

The Lunchtime News

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And Where Are Alligators on Halloween?

Since Halloween is a time of bones and shrieks, groans and squeaks, and generally scary stuff, why don't we see more alligators hanging about?



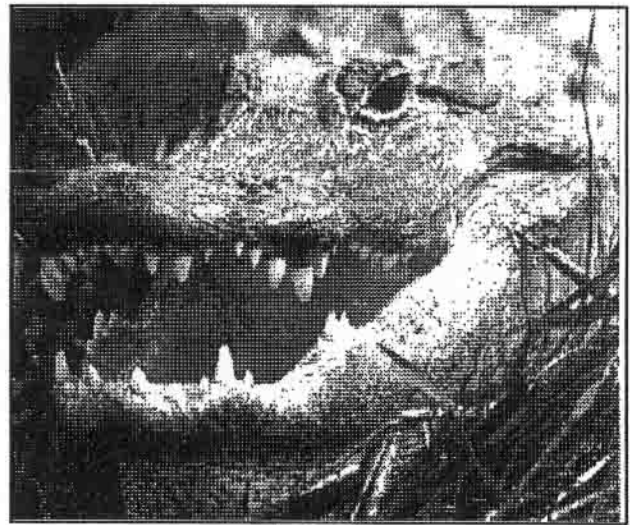
Ms. Albertoona Grinn

The editor posed this very interesting question to an experienced swamp explorer and alligator guide, Ms. Albertoona Grinn.

Ms. Grinn is pictured here after returning from a nine-week

photography expedition with the editor of The Lunchtime News and National Geographic. The editor of Ranger Rick's Back Yard had to stay home and rake leaves.

Ms. Grinn explains the absence of alligators by pointing out that we don't see them in Minnesota at Halloween because they hibernate, like bears. She also pointed out that we don't see them at Christmas, Easter or the Fourth of July, either. That's because they prefer to hang out along the Gulf Coast from Texas to Florida.



BOO!

'GATOR SCIENTIST FINDS OUT WHY THEY HAVE SUCH SWEET BREATH

Why does alligator breath smell sweet as daffodils on a warm June night? Actually, it smells about as sweet as a garbage can with a month's worth of rotten chicken fat. On the other hand, some might find the smell *pungent*, which is to say, a bit sharp, like some cheeses, but not entirely unpleasant. Of course, alligators don't brush.