

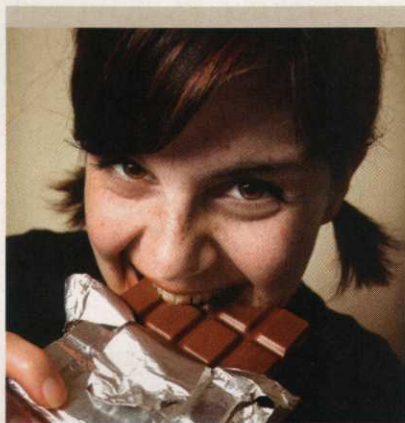
# cold candy

**A**s one who fancies himself an aficionado of theatre, I must admit to previously not knowing the name of thespian Donley Cross, an actor in bustling, turn-of-the-century San Francisco. In one Shakespearean turn — or rather, wrong turn — Cross tumbled from the stage during a performance, injuring his back so badly that his drama days were done.

However, his pain was my childhood gain. For, dear friends, after his proscenium pratfall, Cross then teamed with one Charlie Fox to found the Fox-Cross Candy Co. They started hawking a chocolate bar called the Nu-Chu in 1920. Like all good salesmen, the Fox-Cross Candy Co. knew how to capitalize on trends. So when the Jazz Age delivered a special dance to speakeasies, Fox and Cross grabbed themselves a seat at the show by crafting a wonderful concoction of vanilla nougat slathered with milk chocolate. They dubbed the 1922 ambrosia the Charleston Chew.

My first experience with the Chew, now manufactured by the Tootsie Co., was as a youngster in Davenport, Iowa. Perusing the candy counter with a couple quarters burning a hole in my pocket, I noticed a bar longer than all the others. My reasoning for that initial purpose was simple: Bigger is better, bigger means more for me. Thus, a

LET'S STRAY FROM CONVENTION TO RECOMMEND THAT EVERYONE TRIES THIS SIBERIAN SNACK AT HOME **BY MARK LUCE**



candy crush commenced, with my father telling me to put my elongated bars in the freezer. On this one occasion, I grant, he was correct.

After discovering the joy of frozen nougat, but afraid to share my fascination for fear of being “that boy,” I learned from my friend Chris Kerr the particular deliciousness of frozen individual fruit pies. We devoured them before school, stuffing our stomachs with sucrose for the long trek to third grade. I feel a pang of regret now for our teachers, as 8-year-olds hopped up on Hostess couldn't have been a pretty sight.

While I hardly ever eat candy that much, the urge occasionally hits, and I find myself at a convenience store eyeballing the megasize varieties and take

the plunge. Of course, the wait for the bar to actually get frosty enough to devour makes the candy taste that much better. Whether the nutty goodness of a satisfying Snickers, the wafer crunch of a KitKat, the toffee manna of a Skor, or the velvety crack of a Twix, for some reason, the combination of cold and chocolate sends paroxysms of pleasure through my bones.

My more rational colleagues tell me the coldness does not chemically change anything inside the candy bars. Using such outdated concepts as science, they claim my passion for icy treats merely numbs the taste buds. Thus, I actually taste fewer flavors.

“Hogwash,” I reply. So I probe into the freezer and gracefully unwrap a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup, chomp down and enjoy the paradise of arctic peanut butter and chilly chocolate. While nibbling at my delicacy, I click my way to [candycrate.com](http://candycrate.com), order a box of strawberry Charleston Chews and eagerly await my winter dreams.

*Mark Luce lives in Kansas City, Mo, where he learned the hard way that freezing JujuFruits isn't a very good idea.*

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