What's Wrong with Processed Food?

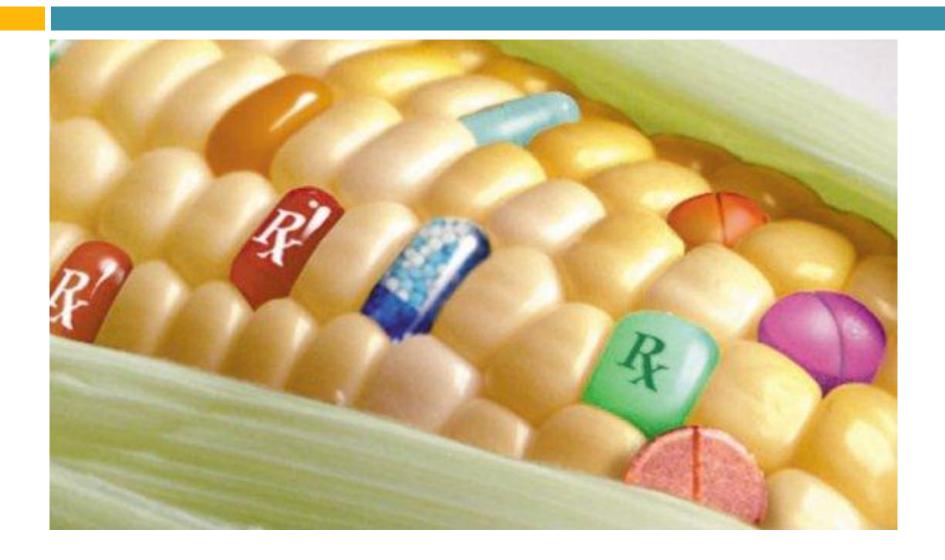
### Processed food defined:

- raw ingredients transformed into food
- food altered for safety, marketability
- Simple methods: cooking, slaughtering, drying, fermenting, preserving with salt
- Complex methods: canning, freezing, refrigeration, dehydration, pasteurizing, curing

