DECEMBER 3, 2007

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TIME

What Makes Us Good / Evil

Humans are the planet's most noble creatures—and its most savage. Science is discovering why

BY JEFFREY KLUGER

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CEREBRAL MRI: PHANIE/JUPITERIMAGES; GANDHI: WALLACE KIRKLAND/GETTY; HITLER: CORBIS

COVER

What Makes Us Moral

By JEFFREY KLUGER

Illustration for TIME by John Ritter

If the entire human species were a single individual, that person would long ago have been declared mad. The insanity would not lie in the anger and darkness of the human mind—though it can be a black and raging place indeed. And it certainly wouldn't lie in the transcendent goodness of that mind—one so sublime, we fold it into a larger "soul." The madness would lie instead in the fact that both of those qualities, the savage and the splendid, can exist in one creature, one person, often in one instant.

We're a species that is capable of almost dumbfounding kindness. We nurse one another, romance one another, weep for one another. Ever since science taught us how, we willingly tear the very organs from our bodies and give them to one another. And at the same time, we slaughter one another. The past 15 years of human history are the temporal equivalent of those subatomic particles that are created in accelerators and vanish in a trillionth of a second,

but in that fleeting instant, we've visited untold horrors on ourselves—in Mogadishu, Rwanda, Chechnya, Darfur, Beslan, Baghdad, Pakistan, London, Madrid, Lebanon, Israel, New York City, Abu Ghraib, Oklahoma City, an Amish schoolhouse in Pennsylvania—all of the crimes committed by the highest, wisest, most principled species the planet has produced. That we're also the lowest, cruelest, most blood-drenched species is our shame—and our paradox.

The deeper that science drills into the substrata of behavior, the harder it becomes to preserve the vanity that we are unique among Earth's creatures. We're the only species with language, we told ourselves—until gorillas and chimps mastered sign language. We're the only one that uses tools then—but that's if you don't count otters smashing mollusks with rocks or apes stripping leaves from twigs and using them to fish for termites.

What does, or ought to, separate us then is our highly developed sense of morality, a primal understanding of good and bad, of right and wrong, of what it means to suffer not only our own pain—something anything with a rudimentary nervous system can do—but also the pain of others. That quality is the distilled essence of what it means to be human. Why it's an essence that so often spoils, no one can say.

Morality may be a hard concept to grasp, but we acquire it fast. A preschooler will learn that it's not all right to eat in the classroom, because the teacher says it's not. If the rule is lifted and eating is approved, the child will happily comply. But if the same teacher says it's also O.K. to push another student off a chair, the child hesitates. "He'll respond, 'No, the teacher shouldn't say that,'" says psychologist Michael Schulman, co-author of *Bringing Up a Moral Child*. In both cases, somebody taught the child a rule, but the rule against pushing has a stickiness about it, one that resists coming unstuck even if someone in authority countenances it. That's the difference between a matter of morality and one of mere social convention, and Schulman and others believe kids feel it innately.

Of course, the fact is, that child will sometimes hit and won't feel particularly bad about it either—unless he's caught. The same is true for people who steal or despots who slaughter. "Moral judgment is pretty consistent from person to person," says Marc Hauser, professor of psychology at Harvard University and author of *Moral Minds*. "Moral behavior, however, is scattered all over the chart." The rules we know, even the ones we intuitively feel, are by no

means the rules we always follow.

Where do those intuitions come from? And why are we so inconsistent about following where they lead us? Scientists can't yet answer those questions, but that hasn't stopped them from looking. Brain scans are providing clues. Animal studies are providing more. Investigations of tribal behavior are providing still more. None of this research may make us behave better, not right away at least. But all of it can help us understand ourselves—a small step up from savagery perhaps, but an important one.

The Moral Ape

The deepest foundation on which morality is built is the phenomenon of empathy, the understanding that what hurts me would feel the same way to you. And human ego notwithstanding, it's a quality other species share.

It's not surprising that animals far less complex than we are would display a trait that's as generous of spirit as empathy, particularly if you decide there's no spirit involved in it at all. Behaviorists often reduce what we call empathy to a mercantile business known as reciprocal altruism. A favor done today—food offered, shelter given—brings a return favor tomorrow. If a colony of animals practices that give-and-take well, the group thrives.

But even in animals, there's something richer going on. One of the first and most poignant observations of empathy in nonhumans was made by Russian primatologist Nadia Kohts, who studied nonhuman cognition in the first half of the 20th century and raised a young chimpanzee in her home. When the chimp would make his way to the roof of the house, ordinary strategies for bringing him down—calling, scolding, offers of food—would rarely work. But if Kohts sat down and pretended to cry, the chimp would go to her immediately. "He runs around me as if looking for the offender," she wrote. "He tenderly takes my chin in his palm ... as if trying to understand what is happening."

You hardly have to go back to the early part of the past century to find such accounts. Even cynics went soft at the story of Binta Jua, the gorilla who in 1996 rescued a 3-year-old boy who had tumbled into her zoo enclosure, rocking him gently in her arms and carrying him to a door where trainers could enter and collect him. "The capacity of empathy is multilayered," says

primatologist Frans de Waal of Emory University, author of *Our Inner Ape*. "We share a core with lots of animals."

While it's impossible to directly measure empathy in animals, in humans it's another matter. Hauser cites a study in which spouses or unmarried couples underwent functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) as they were subjected to mild pain. They were warned before each time the painful stimulus was administered, and their brains lit up in a characteristic way signaling mild dread. They were then told that they were not going to feel the discomfort but that their partner was. Even when they couldn't see their partner, the brains of the subjects lit up precisely as if they were about to experience the pain themselves. "This is very much an 'I feel your pain' experience," says Hauser.

The brain works harder when the threat gets more complicated. A favorite scenario that morality researchers study is the trolley dilemma. You're standing near a track as an out-of-control train hurtles toward five unsuspecting people. There's a switch nearby that would let you divert the train onto a siding. Would you do it? Of course. You save five lives at no cost. Suppose a single unsuspecting man was on the siding? Now the mortality score is 5 to 1. Could you kill him to save the others? What if the innocent man was on a bridge over the trolley and you had to push him onto the track to stop the train?

Pose these dilemmas to people while they're in an fMRI, and the brain scans get messy. Using a switch to divert the train toward one person instead of five increases activity in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex—the place where cool, utilitarian choices are made. Complicate things with the idea of pushing the innocent victim, and the medial frontal cortex—an area associated with emotion—lights up. As these two regions do battle, we may make irrational decisions. In a recent survey, 85% of subjects who were asked about the trolley scenarios said they would not push the innocent man onto the tracks—even though they knew they had just sent five people to their hypothetical death. "What's going on in our heads?" asks Joshua Greene, an assistant professor of psychology at Harvard University. "Why do we say it's O.K. to trade one life for five in one case and not others?"

How We Stay Good

Merely being equipped with moral programming does not mean we practice moral behavior.

Something still has to boot up that software and configure it properly, and that something is the community. Hauser believes that all of us carry what he calls a sense of moral grammar—the ethical equivalent of the basic grasp of speech that most linguists believe is with us from birth. But just as syntax is nothing until words are built upon it, so too is a sense of right and wrong useless until someone teaches you how to apply it.

It's the people around us who do that teaching—often quite well. Once again, however, humans aren't the ones who dreamed up such a mentoring system. At the Arnhem Zoo in the Netherlands, de Waal was struck by how vigorously apes enforced group norms one evening when the zookeepers were calling their chimpanzees in for dinner. The keepers' rule at Arnhem was that no chimps would eat until the entire community was present, but two adolescents grew willful, staying outside the building. The hours it took to coax them inside caused the mood in the hungry colony to turn surly. That night the keepers put the delinquents to bed in a separate area—a sort of protective custody to shield them from reprisals. But the next day the adolescents were on their own, and the troop made its feelings plain, administering a sound beating. The chastened chimps were the first to come in that evening. Animals have what de Waal calls "oughts"—rules that the group must follow—and the community enforces them.

Human communities impose their own oughts, but they can vary radically from culture to culture. Take the phenomenon of Good Samaritan laws that require passersby to assist someone in peril. Our species has a very conflicted sense of when we ought to help someone else and when we ought not, and the general rule is, Help those close to home and ignore those far away. That's in part because the plight of a person you can see will always feel more real than the problems of someone whose suffering is merely described to you. But part of it is also rooted in you from a time when the welfare of your tribe was essential for your survival but the welfare of an opposing tribe was not—and might even be a threat.

In the 21st century, we retain a powerful remnant of that primal dichotomy, which is what impels us to step in and help a mugging victim—or, in the astonishing case of Wesley Autrey, New York City's so-called Subway Samaritan, jump onto the tracks in front of an oncoming train to rescue a sick stranger—but allows us to decline to send a small contribution to help the people of Darfur. "The idea that you can save the life of a stranger on the other side of the

world by making a modest material sacrifice is not the kind of situation our social brains are prepared for," says Greene.

Throughout most of the world, you're still not required to aid a stranger, but in France and elsewhere, laws now make it a crime for passersby not to provide at least the up-close-and-personal aid we're good at giving. In most of the U.S., we make a distinction between an action and an omission to act. Says Hauser: "In France they've done away with that difference."

But you don't need a state to create a moral code. The group does it too. One of the most powerful tools for enforcing group morals is the practice of shunning. If membership in a tribe is the way you ensure yourself food, family and protection from predators, being blackballed can be a terrifying thing. Religious believers as diverse as Roman Catholics, Mennonites and Jehovah's Witnesses have practiced their own forms of shunning—though the banishments may go by names like *excommunication* or *disfellowshipping*. Clubs, social groups and fraternities expel undesirable members, and the U.S. military retains the threat of discharge as a disciplinary tool, even grading the punishment as "other than honorable" or "dishonorable," darkening the mark a former service person must carry for life.

Sometimes shunning emerges spontaneously when a society of millions recoils at a single member's acts. O.J. Simpson's 1995 acquittal may have outraged people, but it did make the morality tale surrounding him much richer, as the culture as a whole turned its back on him, denying him work, expelling him from his country club, refusing him service in a restaurant. In November his erstwhile publisher, who was fired in the wake of her and Simpson's disastrous attempt to publish a book about the killings, sued her ex-employer, alleging that she had been "shunned" and "humiliated." That, her former bosses might well respond, was precisely the point.

"Human beings were small, defenseless and vulnerable to predators," says Barbara J. King, biological anthropologist at the College of William and Mary and author of *Evolving God*. "Avoiding banishment would be important to us."

Why We Turn Bad

With so many redundant moral systems to keep us in line, why do we so often fall out of

ranks? Sometimes we can't help it, as when we're suffering from clinical insanity and behavior slips the grip of reason. Criminal courts are stingy about finding such exculpatory madness, requiring a disability so severe, the defendant didn't even know the crime was wrong. That's a very high bar that prevents all but a few from proving the necessary moral numbness.

Things are different in the case of the cool and deliberate serial killer, who knows the criminality of his deeds yet continues to commit them. For neuroscientists, the iciness of the acts calls to mind the case of Phineas Gage, the Vermont railway worker who in 1848 was injured when an explosion caused a tamping iron to be driven through his prefrontal cortex. Improbably, he survived, but he exhibited stark behavioral changes—becoming detached and irreverent, though never criminal. Ever since, scientists have looked for the roots of serial murder in the brain's physical state.

A study published last year in the journal *NeuroImage* may have helped provide some answers. Researchers working through the National Institute of Mental Health scanned the brains of 20 healthy volunteers, watching their reactions as they were presented with various legal and illegal scenarios. The brain activity that most closely tracked the hypothetical crimes—rising and falling with the severity of the scenarios—occurred in the amygdala, a deep structure that helps us make the connection between bad acts and punishments. As in the trolley studies, there was also activity in the frontal cortex. The fact that the subjects themselves had no sociopathic tendencies limits the value of the findings. But knowing how the brain functions when things work well is one good way of knowing where to look when things break down.

Fortunately, the overwhelming majority of us never run off the moral rails in remotely as awful a way as serial killers do, but we do come untracked in smaller ways. We face our biggest challenges not when we're called on to behave ourselves within our family, community or workplace but when we have to apply the same moral care to people outside our tribe.

The notion of the "other" is a tough one for *Homo sapiens*. Sociobiology has been criticized as one of the most reductive of sciences, ascribing the behavior of all living things—humans included—as nothing more than an effort to get as many genes as possible into the next generation. The idea makes sense, and all creatures can be forgiven for favoring their troop over others. But such bias turns dark fast.

Schulman, the psychologist and author, works with delinquent adolescents at a residential treatment center in Yonkers, New York, and was struck one day by the outrage that swept through the place when the residents learned that three of the boys had mugged an elderly woman. "I wouldn't mug an old lady. That could be my grandmother," one said. Schulman asked whom it would be O.K. to mug. The boy answered, "A Chinese delivery guy." Explains Schulman: "The old lady is someone they could empathize with. The Chinese delivery guy is alien, literally and figuratively, to them."

This kind of brutal line between insiders and outsiders is evident everywhere—mobsters, say, who kill promiscuously yet go on rhapsodically about "family." But it has its most terrible expression in wars, in which the dehumanization of the outsider is essential for wholesale slaughter to occur. Volumes have been written about what goes on in the collective mind of a place like Nazi Germany or the collapsing Yugoslavia. While killers like Adolf Hitler or Slobodan Milosevic can never be put on the couch, it's possible to understand the xenophobic strings they play in their people.

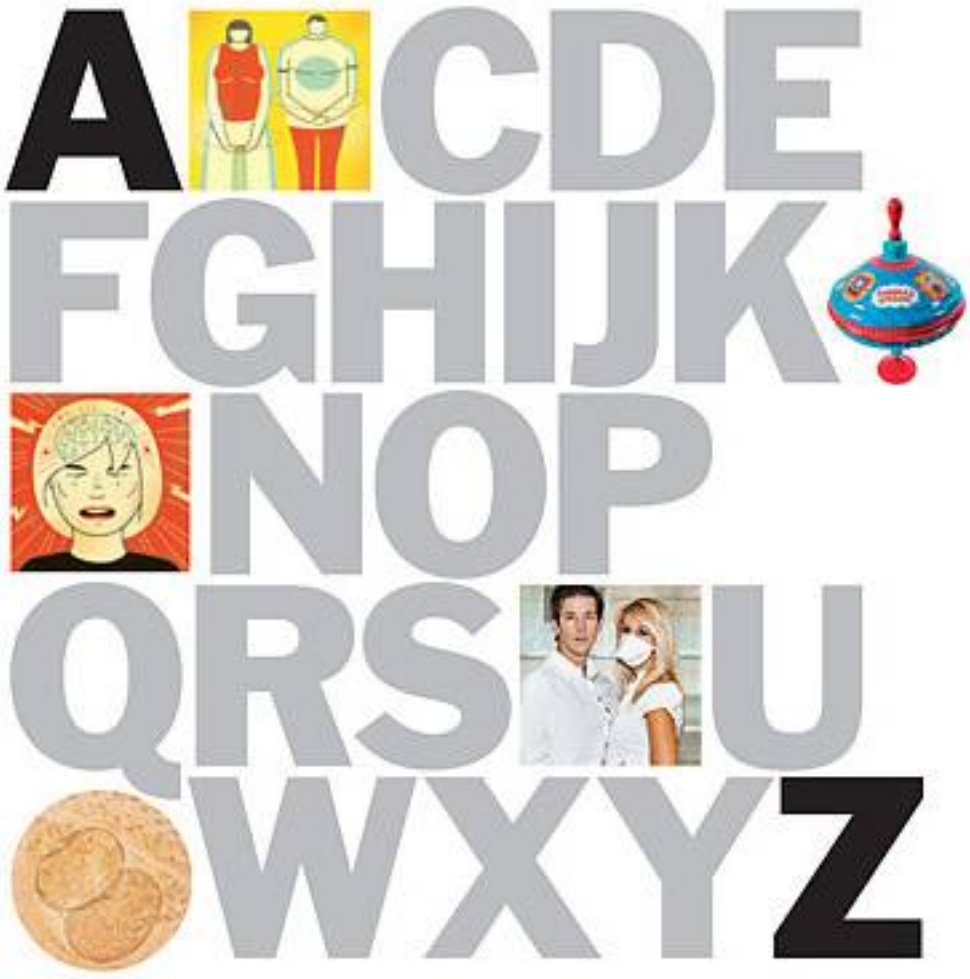
"Yugoslavia is the great modern example of manipulating tribal sentiments to create mass murder," says Jonathan Haidt, associate professor of psychology at the University of Virginia. "You saw it in Rwanda and Nazi Germany too. In most cases of genocide, you have a moral entrepreneur who exploits tribalism for evil purposes."

That, of course, does not take the stain of responsibility off the people who follow those leaders—a case that war-crimes prosecutors famously argued at the Nuremberg trials and a point courageous people have made throughout history as they sheltered Jews during World War II or refuse to murder their Sunni neighbor even if a militia leader tells them to.

For grossly imperfect creatures like us, morality may be the steepest of all developmental mountains. Our opposable thumbs and big brains gave us the tools to dominate the planet, but wisdom comes more slowly than physical hardware. We surely have a lot of killing and savagery ahead of us before we fully civilize ourselves. The hope—a realistic one, perhaps—is that the struggles still to come are fewer than those left behind.
—With reporting by Tiffany Sharples and Alexandra Silver / New York

HEALTH & MEDICINE

A to Z Health Guide 2007



The Year In Medicine

The scientific bulletin of the year may be the stem-cell breakthrough. But 2007 provided a whole alphabet of big medical news. TIME's A-to-Z guide reviews them

—By Coco Masters, Alice Park, Carolyn Sayre, Tiffany Sharples, Alexandra Silver and Kate Stinchfield

Introduction

The Year in Medicine

By ALICE PARK

Illustration for TIME by John Ritter

Twenty-five days. that's how long it took Dr. Shinya Yamanaka of Kyoto University to undo more than three decades of the exquisitely programmed biology packed into a middle-aged woman's cheek cell—and just maybe change the world. In those three weeks, Yamanaka turned back the clock on an aging cell. In the ultimate feat of reprogramming, he tricked it into acting like that wonder of cellular shape-shifting, the embryonic stem cell—capable of dividing, developing and maturing into any of the body's more than 200 different cell types.

