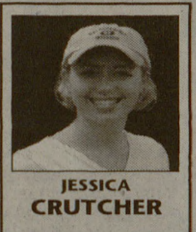


Expired food not just in our home

I stopped to get lunch at the Bus Stop Snack Bar after my 10 a.m. class yesterday — yogurt and a half pint of chocolate milk. I was ready to take my first bite as I licked the yogurt off the underside of the lid and noticed it was a little warm. Even “cool” would have been a generous term, so at a whim, I glanced at the expiration date on the lid — which, it turned out, had passed nine days ago. The sell-by date on my milk also had passed four days ago. This was not just bad luck on my part — I went back, checked and found more outdated yogurt in the cooler.

At this point, one is forced to wonder what procedures the Texas A&M Department of Food Services uses to make sure it supplies students with safe, non-spoiled food products. Although generalized guidelines for food disposal do exist, they have not been followed as strictly as they should.



JESSICA CRUTCHER

their policy to pick up expired products and credit the establishment in question.

Zawieja stated otherwise, saying that employees should not rely on delivery persons to remove expired products, although she said there was no formal policy. Perhaps one should be implemented. Obviously, with all these “checkpoints” at which various workers are supposed to be checking our food quality, they have become very adept at blaming other people involved.

Even corporate grocery stores have the decency to notify customers when they are about to buy an outdated product, usually by grouping the aging products together and offering them at a reduced price.

Unfortunately, there is no legal basis for forcing Food Services to show more concern for student health. The sell-by and expiration dates on perishable products are suggestions, not mandatory dates at which marketers must remove the food from the shelves, according to Julie Anderson, the environmental health director for the Brazos County Health Department. However, she added that summer heat does call for extra concern, because higher temperatures result in a shorter shelf life.

Although this is what coolers are meant to prevent, the number of times these coolers are opened per day on a college campus also must be taken into account. Needless to say, the storage temperatures will not be nearly as low as they would be, for example, in one's home refrigerator.

Whether through apathy or simple human error, A&M Food Services cannot be counted on to keep close track on the age of its food. A formal policy is needed to ensure food quality, but since this is not legally required, it is safe to bet A&M will not develop one in the near future. In the meantime, students looking for a quick bite to eat should remember to check their own expiration dates and adopt the motto “buyer beware.”

Jessica Crutcher is a junior journalism major.

Open market needed

Globalization, trade helps poorer countries

The fight against free trade is nothing new. But the hypocrisy of the argument against expanding of free trade recently has been richly demonstrated at Harvard University. Beside the usual havens of the economic isolationists, including many unions and their allies in Congress, the effort to discredit the free-trade policies of many world leaders has spread to some college campuses. Such groups, often led and organized by students, identify such economic policy as low tariffs and lesser barriers to trade with increased globalization.



JONATHAN JONES

A common claim is that this exploits the poor in Third World countries. As the riots in Genoa at the G8 summit recently have demonstrated, when countries get together to discuss global economic trends and strategy, common sense can be thrown right out of the window in favor of violence and arguments as thin as a super model on a hunger strike. Contrary to protesters' claims, more open trade helps the poor, betters the environment, raises workplace standards and promotes democratic ideas.

Last spring, a group of students known as the Progressive Student Labor Movement (PSLM) took over Harvard's Massachusetts Hall, demanding among other things that the university monitor the working conditions of the developing world more closely.

Harvard, like many other institutions, manufactures their athletic apparel abroad. The sit-ins were filled with anti-globalization rhetoric.

The student newspaper's editors at the *Harvard Crimson* supported the PSLM, stating that “Harvard must shoulder the responsibility to monitor workplace standards for those outside U.S. borders who work on its behalf.” Their anti-globalization allegiance has hardly wavered — until recently. Last week, the newspaper made known that it will be hiring teams of Cambodian typists to complete the online database of its articles. The typists will earn 40 cents per hour, and there are no promises to oversee the work place environment. This decision is the right one, as the workers themselves were happy to explain.

The Associated Press quoted Khive Rotha as saying, “I've always wanted to use English and computers to earn a living, so this is a big success for my family.” Eng Naleak, who can type 30 words per minute despite being born with only three fingers on each hand, said, “My life was hopeless before this opportunity.” Disabled people have a difficult time finding work in Cambodia, but not necessarily with foreigners looking to invest in a developing nation. Free trade benefits the poor in Third World countries because they are able to sell goods to a world market of consumers

with the resources to pay. The protesters complain of American exploitation of the Third World. The wages, while extremely low by American standards, usually are well above the average income in a developing country. The typists for the *Harvard Crimson*, for example, will earn more the average hourly wage in Cambodia's often hazardous main industry of garment manufacturing. English lessons and medical care are also offered to the Cambodian workers.

