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Hardee's, Theme Restaurant For World's Fair

ROCKY MOUNT — The Specialty Food Service Division of Hardee's Food Systems has opened the theme restaurant of the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn. Called the Sunsphere, the restaurant is an intricate part of the fair's theme structure of the same name, says Specialty Food Service Division president, Gene Arnold.

A 24 - karat gold glass sphere that reaches 266 feet into the air, the Sunsphere is devoting two levels to public dining, seating approximately 280 people. A third VIP level will host intimate dinner parties for 30 to 35.

Featuring a gourmet menu, entree choices at the Sunsphere will range from prime rib to red snapper a la Ponchetrain, Alaskan King Crab and Rock Cornish Game Hen.

Founded in 1974, the Specialty Food Service Division "is a distinct change from the fast food i m age H ar d e e's traditionally has," said Arnold. "Both represent quality," he stressed, "but in a different way.

"Currently, we operate dining facilities of various types on some 30 college campuses," Arnold continued, "including fine dining operations as well as exclusive catering services from Texas to New Jersey."

The Sunsphere's European chef was selected for his wide - ranging experience both here and overseas, according to Arnold. "We not only want to meet the standard for fine dining in the Southeast," he stated, "we want to set that standard."

Specialty Food Service Division has signed a 20 year lease on the Sunsphere and will continue to operate it as a regional dining spot with an expanded menu after the Fair concludes in October. During the Fair, the Sunsphere will be open seven days a week and will employ over 350 staff members.

Company officials say the decor of the restaurant has been planned to complement the Sunsphere structure itself. "Through custom furnishings and careful use of color, we've

attempted to create an aura of subliminal elegance," Arnold said, "an atmosphere that doesn't interfere with the magnificent view you have when you're surrounded by glass and over 200 feet in the air."

Customers who may prefer a Big Deluxe, roast beef or the World's Fair special, thermaljet chicken, can relax, added Arnold. There will be a familiar fast food Hardee's located at the base of the Sunsphere.

The Sunsphere Hardee's will incorporate the kind of innovation and futuristic equipment that could lead to the 'Hardee's of the Future' one source said. An example is a computerized method for turning out quick orders of french fries in a fraction of the space now required in conventional fast food restaurants.

## Medicaid Cuts

Many middle income families in North Carolina might be surprised to learn that their family budgets might be hit by Medicaid cuts that are a key item in President Reagan's "belt tightening'' budget, Democratic Chairman Russell Walker said today.

"What's more, this could happen whether or not they have illness in their family requiring hospital attention," Sen. Walker continued.

"They would be surprised because they certainly are not under Medicaid themselves. In fact, with their hospitalization insurance, they pay their own medical bills whether they go to the hospital, the

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