The Better to Eat You With, My Dear

(By Fred Ernst -- Associated Press)

Tuesday, April 8, 2008; Page HE02

This giant mouth with its airbagsize uvula (the soft tissue that hangs in the back of your throat) is a new attraction at Corpus, a combination amusement park and museum that opened last month outside Amsterdam.



Corpus takes visitors inside a large-scale human body with interactive, multi-sensory exhibits that reveal how it operates. Visitors enter the museum through the knee, then travel through eight exhibit spaces, heading up toward the brain. On the way, they can watch a 3-D film on fertilization, bounce on a rubber tongue while they follow a sandwich being digested and throw beanbags against a video screen to destroy bacteria.

Museum creator Henri Remmers started developing Corpus seven years ago, establishing a medical advisory board to make sure the interactive features hewed to facts. His goal, he said last week, is not only to educate visitors about the body but also to encourage them to be healthier. "If you are walking through the body and you see how this unique mechanism . . functions," he said, "you get more and more respect about your body . . . [and] you think a little more about the good foods and the exercise" you put into it.

-- Kathleen Hom