What's remarkable is that Yamanaka wasn't the only one. On the same day shortly before Thanksgiving that he published his milestone in the journal Cell, James Thomson, the pioneering molecular biologist at the University of Wisconsin who in 1998 discovered the first human embryonic stem cells, reported similar success in Science, reversing development in foreskin cells from newborns. The papers were a culmination to a year of remarkable stem-cell firsts, a year in which scientists surged ahead of ethicists and politicians in finding ever more clever ways to generate stem cells.

This summer, working with mouse embryos, researchers nurtured a stem-cell line from the

earliest stage of development yet: the one-celled zygote. Others propagated stem cells from a single cell extracted from a days-old eight-cell human embryo, leaving the embryo itself intact and developing. And this fall, Oregon scientists reported they could grow embryonic stem cells from an adult monkey, inching closer to perfecting the process with human cells.

But those three breakthroughs, newsworthy as they were, still relied on living embryos: tiny bits of inchoate life fraught with all the familiar ethical issues. Yamanaka's and Thomson's work sidestepped that altogether, raising the tantalizing question, Is the long-raging stem-cell debate at last over? Yamanaka thinks it might be. "We can now for sure begin to generate patient-specific stem cells," he says. "And we should be able to use them in cell-transplant therapy."

Other giants of the field seem to agree. Ian Wilmut, the scientist responsible for cloning the first mammal, Dolly the sheep, has announced that he is abandoning the egg-hollowing, gene-replacing technique that made him a pioneer, noting that "changing cells from a patient directly into stem cells has got so much more potential." No embryos, no eggs, no hand-wringing over where the cells came from and whether it was ethical to make them in the first place.

Stem cells generated by Yamanaka's or Thomson's method are ideal for producing transplant cells not just because they are free of political and moral baggage. Since they originate in a patient, they can also give rise to any type of body tissue and then be transplanted back into the donor with little risk of rejection. All it took, in the end, was a little gene-tinkering and a dousing of protein factors that together nursed cells back to an embryonic state in which everything is biologically possible. "I think this is the future of stem-cell research," says Dr. John Gearhart, the biologist from Johns Hopkins University who first isolated human fetal embryonic stem cells. "It's absolutely terrific."

It wasn't always obvious that such direct reprogramming could ever be achieved, however. Dolly demonstrated that it was possible to reset an aging cell to become an entirely new being. But even after Dolly's birth, says Thomson, attempting direct-reprogramming experiments "was a little bit of a stupid thing to do, because everyone thought it couldn't possibly be this simple." There could have been 100 protein factors and an unknown amount

of gene-jiggering to recalibrate the cell properly, and all of them would have to be discovered by trial and error. "When I started this work, I thought it would be a 20-year—not a few-year—problem," Thomson says.

Fortunately, things were easier than that. The fountain-of-youth factors that he and Yamanaka use turn out to be well-known genes active in early development. Both the Yamanaka and the Thomson groups relied on inserting a separate set of four genes into aging cells, using the most efficient genetic bullies around: viruses, which penetrate a cell's membrane and insert new genetic software into its nucleus. The technique is comparatively efficient—about one stem-cell line per 5,000 cells, in Yamanaka's case, or one stem-cell line for each cultured petri dish of cells. While that may not sound impressive, it's a sure thing compared with the painstaking method that produced Dolly. "The efficiency puts it well within the realm of technical feasibility," says Dr. George Daley, a stem-cell expert at Children's Hospital in Boston and the Harvard Stem Cell Institute.

Still, that doesn't mean these cells are ready for transplant into patients. The viruses used to ferry the genes are retroviruses and lentiviruses (the families that include HIV which can introduce genetic mutations that can cause cancer. But, says Dr. Douglas Melton, co-director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, "eventually we may not need to add genes or viruses at all to cells. It will be possible to find chemicals that tickle the cells to turn the right pathways on."

The fact that the two groups came up with a different set of factors makes clear that there are probably myriad ways to reprogram a cell. And sorting out those methods to determine the best ones will take time—which is why some experts believe that stem cells from embryos will remain useful for a while. Although both Yamanaka and Thomson have induced their cells to develop further—into heart and nerve cells, among others—they admit that we still know too little about how this development process works to exploit the method's full potential. "My hope is to avoid using human embryonic stem cells," says Yamanaka. "But at this point, I am not 100% sure that is possible yet. So we have to continue studies." Given the speed with which researchers are making discoveries in the field, don't be surprised if more of these breakthroughs appear in TIME's A-to-Z guide to medical highlights next year. In the meantime, what follows is some of the other big stories that made 2007 the exciting and pathbreaking year it was.

Autism

In the seemingly endless debate over whether vaccines cause autism, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released another study showing that thimerosal, a mercury-based vaccine preservative, does not cause childhood developmental problems. The National Autism Association fired back, pointing out that the study included only 1,047 subjects, too few for any meaningful conclusions to be drawn. A more extensive CDC study of thimerosal and autism is due next year.

In an effort to detect autism as early as possible, regardless of its cause, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued recommendations for physicians to start screening patients twice: at 18 months and again at 2 years, instead of waiting until the age of 3 or 4. A new AAP screening kit — consisting of a CD-ROM of surveillance guidelines, development checklists and record-keeping charts — can alert doctors to warning signs.

Asthma

Allergies and asthma may be closer kin than we knew. More than half the 20 million asthma cases in the U.S. can be attributed to common allergens such as dust mites, according to a study published in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. Exposure to some of these — like cat dander — at a young age may offer some protection, researchers suggested, lending support to the idea that we may be getting too clean for our own good. Another study found that children with allergies living in affluent countries, where exposure to allergens is quite low, are almost twice as likely to develop asthma as similar children living in less-developed nations.

Alzheimer's

It's known as the long goodbye, but Alzheimer's disease takes a similarly long time to diagnose. Confirmation of whether a person truly had the disease is not possible until an autopsy of brain tissue is conducted. An international coalition of experts from France to Japan is trying to change that, calling for the use of new imaging techniques to scan the brain while the patient is still alive, and examination of cerebrospinal fluid, recently found to carry markers that signal the disease. Earlier diagnosis can mean better treatment.

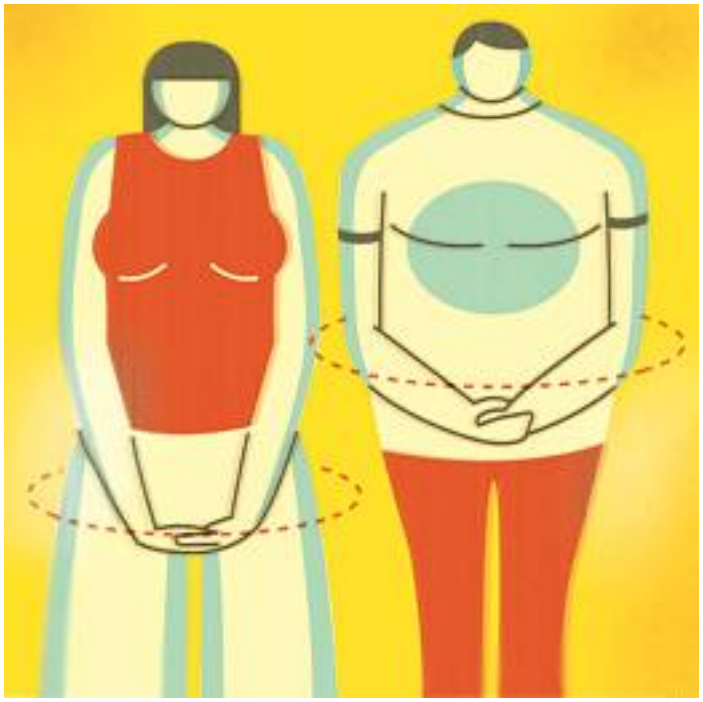
Baby Einstein

The skill-building claims of DVD programs like *Brainy Baby* and *Baby Einstein* are plain from their titles, but the products may not be delivering. University of Washington researchers found that infants who watched programs with rapidly moving images accompanied by music — common in the videos — learned six to eight fewer words than other babies their age. Language skills are best learned, say experts, when babies interact directly with speakers.

Blindness

The ability to see depends on more than just healthy eyes sending signals to a working brain. The brain must also learn how to interpret the incoming information. Neurologists have long been convinced that there is a critical period — before age 6 — during which this must happen or else the brain's visual abilities will never be configured. A child who is born blind but whose sight can be restored by surgery thus has a limited time to undergo an operation. But this window is bigger than previously thought. Scientists from MIT published a paper in Psychological Science about a 32-year-old woman in India whose cataracts were removed at age 12. Investigators who recently caught up with her found that while her vision will never be 20/20, she does see reasonably well, giving new hope to many blind kids.

Body Shape



Are you an apple or a pear? A small study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* compared obese adults who have an apple-shaped body and carry weight around the midsection with obese folks who have a pear-shaped body and carry weight around the hips. They found that people with apple-shaped bodies, who tend to secrete higher levels of insulin, did best on a low-glycemic-load diet that restricts carb-heavy foods like pasta; they lost an average of 13 lbs. in six months, compared with 5 lbs. on a low-fat diet. Pear shapes lost 10 lbs. on both diets but gained half the weight back. A separate study found that adults with a larger waist-to-hip ratio may be more likely to develop heart disease. How does your bod measure up?

Chicken Pox

If your child isn't a huge fan of needles, he won't like this. To combat chicken pox, experts now recommend two shots instead of one — the first between 12 and 15 months and a second between 4 and 6 years. A study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that the immunizing effects of the varicella vaccine, a childhood shot routine since 1995, may eventually wear off in some youngsters — the more time since the shot, the worse the bout can be.

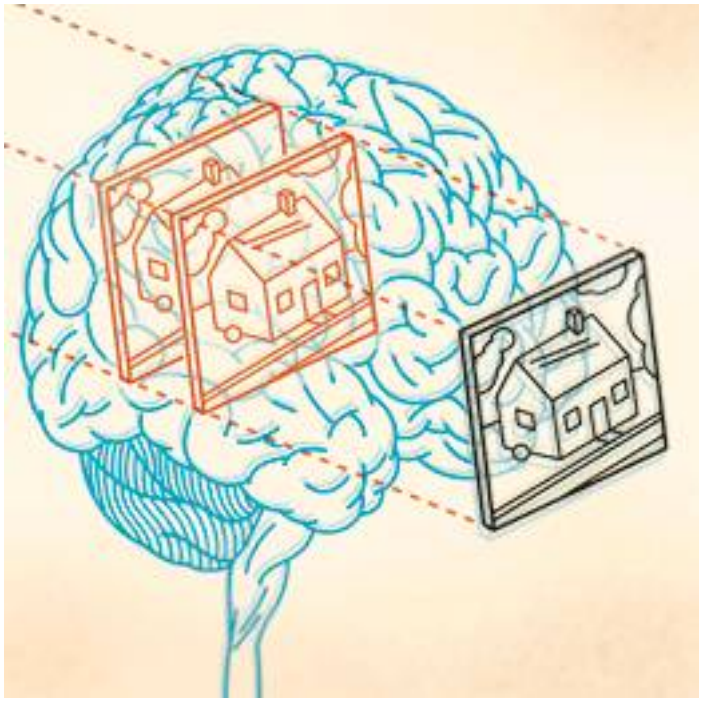
Chronic Fatigue

It's not easy to diagnose chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), much less explain the cause of the condition, characterized by pervasive exhaustion and muscle aches. But scientists are tracking clues. Researchers in New South Wales, Australia, have identified three dozen genes that may be linked to the syndrome, while doctors in California have found possibly inflammatory viruses among patients with CFS. The inflammation may lead to the symptoms.

Cold Medicine

It's a bitter pill for some parents to swallow: over-the-counter cold medicines for children under 6 do more harm than good. That's the word from an FDA advisory panel, which recommended in October that pediatric cold and cough products not be used for the 0-to-5 age group, citing doubts about the stuff's effectiveness and safety. There is no evidence that kids' cold syrups and tablets treat symptoms. And accidental overdosing, which can occur when more than one medication is used, is too easy. While the panel voted 21 to 1 for avoiding such products for children under 2, the vote was closer for children ages 2 to 5. There's no guarantee that the FDA will follow the panel's recommendation. In the meantime, there's always chicken soup.

Déjà Vu



That odd sensation of already having experienced something may have a new scientific explanation. MIT neuroscientists studying an area of mouse brains in which rapid recognition takes place noticed neural firing that suggested old and new experiences were running together. It's impossible to ask a mouse what it is feeling, but the overlap looks a lot like what you'd expect in a human brain experiencing déjà vu. The scientists' theory: when we encounter a new location, a set of "place" neurons fires to create a map of the experience. If we visit another place with a similar map — even if we don't consciously recognize the resemblance — the eerie overlap may occur.

Dementia

There's little doubt that dementia wreaks havoc on the mind, but how does it affect the body? Women with dementia begin to lose weight at least a decade before the onset of the first cognitive symptoms, according to a recent study in *Neurology*. By the time of diagnosis, the sufferers were on average 12 lbs. (5.5 kg) lighter than their symptom-free counterparts. Experts theorize that weight loss may be an early sign of mental confusion, loss of motivation and impaired sense of smell, all of which may reduce a woman's desire to eat.

Diabetes

The task of keeping diabetes in check has gotten harder. While rosiglitazone, GlaxoSmithKline's (GSK) Avandia, lowers blood-sugar levels, it also increases the risk of heart attack 42% and doubles the risk of heart failure, according to a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Other ongoing research, however, does not show such an increased risk. Even so, the FDA has issued a warning label alerting users to increased danger of heart attack, and Canadian officials have restricted the drug to those with hard-to-control blood sugar. GSK will issue a pamphlet explaining the warning and will begin a study next year to compare Avandia with other diabetes drugs.

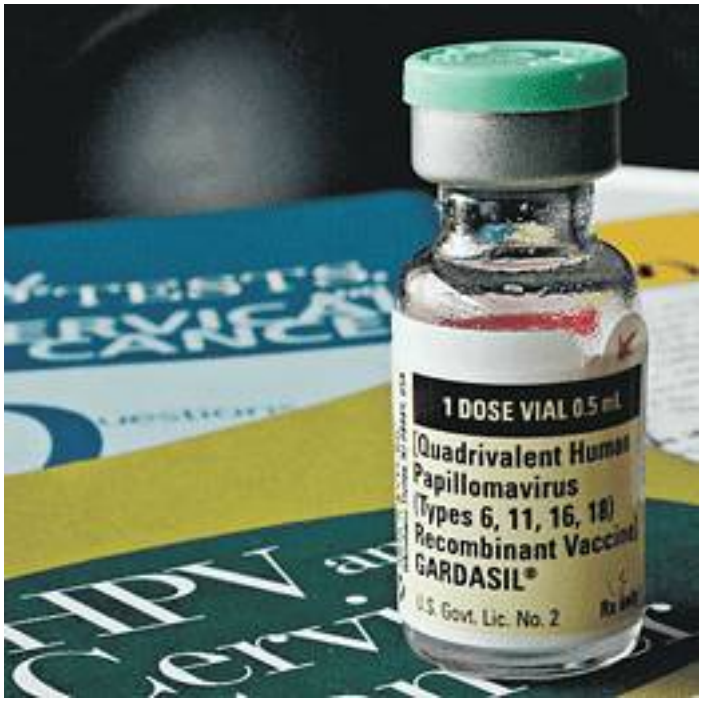
Electrocardiogram

When it comes to instant communication, nothing beats a cell phone — and you don't even have to be talking. At a hospital in Newark, N.J., cardiologists examine electrocardiograms 15 minutes before a patient arrives in the emergency room, thanks to technology that allows paramedics to send results directly to doctors' phones. The system has halved the time it takes to begin treating patients. Says Dr. Bonnie Weiner, president of the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions: "Even five or 10 minutes could make a significant difference."

Flu

Getting the flu is never fun, but for small children it can be downright dangerous. That's why the FDA lowered its age recommendation for FluMist, the nasal-spray flu vaccine, from 5 years and older to ages 2 and up. Even as more kids get in line to be inoculated, there should be plenty of vaccines for everyone. After recent alarms over shortages, the agency expects 132 million doses of influenza vaccine to be available this winter, up 10 million from last year. The increase is in large part due to the latest addition to the immunization arsenal: Afluria was approved in September by the FDA for adults 18 and over.

Gardasil



Childhood immunizations against infectious diseases are a rite of passage, but what happens when the vaccine is supposed to protect against cancer? Texas Governor Rick Perry tried to make vaccination with Gardasil, the first drug to protect against human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer, mandatory for sixth-grade girls. At least 20 other states followed suit but without much success. Legislators rejected Perry's proposal, but perhaps he was on to something. It turns out that HPV has been linked to throat cancer. Since oral sex spreads the disease, experts note that early HPV shots could reduce the risk of oral cancer as well.

Hormone Therapy

While the back-and-forth over the risks and benefits of hormone-replacement therapy at menopause is enough to give women whiplash, each study is providing doctors with a better idea of exactly how — and when — supplemental hormones can help. The latest analysis of data from the Women's Health Initiative shows that women who have had a hysterectomy and use estrogen-only therapy have less buildup of calcium plaques in their arteries than women who don't use the hormone. Not only does estrogen *not* hurt the heart, this study suggests, it may help it — at least for younger women, ages 50-59.

Hand-Washing

Hygiene is important, especially as resistance against antibiotics rises among bacteria. But hand-washing after using public restrooms is down.

2007
77% of men and women wash their hands after using a public restroom

2005
84% of men and women wash their hands after using a public restroom

2007
88% of women wash up, vs. 66% of men

2005
90% of women wash up, vs. 75% of men

Heart

AGA MEDICAL CORP

Among the many dangers of a heart attack is damage to the walls of the heart. When cardiac muscle is stressed, ruptures between the usually separate left and right ventricles can cause blood to slosh back and forth between the two chambers, lowering its oxygen content. Surgery to repair the damage can be dangerous since, by definition, it's performed on a weakened heart. But doctors and patients now have a safer alternative, thanks to a new technique in which a polyester-coated metal patch is collapsed, threaded via catheter into the body and positioned in the heart to close off the tear. This can buy patients the time they need to recuperate and allow them to postpone more extensive repair surgery. In many cases, it may even help them avoid that operation altogether, since the polyester covering on the patch encourages new heart tissue to grow, helping to seal the rupture.

