

# Exporting of alligators to be permitted?

United Press International  
**WASHINGTON** — The Fish and Wildlife Service is about to take the first step toward lifting a decade-old ban on international trade in American alligator products.  
 Officials said agency director Lynn Greenwalt is expected to sign

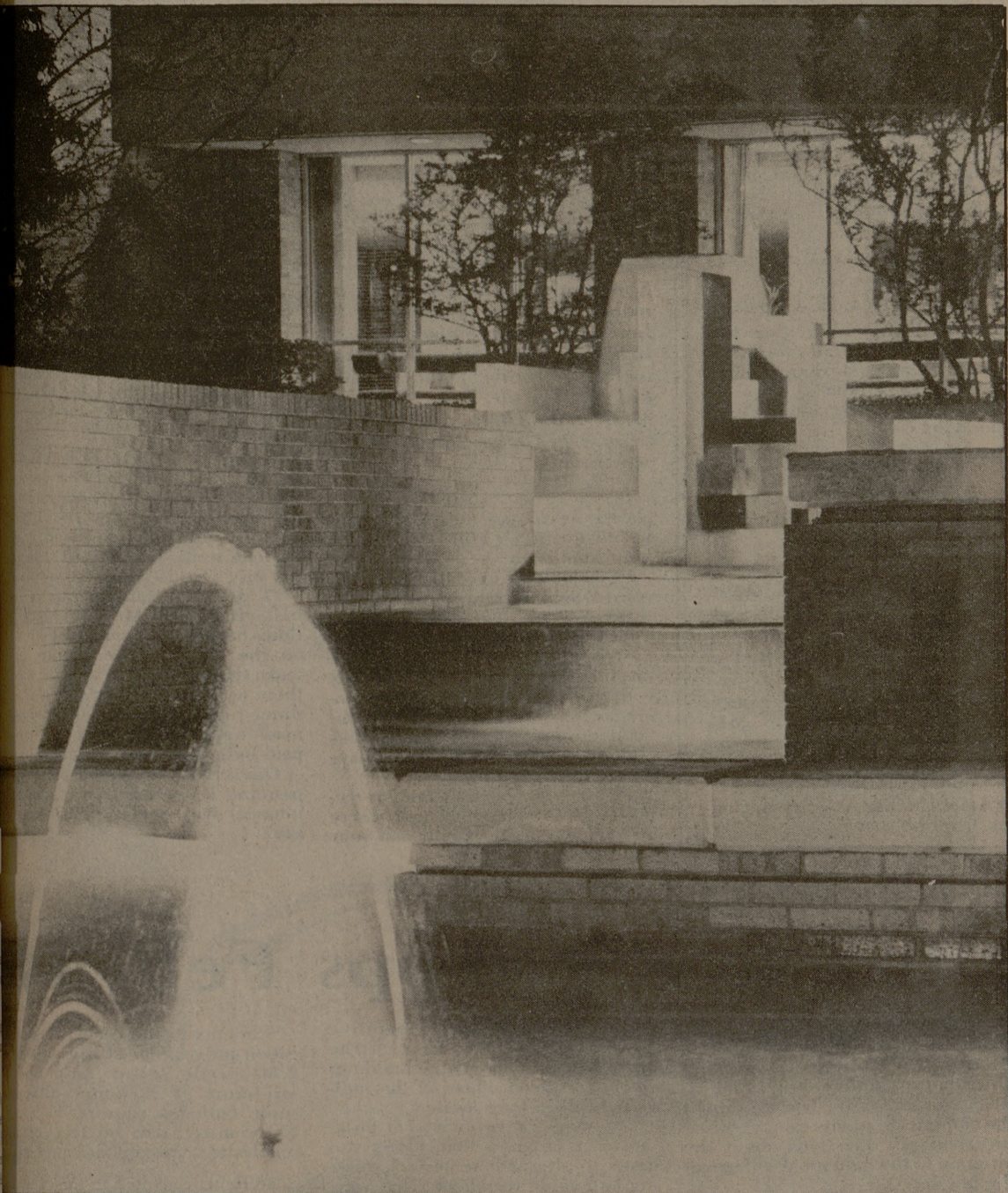
papers this week recommending that the status of American alligators be changed on the international endangered species list.  
 The United States will make the recommendation at a March 19-30 meeting in Costa Rica of 47 nations that signed an agreement on trade

in endangered species. A majority agrees to the alligator status change.  
 Currently, the American alligator is ranked with animals or plants about to become extinct. That classification bars virtually all export.  
 The United States wants the alligator transferred to a category for

species that can be exported as long as the exporting nation believes the sale will not jeopardize the species or its foreign cousins.  
 William Brown, executive director of the U.S. Endangered Species Authority, said he believed the bulk of the legal harvest of alligators

would be sent overseas.  
 "Once an alligator hide is tanned, it is very difficult to determine whether it came from an American alligator or a Nile crocodile or other species, some of which are very endangered," Brown said.  
 The U.S. alligator population is

estimated at about 800,000. In 1977, about 75 percent of the alligators were reclassified from the U.S. endangered list, meaning their existence is threatened, to the less restrictive threatened species list, which means the species may become endangered in the future.

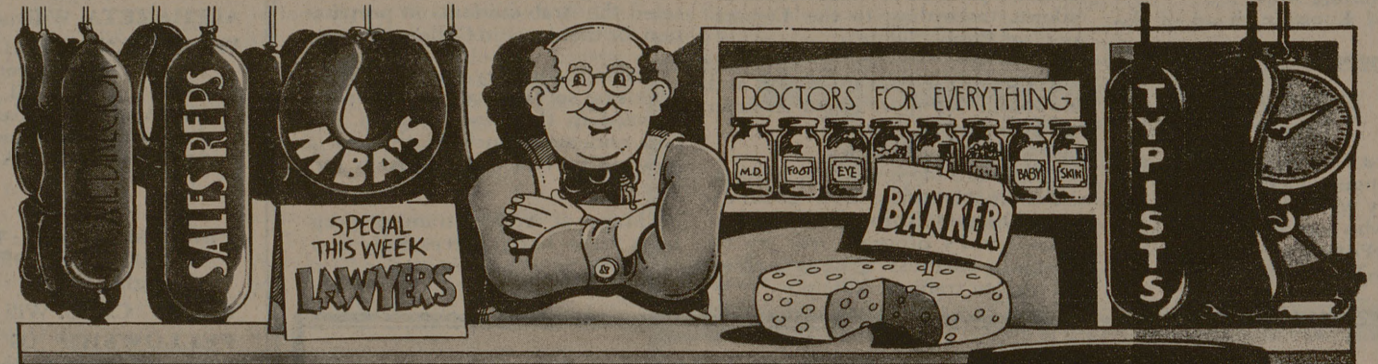


**Fountains of light**

The "other" fountains of the University's Memorial Student Center shimmer patterns of light Saturday night. The fountains are in

the courtyard between the Center's main building and the Board of Regents meeting room.  
 Battalion photo by Lee Roy Lescher Jr.

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