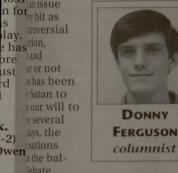
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DPINION 7

he Chocolate War

^{arl} (18) ropean Parliament's vote to preserve cocoa quality sends message to Americans



and tempers flared. Finally, igh-level negotiations between nations, a tenuous vote was and an agreement was reached. ropean Parliament had suc-Big lyhanded the highly volatile wmb that is...chocolate.

DONNY

The in cool heads and free market mics prevailed as the 626 mem-River the European Parliament voted into allow chocolate with up to acocoa-butter vegetable fat to in Europe, provided the faux properly labeled. 30 members ed from voting, probably for retribution by terrorists followeteachings of Willie Wonka. »chocolate nations warned the ment the new rules would cause preduction in European ate consumption (which tfor half of worldwide conn), destabilize the economies led to exporting nations and et the mine confidence in the quality ppe's chocolate. Fortunately, an ment was reached and plans to lershey, Pennsylvania's Elite late Commandos were ed. An inspired President Bill promises to personally test

nerica's chocolate for purity ectiveness as an aphrodisiac. lieved Count Chocula, whose ate al well-being depends upon the lity of tasty, fake chocolate, ail hman ^{European} Union's Council of als of the measure will be approved

Ministers. There are, however, rumors the measure will be met with violent opposition by Weight Watchers fundamentalists. Despite the obvious danger in angering chocolate-union thugs and other militants with extreme chocolate views, European legislators braved the political storm and cast their pro-cocoa votes.

Wake up, Congress, let's see some initiative and harness the power of government to protect the purity of American goods. Maybe our cheesegorging, cross-oceanic neighbors are on to something. Perhaps the true purpose of government is regulate the purity of scrumptious sweets. Our own United States Congress should follow the lead of our disco-loving, unwashed European cousins and take measures to ensure the highest level of excellence in junk food. After all, isn't Europe the same continent that gave us the Gabor sisters, Fabio, those Mentos commercials and the Yugo? With a track record of success like that, we can't go wrong.

It's about time lawmakers got on the ball and passed laws requiring chicken nuggets contain at least 10% real chicken. Nuggets may be the only substance known to man which doesn't taste like chicken and it's about time someone did something about it. After years of complaints, it appears only swift government action will force the cold, unfeeling fast-food giants to bow to the wishes of America's French frymunching populace. Maybe once the nugget problem is resolved, the fastfood giants will get to work on creating an apple pie indistinguishable from a fish sandwich.

Strange tasting meat-based products aren't the only threat to American consumer confidence in the food

Foreign objects and toxic chemicals are frequently found in the food men, women and even children eat. Untold millions have eaten so-called "Cracker Jacks" only to find foreign objects

hidden inside. The lives of millions of children are threatened every morn-. ing by small toys and stickers which have somehow found their way into cereal boxes.

Imported foods may be the worst offenders. It is not uncommon to bite into a cookie at a Chinese restaurant and find discarded scraps of paper inside.

The threat of dangerous objects

getting into food pales in comparison liciousness" is just the start. If other to the toxic chemicals which have poisoned our wild fish and game. America's lakes and forests have become so polluted, a days' worth of hunting and fishing is often inedible. Congress should pass tough environmental standards so we can eat a spotted owl without getting sick.

The European Parliament has the right idea. The regulation of "choco-

> we not extend the same consideration to traditions much older. Erik McKee

> > Class of '99

Seats should be opened to alumni

I was very disappointed with the lack of student attendance at the OSU game. I'm sure the players, who had been on the road for two weeks, felt the same when they saw a half empty third deck. It was not something they could over look from their bench.

nations care so much about the purity of their chocolate, the least Americans can do is ensure the quality of our food.

After all, someone has to make sure natural ingredients don't find

Donny Ferguson is a junior political science major.

senior major Major st a postmortem possibility

sed to be a noble — if er macabre — idea onate your dead science. By willing Ind If to a medical after death, you ng your head was still th, helping a bud-

VALDEZ

columnist

is described as an "investigational preparation," making it sound like something that was squeezed out of a glowing meteor. The poten-tial side effects and special warnings also can be scary.

Being poor, intrepid and ultimately a gambling man at heart, I decided that I would try to pay my cable bill and restock my macaroni and cheese stash by participating in a drug study.



Recently, John Burton wrote

their way into a Twinkie.

terminal disease. Certainly, if Williams had been given adequate counseling, this tragedy may have been averted.

However, Williams is not the victim here. He is the criminal, and he made a conscious decision to infect these nine girls. Yet, a big-ger question arises. What the hell are nine girls doing having unprotected sex with a homeless drifter? Somewhere along the line, society failed these young women.