Hypertension

When kids become obese, their blood pressure tends to climb along with their weight. As America's obesity epidemic worsens, an estimated 1.5 million children are now unknowingly hypertensive, according to a study in *JAMA*. Before they can be helped, their hypertension has to be diagnosed — and it's never too soon. Hypertension puts kids at risk of long-term organ damage and other health problems in adulthood. Experts suggest that doctors assess a child's risk of hypertension starting as young as age 3 and consider sex, height and weight in determining the child's proper blood-pressure range.

iPods

They're fun to play with, but can iPods be educational and therapeutic too? Building on the concept that speech feedback helps stutterers process words, a University of Mississippi researcher replaced $5,000 digital-feedback devices with iPod Shuffles to help stutterers hear and simultaneously initiate certain parts of speech, particularly vowel sounds. In the small study, the subjects did seem to speak more naturally than before. Doctors themselves are finding new uses for the iPod too: a separate study found that physicians in training who listened to recorded heartbeats became better able to distinguish abnormal patterns when using their stethoscopes.

Kidney

More than 9,000 kidney transplants are performed in the U.S. each year, making them the second most common transplant procedure, after corneal transplants. But even when recipient and donor are matched for blood type and other immune-system profiles, approximately 10% of kidneys are rejected. Now researchers in Dallas have discovered that particular antibodies found on the layer of cells lining the blood vessels may contribute to kidney rejection. Capitalizing on this finding could take some time. Investigators still need to figure out a way to easily detect and measure the antigens and determine what causes people to develop them.

Lead

EPA / CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

"Made in China" took on an ominous connotation this year as more than 20 million toys manufactured for companies like Mattel were recalled for unsafe levels of lead. The neurotoxin can accumulate in the body and cause learning and physical disabilities in children. While trace amounts are found in lipstick and candy — the FDA has set a limit of 0.1 parts per million — lead in paint and plastic used in toys is troublesome since children are more likely to ingest it while chewing and sucking on favorite playthings.

Migraine

HARRY CAMPBELL FOR TIME

Three times as many women as men suffer from migraine headaches, a painful constriction and dilation of blood vessels in the brain often associated with the menstrual cycle, and UCLA researchers think they now know why. A recent study — admittedly one conducted only on mice — showed that females have a lower tolerance to cortical-spreading depression (CSD), an electrophysiological wave that can propagate through the cortex of the brain. In men, this is less likely to lead to nausea, visual auras and pain, symptoms that women more commonly experience and that are the hallmarks of a migraine. The good news: in trials, drugs that block CSD waves are showing early success.

MRSA

PATRIK GIARDINO / GETTY

The four scariest letters of the year may have been MRSA, for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, which was thought to be responsible for the deaths of four young children, all of whom probably picked up the bacteria from locker rooms or other public areas in their schools. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued its first report on how prevalent MRSA infections are in the U.S., noting that 32 out of every 100,000 people are infected, a figure that includes a growing number of cases outside of hospitals, where MRSA has traditionally been most common. At least the bacteria can be controlled with antibiotics, as long as the drugs are not from the penicillin family. To avoid becoming infected, wash your hands often and keep any open cuts covered.

Marijuana

JAMES WORRELL / GETTY

A single marijuana cigarette has the same effect on the lungs as smoking up to five cigarettes in succession.

Naps

TOM MERTON / GETTY

Snoozing cats may lose an awful lot of their day to sack time, but they may be on to something. A Greek study published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* this year showed that people who nap at least three times a week for at least 30 minutes are 37% less likely to die from heart disease. Another study, published in the online edition of the Journal of Applied Physiology, provided a possible reason: blood pressure eases in the time just before sleep. The coronary value of a siesta, however, is still questionable. Researchers have yet to explore whether blood pressure rises upon waking from a nap. Snoozing certainly isn't a guarantee against getting heart disease, but the studies do provide an excuse for half an hour of downtime.

Obesity

HARRY CAMPBELL FOR TIME

Diet and exercise play their roles, but research shows that your friendships and marital status may have an impact on how much weight you gain — or lose. In the first study of its kind, scientists from Harvard Medical School and the University of California at San Diego have shown that obesity is socially contagious. Published in the New England Journal of Medicine, the 32-year study of 12,067 interconnected adults found that your risk of developing obesity

increases 57% if someone you consider a friend (never mind whether the feeling is reciprocated) gains weight. Between mutual friends, the rate is an even higher 171%. But friends aren't the only ones expanding your waistline. Another large study released in October found that newly married men and women, ages 18 to 28, gain an average of 6 lbs. (2.7 kg) to 9 lbs. (4 kg) more than their single peers. Both marriage and friendships, it appears, really are for better or worse.

Pop Stars

John-Francis Bourke / zefa / Corbis

A new study reveals that pop stars are twice as likely to die at a young age than the rest of us.

Average age of death:

U.S. 42

U.K. 35

Life expectancy at birth:

U.S. 78.0

U.K. 78.7

Prosthetics

REHABILITATION INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

Nothing replaces the parts you were born with, but technology is making artificial limbs steadily better — and just in time. Partly because of the growing number of veterans returning from the Iraq war, the population of amputees living in the U.S. will increase 42% by 2020. Scientists at Johns Hopkins University have developed a revolutionary prototype for a prosthetic arm that lets the user grip objects by connecting remaining nerves near the injury with unused muscles that can then flex and operate the hand. Meanwhile, Hanger Orthopedic Group in Bethesda, Md., has developed a suction-producing gel that helps comfortably hold the fake limb in place, enhancing the traditional stump-and-socket attachment, which can cause painful skin infections.

Restless Leg Syndrome

For the estimated 3% of people who experience the prickly, twitchy, downright creepy sensation of restless-leg syndrome (RLS), there is a bit of welcome news. Icelandic researchers studied nearly 1,000 RLS subjects and their family members and traced uncontrolled limb movements, one symptom of the condition, to a gene that regulates the body's iron levels. Studying the gene could help scientists figure out how to shut RLS off at its source.

Suicide

HARRY CAMPBELL FOR TIME

Since 2003, when investigators began reporting that antidepressant drugs may cause young people to have suicidal thoughts, families and doctors have agonized over the best way to treat depression in children. Which is worse: untreated depression, which can lead to suicide, or drugs that can lead to thoughts of it? And how often do suicidal thoughts lead to suicidal acts anyway? This year the worst fears of the pro-medication group seemed to be realized when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that suicide rates in young people ages 10 to 24 were up 8% from 2003 to 2004; another study found that during this period, new prescriptions for antidepressants fell, perhaps because of the fears about them. The studies did not establish a direct correlation, but they left some people worrying that forgoing the drugs might have caused the problems — and left parents and kids more confused than ever.

Statins

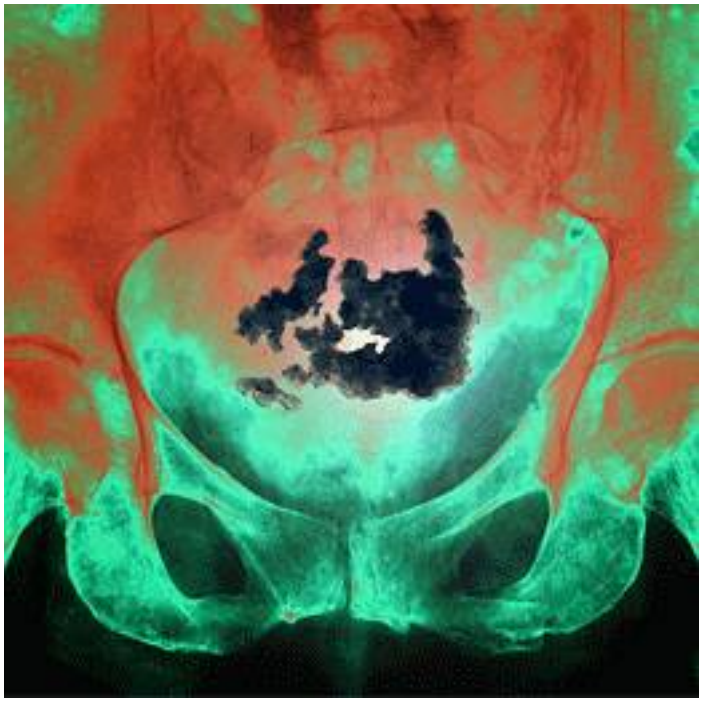
Cardiac doctors experienced their own heartbreak last year when a promising new compound that increases HDL, or good cholesterol, turned out to increase blood pressure and risk of death from heart disease. They had hoped that torcetrapib, made by Pfizer, could be combined with cholesterol-lowering statins to help cut the amount of fatty plaque in arteries by exploiting HDL's ability to vacuum up bad cholesterol. That may still happen, since a new study showed torcetrapib indeed raised HDL levels 60% and slowed the buildup of plaque in the arteries. Now the race is on to figure out how to accomplish this without boosting blood pressure to dangerously high levels.

MDR TB

GRANT DELIN

Ordinarily, getting on a plane isn't reason enough to be detained, but for Andrew Speaker, a then 31-year-old lawyer from Atlanta, it was. Infected with a nasty form of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB), Speaker disobeyed health officials — and potentially exposed hundreds of people flying with him — when he boarded a commercial plane headed from Prague to Montreal this past spring. Despite being exposed, the passengers so far seem to have escaped infection. But his case revealed just how easy it is for dangerously infectious diseases to spread and how difficult such pathogens are to control in a world in which globe-hopping passengers are such willing couriers for bugs hitching a free ride.

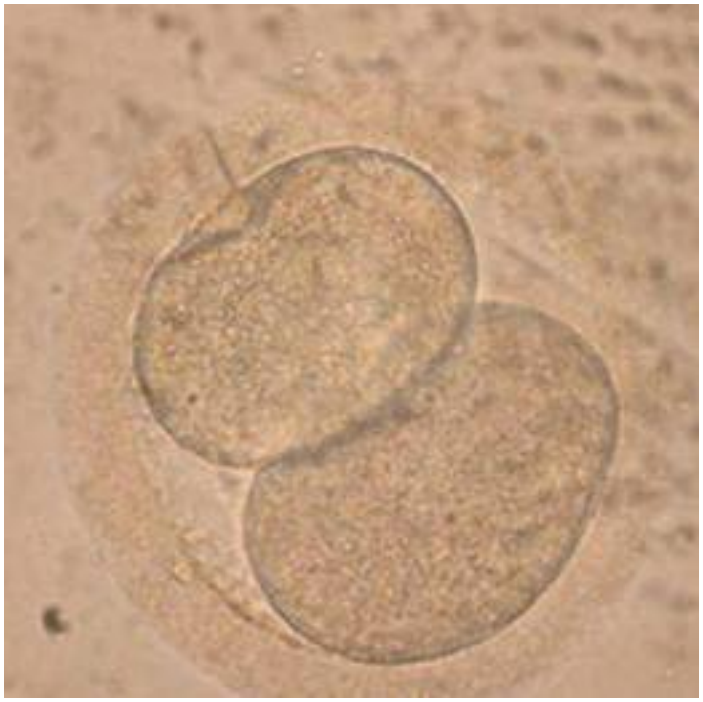
Uterine Fibroids



ISM / PHOTOTAKE

Women suffering from painful but benign uterine fibroid tumors may have a noninvasive source of long-term relief. A new study led by the Mayo Clinic found that an outpatient treatment using high-intensity ultrasound can eliminate growths and keep them from returning for extended periods. The procedure leaves the uterus intact, so it is less traumatic than a hysterectomy — though only that more invasive procedure is known to eliminate tumors permanently.

Virgin Birth



HWANG WOO SUK / SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Reproductive technologies still haven't achieved the miracle of virgin gestation: getting a human egg to develop into an embryo without help from a sperm. But eggs can be coaxed to divide and yield stem cells, as Boston researchers learned after studying the work of disgraced Korean scientist Hwang Woo Suk. Hwang, who thought he had created the first human embryonic stem cells through cloning, had actually grown the first stem cells from a dividing human egg, suggesting the technique might be developed further.

Video Games

MARC F HENNING FOR TIME

Here's a counterintuitive thought: if you want your child to lose weight, turn on the video games. Several new studies show that "exergaming" systems like Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) and the EyeToy, which require users to dance, kick and dodge, may help them shed unwanted pounds. In January the Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, Minn., found that obese children burn six times as many calories playing DDR as they do with a traditional video game. No surprise perhaps, except that they also like to do it. Even more encouraging: college students burn twice as many calories using an EyeToy as they do walking on a treadmill. But how do exergames compare with an hour of basketball? The jury is still out.

Weight Loss

If there were a pill that could help you lose weight, odds are you'd consider trying it. You might be less inclined if it worked by keeping you from absorbing fat, leading to some nasty — and oily — intestinal by-products. That's the big pro and the big con of Alli, a new over-the-counter version of a prescription drug, orlistat. One more caveat: don't expect Alli to work miracles on its own; users who lost the most weight on the pill also stuck to a low-calorie diet and regular exercise program.

Xolair

BRYAN BACON / HUNTSVILLE TIMES / AP

The asthma drug Xolair now has a black-box warning — the strongest alert the FDA imposes — since reports showed the risk of anaphylaxis, an extreme allergic reaction, to be greater than originally thought. The reaction is rare but potentially very dangerous. Xolair, known generically as omalizumab, was approved in 2003 to treat moderate to severe allergic asthma in some patients 12 and older for whom inhaled steroids aren't sufficient. Users and their doctors must balance the benefits and the perils of the drug.

Yearning

GEORGE DOYLE / GETTY

As many of us know from experience, grief over the death of a loved one tends to encompass several emotions — often classified as disbelief, yearning, anger, depression and acceptance. A study in *JAMA* clarifies the progression of grief, noting that yearning — a consuming longing for a lost one's return — not depression, may be the dominant negative response to a natural death and that it peaks four months after the loss. But acceptance eventually trumps the other states, allowing for some closure to grief.

Zoledronic Acid

COLLECTION CNRI / PHOTOTAKE

For most folks, drinking plenty of milk and getting enough vitamin D and exercise are sufficient to keep bones strong. But for some people, more bone-building is needed. Zoledronic acid, marketed as Reclast, is the first once-a-year treatment approved for osteoporosis in postmenopausal women. It can also be prescribed for both sexes to treat the bone disorder Paget's disease. But you might not want to jump too fast for the annual IV infusion. Like most drugs, Reclast comes with side effects, and the fda is reviewing data showing that it and other osteoporosis medications may increase abnormal heart rhythms.

NATION

Change of Climate

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By ERIC POOLEY

You can tell when the politicians are getting serious about an issue: they stop taking cheap shots at one another and suddenly become pragmatic. Amazingly, that's happening right now on global warming. Just as the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns of "abrupt and irreversible" damage if we don't take immediate action, a serious piece of climate legislation is beginning to pick up speed in the U.S. Senate.

America's Climate Security Act, a bipartisan bill co-sponsored by Senators Joe Lieberman and John Warner, would create a cap-and-trade system to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions 65% below 1990 levels by 2050. It has made it out of subcommittee and has a good chance of reaching the Senate floor. Its strength can be measured by what the candidates are saying about it--and by what they're not saying.

At an environmental forum held Nov. 17 in Los Angeles, many of the green activists in the audience expected John Edwards to come out gunning for Hillary Clinton. All he had to do was challenge her to join him in opposing Lieberman-Warner because it would give away billions to heavily polluting industries. Edwards had denounced the bill as a "corporate windfall," but Clinton--who serves on the Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee and will soon have to vote on it--hadn't taken a position. The day before, Friends of the Earth Action, which has endorsed Edwards, started running a radio ad in Iowa praising Edwards for his "courageous stand against the bill" and urging voters to "call Senator Clinton and tell her we've had enough of corporate polluters and billion-dollar giveaways. Tell her it's time to fix or ditch Lieberman-Warner."

In short, Edwards had Clinton all teed up. She can't fudge her way out of this one, he could say. If she votes for the bill in its current form, you will know the lobbyists own her. And since her vote is crucial to getting the bill out of committee, his attack could have made it less likely that Congress would act on climate change this year.

But Edwards decided not to take that swing. He didn't attack Clinton or the bill. Why not? Because the politics of climate change are moving so fast and in such a pragmatic direction that he didn't want to get caught out. His campaign had been hearing from key environmental groups, says an Edwards adviser, "and the consensus was that they don't want to trash this bill. They want to strengthen it, not kill it."

So give Edwards credit for holding fire, and feel the hot, dry winds blowing on this issue. They got Virginia Republican Warner's attention when business leaders like GE CEO Jeff Immelt came out in favor of mandatory caps on carbon emissions, a move that also blew down the straw house of the deny-and-delay crowd. The legislation that Warner has written with

Lieberman, an Independent, combines elements of earlier, stillborn bills, and it won crucial backing from California Senator Barbara Boxer, Democratic chairwoman of the Environment Committee. "This is an election issue," she says. "Voters need to know which Senators believe global warming is real and which don't."

