



March 14, 2008

Quick Bites

Water diversion

In a reversal of past trends, ordering tap water at a fancy restaurant -- any restaurant, really -- is now considered a stylish move.

Recent studies have dispelled many concerns over its potential health risks. Meanwhile, it has become fashionable to question if bottled water is really worth the price, particularly considering the environmental toll exacted by its production and distribution.

The phenomenon is national, but it has particular local relevance when you consider those long days following Hurricane Katrina when the local water was deemed unsuitable even for showers. This coming week the UNICEF Tap Project will urge diners to drink tap water while considering another aspect of the world's water dilemma: the absence of sanitary water in many developing countries.

From Sunday through March 22, participating area restaurants will give diners the opportunity to donate a minimum of \$1 for a glass of tap water. It is cheaper than ordering bottled, and the money will go to UNICEF's programs to improve access to safe water and sanitation facilities. Participating restaurants include Adolfo's, Bayona, Chops Bistro & Martini Bar, Emeril's, Iris, Muriel's Jackson Square, the Pelican Club and all Zea locations.

Emeril's and Muriel's are both matching 100 percent of the proceeds raised at their restaurants. For a full list of participating restaurants, go to www.tapprojectnola.org.