There is something wrong when a 14-year-old girl thinks it is safe and morally correct to have unprotected sex with a stranger.

Perhaps if the media an ety in general, did not portray sex as the end-all, be-all of human achievement, these girls would have thought twice before ruining their lives for one sexual encounter. Jon Apgar Class of '99

rosurgeon to over-"what-do-youhat?" phase of a doc-

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av, the combination

ing college costs, the growing need for cal research and the devaluation of our numan lives has created a climate where are being encouraged to sub-lease their bodies to science.

en my own financial ends failed to meet onth, I wondered how I might reap moneenefits from the medical research industry. cal plasma center tries to entice students ate, er, sell blood plasma by advertising ou can earn as much as \$140 a month if onate twice a week

a while I considered putting my veins the streets to make money for me. After 40 is nothing to sneeze at, and it might be h to bleed over.

eblood people at the plasma center are utely correct when they point out that a is essential for medical research. No what motivates Aggies to sell plasma, who do perform a needed service. theing strictly selfish (as I often am when es to my bodily fluids), the idea lost its when a friend asked what I would pay for

epaltry sum of \$140 is not enough, especonsidering the diameter of the needles red in the plasma extraction proces gies who do not want to part with blood ents have other avenues toward forin the research game. A medical study conspicuously located next to a local a factory offers students who have certain g medical conditions the chance to be

gies who are lucky enough to have one of sired diseases can go to the study center, doctors will first confirm the diagnosis, n offer them "the drug.

at follows might be best characterized as of medical Russian roulette. Neither the t nor the doctor knows what "the drug" ns. It might be an actual medication ed to treat the condition, or it could be a

ents who elect to continue the study are waiver and a list of potential side effects the drug" could cause. The paperwork ^{an} air of mystery and intrigue. "The drug"

pain, a yeast infection or any of the other highpaying diseases. All that I qualify for, from time to time, is the athlete's foot study.

So in the spirit of Aggie Bonfire, I wore the same pair of socks for two weeks, praying each night before I went to bed that I would rise to find an itchy, scorching case of athlete's foot.

My date with destiny finally came three weeks ago, when a very nice group of people at the study center shaved my feet to confirm that I was infected with tinea pedis.

Now I swallow hard each night, uncap a mysterious tube that is a scary shade of, um, black, and slather my feet with ... something.

Happily, my feet are back to normal now, but I worry that I may not be the best experimental subject, because it will be impossible to tell what actually cured my feet — "the drug" or simply the resumption of normal sock rotation.

The current state of medical research speaks volumes though, not just about our attitudes toward our bodies or how far one poor college student and his feet will go for \$100, but about how medical research really works.

No matter how sophisticated medical science becomes, research on live models will always be an essential part of our struggle against disease.

Certainly, cruelty to animals always should be avoided, but not all testing is cruel. The rhetoric against animal experimentation has gotten so loud and emotional that many Americans have forgotten that humans also are used in testing

This should make us chuckle all the more when we buy shampoo that boasts that it was "never tested on animals." If manufacturers put anything in shampoo that made someone scream "Don't you dare put that on little fluffy bunnies," maybe we should not be so cavalier about using it ourselves.

We all benefit from live model research. Some of us actually participate in it. Along with other kinds of experimentation, it has described our chemical world and made it reasonably safe.

And I have done my part, so don't look to me to go without showers for two weeks in order to participate in the shampoo study. Besides, I'm hoping that eating a month's worth of macaroni and cheese will help me qualify for a far more lucrative acne study.

Jeremy Valdez is a senior journalism major.

evils of Hallow'een. The actual origins of the holiday indicate that he is mistaken.

Hallow'een, also called Samhain, is a contracted form of "Hallowed Evening." This particular evening was hallowed or holy because it was a day of remembrance of the dead.

To the Celts, and other peoples, Samhain was also the New Year's festival, celebrating the end of the old year and the beginning of the new year. This doesn't sound very Satanic to me.

In reflecting on the origins of Samhain, a particular Aggie tradition comes to mind. I begin to ask myself; "doesn't this sound quite a bit like Aggie Muster?" What would we think if people started "trashing" that tradition? We expect people to respect our Aggie traditions, so why can

students be assigned third deck seating and the second deck student section be released to the 12th Man Foundation for the next school year and subsequent years.

This recommendation would permit more participation from the alumni, and add revenue to the football program, and would help to eliminate the unsightly view of empty seats

Homer A. Miller Class of '63

Society contributes to sexual attitudes

James Francis makes a good point in his column concerning Nushawn Williams. Counseling and medical help are not readily available for low-income minorities who find themselves with a

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ters may also be mailed to: The Battalion - Mail Cali 013 Reed McDonald Texas A&M University College Station, TX 77843-1111

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