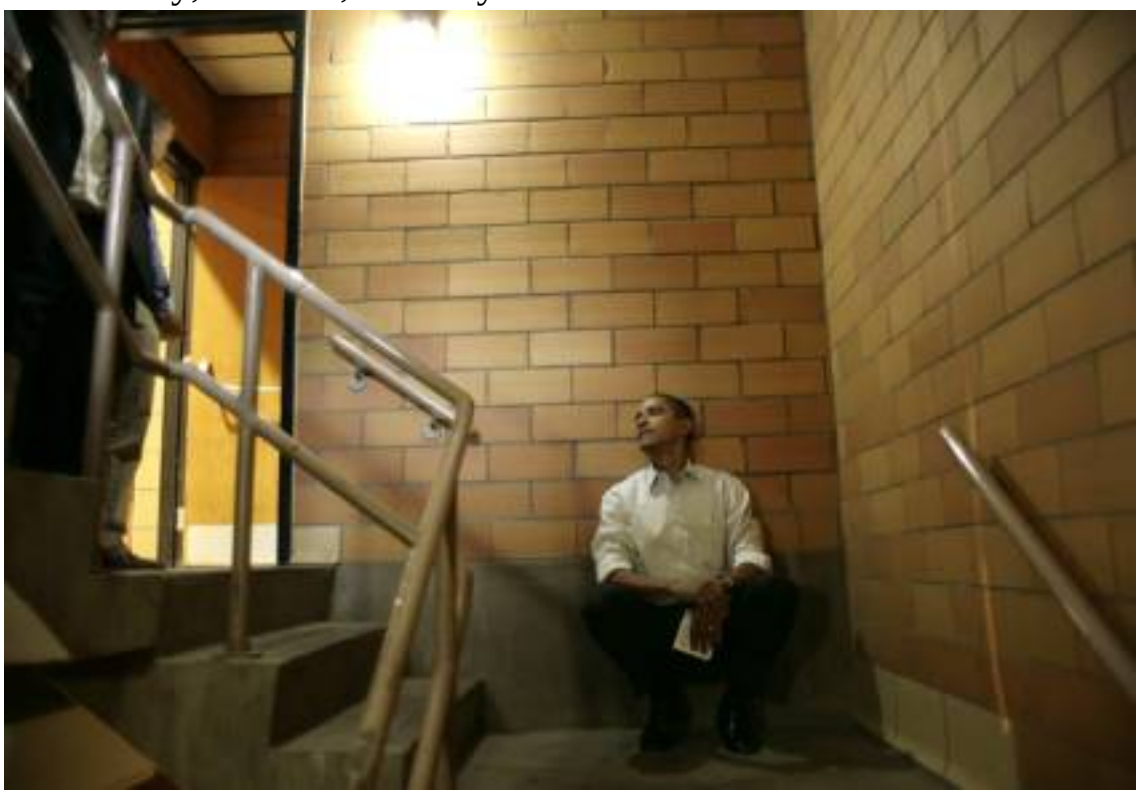
The cap-and-trade system envisioned by Lieberman-Warner, in which government sets emissions limits and auctions or gives away pollution allowances that can then be bought and sold, would raise billions for energy investment by imposing billions in new costs on polluters. Who pays, how much is paid and who gets to spend those billions will be one of the great political battles of this generation. Naturally, some business interests want to delay the day of reckoning, and they're making common cause with some green groups that don't think it's possible to get a strong enough bill through this Congress. Those groups would rather wait until 2009, when, they hope, there will be a Democrat in the White House and larger Democratic majorities in Congress.

There are two problems with this strategy. First, the election may not go the Democrats' way. If they grab defeat from the jaws of victory, Republicans could lose the incentive to cut a climate deal. Second, fixing the climate is like saving for retirement--the longer we wait, the harder it gets. That's not to say Lieberman-Warner is perfect. Its emissions targets should be tougher, and it gives away too many pollution allowances for free. But let's dream for a moment. If it manages to pass both houses of Congress (a mighty big if), the bill would land with a thud on George W. Bush's desk shortly before the 2008 election. Bush has always said he would veto any bill with mandatory carbon caps. But he recently sent a back-channel signal to Congress that he might be willing to deal. Now that would be some abrupt and irreversible climate change.

Editor at large Pooley is writing a book about the politics of climate change

Is Obama's Iowa Surge for Real?

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By AMY SULLIVAN



U.S. Senator and Presidential candidate Barack Obama waits for the start of another town-hall meeting in a stairwell in Muscatine, IA at the Muscatine Center for Social Change.
Callie Shell / Aurora for TIME

The new message driving Barack Obama's resurgent campaign these days is "electability plus." He debuted the new appeal at the Iowa Jefferson-Jackson dinner earlier this month, calling for a "party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should." Obama referred to what Martin Luther King Jr. called "the fierce urgency of now" and argued that the U.S. faces too many challenges at home and abroad for Democrats to be satisfied with merely taking the White House away from Republicans.

Electability plus means not just getting elected but getting elected for the right reasons. It is a rebuttal of the argument that Hillary Clinton should win the Democratic nomination simply because of her perceived advantage against G.O.P. rivals. And it provides a rationale for why Obama is running now, why he didn't wait four or eight years to launch a presidential campaign.

It's significant then that Obama's message seems to be catching on among the notoriously pragmatic Iowans. By 55% to 33%, Iowans — who will take part in a Jan. 3 caucus that will be the first test for Democratic presidential candidates — said they favored "new direction and

new ideas" over "strength and experience," a new Washington *Post*/ABC poll found. In July the ratio was 49% to 39%. After trailing Clinton in the state most of the year, Obama now leads by 4 points, and he has eliminated her advantage among women voters and older voters. He is also dead even with her when voters are asked whom they trust more to handle the economy, Social Security and the war in Iraq.

To run on electability plus, of course, you first have to pass the electability threshold. There, too, Obama has fresh data on his side. His aides tout the fact that their candidate boasts higher favorability ratings among independents and Republicans than either of his main rivals. (A recent Pew survey found that 21% of Republican respondents would like to see Obama as the Democratic nominee.) And the *Post* poll suggests that Obama could benefit from last-minute shifts in support: 34% of Iowa voters said he was their second choice, compared with only 15% for Clinton. Under the arcane rules of Iowa caucuses, that means Obama is more likely to pick up voters who can switch their support if their candidate falls short of the required 15% bar for votes.

Winning in Iowa, however, still comes down to the fine art of connecting with individual voters. And on that front, the state isn't always a good match for Obama's strengths. The graveyards of political campaigns are littered with candidates who excel at forging connections with individual voters but who can't give a big speech to save their lives. Obama may be that rare politician with the opposite problem. Before a crowd of 4,000, he can be magnetic and compelling. But before a crowd of several hundred, he can sometimes fall flat.

On a Sunday evening a week after delivering the best speech of his campaign before thousands of roaring supporters at the Jefferson-Jackson dinner, the Illinois Senator is easily distracted, interrupting himself to get a bottle of water for a man with a cough. A few minutes later, he stops in the middle of a riff to pick up an earring dropped by a woman in the front row. And Obama's energy level fluctuates. "He hits the wall in late afternoon before really firing back up," explains Iowa press secretary Tommy Vietor, making a sine curve with his hand. For long stretches, audience members are sitting back with arms crossed, waiting to be impressed. When he finishes, the crowd stands, yet there are few cheers.

But then a 64-year-old woman named Jane Svoboda stands up to challenge him. She wants to

know why Obama doesn't talk more about terrorism — "the people who keep attacking us," as she puts it — and illegal immigrants. Obama discusses the need to regain global respect for the U.S. and argues that President George W. Bush erred by focusing on Iraq instead of Afghanistan. Svoboda interrupts to disagree, and that gets Obama going. "Iraq did not launch 9/11," he says, growing more and more animated. "That is part of the misinformation that has been coming out of this Administration."

The two get into a back-and-forth, which finally wakes up the crowd. By the time Obama moves on to immigration ("These are people who are trying to make a living. I understand they broke the law. But let me tell you something: if the minimum wage in Canada was $100 an hour ..."), he is, to steal a phrase, fired up. And the crowd, which cheers so loudly that he doesn't need to finish the sentence, is won over. The passionate response has answered their electability questions. As for the plus? On her way out of the event, even Svoboda offers a positive verdict: "He did a good job."

ESSAY

It's Inconvenient Being Green

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By LISA TAKEUCHI CULLEN

Illustration for TIME by Ryan Snook

My condition began when I read of a couple in New York City who had vowed to live a whole year without toilet paper. They were conducting an experiment in environmentally low-impact living as research for a book, they said. For a year they would eschew transportation that emits carbon dioxide, shun foods wrapped in plastic packaging and, most dramatically, conduct the elimination of their waste without the aid of wasteful paper products. I mull the logistics of paperless hygiene as I load a family-size pack of Charmin Ultra Soft into my Subaru Forester. According to the plastic packaging, each roll contains 569 sq. ft. (or 52 square meters, which sounds a lot better) of murdered tree. Like the bear in the commercial, I squeeze it tight. I like my toilet paper. I like it a lot.

I am not particularly eco-conscious. But I am increasingly eco-anxious. Every day, it seems, I hear of some new way the world around me is going aggressively green. Workers in Portland, Ore., are cycling to the office. Ireland has slapped a tax on plastic bags. Incoming freshmen at California colleges are asked to keep their Red Bulls in thermoelectric fridges. David Duchovny says he recycles, has solar power and drives an electric car. Now every time I purchase a single-serving water bottle, I hear the opening theme from The X-Files.

So it was with some relief that I learned that eco-anxiety is a diagnosable condition. A so-called eco-therapist in Santa Fe, N.M., reportedly sees up to 80 patients a month who complain of panic attacks, loss of appetite, irritability and what she describes as some sort of a twitchy sensation in their cells. Eco-anxiety is not new--the etymology website WordSpy found it mentioned in a 1990 Washington Post article--but it's only now becoming widespread. Environmental consciousness is no longer just another lifestyle choice, like open marriages or joining the circus; it has been upgraded to a moral imperative. That forces Americans to add environmentalism to their already endless checklist of things to fret about. Did I remember to turn out the kitchen light? Couldn't I memorize the directions to my job interview instead of print them out? Why, for the love of Pete, did I use a napkin to wipe my mouth when I have here a perfectly good sleeve?

Recently I have spent considerable time considering my environmental failings, if not actually doing much about them. Like the average American household, we own two cars. Between my husband and me, we drive 13,000 miles (21,000 km) a year, making our country 520 gal.

(2,000 L) of gas more dependent on foreign suppliers. The thermostat in our 2,200-sq.-ft. (200 sq m) house is set at 70°F (21°C). It takes 6,960 kW-h a year to power our computers, halogen lights and plasma TV. My child went through an industry-calculated average of 4.4 diapers a day for 34 months, which amounts to 4,488 soiled Huggies in some landfill. So far this year, I have traveled 34,574 miles (or 55,636 km, which sounds a lot worse) by air. According to the calculator on ClimateCrisis.net my household produces 15 tons of carbon dioxide a year. The average is 7.5. Mine is the Sasquatch of carbon footprints.

Anxiously I ponder the ways I might reduce my shoe size. I have seriously considered banning Christmas gifts this year to avoid the senseless consumption of sheer stuff, but I don't want my kid to say she saw Mommy dissing Santa Claus. I could theoretically ride a bicycle to work, but I am concerned that somewhere along the eight miles of highway, I will have a seizure. I have looked into yurts, but they are not a popular housing alternative in New Jersey.

The reasons for not going green usually boil down to one, so elegantly put by a frog who had no choice in the matter: It's not easy being green. It's easier to toss the leftovers into the 13-gal. (50 L) Hefty bag than figure out how to use the compost bin that sits just outside. It's easier to drive to the grocery store than to plant my own vegetable garden. It's easier to keep my job writing for a magazine that prints 3.25 million copies a week than it is to start over in a new career designing suburban yurts.

Yes, the truth is inconvenient. But I'm trying. I am attempting to reverse my eco-unconsciousness, if only to assuage the twitchy sensation in my cells. I have installed the low-energy lights I bought at Home Depot, even though they make my living room look like a gas-station toilet. I look for products at the grocery store with the green recycling thingy on the package and then place my purchases in reusable burlap bags. I potty-trained my kid. When I die, I plan to be placed au naturel in a shallow hole and become fertilizer for a dogwood tree. But there's one thing I won't give up. If he wants my toilet paper, Al Gore himself will have to pry it from my cold, biodegradable hands.

The Tone-Deaf Democrats

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By JOE KLEIN

Democratic presidential candidates pose for a photo opportunity at the CNN/Nevada Democratic Party debate at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nov. 15, 2007
Steve Marcus / Reuters

Correction appended: November 28, 2007

In the original version of this story, Joe Klein wrote that the House Democratic version of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) would require a court approval of individual foreign surveillance targets. The bill does not explicitly say that. Republicans believe it can be interpreted that way, but Democrats don't.

Senator Christopher Dodd had a nice moment in the Democrats' Las Vegas presidential debate. Wolf Blitzer had crashed through Bill Richardson's blowsy, high-minded disquisition on the need to observe human rights in Pakistan, with the question, "What you're saying, Governor, is that human rights, at times, are more important than American national security?" Richardson seemed to gulp: Was I saying that? What do I do now? Uh, can't pull a Hillary. And so, very deer in headlights, he said, "Yes." This gave Blitzer license to ask each candidate the same question. Barack Obama wandered around in it. "The concepts are not contradictory ... they are complementary." True — but foolishly fuzzy. It was Dodd's turn next, and he said without hesitation, "Obviously, national security, keeping the country safe." He was quickly

seconded by Clinton: "I agree with that completely."

But the damage had been done. The next day, I suffered through Rush Limbaugh lambasting the dopey Dems, who actually — can you believe this, friends? — put the rights of terrorists above the nation's security! That was ridiculous. All Richardson and Obama were saying was that support for human rights was an essential component of U.S. foreign policy. They are joined in this belief by George W. Bush, whose naive support for democracy in countries that aren't ready for it has destabilized the Middle East. Sadly, that sort of complicating detail isn't very useful in presidential campaigns. If Richardson or, more likely, Obama wins the nomination, the Republicans will have a ready-made "Human Rights for Terrorists" spot.

Dodd and Clinton were right on the merits and astute on the politics. If the Democrats want to win in 2008, they can't be mealymouthed on issues of national security. That doesn't mean they need to be witlessly hawkish. It doesn't mean they have to join the neoconservative frenzy for war with Iran. It means they have to make the arguments against folly with clarity, toughness and a heavy dose of Realpolitik. It means they will have to convince the public that they will be more effective and realistic overseas than the Republicans have been. No more "Freedom Agendas." No more quagmires. A renewed emphasis on cleaning out al-Qaeda, even if it means special operations against the terrorist camps in Pakistan (as Obama has suggested). It also means that in each and every debate, the Dems should acknowledge the progress being made in Iraq and ask the question, So why can't we start bringing home the troops now?

That sort of clarity has been rare in the presidential campaign and almost totally nonexistent among the Democrats in Congress, who are being foolishly partisan on two key issues: continued funding for the war in Iraq and updating the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). The Iraq-funding issue is particularly difficult. Senator Carl Levin's proposal for a gradual troop withdrawal, starting now, is the right policy. Various Bush Administration officials — though none in the White House — have told me that a troop withdrawal is the best leverage we have for shoving the Iraqis into a national-reconciliation deal. But Levin made troop withdrawal a condition for continued funding of the war, which is a kamikaze mission. The bill couldn't muster the votes necessary to overcome a filibuster, much less the inevitable Bush veto. Indeed, with Iraq calmer for the moment, Democrats probably have fewer votes for

ending the war than they did last spring. And their continued indulgence in these futile, symbolic gestures conveys a sense of weakness and incompetence. Whatever political value these votes once had — getting Republicans on the record in favor of continuing the war — has long since dissipated and may actually work against the Democrats if the progress in Iraq continues.

The Democratic strategy on the FISA legislation in the House is equally foolish. There is broad, bipartisan agreement on how to legalize the surveillance of phone calls and emails of foreign intelligence targets. The basic principle is this: if a suspicious pattern of calls from a terrorist suspect to a U.S. citizen is found, a FISA court warrant is necessary to monitor those communications. But to safeguard against civil-liberty abuses, all records of clearly nontargeted Americans who receive emails or phone calls from foreign suspects would be, in effect, erased. Unfortunately, Speaker Nancy Pelosi quashed the House Intelligence Committee's bipartisan effort and supported a Democratic bill that — Limbaugh is salivating — House Republicans believe would require the surveillance of every foreign-terrorist target's calls to be approved by the FISA court, an institution founded to protect the rights of U.S. citizens only. (Democrats dispute this interpretation.) In the lethal shorthand of political advertising, it would give terrorists the same legal protections as Americans. That is well beyond stupid.

As Dodd said, when the President takes the oath of office, he (or she) promises two things: to protect the Constitution and to protect the nation against enemies, foreign and domestic. If the Democrats can't find the proper balance between those two, they simply will not win the presidency.

In the original version of this story, Joe Klein wrote that the House Democratic version of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) would require a court approval of individual foreign surveillance targets. The bill does not explicitly say that. Republicans believe it can be interpreted that way, but Democrats don't.

WORLD

Jerusalem Divided

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By TIM MCGIRK / JERUSALEM

Orthodox jewish man is going towards the Western wall in the Muslim quarter of the Old city of Jerusalem, Israel, on the eve of Sabbath, November 16, 2007.
Tivadar Domaniczky for TIME

The real estate agent who showed me my apartment pointed out the views of Mount Zion, ringed by cypress trees, and the walled Old City with its minarets and church spires piercing the blue Jerusalem sky. But she neglected to say that the apartment had a drawback: its proximity to hell. A few hundred paces downhill, and you are in the Valley of Hinnom, where Muslims, Jews and Christians all believe that on Judgment Day, the gates of hell will open up as sinners go tumbling into the flaming vortex.

Living on the edge of hell, I could deal with. (I even thought it might entitle me to a discount on the rent. No chance.) Besides, Hinnom is deceptively pastoral; down in the valley I often see a white stallion grazing under an ancient olive tree. But I wasn't prepared for the living hell inside my neighborhood, Abu Tor. Here, Arabs and Israelis live next door to each other yet are divided by mutual fear and suspicion.

Over years of strife, Jerusalem's Arab and Israelis have perfected their radar for telling each other apart and for knowing when they've strayed too far into hostile territory. Every morning,

I watch an Arab worker quicken his pace as he traverses to the Israeli side of my street. He lowers his eyes to the pavement to avoid trouble from Israeli cops who are frequently waiting there, checking IDs. On Hebron Road, he flags down a cramped, Arabs-only bus because if he boarded one of the big, air-conditioned Israeli ones, passengers might think he was a suicide bomber. For their part, Israelis avoid the Arab side of Abu Tor. A Jewish-American widow who lives in the apartment building next door won't venture to the Arab-owned corner shop just 100 yds. (about 90 m) away, no matter how badly she needs a cigarette. And Abu Tor is no different from any other mixed neighborhood in the city; a survey last year found two-thirds of Israeli Jews would refuse to live in the same building as an Arab. Given the choice, most Arabs would mirror such a preference.

When Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas sit down with other Arab leaders and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at a forthcoming Middle East summit in Annapolis, Md., the future of Jerusalem, a city holy to three religions, will be a constant shadow over the negotiations. Palestinians have long demanded that the eastern part of the city should be the capital of the state of which they have dreamed for decades. For Jews, who pined 2,000 years for Jerusalem, victory in the Six-Day War of 1967--and with it, control over the whole city--was a moment for the ages. And for 40 years, all who have negotiated for an end to the hostility between Israelis and Palestinians have known that the question of Jerusalem would have to be settled one day.

