

What's in that burger? McDonald's tells

EVERY so often, I come across small informational items I think might be of interest to you.

So today's column will be "Nutri-Notes 1."

MCDONALD'S Ingredients: McDonald's restaurants in Michigan, as well as other states, will provide customers, upon request, a brochure listing ingredients and nutritional value of its products. This includes additives and preservatives used.

A sign in the restaurant will in-



consumer mailbag

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form customers that the brochure is available. This is a "first" for fast food restaurants.

Also, McDonald's has changed some of its recipes (a similar change has also occurred at Burger King).

The biggest improvement is the switch from saturated beef fat to vegetable oil (corn, cottonseed plus preservatives) as the frying agent for all its foods except French fries.

McDonald's has also removed Yel-

low Dye No. 5 from most of its products. This dye has been known to cause allergic reactions in individuals.

Please note: We are not advocating or recommending one restaurant over another — just letting you know what a particular one has done.

THE MEANING OF "lean"

A few months back The Consumer Mailbag did a column on the meaning of "lean" when applied to packaged meats. Now, when you see the words "lean" or "extra lean," you

can know it means something.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has recently redefined these terms. A "lean" meat or poultry product must be 90 percent fat-free, while "extra lean" products must be 85 percent fat-free.

According to the old policy, any meat or poultry product that had 25 percent less fat could be called lean or extra lean.

Consumers must still be wary. Products can use the term "lean" in their brand name (such as "lean supreme") and still be only 25 percent less fat than regular products.

ALCOHOL LABELING:

CSPI (Center for Science in the Public Interest) last month lost its court battle to require ingredients labeling of alcoholic beverages. A lower court had upheld the labeling requirement, but it was overturned on an appeal by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Distilled Spirits Council.

The Consumer Mailbag answers your questions. Address mail to The Consumer Mailbag, Concern Detroit, 1025 Shelby, Detroit 48226.

Old Ford estate to be restored

The University of Michigan-Dearborn has embarked on an extensive restoration for Fair Lane, the old Henry Ford estate. Ford Motor Co. recently gave the project a \$50,000 boost.

The Ford gift will be used toward renewal of streamlines and plumbing. A check was presented to UM-D Chancellor William A. Jenkins by vice president of operations support services James Bakken and municipal affairs manager Jerry Brown in early September.

"Replacement and repair of these areas are critical if Fair Lane is to work with Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum to make southeastern Michigan a major attraction for tourists," Jenkins said.

TOTAL PROJECT cost will be \$1.8 million.

Some \$570,000 is needed for the infrastructure repair, the most critical component of the restoration program. Infrastructure repair includes replacement of piping for the heating system and heat control valves, repair of the plumbing system and replacement of the exterior drainage system over a three-year period.

U-M plant engineers have noted several problems of years of deterioration. In areas where water and steam leaked out — often unnoticed — wall paneling has been stained and warped, wall and ceiling plaster is water damaged and, in some sections, the electrical conduit system has corroded.

Bruno Gluski, UM-D heating and ventilation foreman, is not surprised at the problems at Fair Lane. "It's 70 years old, and time has taken its toll," he said.

FOR ALL THESE reasons, the Henry Ford Estate/Fair Lane will get a thorough, efficient renovation of its basic plumbing and mechanical systems, Jenkins said. This will assure the preservation of the structure as a tourist and conference site.

The stabilization and restoration project was initiated in 1983 when Margaret Campbell was appointed chair of the Fair Lane Development Committee. To date, more than \$500,000 of the total project cost has been received.

LIT seeks students in design

High school students and adults who have designs on the future can explore their talents during two special design programs being offered by the Lawrence Institute of Technology School of Architecture in Southfield.

Design discovery and pre-college programs are set for LIT's campus on Saturdays, Jan. 24 through May 23.

Students will gain preliminary exposure to the beginning coursework in the fields of architecture, interior architecture and illustration/design.

COLLEGE CREDIT toward a bachelor of science degree program will be awarded upon successful completion of these courses.

Each of the three programs offers studio work in drawing and basic design. In addition, there will be an art and architecture awareness seminar that includes field trips to museums, art galleries and LIT's Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Affleck House.

Participants may take one, two, or three classes. Tuition for each class is \$150. The seminar is \$50. An estimated \$100, for a full program, may be needed for materials.

SEVERAL scholarships will be awarded to the applicants presenting the highest academic credentials. Students interested in scholarships must apply by Jan. 1.

Applications will be accepted through Jan. 9.

Information is available from local high school art, drafting, or home economics teachers, counselors, or the LIT Admissions Office.

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