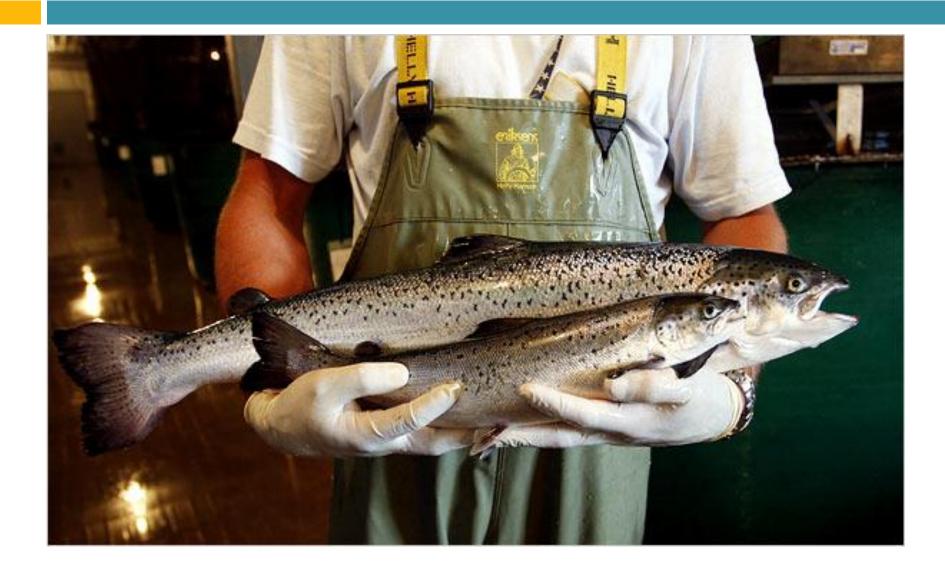
# Junk Food/Convenience Foods



# Genetically-modified foods



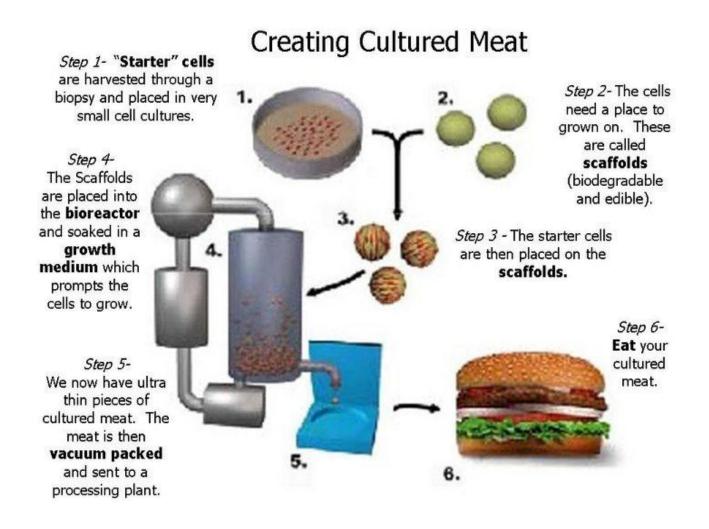
# Genetically-modified animals



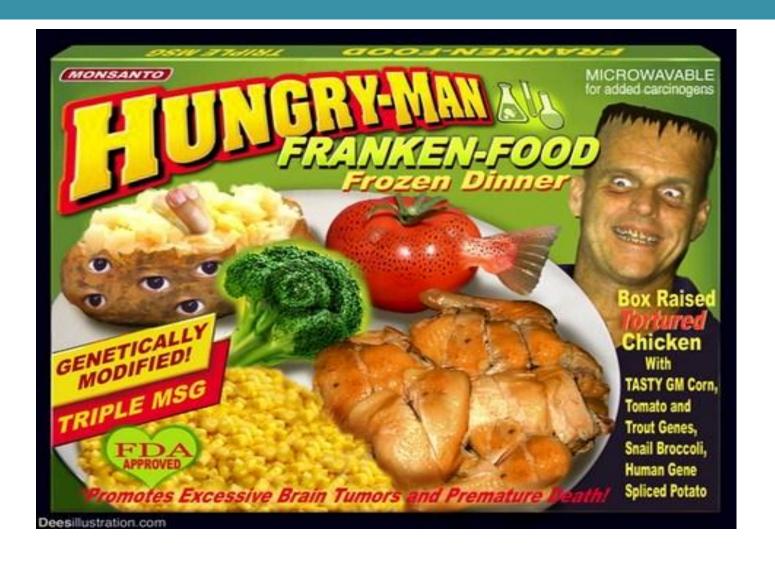
#### Functional foods



#### In vitro meat



### Frankenfood?!

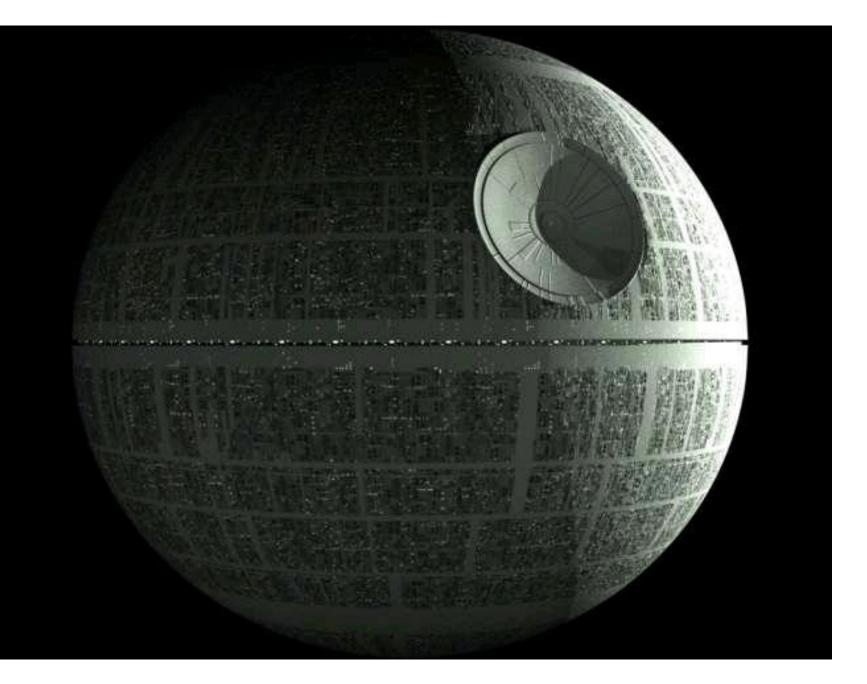


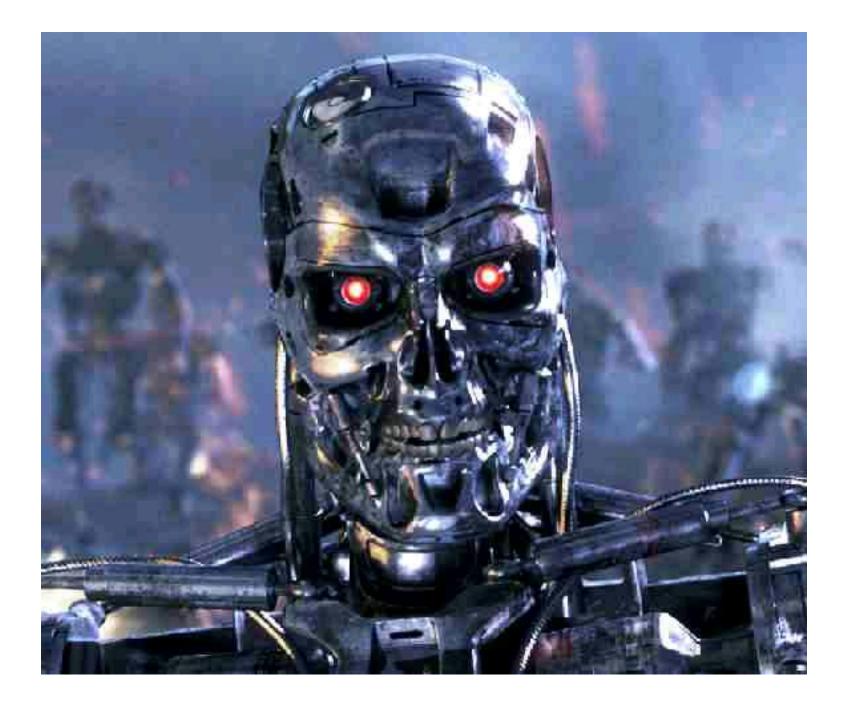
# Isn't real food something like this?



