



“Lean finely textured beef” process is question

By Ashlynn Palmitesso

In 1906, Upton Sinclair shocked America when he edu-

cated consumers on the true ingredients of meat in his famous book, *The Jungle*. A century later, corrupt producers still exist even with the strictly enforced food safety laws. Recently, a discovery in beef called pink slime, lean finely textured beef, has disgusted many Americans.

Pink slime is composed of leftover animal remains such as carcasses and trimmings from other cuts. The leftovers are heated to approximately 100 F and spun to eliminate the fat, then compressed into small blocks for later use in ground meat. Then, the blocks are cleaned with ammonium hydroxide gas to kill off bacteria. However, when the ‘pink slime’ was tested, the results showed a harmful amount of bacteria. The Food and Drug Administration could have halted that process at the moment. Instead, they allowed the companies to disinfect the slime with ammonia. This harmful compound was listed under processing ingredients, so the consumers were ignorant to this information.

The question on many minds is why they are using this ingredient at all. The obviously answer is because it is cheaper. Lean finely textured beef saves producers three cents off the cost of making a pound of beef. This world has transformed into a self-profit motivated economy in which health does not compare to the importance of money. Many Americans are trying to avoid this terrible concoction but can they? As

of right now, it could be everywhere, but once again consumers do not know because it is not labeled as an ingredient. One industry official estimated that exists in about half of the ground meat in the United States. It is at



grocery stores, fast food, local diners, and even the school cafeterias, although the FDA has recently made a ruling that school must be informed of the use of this meat and can then decide if they wish to use it.

Maine Representative Chellie Pingree is pressing the Obama administration to prohibit school cafeterias from sell lunches containing pink slime. Since McDonald’s and Burger King stopped buying the product last year, many wonder why school cafeterias are still offering it. The U.S Department of Agriculture decided to

give schools the choice between 95 percent lean beef patties with pink slime or less lean bulk ground beef without it. Parents are quickly to voice their opinion about it, but it is



not that quick and easy for the schools. They have a budget to consider and school money has been increasingly hard to come by. Will schools spend the extra money to provide safe, slime-free beef, or will they ignore the potentially hazardous pink slime? This new policy will not be enacted until this fall because of contracts.

If you want to purchase slime-free beef, the best place to go is a local meat shop that is certified “USDA Organic.” In the meantime many American feel blind-sided by the recent revelation of the true definition of “lean finely-textured beef;” and they are not happy about it.

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Opinion

A fond farewell to a fine feline friend, Spooky

By Madeline Clark



How do I tell this story without sounding like a crazy cat lady who smells like kitty litter and has a diet comprised mostly of canned tuna fish? There is no way, because deep down to the core of our existences, we are all crazy cat ladies.

So I will tell the tale of the most amazing pet that anyone could ever have and you, fair reader, will enjoy it because at the apex of your soul, you too are a crazy cat lady.

This is the story of my cat, who was affectionately called “Spooky” by the previous owners due to his darker pigmentation. I’d like to believe that the previous owners were huge *X-Files* fans, but I digress.

I was four years old when we got Spooky. My mom found a mouse

cat how old I was, or how I looked, he just wanted to fall asleep on my lap. He didn’t care who said what or how much homework I had, all Spooky wanted was to play with my shoe laces and meow for no apparent reason in the middle of the night.

He was the best feline friend anyone could ask for, and for that I am grateful. It was with great sorrow that seventeen year old Spooky passed away last Wednesday, just one week short of the birthday that I gave him at the age of six. Sure he may have been a finicky, hairball hacking, electrical cord licking weird cat, but he was my weird cat, for 13 years of my life.

Something has to be said for a cat that has out-lived some of your best friends since kindergarten. Even though Spooky is long gone, his lazy ways will be cherished. Perhaps that is why I’m not as sad as I could be; because I have so many fond memories. So when I look at my cat who lived longer than Methuselah, I am happy because he was a part of my life and I was a part of his.

“I’d like to maintain the idea that he adored the smothering that my four year old self often gave him, but I think he thought otherwise.”

in our lazy-susan, chomping away at our imperishables. As we watched the small rodent try to gnaw his way out of a jar of Fluffernutter, the thought dawned on my parents to get a cat. No sooner did the thought present itself that they strapped my sister and I into the car to go the feline rendezvous point. And there he was, little three year old Spooky, black as the night with the brightest pair of yellow eyes that you ever saw. The sheer amount of fur that he carried on his back was immense and often left our vacuum cleaner waving a white flag.

Spooky and I quickly took to each other. I’d like to maintain the idea that he adored the smothering that my four year old self often gave him, but I think he thought otherwise. The cat was one of my favorite childhood friends. He was there on snow days, sick days and days when the world got to be too much. It didn’t matter to the

Bizarre news of the day:

Headed for his first haircut

A five-year-old boy is set to have his first ever haircut - after he was teased at school for looking like a girl. Rean Carter, of Hylton Castle, Sunderland, has never had so much as a trim, reports The Sun.