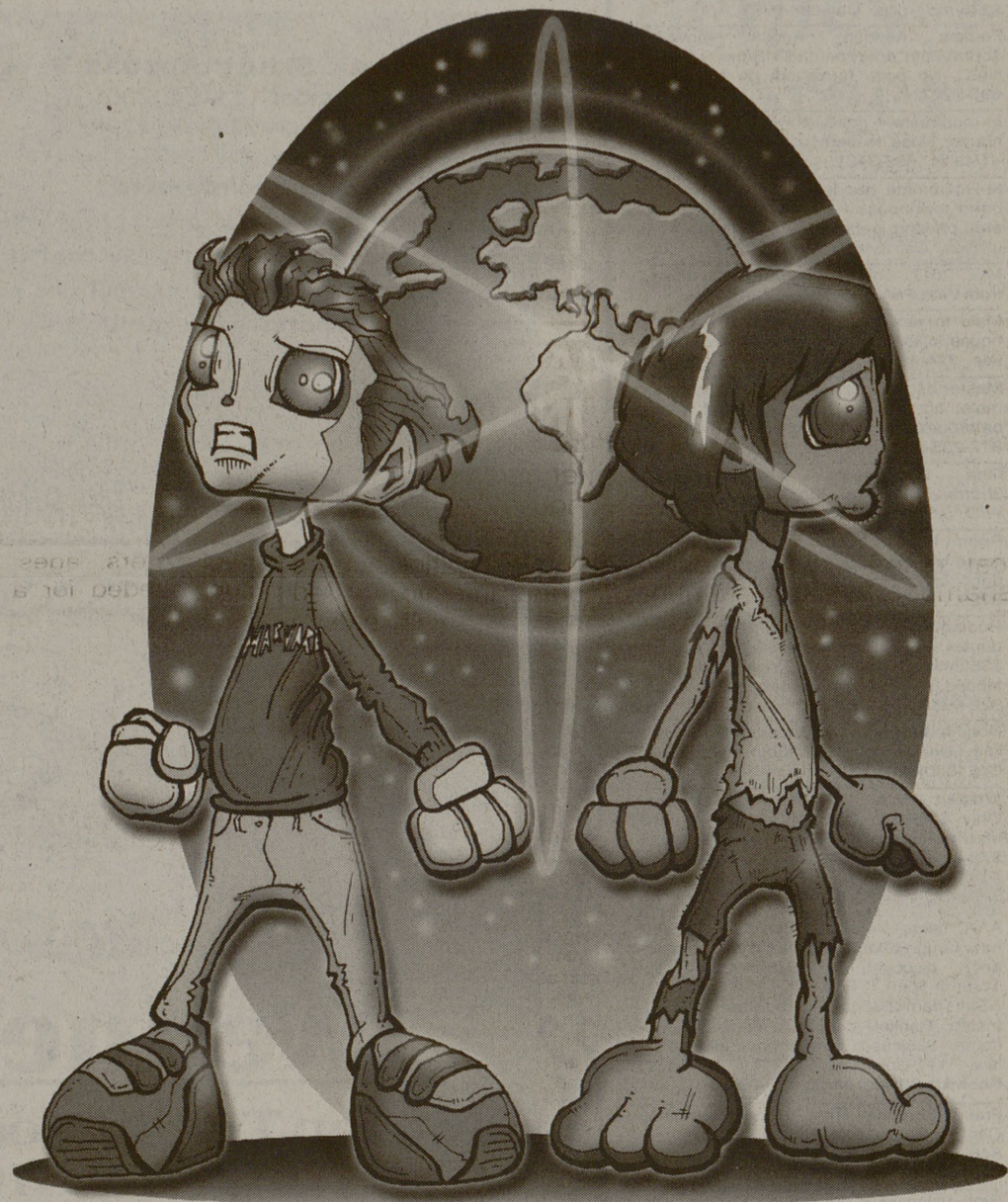
Foreign companies participating in globalization are much more likely to provide such benefits than any job to be found in the developing country. In addition, lower-income consumers in the United States benefit from the reduced costs to make a product or service.

PSLM arguments that globalization and free trade harm the environment are likewise misleading. A very quick and effective method to improving environmental standards comes not from loud protesters or unenforceable treaties but from the creation of wealth. As growing middle