In 2000 President Bill Clinton, as part of a set of "parameters" he laid out for ending the conflict, proposed a legal split of the city, with Israel handing the Arab neighborhoods of East Jerusalem over to Palestinian rule. Such a formula presupposes that Jerusalem is capable of a neat division. But it is not. Somehow, any separation of the city into component parts has to recognize that there are myriad economic and cultural links among political adversaries. Moreover, the monuments and shrines of the Old City attract visitors from all over the world: Muslims who want to worship at al-Aqsa Mosque; Jews seeking to pray at the Western Wall; Christians keen to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre or follow the Stations of the Cross. Try as one might, it is not possible to count out the lanes of the Old City so that each of them is controlled by only one faith, one ethnicity. (Clinton proposed "shared functional sovereignty" for the Old City.) Dividing Jerusalem, says Daniel Seidemann, a lawyer and expert on Jerusalem affairs, is "a political impossibility and a historical inevitability. It will take microsurgery, and I'm

afraid the politicians will go at it with a hatchet."

Hummus And Dead Sharks

Hatchets and bludgeons won't do the job of remaking Jerusalem into two capitals--for though the city is crisscrossed by a thousand invisible lines that separate the lives of Arabs and Israelis, those lines can be porous, allowing a current of people and influences to flow back and forth. Upper-class Arab women cross westward for Pilates classes or to go shopping, and Israelis venture into the Old City for tasty hummus and a puff on a narghile. One recent Friday, a procession of black-coated ultra-Orthodox Jews hurrying through Damascus Gate toward the Western Wall ran into a crowd of prayer-going Arabs. They all stopped to gape at a large, dead shark hanging from a hook outside a butcher's shop. It was one of those fleeting moments when Arabs and Jews forgot their differences and stared in awe at one of God's truly scary creatures. But it doesn't take much--a stabbing in the Old City, a riot or an explosion--for the lines of this invisible grid to seal up. Then the Holy City splits in two.

It's been that way since the start of the al-Aqsa intifadeh, the wave of Palestinian suicide bombings that raged from 2000 until 2002, when Israelis started closing off the Palestinian territories. "The intifadeh was like a centrifuge that flung Arabs and Jews apart," says Seidemann. For Arabs in the city, the divisions have exacerbated the bitterness of 40 years of Israeli rule. Through a combination of purposeful neglect by Israelis and a refusal by Arabs to deal with municipal authorities (doing so might compromise the phantom sovereignty of Palestine, Arab leaders say), the eastern side of Jerusalem is withering like an unhealthy Siamese twin.

That is all too obvious in my neighborhood. On the Israeli side of Abu Tor, there are parks and flowers and streetlights and the garbage gets collected. A blind man can tell where the Arab street begins by the potholes and the smell--there, by contrast, garbage is picked up only if the neighbors pay out of their pockets for a truck to come and haul it away. The kids play in the streets because they have few parks to go to. Some of my Israeli friends are aghast when I tell them where I live; it seems that Abu Tor's Arabs have a reputation for stealing everything: cars, bicycles, even dogs. This is partly because the Israelis have stuff to steal and the Arabs don't. But theft is also a way of striking back at Israelis. "When I walk through their streets, I feel

jealousy. The Israelis have everything for their children and we have nothing for ours," says Ahmed Abu Saloum, a theater director. Recently his teenage son was stopped by undercover police and ordered to remove his hat. Saloum says his son replied, "'Why? It's a democratic country.'" Then, alleges the director, "the police took him away and beat him. His body was so bruised, he looked like a tomato."

Damascus Gate
A Muslim woman walks in front of Jerusalem's most famous entrance. The city is crisscrossed by thousands of invisible lines that separate the lives of Arabs and Israelis.

Arab refusal to cooperate with the Israeli authorities has some odd consequences. In a Jerusalem telephone book, for example, maps of Arab neighborhoods are blank, like unexplored parts of the Amazon in the 19th century. That's because no Arab sits on the municipal committee that chooses street names. On the rare occasion when the committee bothers with East Jerusalem, it is to irritate the Arabs by naming a few streets after Israeli war heroes. Mail is seldom delivered there, and having no street names adds to the Arabs' perception that in Israeli society they are either invisible, nonexistent or branded terrorists. Abu Walid Dajani, a hotel owner whose family has lived in Jerusalem for more than 700 years, recalls writing to Olmert when the Prime Minister was mayor of Jerusalem, outlining the daily humiliations those in East Jerusalem face. "If all our problems are related to security," he asked cynically, "why don't we have a mayor in army uniform?" Olmert, says Dajani, expressed

sympathy--but the hotelier insists that the Arabs' second-class status remains unchanged.

Western Wall
Orthodox Jewish men pray as the Sabbath ends in the Old City. Jerusalem and the Temple Mount are sacred to three major religions, Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

Arabs might stand a better chance of improving East Jerusalem if they ran for office in local elections. They don't. Palestinian leaders in the West Bank warn that casting ballots is like collaborating with the enemy. So when the city council elections were last held, in 2003, only 4,000 of 125,000 Arabs voted. As a result, East Jerusalem's residents pay 30% of total municipal taxes, but they get back services worth only 5% of the city's budget. Israeli courts have said the municipality should add 1,400 new classrooms in the East, but so far city hall has built only five.

An Arab with a Star of David

For Arabs, it is axiomatic that their schools would be better--and their health services, their street-cleaning, their roads--if they had greater control over their own part of the city. At the same time, nobody wants to see barbed wire cutting Jerusalem in two, as was the case from 1948 to 1967. Those in East Jerusalem look to the Israeli side for work opportunities and health care. The mere rumor that Israelis and Palestinians might reach an accord in Annapolis

prompted a flood of applicants for Israeli citizenship, but only a lucky few will get it; most East Jerusalem Arabs have Jordanian passports. The rush was telling; however much Arabs may feel harassed by Israelis, they fear that annexation of East Jerusalem by the current thuggish Palestinian leadership would lead to a spillover of the chaos and murderous political feuds that plague the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with rival militias fighting over spoils in the holy city. A new "Berlin Wall," says Seidemann, would devastate those who live in East Jerusalem. The average yearly income on the Arab east side is $4,000. That is far lower than the $19,000 a year earned by a typical Israeli in the west of the city, but more than twice as much as the average Palestinian earns in the West Bank. "The East Jerusalemites know that economically, life would be better under the Israelis than under [Palestinian President] Abu Mazen," says Seidemann.

If the city is ever to be legally divided--while maintaining its identity as a shared space--there are lessons to be learned from the thousands of Arabs who have figured out how to weave their way through Jerusalem's web of invisible barriers. They often dress like trendy young Israelis and, at army checkpoints, switch the car radio to Israeli music and speak a few words of Hebrew to soldiers. "I live in two different worlds," says Ammar Obaidat, who rose from gardener to head elephant keeper at the Tisch Family Zoological Gardens, "and I have to keep a balance between my work and traditions of my Muslim family. It's not easy." Shopping in the Jerusalem Mall, Obaidat speaks Hebrew with his wife and kids, hoping to blend in. But since his wife wears a hijab, or head scarf, the family is immediately tagged as Arab.

Obaidat is lucky. The zoo where he works is regarded as the one place in Jerusalem where Muslims, Christians, secular Jews in shorts and tank tops and ultra-Orthodox Jews wearing their 18th century finery all co-exist happily; director general Shai Doron thinks that's because the presence of other animals reminds visitors that despite their differences, they are all members of the same species. And Doron has no tolerance for ultra-Orthodox visitors who demand that he fire Arabs in the cafeteria because they might be plotting to poison Jews.

Arab ambulance drivers, like Arab zookeepers, have learned how to navigate Jerusalem's many borderlines. "I'm suspicious-looking in so many ways," laughs Nasser Izhiman, a volunteer driver and medic for the Magen David Adom (MDA) ambulance service. "An Arab guy wearing the Star of David on my jacket? Nobody knows what to think." In fact, Arab

medics--MDA has 75 Arabs among its 1,500 Jerusalem volunteers but is trying to recruit more--are invaluable. Not only can they help serve East Jerusalem, with its maze of unnamed streets, but they are also indispensable for the city's hermetic ultra-Orthodox (or Haredi) Jews, who cannot accept help from a fellow Jew on the Sabbath. "When three Arabs turn up at the door, it's the last thing the Haredi expect, but they're grateful," says Izhiman.

Arab drivers won trust from their own community several years ago after they saved the life of an elderly Arab chieftain whose family members were Old City militants. In East Jerusalem, Arabs no longer hurl stones at MDA ambulances, once seen as symbols of the Israeli oppressor. Yet still, the divisions of the city leave their scars. The ambulances are allowed to enter Eastern neighborhoods only with a police escort. Waiting for police cars often wastes precious seconds during an emergency call, so Izhiman and his colleague Morad Alian will often collect the patient in their own cars and drive him to the idling ambulance, still waiting for the police escort.

Always, always, the pain and hurt of the city can break through and curdle the best intentions. Izhiman describes what it was like to cope with the aftermath of a suicide bombing. "We're trying to help the injured, and people are pointing at us, yelling, 'You're Arab! You did this to us, and what, now you're here to save lives?' It was like a knife in my heart." Adds Alian, "On the Israeli side, human lives are being lost, and the Arab side is demanding rights for statehood. I'm caught in between, angry and frustrated. All I can do is focus on my training and try to keep the wounded from dying."

Ramallah
Masked gunmen of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade parade through the streets.

Kibbutz
The shadow of a woman is reflected in a photo showing an earlier scene of the daily life in the Kibbutz Degania Aleph.

That straightforward bias toward life holds a lesson. Arabs and Jews will always view the past--and their city--in different ways. "The Israelis," says Seidemann, "will always look at 1948 as Independence Year, and the Arabs as [the time of] al-naqbah--the disaster." For Jews, 1967 was the moment that an undivided Jerusalem came under their jurisdiction for the first time since the Romans destroyed the temple; for Arabs, it was the year of another calamity. But whether they like it or not, Arabs and Jews are destined to live in the same small city. Alian, the volunteer ambulance driver, notes a recent change he has seen in his medical work. In the past, he says, many Arabs refused to give blood for fear it would go to the Jewish enemy. "Now they mind less," he says. It's a straw in the wind; Israelis and Arabs are destined to live side by side, to share streets, markets, falafel--even blood. But only if they share Jerusalem more equally can it be less hellish for all.

The City Of Faiths

Jerusalem, sacred to three religions, can't be neatly divided. Israeli settlements extend to the east, beyond Arab neighborhoods, while the Old City is a jumble of streets and faiths, attracting visitors from afar

JERUSALEM...

...A PATCHWORK CITY

1 DOME OF THE ROCK

2 DAMASCUS GATE

3 Tisch Family Zoological Gardens

Distance from here: about 2.5 miles (4 km)

4 EAST JERUSALEM

With reporting by Jamil Hamad, Aaron J. Klein / Jerusalem

Postcard: Cornwall

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By BRYAN WALSH

People walk in the biosphere at the *WOMAD - The Eden Session 2004* evening of music and dance at The Eden Project, St. Austell on August 27, 2004 in Cornwall, England.
Matt Cardy / Getty

In the late 1990s, Tim Smit--an archaeologist turned pop-music producer--decided to build a new Eden. The Dutch-born Englishman envisioned a grand environmental-education park in the depressed southwestern English county of Cornwall--with the world's biggest greenhouses as its centerpiece. All he needed was the money. Smit turned to private funders and gave them a professional pitch. "I told them, 'We are going to build the Eighth Wonder of the World in a clay pit west of Cornwall, it's going to be wonderful, and you'll want to be a part of it,'" he says. "'Also, we have no business plan.'" Amazingly, the line worked. Smit scraped together more than $100 million, and after a final construction season pummeled by 134 straight days of rain--soggy even for Britain--the park opened on time in the spring of 2001.

By all rights, the Eden Project should have been a commercial disaster, as even its founder admits. "All environmental-science centers go bust because they're boring as s___," Smit says. But Eden wasn't boring, and it didn't go bust. The park has pulled in more than 9 million visitors since it opened, and it's still one of Britain's top attractions, more popular than the Tower of London. It helps that Eden is visually stunning. Visitors descend into the former clay hole, now landscaped and studded with native vegetation, to arrive at the main attraction: two honeycombed domes, shaped like grapefruit halves, bubbling up from the base. These are the biomes, giant greenhouses that shelter the flora and mimic the climate of tropical rain forests and Mediterranean farms. Enter the humid and heated rain-forest biome on a drizzly Cornish day, and you'll soon break a sweat worthy of Singapore.

The Eden Project is simultaneously futuristic and organic, and it's not hard to see why Brits voted it their favorite new building of the past 20 years. Similar efforts in the U.S., however, have been received less rapturously. Attempts to build an American version of Eden called Earthpark stalled for years as Midwestern cities like Cedar Rapids, Iowa, doubting the project's profitability, said no. (Pella, a tiny town near Iowa City, finally said yes to Earthpark, scheduled to open in 2010.)

But the surprising success of Eden is also a sign of how green concerns have become a daily part of British life. London broadsheets follow global-warming news the way their tabloid counterparts cover soccer and missing British children. The country's growing environmental industries were worth more than $50 billion in 2005, a figure expected to grow to $94 billion by 2015. And politicians on both sides of the aisle compete to look greener. David Cameron, the young leader of the Conservative Party, even changed his party's traditional freedom-torch symbol to an oak tree to trumpet his environmental credentials. Green living is "just higher up on the agenda," says Alex Harvey, a Canadian environmental activist who moved to Britain four years ago. "People are looking at lifestyle and consumption, across-the-board issues."

The greenest of the green join Carbon Ration Action Groups (CRAGS), whose members pledge to reduce their personal carbon dioxide emissions. Britain already has 14 active CRAG chapters, and a few are just starting to develop in the U.S. To Surrey CRAG member Jonathan

Essex--who stays under his carbon limit by avoiding air travel--that just means Britain has to embrace its leadership role on the environment. "We've got to set an example for others to follow," he says.

Not every Briton is ready to join the environmental monkhood. There would go the budget holiday flights to Ibiza, for one thing. But to Smit, it's the spirit that matters, a spirit embodied in his Eden. "It's a horrible cliché, but part of our goal is to remake the world," he says. "We're here to help people realize that if they each do a few things, then times 6 billion, that adds up." --

With reporting by Alex Altman/London

NOTEBOOK

World Spotlight: The Next Killer Cyclone

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By SIMON ROBINSON

Cyclone Sidr, the category-4 storm that swept through Bangladesh on Nov. 15, killed more than 3,000 people. And while officials say the death toll could eventually reach 10,000, many are thankful that it wasn't higher. Sidr took far fewer lives than some previous Bangladeshi storms: 1991's Cyclone Gorky killed approximately 140,000 people. Cyclone Bhola, in 1970, left as many as 500,000 people dead and is the deadliest cyclone on record.

Bangladesh has gotten better at dealing with severe weather. Over the past decade, the country's early-warning and preparedness systems have improved considerably. Under Fakhruddin Ahmed, effectively the country's Prime Minister, officials evacuated some 3.2 million people who lived along the coastline, and the government stockpiled rescue and relief supplies in the days before Sidr hit. But keeping death tolls down is likely to get harder. Scientists believe that global warming will make cyclones in the region bigger and more frequent.

That's bad news for the low-lying nation, whose location and topography make it particularly susceptible to the effects of climate change and also hard to protect. Most of the country sits on a giant alluvial delta whose rivers are constantly shifting, making it difficult to build up protective banks or large dikes to hold back the sea. "The soil isn't steady as such--it's mud," says A. Atiq Rahman, a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. As sea levels rise in the coming decades and as rivers swell with water from melting Himalayan glaciers, vast swaths of the country might disappear, sparking an exodus of climate refugees. The question is, Where will they go?

Washington Memo: New Role for Petraeus

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By MARK THOMPSON

General David Petraeus' success, however tentative, in turning down the boiling violence in Iraq is winning praise from Washington politicians. But it's his recent trip back to the capital to help select the next crop of the Army's one-star generals that's generating Hooahs! up and down the ranks and may make an even more lasting contribution to U.S. military affairs. Army Secretary Pete Geren, noticing that Petraeus was due to return to the U.S. for a family gathering, decided to saddle the general with an additional task: help groom the service's future leadership.

Petraeus and 14 other Army generals are reviewing the files of about 2,000 colonels, looking for 40 or so worthy of promotion to brigadier general. "This is really unprecedented," says military historian Robert Scales, a retired two-star general and former head of the Army War College. "A whole new generation of officers is coming out of Iraq with new views on how wars should be fought, and its archetype is Dave Petraeus." Defense Secretary Robert Gates approved the unusual assignment, according to Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell, because of Petraeus' "progressive" counterinsurgency skills, which rely on persuasion and security as much as on coercion and combat.

Gates scolded the Army last month for promotion policies that too often are "unchanged since

the cold war" and combat-training that "left the service unprepared" for Iraq. Rebuilding the service requires "visionary leadership across the service," he said, "and up and down the chain of command." Or maybe it just requires the ability to peer into the past: Petraeus is simply helping a new generation of soldiers learn the lessons in unconventional warfare the Army abandoned following its inglorious exit from Vietnam.

Milestones

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007

DIED

Most adolescents worry about acne and raging hormones. At 15, Joe Nuxhall had to worry about a stadium full of fans urging him--as a relief pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds--to thwart the St. Louis Cardinals. During a 1944 game, the Ohio teen--whose local-league dad had recommended him to the Reds when the team was depleted by World War II--stepped up and earned two outs before losing his cool. He didn't pitch again for the team for eight years, but Nuxhall, who in recent years was the radio-broadcast voice of the Reds, had become the youngest player in major league history. He was 79.

When the military told him in 1953 that it would discharge him if he did not renounce his father--who was suspected of being a communist because he read a Serbian newspaper--Air Force Lieut. Milo Radulovich said no and appealed. ("I could see a chain reaction," he said.) Radulovich, who later became a meteorologist, was made famous by Edward R. Murrow on CBS's See It Now (and in the 2005 film Good Night, and Good Luck); weeks after the broadcast the Air Force reversed its position. Radulovich was 81.

In 1963 the bombing of 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., killed four little girls and galvanized the civil rights movement. If not for pastor John Cross Jr., who dug through rubble to discover the victims after hearing the explosion, it could easily have sparked further immediate violence. Cross, who had made his church a center for the movement, calmed

angry protesters and officiated before 8,000 at a funeral for three of the girls, during which Martin Luther King Jr. delivered the eulogy. Cross was forever haunted, saying recently that "hardly a day passes I don't think about it. I dream about it two or three times a week." He was 82.

