

No croc: man selling alligator meat for food

United Press International
NORFOLK, Va. — Supermarket shoppers will like alligator steaks, alligator soup and even spaghetti with alligator meat balls so much they'll pay \$5.99 a pound for it, says a supermarket worker.

Williams, the seafood purchaser for 13 Giant Open Air supermarkets in southeastern Virginia, bought 400 pounds of Louisiana alligator meat for the stores. Though shoppers initially seem wary, Williams said

Monday that they'll stop staring and start buying.

"I think everyone likes something a little different, and this sure is," he said. "I thought alligator meat might generate a little interest."

The tails, considered the tastiest portion of the reptile, sell in half-pound packages for \$5.99 a pound.

Williams agreed the price might be steep, but a good piece of beef or pork might cost that much.

"It tastes similar to beef, it's sweeter and chewier than pork chops," he said. "And the best part is that it's all meat. There are no bones, no fat, no waste. It's really a better value."

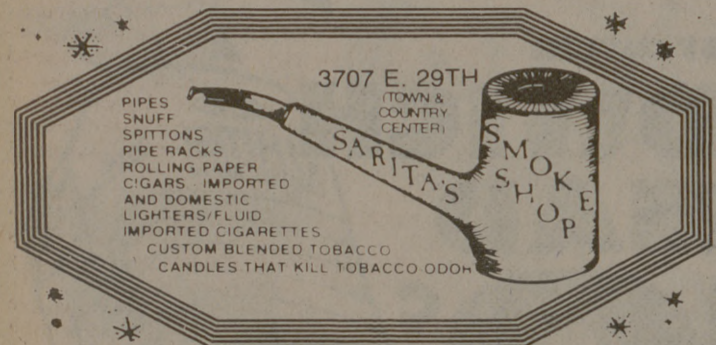
Williams said he prepared alligator meat twice last week and thought it was tasty. Alligator can be fixed as soup, steaks, friend or in balls, like meatballs for spaghetti.

Williams has worked for the chain for 21 years. He said he was always interested in things that live in and around water. After reading a newspaper article about alligator meat, he decided it would be a good item for the stores.

"I think if supermarkets and restaurants get involved, other people will start using it, too." The store's meat merchandiser, Russ Wolf, wasn't so sure.

Warped

by Scott McCullar



Solar panels not too fair

United Press International
KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Whoever takes over the U.S. Pavilion, when the World's Fair ends Oct. 31, should get rid of a set of \$100,000 solar collectors

that have not worked properly since they were installed, a Commerce Department worker says.

"I am going to recommend to whoever takes over the building that they take them (the solar panels) off and not mess with them," the employee, Dewey Smith, said Monday. "We just have had too many problems."

Smith said the panels have not worked at their full potential "except maybe for a week or two," since the fair opened May 1.

The U.S. Pavilion was built and operates on \$20.8 million in federal funds. It was criticized roundly, even before the 22-nation fair opened, as an energy-waster and a potential embarrassment to the country.

The solar collectors were designed to provide 10 percent or less of the heating and cooling needs of the 80,000 square-foot, wedge-shaped pavilion and are capable of generating more than the 10 percent level.

But Smith said he has often had to adjust the panels to face the sun when they do not move automatically. On Oct. 5, an entire row of the collectors was pointed in the wrong direction and had to be moved by hand.

The pavilion has relied on a 350-ton, electric-powered air conditioner and a 36-ton electric cooler to keep the building cool.

Smith said federal officials probably could have reduced the \$9,000 to \$11,000 monthly electric bill at the pavilion if the

solar panels had worked properly during the fair.

The General Services Administration currently is trying to find a buyer for the U.S. Pavilion, which was built as a permanent structure without a plan existing for its use once the fair ends.

Gus Hutchinson, president of Dallas-based Solar Kinetics Inc., which manufactured the system, said the federal government had budget problems in building the U.S. Pavilion and had to reduce the number of solar panels planned in the original system.

He said the solar panels are supposed to move automatically to catch the full rays of the sun. But if they are not moving then Smith has a "valid complaint," Hutchinson said.

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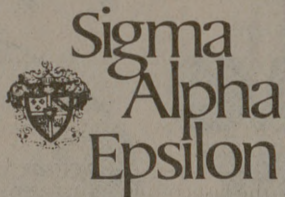
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Junk food blamed for kids' problems

United Press International
MADERA, Calif. — Junk food is responsible for many problems in school-age children, including hyperactivity, thumb-sucking and Jekyll and Hyde characteristics, Dr. Lendon Smith, pediatrician, says.

"We must feed the brain properly to get it to function properly," Smith told of 500 teachers Monday. "Teachers should not be forced to teach kids whose brains are improperly fed or who leave their brains at home because of what they ate for breakfast."

Teachers are among the best people to watch for signs of hyperactivity in their students, and educate students — and their parents — on how to fight it, he said.

Smith, who wrote "Improving Your Child's Behavior Chemistry" six years ago, recently retired from his 41-year pediatric practice in Portland, Ore., to go on the lecture circuit.

"I found a number of similarities among many hyperactive kids and kids who had other be-

havior and learning problems, the most prevalent of which was an addiction to junk food," Smith, whose daughter was a hyperactive child, said.

"Hyperactivity and other behavior problems were accompanied in most cases by a family history of diabetes, obesity, alcoholism, or a combination of the three. But the most common factor was eating junk food." — Dr. Lendon Smith, a pediatrician

Smith said hyperactivity and other behavior problems were accompanied in most cases by a family history of diabetes, obesity, alcoholism, or a combination of the three. But the most common factor was eating junk

food, most of which the body converts to sugar.

"Most of these kids also displayed Jekyll and Hyde swings in personalities, were very ticklish and had sleep problems," he said.

"One day they could read and do math and the next they would leave their brain at home and couldn't do a thing."

He said 80 percent of the problem kids he worked with including his own daughter who is now 32, improved 60 percent to 100 percent after they quit eating junk food and excess sugar.

"The practice back then was to stone hyperactive kids with drugs to combat the hyperactivity," he said. "But we found by eliminating most of the junk food or sugar we could get most of the kids off the drugs."

Smith said 75 percent of the people in prison were once hyperactive kids.

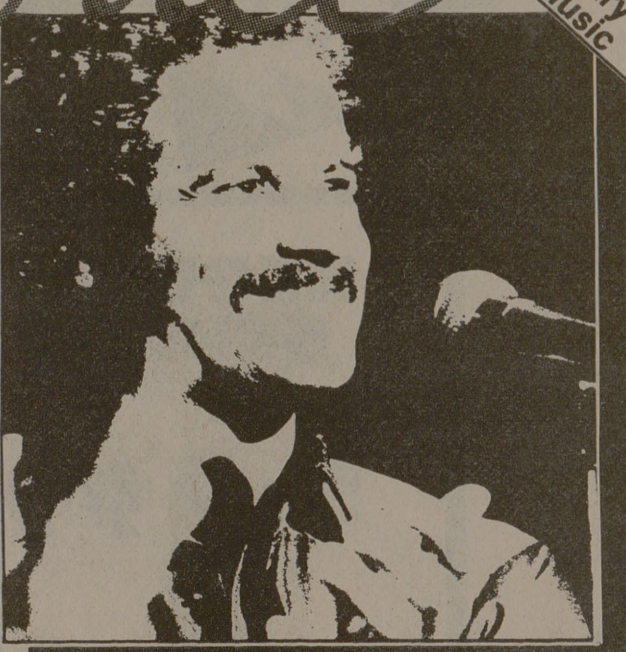
"And what do they get to eat in prisons?" he asked. "A lot of starch and junk food."

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