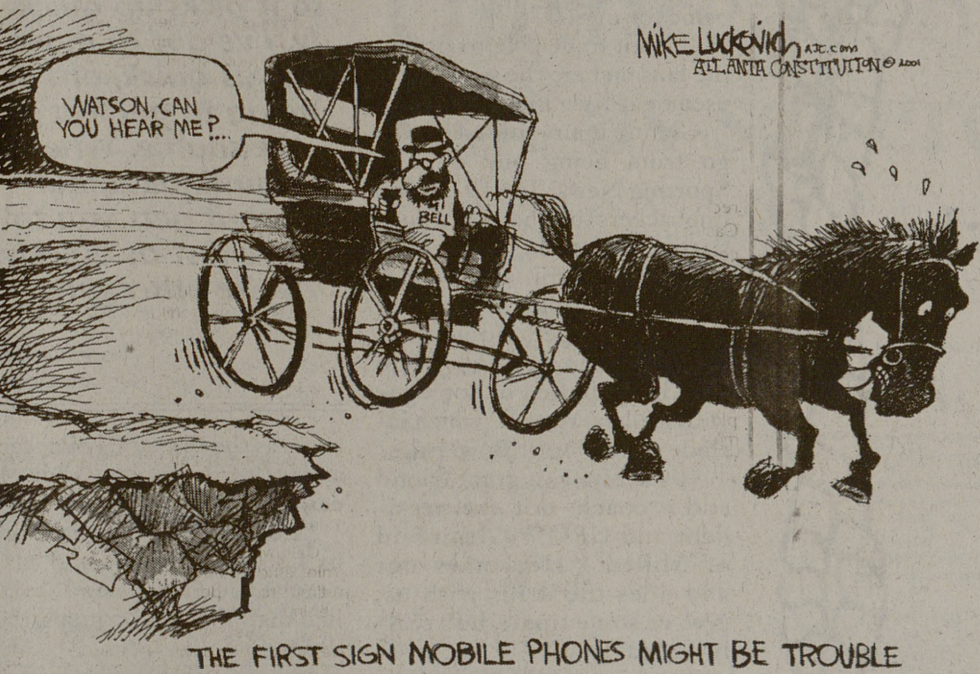
class demands improved surroundings, the institutions will arise that can create that in a more efficient way than any government. President George W. Bush repeatedly has stated that trade is a force for democracy.

As wealth and stability increases from foreign investment, Third World countries will naturally demand more democracy to protect their freedoms, civil rights and material accumulation from the overextended reach of government. Now publications such as the *Harvard Crimson* are choosing to participate in the global markets, in contrast to providing the same tired arguments of opposition, perhaps some of the many appeals to free trade are beginning to take hold. Unfortunately, there is much opposition to overcome. In the meantime, some of the world's poorest countries are waiting.

Jonathan Jones is a senior political science major.



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION



THE FIRST SIGN MOBILE PHONES MIGHT BE TROUBLE

Hook-up culture destructive

(U-WIRE) AMES, Iowa — My generation grew up in the age of feminism. Our mothers were the ones who led the campaigns in the 1960s and '70s. They started the first woman-centered organizations. They celebrated the FDA's approval of the pill. They cheered when Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs in 1973's “Battle of the Sexes.” They burned their bras. Ok, maybe some techniques were more symbolic than others.

But they changed this world to make it a person's world, instead of a man's world. I was lucky enough to grow up in the generation that followed, so I could feel the effects of the feminist movement. I am proud to be a woman. I can do anything I want. I can be anything I want. I am woman, hear me roar. But I think my generation is taking feminism a step in the wrong direction.

A nationwide survey conducted by Independent Women's Forum released its results of a survey of 1,000 college women. According to the survey, 40 percent of college women prefer “hooking up” to traditional dating. In this survey, hooking up is defined as any sexual encounter ranging from kissing to

sexual intercourse where both participants expect nothing further afterward. Ten percent of college women responded to the poll saying they had hooked up more than six times. (So did they have sex with six different men or kiss six random guys? That seems like a big difference). In this survey, women said they were rarely asked on dates, but rather hung out with their dates in informal settings.

The poll also said 91 percent of college women reported what was described as “rampant hook-up culture” on their campuses. So why are countless college women participating in this self-destructive sexual behavior? Why are they having sex and then not expecting the man to call them the next day? It all stems back to the feminist movement. In order to prove to the world that women are in control of their bodies, they have sex without strings attached. And what does that prove? In today's world of hooking up, women end up hurting themselves emotionally and sexually, while men live the easy life of meaningless sex in the cheap comfort of their own apartment.

And women take the problem lying down. My female friends and I

complain all the time about how we never go on dates. “What happened to dating?” we ask each other. Just once we want our men to plan a date with dinner and a movie, instead of inviting us to hang out and hook up in their apartments. Call me a dating prude, but I like traditional dating. I haven't been on many because I let my feminist beliefs get in the way of having a good time.

As a feminist, I feel like I'm obligated to argue with every man who has offered to pay for a date. I can't let him pay because then I would be going against all my feminist values. So I'm asking all the women of Iowa State to re-evaluate their relationships. I want women to think about the long-term heartache hooking up can cause and remember that women can be feminists without hooking up. College women, let a man pay every once in a while.

It doesn't mean you're not a feminist. It just means you have control of your life. And that's what feminism is all about.

Michelle Kahn Iowa State Daily Iowa State University

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class and phone number.

The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 014 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:

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