His family was so renowned for its makeup skills, it was selected in June to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. There were Dad, a makeup guru on Gone With the Wind; Grandfather, who started the first-ever studio makeup department; five makeup-artist uncles; and himself. Over 50 years, Monty Westmore lent his touch to 100 movies, including The Late Shift (for which he created doppelgängers for David Letterman and Jay Leno and scored an Emmy nomination) and Steven Spielberg's Jurassic Park and Hook, the latter nabbing Westmore an Oscar nod. He was 84.

She mistrusted accolades and hated fanfare, but as a behind-the-scenes co-director (along with her husband) of New York City's pioneering interdisciplinary Arnold Pfeffer Center for Neuro-Psycho-analysis--the first in the world to bridge brain science and the long-stagnant field of psychoanalysis--Marjorie Pfeffer was in her element. The center, which the sage, enthusiastic child analyst steered after her husband's death in 2002, was launched in 1990 and spawned an international association, a successful journal and hundreds of similar centers around the globe. She was 86.

Until the end of his life, Ian Smith, Rhodesia's last white Prime Minister, believed there was nothing wrong with his white-minority government's 14-year reign over the nation's 5 million blacks. The right-winger declared independence from Britain in 1965, ruling Rhodesia despite raging civil wars, sanctions and global disdain. In 1980, after Smith finally bowed to international pressure, black nationalist Robert Mugabe was elected President and renamed the nation Zimbabwe. Smith was 88.

He played a great drunk on TV's Bewitched and a range of comic characters on sitcoms like Hogan's Heroes and The Bob Newhart Show. But any baby boomer knows comedic character actor Dick Wilson as Mr. Whipple, the beleaguered grocer in toilet-paper ads who begs of customers, "Please don't squeeze the Charmin." The iconic ad campaign, which ran from 1964 to 1985, rocketed Wilson into pop-culture history--and national fame. "Everybody says, 'Where

did they find you?"' the veteran actor told a reporter in 1985. "I say I was never lost." He was 91.

Few memoir titles encapsulate a life as deftly as civil rights lawyer Victor Rabinowitz's: Unrepentant Leftist. Often with partner Leonard Boudin, he defended such clients as the Black Panthers, blacklisted writer Dashiell Hammett and accused spy Alger Hiss. In 1960 Rabinowitz and Boudin added Cuba to their client roster after a poolside game of chess in Havana with Che Guevara. A few years later, Rabinowitz successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court that Cuba was entitled to funds from the sale of products formerly owned by a U.S. citizen. Rabinowitz was 96.

With reporting by Harriet Barovick, Daniel D''Addario, Elisabeth Salemme, Carolyn Sayre, Tiffany Sharples, Alexandra Silver, Kate Stinchfield, Lon Tweeten

SOCIETY

Skip the Botox. Try Facial Yoga

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2007 By KATE STINCHFIELD

Surprise Me!
Widen your eyes, as though surprised, but try not to wrinkle the brow. Focus on a point in front of you for about five to ten seconds. Then repeat, four times.

For people who deem needles too scary and surgery too drastic, the latest anti-aging fad may

appeal: facial yoga. Based on the premise that facial muscles, like any other muscle, need exercise to stay toned, enthusiasts of facial yoga say the regular practice of making kissy faces or wagging one's tongue can reduce worry lines and wrinkles — and even create a little peace within.

Free Your Tongue
It is recommended that you hold this pose for 60 seconds. It is good if your eyes water; that flushes the toxins that may have accumulated there.

In New York City, Annelise Hagen, a devoted yogi, former actress and author of *The Yoga Face: Eliminate Wrinkles with the Ultimate Natural Facelift*, runs a weekly facial yoga class. Hagen says she started to develop her face-based technique when she realized that her students, mostly well-to-do, well-educated professionals, were practicing yoga but getting Botox injections during their lunch breaks. "It didn't seem to be in the spirit of yoga to me," she says.

At a recent Friday evening session, Hagen led students through a combination of traditional yoga poses, primal grunts, theatrical expressions and lots of laughter. Hagen's facial exercises include the Smiling Fish (purse your lips and smile slightly), the Marilyn (blow kisses while keeping your forehead smooth) and the Satchmo (puff out your face and transfer air from cheek to cheek). Lined up in front of the mirror, their fingers pressed into their foreheads and their tongues lolling, the participants looked deranged, but they seemed to be onto something good. "When we walk in, you can see how tired and stressed out everyone is," says student Kathy Healey. "By the time we leave, you can see the lines fading."

At least one student thinks the practice has taken a few years off her face. "I look at myself now and say, 'That old lady is leaving,'" says Irene Elmore, who has been attending Hagen's class for about a month. "You can see the difference around the eyes and forehead."

Its fountain-of-youth allure is quickly gaining facial yoga a following in health clubs and yoga studios across the U.S. Leta Koontz holds Fresh Face Yoga workshops at her Pittsburgh studio for a mostly female clientele that ranges in age from 30 to 70. Koontz packs her sessions with inversion positions, arguing that keeping the head lower than the heart increases youth-giving blood flow to the face. "It's like natural Botox," she says. "Stress shows on our face, probably more than any other place on our body."

While stretching may tighten tired faces, dermatologists warn that good form is key. "If someone were doing a bizarre contortion, they could spasm. They might actually cause permanent damage," says Dr. Min-Wei Christine Lee, director of the East Bay Laser and Skincare Center in Walnut Creek, Calif. "But [facial yoga] could help train muscles not to go into those worry lines."

It can also help train injured faces to move again. Rose Hong Tran, a Houston-based Hatha yoga instructor, worked with local physicians to develop her specialized yoga facial toning technique. Tran says her workshops have helped increase mobility in clients with partial facial paralysis and problems like crooked smiles. "Every time you're working with your facial muscles, you increase circulation to your face 10 times," says Tran, who has certified other instructors to use her technique throughout Texas and in Atlanta. "It helps sharpen your mind, too."

Whether their reasons are mental, medical or motivated by appearance, more yoga enthusiasts nationwide are trying out the facial yoga trend. "I get people for all kinds of reasons," Hagen says. "I think it's kind of cathartic for people to be in a room making ridiculous faces and laughing." So, if the practice doesn't smooth out all your wrinkles, for a while at least it lets you feel like a kid.

Black Is Beautiful

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By LISA MCLAUGHLIN

Black carrots.
Photo for TIME

Black has long been considered a chic color to wear when going out to dine, but for most Americans it seems slightly less à la mode for an entrée. Recently, though, some of the most sophisticated chefs in the country have begun incorporating black grains, vegetables and even poultry into their dishes.

The craze for ebony-tinged foods can be traced to Asia, where inky ingredients have a long and illustrious tradition. The nutty flavors and raven tones of forbidden rice were once reserved for Chinese emperors. Silkie chickens, whose snowy white feathers cover birds with black skin, flesh and bones, are prized throughout Asia for their deep, gamy flavor and used in soupy tonics said to enrich blood and improve health. And in Japan, dark foods like black vinegar drinks, black soy milk and black sesame breakfast cereals are currently so popular that Häagen-Dazs even sells a black sesame ice cream.

In the U.S., chefs are interested less in the purported health benefits than in the deeper flavor profiles and the wow factor that dark foods offer. "Black is just fun to work with," says Tim Love of the Lonesome Dove Western Bistro in Fort Worth, Texas, where he just started serving a fig-

and-black-lime margarita and surrounds his mango-sautéed salmon with an intense puree of earthy black trumpet mushrooms. "It's unexpected. It looks great on a plate," he says. The visual élan also appeals to the chefs at DavidBurke & Donatella in New York City. "We focus on eye-catching presentation," says chef de cuisine Eric Hara. "Black chicken definitely intrigues diners." David Myers of Sona in Los Angeles fully embraces the dark side by serving black chicken and forbidden rice, and black limes show up unexpectedly in a tart ice cream. Silkie chickens have become so popular that Iowa-based Murray McMurray Hatchery now sells about 10,000 a year, up from a few hundred 10 years ago, when it first started raising them.

"Black can either be strikingly beautiful or a complete disaster," says Clark Frasier of Arrows Restaurant in Ogunquit, Maine, who has grown black carrots in the restaurant's sprawling garden. "Because they have less chlorophyll, they take longer in the ground and achieve a more intense flavor." And, of course, they look cool.

Life: Education - Health - Environment - Food - Religion - Living

Bring Eco-Power to the People

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By BRYAN WALSH

Van Jones, activist and visionary.
Eros Hoagland for TIME

Annie Schumake stands outside her one-story house in the depressed city of Richmond, Calif., just north of Oakland, and watches her electric meter slow to a crawl, stop and then begin to tick backward. Schumake's solar panel, just installed on her roof and partly financed with low-cost loans from the city, is supplying free power and more. The panel was put in by a team of local workers trained by area nonprofit groups that prepare unemployed Richmondites for jobs in the burgeoning green building field. "I'm happy because I'm saving money," says Schumake. "But I'm also saving the planet, and that's the major one." Van Jones, the dynamo promoting the project, breaks into a wide smile of his own. "Power by the people, for the people," says Jones. "This is the vision of the future right here."

A few years ago, the Oakland-based human-rights activist came to a realization. If the U.S. accelerated the transition to a cleaner economy, millions of jobs in green construction and alternative energy could be created. Those jobs--call them green collar--were exactly what unemployed residents of cities like Oakland needed. Environmental activists and inner-city minorities--two groups often segregated by race and class--had a common interest, and it could help extend the coalition against climate change beyond hard-core greenies. "Polar bears, Priuses and Ph.D.s aren't going to do it alone," says Jones, 39. "Everything our friends in the eco-élite do will vanish unless we find a way to expand green jobs to the rest of the economy."

You couldn't create a better advocate for the green-collar movement than Jones. A Yale-educated lawyer who founded the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in Oakland, the magnetic Jones moves easily between worlds, at home preaching to inner-city high school students or mixing with Silicon Valley entrepreneurs. But everywhere Jones goes, he repeats a simple message. "Give the work that most needs to be done to the people who most need the work," he says, and solve two pressing problems--pollution and poverty--at once.

For the environmental movement, embracing Jones' message means recasting global warming not just as an existential threat but as an enormous economic opportunity. It's a narrative that is particularly resonant with low-income workers who are likely to bear the short-term economic burden of cutting carbon only if they believe there will be a personal payoff for them in the long run. Says Jones: "They need to see green in their pockets."

It may be a while before many of them do. Jones successfully lobbied for a $250,000 pilot program, the Oakland Green Jobs Corps, but tepid public support elsewhere has kept green employment from taking off. Still, the promise is real. A study by the Cleantech Network, which tracks green investment, found that for every $100 million in green venture capital, 250,000 new jobs could be created. To speed that transition, Jones and Majora Carter of the Sustainable South Bronx in New York City recently launched Green for All, a campaign to secure $1 billion in government funding to train a quarter-million workers in green fields. "We're looking for an environmental Marshall Plan for the 21st century," says Carter.

Jones has even greater ambitions, believing the green-collar movement can reshape politics in the U.S. by breaking down old barriers on the left and the right. A few hours after helping Schumake get her solar panels, Jones traveled across the bay to San Francisco's ornate city hall, where his organization received the first-ever environmental grant from the Full Circle Fund, a Bay Area philanthropic network. Jones had the tough task of following Al Gore, who had delivered the keynote speech, but he still brought the house down. "When we bring together the best of the business community and the best of the tech community and the best of the racial-justice community, we'll get the coalition we always wanted." Even better, he adds, "we'll get the country we always wanted." In his vision, that means the map won't be divided between red and blue, but will be all green.

Fighting for the Right to Dry

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By ELISABETH SALEMME

A simple piece of rope stands between environmentally friendly Americans and their neighbors. IPS / Beateworks / Corbis

A simple piece of rope hangs between some environmentally friendly Americans and their neighbors. On one side stand those who have begun to see clothes dryers as wasteful consumers of energy (up to 6% of total electricity) and powerful emitters of carbon dioxide (up to a ton of CO_2 per household every year). As an alternative, they are turning to clotheslines as part of what Alexander Lee, founder of the advocacy group Project Laundry List, calls "what-I-can-do environmentalism."

But on the other side are people who oppose air-drying laundry outside on aesthetic grounds. Increasingly, they have persuaded community and homeowners associations (HOAs) across the U.S. to ban outdoor clotheslines, which they say not only look unsightly but also lower surrounding property values. Those actions, in turn, have sparked a right-to-dry movement that is pressing for legislation to protect the choice to use clotheslines.

At least 10 states currently limit the ability of HOAs to restrict the use of energy-saving devices like solar panels, but only three states--Florida, Hawaii and Utah--have laws written broadly enough to protect clotheslines. Right-to-dry advocates argue that there should be more.

Matt Reck is the kind of eco-conscious guy who feeds his trees with bathwater and recycles condensation drops from his air conditioners to water plants. His family also uses a clothesline. But on July 9, Otto Hagen, president of Reck's HOA in Wake Forest, N.C., notified him that a

neighbor had complained about his line. The Recks ignored the warning and still dry their clothes on a rope that extends from their swing set to a pole across the yard. "Many people claim to be environmentally friendly but don't take matters into their own hands," says Reck, 37. HOA's Hagen has decided to hold off taking action. "I'm not going to go crazy," he says. "But if Matt keeps his line and more neighbors complain, I'll have to address it again."

North Carolina lawmakers tried and failed earlier this year to insert language into an energy bill that would expressly prevent HOAs from regulating clotheslines. But the issue remains a touchy one with HOAs and real estate agents. "Most aesthetic restrictions are rooted, to a degree, in the belief that homogenous exteriors are supportive of property value," says Sara Stubbins, executive director of the Community Association Institute's North Carolina chapter. In other words, associations worry that housing prices will fall if prospective buyers think their would-be neighbors are too poor to afford dryers.

Project Laundry List's Lee dismisses the notion that clotheslines depreciate property values, calling that idea a "prissy sentiment" that needs to change in light of global warming. "I understand the need for communities to legislate taste, but people always find a way around it," he says. "The clothesline is beautiful--gorgeous, sentimental and nostalgic for many."

Indeed, nostalgia can be an additional motivating factor, especially for elderly people who have used clotheslines throughout their lives. Mary Lou Sayer, who is over 85, dried her clothes outside when she was young and hoped to do so again when she moved to a Concord, N.H., retirement village three years ago. She has proposed a change to the community's clothesline ban twice. Her second pitch was voted down unanimously in late October. Her best chance now rests with a bill that state representative Suzanne Harvey plans to introduce in 2008 that would say hanging laundry outside cannot be fully prohibited. "We all have to do at least something to decrease our carbon footprint," Harvey says. "And once you start seeing your nice neighbors hanging clotheslines, that can take down stereotypes." In the meantime, Sayer is considering hanging a line in protest. "Most of my friends aren't taking energy issues seriously," she says.

Tutors for Toddlers

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By PAMELA PAUL

3 year old Sanjana Rao learns numbers with tutor Lilian Yu at the Columbia West Kumon Center in Columbia, Maryland.
Hector Emanuel for TIME

Call it kindercramming. These days one of the fastest-growing markets for after-school tutors is preschoolers and kindergartners, whose parents are hoping that if their kids learn to read before first grade, it will ultimately help them get into college and get good jobs. Anxious moms and dads are no longer satisfied with traditional nursery school, which many see as a glorified romper room that focuses too much on learning through play. And of course, after years of Baby Einstein marketing, some parents have become convinced that the more math and reading skills their tots master, the better. Srinivas Rao, a veterinarian in Columbia, Md., began sending his daughter Sanjana to after-school tutoring last summer, shortly before her third birthday. To his delight, he soon found she could not only count the 14 dots on her homework work sheet but also write 14 beside them. "I didn't think kids could just learn that overnight," he marvels.

The tutoring industry is marveling too. Franchises geared toward giving toddlers an academic edge are popping up across the country. A few years ago, Sylvan Learning Centers, which operates 1,100 tutoring sites in the U.S., started a pre-K reading program. Around the same

time, Kumon, a Japanese company with nearly 1,300 centers in the U.S., launched Junior Kumon to teach kids as young as 3 how to add and read the alphabet. The latest glommer-on: KnowledgePoints, a 60-center franchise based in Lake Oswego, Ore., which last summer began a program for 3- and 4-year-olds.

The toddler-tutoring frenzy may be intensified by a study in the latest issue of Developmental Psychology. Researchers who examined longitudinal data on nearly 36,000 preschoolers in the U.S., Canada and Britain found that the best predictor of success in later school years wasn't the ability to pay attention or behave in class but was in entering kindergarten with elementary math and reading skills. Experts caution, however, that these findings should not be taken as an endorsement of academic drills for preschoolers. Says the study's lead author, Greg Duncan, a social-policy expert at Northwestern University: "The kind of skills that matter in affecting later learning are things parents can pretty easily convey to their children in the home." These include such basics as the knowledge of letters and the order of numbers.

Yet such straightforward reassurance may not be enough to counteract the tutoring industry's bells and whistles, such as Sylvan's trained instructors and Score! Educational Centers' fancy computer-based curriculum. Kumon encourages the pre-K crowd to come in twice a week for about 30 minutes--at a cost of about $125 a month--to memorize letter charts and study flash cards. "I didn't feel like my son was where he could be," says Gina Monteiro, 38, a quality-assurance worker in Indianapolis who in June started taking her 4-year-old to lengthy sessions at a place called ABC's of Phonics three times a week because he had yet to learn the alphabet.

Child-development experts warn that parents are expecting too much too soon. Maryanne Wolf, head of Tufts University's Center for Reading and Language Research, describes how recent brain-imaging data show that children aren't ready to read until around age 5 at the earliest. "To hasten that process not only makes no sense socially or emotionally, it makes no sense physiologically," she says. Identifying a flash card at an early age isn't reading, Wolf notes. It's what researchers call paired-associate learning. That may sound impressive, but, she says, "a pigeon can do it."

Child psychologist Roberta Michnick Golinkoff thinks early tutoring could hurt kids' ability to become lifelong learners. After citing a study that shows graduates of academically intensive

preschools are more anxious and less creative than regular nursery-school alums, the University of Delaware professor asks, "Do you want your child to be the boss or a worker bee?"

