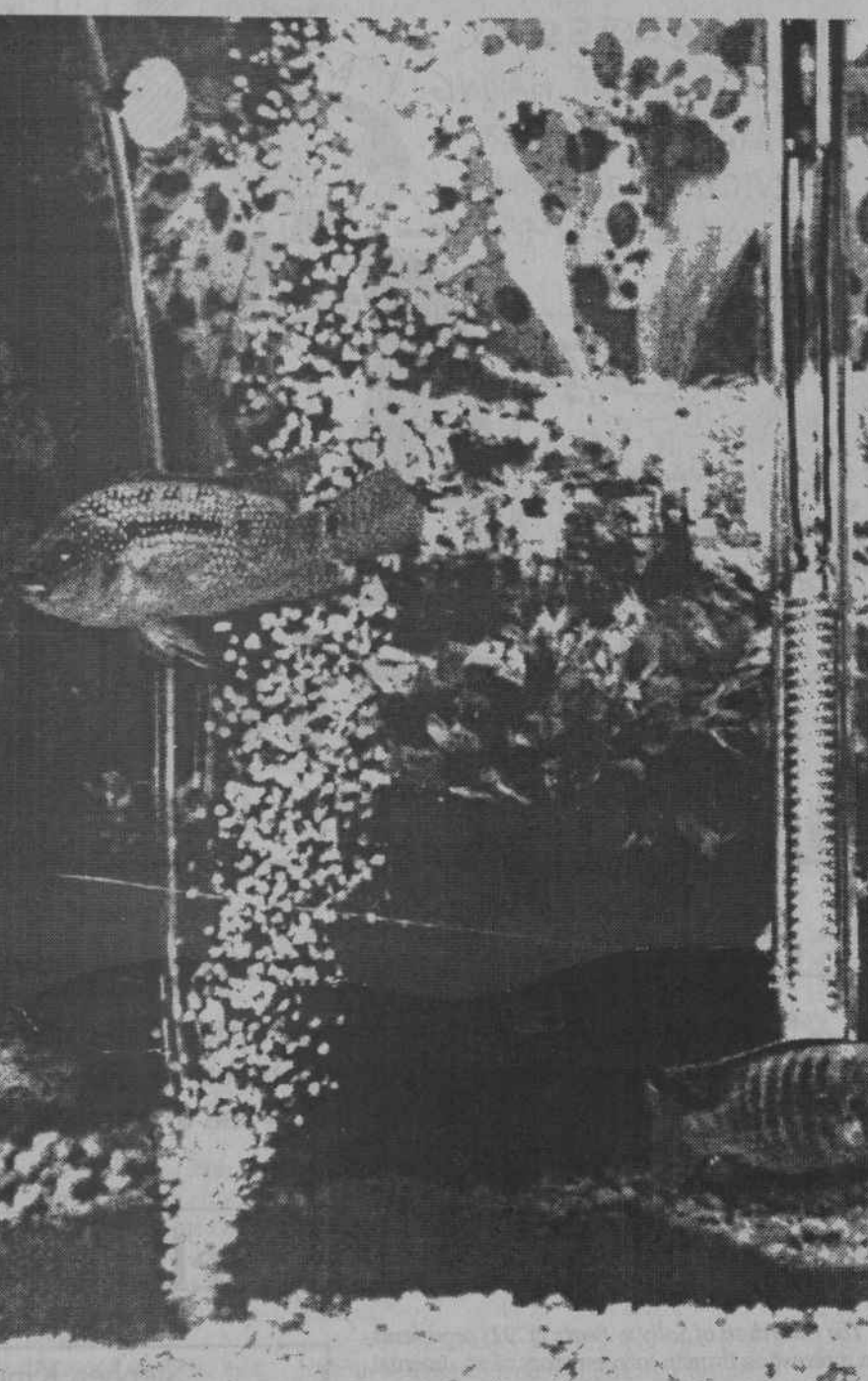
The first step to maintaining a successful aquarium is to understand that cleaning a tank too often is the worst thing one can do. Overcleaning wipes out bacteria that the fish build within the tank and gravel.

Any tank, 10 gallons or larger, should be cleaned only about once a month, and only 25 percent to 50 percent of the water should be removed. Smaller tanks or bowls should be cleaned every two weeks, or as necessary to avoid odor.

Another way to avoid problems is to avoid aggressive fish. Some hardy but inexpensive fish are goldfish, platies, guppies and tetras, to name a few. These fish generally get along well and provide a colorful variety.

Also, avoid overcrowding in your tank. By adding too many fish to your tank, you increase the risk of the fish becoming territorial, which could lead to aggression. For example, a 10-gallon tank should contain no more than seven to 10 fish, depending on their size. When adding fish to the tank, do it gradually, adding no more than three at a time.

Following these basic guidelines, you can enjoy your aquarium to the fullest and avoid unnecessary fish funerals down the toilet! Visit your local pet store for more suggestions.



What's up?

The City of Charleston's Office of Cultural Affairs is pleased to announce a special Piccolo Spoleto and MOJA Arts Festival retrospective exhibition of the Mayor's Purchase Awards from both festivals spanning 1984-1993.

This retrospective exhibition will be held at the City Gallery, located in the Dock Street Theater Building, at 133 Church St. This is a component of this year's Piccolo Spoleto 1994 Visual Arts program.