But his long flowing curly blond locks are now set for the chop after he declared he was sick of being mistaken for a girl. Heart-broken mother Leeanne Smith, 30, said the haircut would raise money for charity.

“When Rean was born he had a lovely little curl of golden hair at the back of his head,” she commented. “I just could never bear to get it cut, not even his fringe. Now it flows all the way down his back to his bum and is very beautiful and soft.”

“When we go out he is often mistaken for a little girl - people say ‘Isn’t she gorgeous’ but it has never bothered him. He just laughs. It was only when he joined school and had to have it tied back in a ponytail, for health and safety, that some of the other little boys began to make fun. They said he could not play with them because he looked like a girl.”

She also said, “I’ve already cried at the thought of him having it cut, and will cry again when it actually happens.”

By Morgan Firenze



Reflections

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Long wait nearly over for Hunger Games fans

By Vanessa Langdon

The three book series that took the world of young adult teen literature by storm is releasing its first film later this week, Friday March 23.

The series by author Suzanne Collins and the first book in the series and the only one adapted into a movie as of now is, *The Hunger Games*. The book was first released on September 14, 2008 and has sold more than 11 million copies in the United States since its release. The series is taking on a *Twilight*-esque feel with many teen girls becoming obsessed with the series Hollywood is adding to the hype, as actresses from the movie graced this month's cover of *Seventeen*, *Glamour*, and *Girls Life* magazines, and a love triangle does evolve between the three main characters with people choosing a side, Peeta or Gale.

The love triangle is far from the main aspect of the novel and the similarities to *Twilight* end with the audience and the hint of a love based conflict. *The Hunger Games* is a novel about a post-apocalyptic world in which North America is now called Panem and is divided into twelve districts, formerly thirteen, but that district was destroyed following a revolt against the dictatorship like Capital.

The plot revolves around a yearly event, the hunger games, where two teenage tributes, one boy and one girl, are chosen from each district through a lottery to go and compete in "the arena" to the death. The entire catastrophe is televised by the Capital for the nation of Panem to watch as a warning to prevent any further revolts. The games only end when only one contestant is left alive.

The main character, Katniss Everdeen, enters the game from district twelve to spare her sister, a risky move as no one from district 12 has won in recent years. The plot gets even thicker and more complicated as Peeta Melark, a former friend of Katniss, joins her as the chosen tributes from district twelve. The novel follows the two through the hunger games as they fight for their lives, defeating others in their path...all the while dealing with having to decide what would happen if it came down to the two of them. Katniss constantly battles thirst, fire, hunger, wild animals, injuries, and other teenagers for survival while making and losing friends.

Comparisons to *Harry Potter* are inevitable as it was the first Young Adult novel to be adapted to the screen and have done so

well, but David Levithan, vice president, publisher and editorial director of the trade publishing division of Scholastic, which publishes both series explained that, "Whereas *Harry Potter* is about childhood and coming of age and your eyes being opened to the world, in *The Hunger Games* you're already in this world, and dealing with its inhumanity."

Hopefully comparisons to such fortunate series as *Twilight* and *Harry Potter* will be a blessing rather than a burden for the new franchise. The three lead actors are Jennifer Lawrence, Liam Hemsworth, and Josh Hutcherson as Katniss, Gale, and Peeta respectively. Maybe these three will be as big as Harry, Ron, and Hermione or Bella, Edward, and Jacob.

The movie may not premiere until this Friday, but author Suzanne

"The plot revolves around a yearly event, the hunger games, where two teenage tributes, one boy and one girl, are chosen from each district through a lottery to go and compete in "the arena" to the death."

Collins has already seen the final cut and her opinion is a true indicator of what fans of the series will think of the film adaption,. According an article on screenrant.com by Kofi Outlaw, who sat down with Collins, she, "feel[s] like the book and the film are individual yet complementary pieces that enhance one another. The film opens up the world beyond Katniss' point of view, allowing the audience access to the happenings of place like the Hunger Games control room and President Snow's rose garden, thereby adding a new dimension to the story."

With such a pleased and hopeful point of view from arguably the film biggest critic, fans of the novel can rest easy knowing that film director Gary Ross, of *Seabiscuit* fame, has reigned true and possibly improved upon the story, if that is indeed possible.



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School of Thought compiled by Nick Abalgore & Joe Medico

What was the last dream you had that you can remember?



"Something about playing lacrosse."

Nick Metcalf



"Zombie apocalypse. This dream occurs like twice a week."

Nathan Hawthorne



"My cat, Melvin, was dying of chicken pox."

Jeanette Bartlett



"I fell off of a bridge into a river of alligators."

Dylan Holden

Meteorology and you

By Carson Metcalf



Today:



Mostly cloudy with showers and a storm.

68°

Average: 44°
Record: 69° (1986)

Tonight:



Partly cloudy.

51°

Average: 26°
Record: -11° (1993)

Tomorrow:



Sun and clouds. Chance storm.

75°

Average: 45°
Record: 75° (1976)

GRB senior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ www.centralnewyorkweather.com Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.