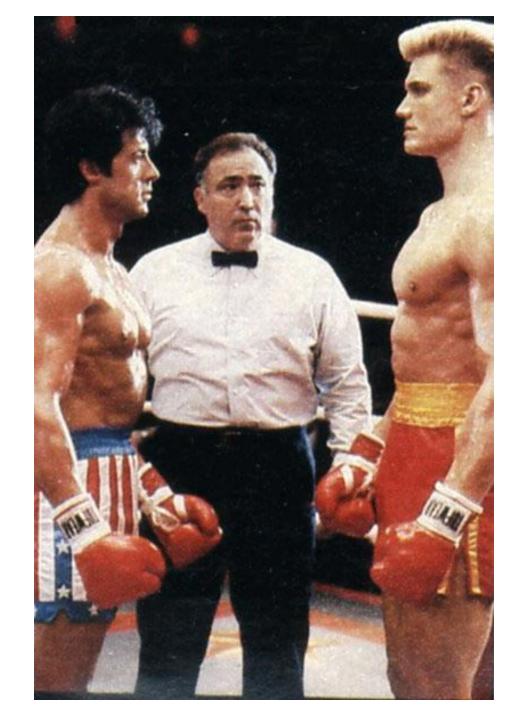
# Technology as dehumanizing



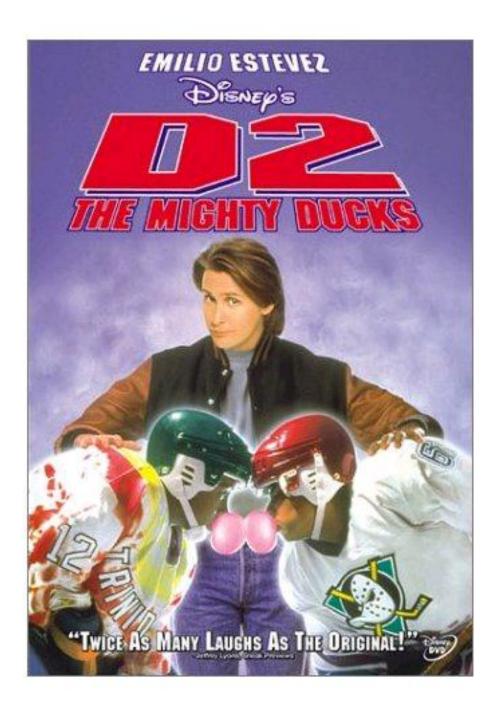
















### Romantic techno-myth

The good guys are:

The bad guys are:

- Genuine
- Down-to-earth
- Mixed
- Humane
- Heart
- Real people

Insincere

Uptight

Uniform

Robotic

Mind

Soulless machines

### Food techno-myth

Real food is:

- Pure
- Local
- Organic
- Particular
- Unique/heirloom
- Tastes good
- Virtuous small farmers

Techno-food is:

- Processed
- Global
- Industrial
- Universal
- Conformist
- Tastes bad
- Heartless corporations

# What if there are only benefits?

- □ Toxin removal, preservation, shelf-life
- Transportation, distribution
- Better for animals
- Better for the environment
- □ Taste, convenience
- Better, more healthful

## Hard and soft impacts

Hard = health, safety, environmental, human rights

Soft = lifestyle, preference, cultural change

Empirical vs. normative hard impacts

Hard and soft: negative and positive

# Negative soft impacts

- GE food
  - -- strikes us as creepy?
  - -- doesn't square with our sense that food should be natural?
  - -- rather not risk it?
  - -- transforms traditional farming?
  - -- doesn't fit sense of self?

# Negative soft impacts

- GE animals
  - -- strikes us as extra creepy?
  - -- Yuck factor?
  - -- quality of life for the animals?

- Functional foods
  - -- bad tasting?
  - -- commercial nonsense?

# Negative soft impacts

- Junk food
  - -- bad tasting?
  - -- homogenizing?
  - -- undermines local, regional cuisines?

- In vitro meat
  - -- no advantages over vegetarianism?
  - -- doesn't taste the same as the real thing?

## Positive soft impacts

- Junk food?
- GE food and animals?
- Functional food?
- In vitro meat?

Positively affects the quality of our lives

## Food is political not metaphysical

Avoid Romanticism

Avoid fetishizing nature

Avoid techno-phobia

Avoid Provincialism/Traditionalism