The exhibit will be open with a special reception from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. May 21. Regular hours of the exhibit during the festival will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 22 through June 5. Admission to both the reception and exhibit will be free to the general public.

Extravaganza Productions will present the comedy, "Scrambled Eggs," to benefit Harvest Hope Food Bank. The play, directed by Robert Harrelson, will be performed at Springdale Elementary School on Watling Road in West Columbia.

There will be two 8 p.m. performances Friday, April 22, and Saturday, April 23, and a matinee at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 24.

Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased in advance or at the door. Canned goods for the emergency Food Box Program will also be accepted at the door. Items needed most are canned meats, dried beans, dry milk in one-quart packages, infant formula and larger paper grocery bags.

For more information call Robert Harrelson at 957-4337 or Elaine Frick at Harvest Hope Bank, 765-9181.

Want to become a part of something really special at a spectacular place? Then join the excitement as a volunteer at the S.C. State Museum.

The museum is recruiting volunteers for many positions and will hold orientation sessions April 18 and 28 for those interested in learning more about the world of museums.

Volunteer benefits include: a comprehensive training program, practical

experience, improved communication skills, job references, excellent resume material, fun and fellowship with a diverse group of people, free museum admission, 20 percent off store purchases, 20 percent off museum society membership, flexible hours and the opportunity to attend exhibit and gallery openings.

For more information, contact Nan Ford at 737-4999.

Do you have some spare time and love the great outdoors? Looking for a rewarding experience or educational opportunity this summer? Consider spending some time as a volunteer in a state or national park, forest or other public land, where the need for volunteers is at an all-time high.

The 1994 "Helping the Outdoors," a directory of volunteer opportunities on public lands published by American Hiking Society, can help you find an opportunity to match your interest and schedule.

American Hiking Society is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and expanding America's trails while promoting the benefits of hiking trails.

For a 128-page directory of more than 2,000 volunteer jobs, send \$7 to AHS Helping Out, P.O. Box 20160, Washington, D.C. 20041-2160.

If you're into swing and dancing, join Tony Torre and the Tony Torre Orchestra at the following monthly events.

The orchestra performs from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Big Apple, 1000 Hampton St., behind the Richland County Library. Regular admission is \$5, \$4 for senior citizens.

The orchestra performs live on the WSCQ morning show from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. the second Saturday of each month at the Western Steer on St. Andrews Road.

At each performance, the Tony Torre Orchestra accepts food donations for Harvest Hope Food Bank.

For more information or tickets, call 699-1957 or 252-7742.

Brooks & Dunn to perform in Charleston

From staff reports

NORTH CHARLESTON — They could be called the "hard working men" of country because, although they have been on the music scene for just a few years, they already have two platinum albums under their belts, plus many other awards.

With a string of consecutive hits from "Brand New Man" and "Neon Moon," to the "Boot Scootin' Boogie" and "Hard Workin' Man," to their current hit, "She Used To Be Mine," the country duo of Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn can only expect to see more of the same in the future.

The high-energy showmanship, combined with world-class songwriting has gained Brooks & Dunn widespread acceptance from peers and

fans alike, and has quickly made them one of the most successful acts in the country music.

Now the Lowcountry will have the opportunity to experience first-hand the songs that made the pair famous, with the award-winning style that made their first album, "Brand New Man," the most successful debut album ever released by a country duo or group.

Brooks & Dunn will appear live at 8 p.m. April 30 at the North Charleston Coliseum.

Special guests for the evening include opening performer Toby Keith, in addition to Aaron Tippin, a country music star who has gained equal fame and recognition for his hits such as, "There Ain't Nothing Wrong With

The Radio," "You've Got To Stand For Something," and from his newest album, "Call Of The Wild," the chart-climbing "Working Man's Ph.D." No stranger to the country music scene, already with three albums to his credit, one having gone platinum, Tippin has muscled his way up the charts with his consecutive string of hit songs.

Tickets for Brooks & Dunn are on sale now. Tickets are \$20.50 and \$25.50 and are available at the Coliseum box office, all S.C.A.T. outlets or charge by phone at (803) 577-4500. (Service charges may apply.) For complete ticket information, call S.C.A.T. at (803) 577-4500.

Wedding advice: tie knot tighter next time

By College Press Service

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Even the most romantic intentions sometimes go awry.

That's what a University of Florida employee discovered when he tried to add a little excitement to a Valentine's Day gift. Jimmy Ross, who works at the school's physical plant, tied a ring that he had bought his girlfriend to a helium-filled balloon emblazoned with the words "I Love You."

Ross put the gift in his truck, but after he got home, the balloon sailed out of the passenger window.

"I ran inside the house and got my pistol," he told the Independent Florida Alligator. "I was going to shoot it down. But when I came out with the gun, I forgot it had a lock on it and ran in the house to get the key."

Too late. The balloon was gone. One of Ross' friends called a Gainesville radio station, which put out an all-points bulletin on the re-

ported, so WKTK officials replaced the ring with one stipulation: Ross had to place it on his girlfriend's finger indoors.

The saga continued, though. A bus driver found the balloon and the ring in a nearby town two days later. Ross since has exchanged rings with WKTK, and he has some advice for other swains who might want to emulate his methods: "Buy a lead weight, too!"

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