She and other child-development researchers are worried that companies will keep hyping a perceived need for math and reading drills for toddlers. "I hope people don't take away from this new study the notion that formal education needs to be pushed down to the preschool level," says David Elkind, author of the landmark 1981 book The Hurried Child. "Kids already learn what they need to know in a traditional learning-through-play program."

Even some parents who started drinking the tutoring Kool-Aid are becoming disillusioned. "We've come to terms with the fact that our son will learn to read when he's ready," says Monteiro, who stopped sending him to tutors in August. "To push for more to keep up with the Joneses was not appropriate for him." Now if only the Joneses could learn to ease up as well.

Sunday School for Atheists

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By JENINNE LEE-ST. JOHN / PALO ALTO

Sunday morning at The Children's Program at the Humanist Community of Palo Alto, California. Kathrin Miller for TIME

On Sunday mornings, most parents who don't believe in the Christian God, or any god at all, are probably making brunch or cheering at their kids' soccer game, or running errands or, with luck, sleeping in. Without religion, there's no need for church, right?

Maybe. But some nonbelievers are beginning to think they might need something for their children. "When you have kids," says Julie Willey, a design engineer, "you start to notice that your co-workers or friends have church groups to help teach their kids values and to be able to lean on." So every week, Willey, who was raised Buddhist and says she has never believed in God, and her husband pack their four kids into their blue minivan and head to the Humanist Community Center in Palo Alto, Calif., for atheist Sunday school.

An estimated 14% of Americans profess to have no religion, and among 18-to-25-year-olds, the proportion rises to 20%, according to the Institute for Humanist Studies. The lives of these young people would be much easier, adult nonbelievers say, if they learned at an early age how to respond to the God-fearing majority in the U.S. "It's important for kids not to look weird," says Peter Bishop, who leads the preteen class at the Humanist center in Palo Alto. Others say the weekly instruction supports their position that it's O.K. to not believe in God and gives them a place to reinforce the morals and values they want their children to have.

The pioneering Palo Alto program began three years ago, and like-minded communities in Phoenix, Albuquerque, N.M., and Portland, Ore., plan to start similar classes next spring. The growing movement of institutions for kids in atheist families also includes Camp Quest, a group of sleep-away summer camps in five states plus Ontario, and the Carl Sagan Academy in Tampa, Fla., the country's first Humanism-influenced public charter school, which opened with 55 kids in the fall of 2005. Bri Kneisley, who sent her son Damian, 10, to Camp Quest Ohio this past summer, welcomes the sense of community these new choices offer him: "He's a child of atheist parents, and he's not the only one in the world."

Kneisley, 26, a graduate student at the University of Missouri, says she realized Damian needed to learn about secularism after a neighbor showed him the Bible. "Damian was quite certain this guy was right and was telling him this amazing truth that I had never shared," says Kneisley. In most ways a traditional sleep-away camp--her son loved canoeing--Camp Quest

also taught Damian critical thinking, world religions and tales of famous freethinkers (an umbrella term for atheists, agnostics and other rationalists) like the black abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

The Palo Alto Sunday family program uses music, art and discussion to encourage personal expression, intellectual curiosity and collaboration. One Sunday this fall found a dozen children up to age 6 and several parents playing percussion instruments and singing empowering anthems like I'm Unique and Unrepeatable, set to the tune of Ten Little Indians, instead of traditional Sunday-school songs like Jesus Loves Me. Rather than listen to a Bible story, the class read Stone Soup, a secular parable of a traveler who feeds a village by making a stew using one ingredient from each home.

Down the hall in the kitchen, older kids engaged in a Socratic conversation with class leader Bishop about the role persuasion plays in decision-making. He tried to get them to see that people who are coerced into renouncing their beliefs might not actually change their minds but could be acting out of self-preservation--an important lesson for young atheists who may feel pressure to say they believe in God.

Atheist parents appreciate this nurturing environment. That's why Kitty, a nonbeliever who didn't want her last name used to protect her kids' privacy, brings them to Bishop's class each week. After Jonathan, 13, and Hana, 11, were born, Kitty says she felt socially isolated and even tried taking them to church. But they're all much more comfortable having rational discussions at the Humanist center. "I'm a person that doesn't believe in myths," Hana says. "I'd rather stick to the evidence."

BUSINESS

The Well

Peak Possibilities

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By JUSTIN FOX

Shell refineries in Pernis Harbor, Rotterdam, Holland.
Frans Lemmens / Getty

In July 2006, the world's oil rigs pumped out crude at a rate of nearly 85.5 million bbl. a day. They haven't come close since, even as prices have risen from $75 to $98 per bbl. Which raises a question of potentially epochal significance: Is it all downhill from here?

It's not as if nobody predicted this. The true believers in what's called peak oil--a motley crew of survivalists, despisers of capitalism, a few billionaire investors and a lot of perfectly respectable geologists--have long cited the middle to end of this decade as a likely turning point.

In the oil industry and the government agencies that work with it, such talk is usually dismissed as premature. There have been temporary drops in oil production before, after all--albeit usually during global economic slowdowns, not boom times. In most official scenarios, production will soon begin rising again, peaking at more than 110 million bbl. a day around 2030.

That's alarming enough in itself. Even the optimists think we have less than three decades to go? But at industry conferences this fall, the word from producers was far gloomier. The chief executives of ConocoPhillips and French oil giant Total both declared that they can't see oil production ever topping 100 million bbl. a day. The head of the oil importers' club that is the International Energy Agency warned that "new capacity additions will not keep up with

declines at current fields and the projected increase in demand."

This isn't quite the same as saying that oil production has peaked and is about to start declining sharply--the view of the true peakists. In "peak lite," as some call it, the big issues are not so much geological as political, technical, financial and even human-resource-related (the world apparently suffers from a dearth of qualified petroleum engineers). These factors all delay the arrival of oil on the market, meaning that production would not so much peak as plateau. But with demand rising sharply, especially from China and India, even a plateau could be precarious.

It's not that the world is running out of oil. There are massive reserves available in Canadian tar sands, Colorado shale, Venezuelan heavy oil and other unconventional deposits. The problem is that most of this oil is hard to extract and even harder to refine, and it isn't likely to account for a significant share of global production anytime soon. Almost everybody agrees that the pumping of conventionally sourced oil outside the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has already peaked or will peak soon, a reality that even discoveries like the recent 8 billion-bbl. find off the coast of Brazil can't alter because production from so many existing fields is declining.

The big question mark is OPEC, which represents the oil powers of the Middle East and a few other big exporters and currently accounts for 41% of world oil production. Every optimistic scenario assumes that this share will rise dramatically in the coming decades. That is, if things turn out well, the U.S. will become substantially more dependent on Saudi Arabia and its neighbors. Great!

Then there's the gloomy view. In his 2005 book Twilight in the Desert, energy-industry investment banker Matt Simmons opened up a still raging debate over whether Saudi Arabia, OPEC's top producer, really can pump much more oil than it does now. Since the book appeared, Saudi output has dropped from 9.6 million bbl. a day to 8.6 million, despite rising prices.

Saudi officials used the occasion of an OPEC summit in Riyadh in mid-November to say they could up production at any time. But that raises the pesky question of why they don't. So far,

the answer from OPEC leaders has been that high prices are the fault of speculators and the falling dollar, not low production. They're not just blowing smoke. Lynn Westfall, chief economist of refiner Tesoro Corp., says there's more than enough oil for sale right now. The price pressure, he explains, "is coming from financial participants in futures markets."

If OPEC's members are not able to boost production in coming years, though, it will be impossible to keep blaming the traders as prices rise. What happens then? "If we had better data, we could hold a global summit and say, 'Gentlemen, it's nobody's fault, but we've peaked,'" says Simmons. "We've got to embrace some conservation practices that are draconian, or we will be at war with each other."

Among the peakists, war and economic breakdown are favorite themes. They figure that cheap oil is the essential fuel of modern capitalism, which will founder without it. A more hopeful take is that innovation is the essential fuel of modern capitalism and that high oil prices will drive rapid advances in conservation and alternative energy. Either way, the beginning of the end of the oil era may be upon us, well ahead of schedule.

Is Facebook Overrated?

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By ANITA HAMILTON

TIME Photo-Illustration

Whether you realize it or not, social networking is something you do every day. Each time you tell a friend about a good movie, bore a neighbor with pictures from your kid's birthday party or catch up on gossip at work, you are reaching out to people you know to share ideas, experiences and information. The genius of social-networking websites such as MySpace and Facebook lies in their ability to capture the essence of these informal exchanges and distill them online into an expanding matrix of searchable, linked Web pages.

Nearly half the people who went online in the U.S. in October--83 million, according to the research firm comScore Media Metrix--visited MySpace or Facebook, making social networking one of the most popular activities on the Web. MySpace has the clear lead, with a U.S. audience of 72 million--more than twice that of Facebook's--and 2007 profits estimated at $200 million.

Although Facebook is expected to earn just $30 million, the three-year-old site is getting all the buzz. One reason: Microsoft recently bought a mere 1.6% of the company for $240 million, an investment that values Facebook at $15 billion, which is in the ballpark of Gap and Xerox. That's far smaller than Google, valued at about $200 billion, but both Facebook and MySpace think they are made of the same game-changing stuff. Like Google, they want to change the way you live and work online. And like Google and practically everyone else on the Internet, they are betting that advertising will make them, and their investors, unimaginably wealthy

along the way.

Founded by Harvard dropout Mark Zuckerberg, now 23, Facebook was originally a way for college students to keep tabs on who was dating whom. It's evolved since then into a social network: an open book on its members' lives, welcoming just about anyone.

Facebook's inclusiveness has broadened its popular appeal, but the alchemy of the Web is converting eyeballs to dollars via the "click-throughs" that advertisers crave--and the social nets are still searching for the magic formula. Members of both Facebook and its chief rival, MySpace, spend on average about 3 1/2 hours a month clicking around on each site, but they get so caught up in checking out their friends' pages and updating their own that they are less likely to click through to the ads. What's more, Facebook may not be able to keep up the momentum of its rapid-fire growth because social-networking aficionados are notoriously fickle. Remember Friendster?

Social networks are a lot like nightclubs, and Friendster was the place to be in 2004 and '05, before MySpace came along and stole its mojo. In short, Friendster got boring. "It's like a high school dance," says Max Levchin, CEO of Slide, a top maker of image-based applications for social networks. "Everyone shows up and nobody does anything, because there's nothing to do."

So Facebook and MySpace are trying to morph from the high school gym--a place for flirting and gossip--into one-stop entertainment destinations. "MySpace is your starting point to the Internet," says CEO Chris DeWolfe, who recently rolled out features that let MySpace members play casual games like online poker and watch mini-videos of '80s TV shows like Fantasy Island and Diff'rent Strokes. Facebook has gone even further. In August it sent out an open invitation to software developers to devise new widgets. Three months later, Facebook has some 7,000 free add-on applications that let members do everything from monitor their stock portfolios to map anyplace they've ever visited to text friends' phones via the site.

Every one of those applications represents one more aspect of your life that can live on Facebook, and the more you can do there, the more important and valuable the site becomes. (And, as MySpace recently discovered, the more tempting it is to hackers.) Search engines help

you find things, but everything they cull from is public. A social network affords something more: access to the personal lives and tastes of the people in your circle, or at least as much as they're willing to share. For that reason, explains Chamath Palihapitiya, Facebook's vice president of product marketing, "I see Facebook as becoming more essential than search."

Will advertisers see it that way too? In early November, both Facebook and MySpace announced new schemes that would allow advertisers to more closely target messages. The idea is that if ads are made more relevant, more people will click on them, which in turn will boost the fees the sites can charge for them. MySpace's new "hypertargeting" strategy scans profile pages for keywords and sells ads against them. If you say you love burritos, for example, a banner ad for Taco Bell might appear at the top of your page. Facebook, on the other hand, involves its members more intimately in the process. The site gives members the option of sending an update to their friends with every purchase they make online--an extension of the news feed that tracks all the other things Facebook members do. If you choose to tell your friends about the Seinfeld DVD box set you just bought from Amazon, for example, your friends will also get a small ad right beneath that update. Advertisers can specify, on the basis of demographic data culled from a user's profile, exactly which members they want to view the ad.

It has the creepy prospect of turning your life into one big direct-mail campaign. But Facebook's Zuckerberg sees the new model as just another form of word-of-mouth. "Nothing influences people more than a recommendation from a friend," he says. To allay privacy concerns, Facebook makes sharing your shopping habits optional, but it's betting that for the bare-it-all generation growing up on social networks, broadcasting what you buy will seem as natural as posting the details of a bitter breakup--or what you ate for breakfast.

While Facebook has the momentum, its battle with MySpace is just heating up. "I don't think there is going to be one winner or loser," says Michael Morris, a media analyst with UBS. "Both MySpace and Facebook can flourish, just like there's more than one television network." Other big players are casting their lots with one or the other. Microsoft beat Google and Yahoo! in the bidding for Facebook. News Corp. bought MySpace for $580 million in 2005, and Google hosts MySpace's ads, guaranteeing at least $900 million in revenue through 2009.

There is no guarantee, however, that people will embrace the advertising models that Facebook and MySpace are pushing. "How do you serve up ads in such a fashion that your young, hip audiences aren't turned off by it?" asks venture capitalist Jim Timmins of Pagemill Partners. Google faced these same worries in 2004 when it launched context-sensitive ads inside its e-mail program Gmail. When the company went public later that year, skeptics voiced similar concerns about the viability of an ad-supported model for its search engine. Google now trades at more than $600 a share and could earn $4 billion this year.

Which brings us back to the real question: Is Facebook worth $15 billion? If it goes public sometime next year, as is widely expected, potential investors need to ask, "How big can Facebook grow?" says Internet analyst Bob Peck of Bear Stearns, who pegged Facebook's value at $6 billion in August. "You want to buy low expectations," says David Trainer, president of the business-valuation firm New Constructs. Google went public amid widespread skepticism, but Facebook has been anointed by its boosters as the next Google, despite MySpace's bigger audience and deeper pockets. As is always the case with the Web, some investors are going to make epic amounts of money. Others won't.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Holiday Movie Roundup

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By RICHARD CORLISS, BELINDA LUSCOMBE

Would it were not so, but moviegoing is not about you or what you want. If that were the case, summer would not be fuller than a public pool on Labor Day with action movies but devoid of serious or thought-provoking films. And December would not be more crammed than a Wal-Mart sale bin with interesting, challenging cinematic options but almost empty of fare for the family. But because of some weird alchemy of awards season, cooler weather and the public's need to feel depressed at year's end, a lot of ambitious movies are coming out now. To help you navigate, film critic RICHARD CORLISS and Arts editor BELINDA LUSCOMBE have put together a guide to those you should catch, those you should skip and those that look promising.

PREVIEW

Sweeney Todd

Starring Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman. Directed by Tim Burton. Opens Dec. 21

Johnny Depp returns with director Tim Burton! Johnny Depp gets to murder people with much splatter! Johnny Depp sings! Let's face it, the curiosity meter on this one is turned to 11. And it was even before Depp got poliosis (that's the medical term for that goofy white forelock he's sporting).

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, as the full title has it, has quite a history. It's the film version of the hit Stephen Sondheim Broadway musical, which was based on a '70s play based on a 19th century melodrama. All of those appear to have drawn on an urban myth about a barber who found an unconventional use for his straight razors and then an even more unconventional use for the bodies of his victims.

It's always a little tricky negotiating the road from Broadway musical to major motion picture, strewn as it is with the burned-out hulks of vehicles like 2005's The Producers and Rent. Viewers currently like their cinematic fantasy fairly realistic, the better to suspend disbelief. But in reality, only crazy people break into song in the course of regular conversation. Conversely, the weirder the movie musical is, the better it appears to work (see Moulin Rouge! or Chicago). This would seem to play to Burton's and Depp's strengths.

With Burton at the helm, for example, we know the film will be visually front-loaded. His London is very murky and dark, its citizens very pale and sickly, the better perhaps to complement all the blood they're about to be sloshing around in--or to remind us of old black-and-white horror films. We also know there will be an abundance of quirk. What's not certain is whether the film can find an audience. Will the buckets of gore and the presence of the erstwhile Captain Jack Sparrow--not to mention an appearance by Borat's Sacha Baron Cohen--draw in the young gotta-get-to-it first-weekend viewers? Will the musical credentials and actorly cast lure the older theater crowd? Or will the two elements cancel each other out: too

much violence for the fogies, too much singing and dancing for the kids?

Whether the movie turns out to be a bloodbath or a triumphal song, one thing's for sure: it will be cutting edge.

REVIEW

Atonement

Starring James McAvoy, Keira Knightley,Saoirse Ronan, Romola Garai ,Vanessa Redgrave. Directed by Joe Wright. Opens Dec. 7

It's not the heat of this summer day in 1935 that brings emotions to a boil; it's the erotic humidity. Two sisters in an upper-class English family are about to have their lives changed: lovely Cecilia (Knightley), by surrendering to a long-simmering attraction to the housekeeper's son (McAvoy); and 13-year-old Briony (Ronan), by catching them in the act of first love. Briony is intellectually precocious, sexually naive. The inferences she makes from what she's seen--and the vengeful uses she puts them to--open wounds that will take decades to heal.

Atonement, from Ian McEwan's novel, traces the impact of Briony's adolescent decision through World War II (when the girl, then 18, is played by Garai) and up to the present (with Redgrave as Briony, who is finally ready to make her confession). Each period in the film packs a seismic revelation; the ultimate one is both devastating and cleansing.

The Brits are past masters at viewing passion with precision. Atonement has echoes of 1971's The Go-Between (a youngster's confusion about a grownup love affair) and 2004's Closer (in which revenge is a stronger impulse than desire). All these films say we are creatures of our wills; it's what makes us human. Atonement says we can sink into sin and lift ourselves out. That's the message of this wise, beautifully acted parable of vengeance and contrition.

REVIEW

The Kite Runner

Starring Khalid Abdalla, Zekiria Ebrahimi, Ahmad Khan Mahmoodzada. Directed by Marc Forster. Opens Dec. 14

One of those rare literary works that became an addiction for millions of readers, Khaled Hosseini's novel has been filmed most reverently. The movie is the book, with its narrative force and fondness for plot clichés. Amir (Ebrahimi, far right), a child of privilege in Afghanistan, loves to fly kites with his best friend, Hassan (Mahmoodzada), the son of his father's servant. One day Hassan is raped by a bully and his gang, and Amir, who sees the assault, does nothing to stop it. Indeed, he becomes vindictive toward Hassan, leading to many betrayals and reversals that will be resolved only when the older Amir (Abdalla), now living in the U.S., returns to a homeland ravaged by the Taliban.

