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JOIN THE CONVERSATION WITH DINING EDITOR MARY BROWN MALOUF

Oct 13, 2008

On the Table

03:29 PM

World Food Day is October 16

BY MARY BROWN MALOUF

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I've never actually known anyone who did not have enough food to eat. All my life, food—its availability, anyway—has been something I could take for granted.

Most of my energy has been spent on eating the best food possible and not eating too much of it. But that's not how it is for most of the world and, according to Michael Pollan's open letter to our next "farmer-in-chief" in Sunday's New York Times magazine, that's not how it's going to be for the United States for much longer.

He says (to the next prez), "But with a suddenness that has taken us all by surprise, the era of cheap and abundant food appears to be drawing to a close. What this means is that you, like so many other leaders through history, will find yourself confronting the fact — so easy to overlook these past few years — that the health of a nation's food system is a critical issue of national security." And then he goes on—at the usual Pollanesque great length—to explain why we will find ourselves in food crisis.

You should read [the whole thing](#). But maybe not this minute. Right now, just mark your calendars for October 16, World Food Day. (That's Thursday.) In Salt Lake City, Mayor Ralph Becker and a bunch of restaurants (see list below) have joined together to raise food conciousness. .