The film has an authentic feel, thanks to its use of Afghan children in the lead roles and dialogue in the native tongue. But at heart it's a Victorian novel transposed to war-torn Afghanistan: Dickens spoken in Dari. Every atrocity endured in childhood will face an equal and opposing vengeance at the end; virtually every major character will reappear later; family relationships are not what they seem. Readers (and viewers) don't love books (and movies) like The Kite Runner in spite of these clichés but because of them. The fierce tidying up of ancient grievances allows us to believe that there may be justice in the world--at least in fiction.

Forster (Monster's Ball, Stranger Than Fiction) has ingested this elixir deeply. He's not out to make a spare, understated art film; he knows that the novel owes more to Hollywood than to Iranian cinema. So he pushes each scene, each character to extremes. Viewers will either be swept away ennobled or feel manipulated, even as they wipe away tears. The emotions may be forced, but that doesn't mean the movie won't get to you.

That's because the kids are terrific, persuasively playing out their devotions and resentments. It happens that the producers are trying to help one of the children, who feared harm from Afghans for having appeared in the rape scene. We can only hope that this boy's story has a happy Hollywood ending.

REVIEW

Youth Without Youth

Starring Tim Roth, Alexandra Maria Lara, Bruno Ganz. Directed by Francis Ford Coppola. Opens Dec. 14

How many times can lightning strike? That's the theme of this film from a novella by Mircea Eliade. Dominic (Roth), an old professor, is ready to commit suicide when a lightning bolt nearly kills him, then miraculously restores him to vital middle age. He becomes involved with a woman (Lara) who reminds him of a lost love of his youth, and who seems to be channeling an ancient spirit. His gift of staying young holds a concomitant curse for her: she is aging before his eyes.

The first film Coppola has directed in a decade is not quite a triumph--its emotions fall flat at the end, when they ought to soar--but it is boldly romantic and seductively cinematic. The great American director of the '70s has survived with his operatic intensity intact. In Lara (Hitler's secretary in 2004's Downfall), he has an actress who can make emotions radiantly visible. Coppola, a starmaker from way back, still has an eye for charisma. In her performance, lightning strikes again.

REVIEW

There Will Be Blood

Starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Dillon Freasier, Paul Dano. Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson. Opens Dec. 26

Ambition can drive a man to greatness or drive him to destruction, or do both. That was the theme of many novels of the early 20th century. One, Upton Sinclair's Oil, is the inspiration for this inward, wayward epic that spans 30 years of a tycoon's career. Daniel Plainview (Day-Lewis, parading surface charm over a black heart) builds an oil empire on his tenacity, his ruthlessness and his seeming saving grace: a devotion to his son (Freasier), whom he totes from job to job.

Anderson's previous movies (Hard Eight, Boogie Nights, Magnolia, Punch Drunk Love) all teemed with vigorous eccentrics muscling themselves onto the screen. This film is stern, unaccommodating and, finally, daft. It's of a mind with its antihero, who says, "I don't care to explain myself." By the end, when Daniel faces off with a longtime preacher rival (Dano), the movie has retreated into its own deranged zone, to which even sympathetic viewers are forbidden.

PREVIEW

The Golden Compass

Starring Daniel Craig, Nicole Kidman, Dakota Blue Richards. Directed by Chris Weitz. Opens Dec. 7

And it came to pass that The Lord of the Rings begat sequels. And the sequels begat The Chronicles of Narnia. And behold, they were very profitable, being released in the Yuletide season, when families look for movies that all may enjoy. And lo, comes now The Golden Compass, based on another quasi-religious fantasy novel by a Brit and set in a parallel world in which kids must smite down malevolent forces. In this case, that's Kidman, playing one of this year's many very pale villains (see also Depp in Sweeney Todd, Tilda Swinton in Michael Clayton, Ralph Fiennes' Voldemort and the Legend mutants). The film's appeal will rest as much on how well the fantasy elements are handled as on how the story's more controversial anti-church elements have been transliterated for family audiences. So far, the omens look good.

PREVIEW

I Am Legend

Starring Will Smith. Directed by Francis Lawrence. Opens Dec. 14

The moratorium on using New York City as the site of huge disasters is officially over. In this iteration, Manhattan becomes ground zero for a nasty plague. Gotham is sealed off from the rest of the world and inhabited solely, it seems, by former humans who go crazy when

exposed to light--and by Will Smith. Oh, and his dog. The half hour of the movie that was screened for TIME was a nifty--and terrifying--mix of Cast Away and 28 Days Later. Smith has to forage for food (he goes deer-hunting in Times Square and pantry-diving in Tribeca), conduct experiments on rats to try to reverse the effects of the plague and, of course, fend off the ill-tempered creatures of the night. But what fun is there in all that if you have to do it alone? So he sends out a radio message every day asking for other survivors to meet him at South Street Seaport. (Clearly, he's hoping for tourists.) This is not the first movie to be made of the '50s science-fiction novel by Richard Matheson, but since filmgoers' appetite for both Mr. Smith and horror are at fever pitch, it may be the most eagerly anticipated.

PREVIEW

Charlie Wilson's War

Starring Tom Hanks, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Julia Roberts. Directed by Mike Nichols. Opens Dec. 25

Secretly, somewhere, do you miss The West Wing? All those good-looking people talking policy and politics, making Washington look so sexy and important? Well, add bigger-name stars, a global platform and a sex- and alcohol-steeped '80s milieu and you've got Charlie Wilson's War. Aaron Sorkin, who wrote West Wing and this, is like Michael Moore's alter ego. Moore makes fun of government; Sorkin makes government look fun. For the movie, he drew on the book of the same name, by journalist George Crile, about Congressman Wilson, a large-living Texan (Hanks), who orchestrated the covert funding of the mujahedin in Afghanistan, thus striking a blow against the Soviets--and arming a bunch of religious extremists. Hanks gets an assist from two able co-conspirators: Roberts, who plays a rich religious society dame from Houston, and Hoffman (above, with Hanks), a maniacal renegade CIA agent. Whether the appeal of Hanks and Roberts plus the direction of Nichols can bring out an audience that has so far not embraced movies about war is unclear, but the cast and subject matter suggest Charlie is gunning for an Oscar.

REVIEW

The Orphanage

Starring Belén Rueda. Directed by Juan Antonio Bayona. Opens Dec. 28

Not many people hear that a house is haunted and want to move in. But Laura (Rueda) does. She was happy growing up in an orphanage; now she lives there with her husband and adopted son, eager to commune with the troubled spirits of her childhood friends. Like last year's Pan's Labyrinth, this superior Spanish thriller artfully mingles the real and the fantastic. To see it is to believe in the power of movies to evoke the darkest, most potent emotions and to get a case of those old-fashioned old-dark-house chills.

REVIEW

Juno

Starring Michael Cera, Jennifer Garner, Ellen Page. Directed by Jason Reitman. Opens Dec. 5

With all the anguish that accompanies most debates about teenage pregnancy, it's fun to meet a girl for whom being pregnant is a) kind of, like, a huge drag but also weirdly interesting and b) a chance to, you know, find some folks who want a baby and hand one over. That young woman is Juno MacGuff, a misfit teen with a plucky, distinctive view on life (she finds prospective adoptive parents in a supermarket circular) and an idiosyncratic vocabulary to go with it (she refers to her fetus as a "sea monkey"). The movie was written, in one of those only-in-Hollywood scenarios, by the equally idiosyncratic Diablo Cody after a talent manager stumbled across her blog and got her a deal. Garner and Jason Bateman play the potential parents, but it's Juno's dad (J.K. Simmons) and stepmom (Allison Janney) who steal the show. This is not the first movie this year in which people get pregnant and then find out how they feel about each other, but it could be the most humane.

PEOPLE

Person of the Year

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007

John Irving The author and screenwriter wrote The Cider House Rules and The World According to Garp

For the 2007 Person of the Year, I nominate Al Gore. He won the popular vote for President in 2000 and arguably won Florida--and had it stolen from him in a 5-4 U.S. Supreme Court vote that fell along partisan lines. Since that election, Gore has devoted himself to bringing awareness to environmental issues that endanger the planet, namely global warming.

Whoopi Goldberg Comedian and co-host of The View, who is an Oscar, Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress

My nomination is the word green. It's now on the lips of little-bitty babies coming from their mothers' wombs. It's being used by people who never thought about it before in their lives--people who never cared about recycling or anything like that. People who you would never think would do such a small thing are doing it because it's all about going green to make the world better.

Lance Armstrong The testicular-cancer survivor and retired cyclist is a seven-time winner of the Tour de France

For the 2007 Person of the Year, I would like to nominate the voters of Texas for their leadership in the fight against cancer. In the election this fall, they approved $3 billion in bonds to fund cancer research and prevention--up to $300 million for more than 10 years--an investment that's going to benefit not only Texans but also cancer survivors all over this nation and the globe.

Steve Chen Co-founder and chief technology officer of the video-sharing website YouTube

The Burmese Buddhist monks demonstrated on a global scale their humble, peaceful protests for a set of inalienable, basic human rights that no government can revoke or suppress. As information technology created the opportunity for faster, more expansive content distribution, the actions of the monks spurred inspiration and support worldwide within days

of their march.

10 Questions for Mark Cuban

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007 By CAROLYN SAYRE

Mark Cuban.
Tim Heitman / NBAE / Getty

You may recognize him as the Dallas Mavericks' loudmouth owner. But this tech billionaire has also got rhythm: he recently shimmied his hips on Dancing with the Stars. *Mark Cuban will now take your questions.*

You are often seen as outspoken and controversial. Did you go on *Dancing with the Stars* to change what people think? *—Debra Parrish, Boston*
Yes, I need to change people's perception of me and let them know the new Mark. I'm not a screamer, but if there's a Mavericks game on and I yell for one second of it, that [ends up] on TV. Dancing was also a better way to rehab [after my hip replacement] than traditional physical therapy.

What is the key to the Mavericks' success? *—Michael Nassar, College Park, MD.*

The key is having great players. But there are a lot of teams that have All-Stars and haven't been able to put it together. I try to make it fun and put people in a position to succeed.

Rumor has it you're looking to buy one of the upstart football leagues. Do you think it can get enough quality players from the NFL to make an impact? *—Dave LaCasse, Wauwatosa, Wis.*

I don't think there's any question that the UFL [United Football League] or any other league that wants to challenge the NFL can have an impact. The demand for professional football is off the charts.

I'm sure that people ask you for money all the time. What's the craziest thing someone's actually asked you to pay for? *—Michelle Rodriguez, Lynbrook, N.Y.*

Oh, the list is long, from hair implants to braces to breast implants. I always get, "I heard that you're worth X amount of dollars, so one-tenth of 1%—you're not going to miss it. Would you just write me a check?" It's fun. It's a good problem to have.

You made billions in the dotcom boom. What's the next great financial opportunity? *—Penny Moore, Columbus, Ohio*

If I were capable of predicting that, I'd already be there. The one thing I know is that the next opportunity won't be on the Internet. It will be a technology that is somewhere else. Some 10-year-old little girl will come up with it, and we'll all wonder how we missed it.

It seems that you make good decisions. When evaluating a player or business, do you use gut instinct or cold hard facts? *—Madison Welch, Arlington, Va.*

Cold hard facts. Even gut instinct is based on facts. It's like the book *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*—whatever facts you've ingested over the years, that's what you use. When people say, "My gut tells me," I ask, "Why?" And then you [can] combine that with stats. I'm always looking to get an edge.

You founded HDnet, a network that broadcasts entirely in high definition. Why is HD so slow to dominate television? *—Majeed Arni, Austin, Texas*

The picture has been dumbed down. High-definition TVs have one of the highest return rates of any consumer-electronics products, because people get home and the picture quality

sucks. If you watch a sporting event on HDnet or CBS, you can see the difference, but you can't on other networks.

Are you going to launch a celebrity mixed-martial-arts show? *—Dave McGrath, Clive, Iowa*
We're talking to Mario López to put together a celebrity mixed-martial-arts [a judo-boxing-wrestling combo] program where celebs beat the heck out of each other. It sounds like fun depending on who the celebs are. I could think of a few names. [*Laughs.*]

Any chance you'll get involved in politics? *—Mike Brand, Tallahassee, Fla.*
I hate politics. It's slimy. Any job where people pander for votes, I don't like. The country has gotten so partisan that if you're not on my side, you're the enemy. The only thing I ever try to support is a third party, like Unity08. We need more parties and more choice.

What's your beef with Donald Trump? *—Owen Murphy, Philadelphia*
Donald always picks on people, and a lot of them aren't in a position to stand up to him. I couldn't care less about the guy, so when I stand up to him, I am standing up for all the people who are afraid to. He's all show and no go.

Was it difficult performing on *Dancing with the Stars* with a hip replacement? *—Karen Mois, Beatrice, Neb.*
The hip held up, but it was really strenuous. I lost 30 pounds in less than three months. I'm the one guy who was not an athlete or an entertainer—so obviously, this wasn't natural for me. But, I had a choice. I could either go through rehab with a traditional therapist or dance in the show. Dancing was a lot more fun.

Do you think Major League Baseball should let you bid on the Chicago Cubs? *—Miguel Santiago, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico*
I'm interested, but there isn't really more to say beyond that. The first step was being approved as a potential bidder, which I've been through, but the process has not progressed much further. I'd love to be able to do, but we'll see what happens.

What are your plans for Wrigley Field if you do purchase the Cubs? *—Ken Davis, Fargo, N.D.*
That is way in the future, if it ever happens. When I got to the Mavericks people were all giving

me advice—change this, change that—and one thing that I didn't do was fire anybody. I came in and said 'Let's see what's going on. That is what I would do with any sports team I purchase. See what works, what doesn't, get people's input and then make a decision.

You have been extremely outspoken against the NBA's management in the past. Do you think Mr. Commissioner Stern has dropped the ball on handling the officiating scandal? *—Eylon Garfunkel, Tel Aviv*

I think he handled it quite well. There are only so many ways to deal with crisis management, I think we have gotten to the point where we have put it behind us and fans will trust the NBA. I don't think it will happen again. I always ask myself, 'Are we doing business in the best way possible to make our fans and customers happy?' I don't necessarily think that the NBA has always done that, and that is where we tend to butt heads. There is a "if it's working, don't fix it perspective" and I think that is a mistake.

One of the more famous comments you made to an NBA official landed you a shift scooping ice cream at Dairy Queen. How was it? *—Terrell Reynolds, Scottsdale, Ariz.*

I would never ask somebody to do a job I wouldn't do myself. Everybody's job is important. So when Dairy Queen asked me if I wanted to come work for a day, I was like, 'Wow, that would be a blast!' I love blizzards—I probably eat too much of them, so I went out there and hung out with the people. Little did I know there would be lines more than a mile long and helicopters [flying overhead]. It was a big circus.

Are you trying to do anything to help low-income families attend more games? *—Mike Diaz, Brooklyn, N.Y.*

We pick 10 games a year and we make 1,500 seats available for $2 a piece. Every single game of the year, for single tickets, you can walk up to the box-office on the day of the game—if we have a ticket available—and get tickets for $5 upstairs and $30 downstairs. We have also lowered the price of the upstairs bowl the last three years in a row—even though we had the best record in the NBA last year. Rather than using that as an opportunity to raise prices upstairs, we took it as an opportunity to lower prices.

Did you ever imagine that your life would turn out this way when you were a kid? *—Michelle Rodriquez, Lynbrook, N.Y.*

[*Laughs.*] No chance, no how. I'm not the type to pat myself on the back and all that, but somebody has to be lucky, right? When I got to Dallas, I was struggling—sleeping on the floor with six guys in a three-bedroom apartment. I used to drive around, look at the big houses, and imagine what it would be like to live there and use that as motivation. But I never ever imagined that would happen to me. I try not to take any of it for granted and make sure that no one ever pinches me so I never wake up.

Imagine if all your money and possessions were taken away from you, but you were allowed to keep one material thing. What would it be? *—Lanai Winter, Chico Calif.*
Diapers. I have little kids. Everything else I could figure out, but I would need those diapers.

Divine Import

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By COCO MASTERS

A sake vessel and cups at Sushi Samba on Park Avenue South in New York City.

Ben Fink for TIME

The shinto gods must be jealous. As sake brewers (toji) continue to close up shop and sales of their product slow in Japan, what has been known for millenniums as the drink of the gods is sidling up to American bars and being given ample space on the shelves of wine shops and on wine lists from coast to coast.

Sake. Chances are you've heard of it. Chances might also be that you can't remember the first time you tasted it--or at least what ensued in the wake of a few generously poured ochoko, or ceramic cups. But after decades of the drink being sold--and mass-produced--in the U.S., America's acceptance of Japanese rice wine has matured beyond that of the warm tipple gulped by sushi-going Japanophiles to become a premium drink of choice, sipped with an Asian or a European food pairing or just chilled and enjoyed on its own.

Previously dealing only in wine and spirits, many American importers are now self-proclaimed enthusiasts cum evangelists who are broadening their palates and expertise to include premium sake. Refrigerated containers, improved shipping logistics and an increasing number of importers forging business relationships with eager Japanese microbrewers from Hokkaido to Kyushu are turning the U.S. into what many have long predicted: sake's next big market. Distributors are expanding their portfolios to include a fourth beverage just for the divine drink, as jisake (premium sake) finds its way into more beverage programs across cuisines and states. There are roughly 600 registered labels in the U.S. from 400 breweries in Japan.

Importers are intoxicated by the rapid growth of what is now a $30 million market--at cost. While the number of Japanese breweries (kura) has dropped to 1,800 (from 2,400) over the past two decades--and is expected to fall to 600 by 2025--imported sake constitutes about 25% of the U.S. sake market by volume. Imports have risen from 10% to 15% a year for the past decade, and import volume in 2007 will be nearly twice what it was in 2002. Over the past five years, the average import cost of a liter has risen 30%, and the dollar value per case has tripled, to about $70, roughly $18 a bottle. "America is ultimately the market," says William Giles of Honolulu-based World Sake Imports. "America will influence the direction and variation in sake as it goes forward." Some importers expect the value of sake imports to double again in a little more than three years.

"Any way you slice it, those are big numbers," says Ed Lehrman of Vine Connections, an importer of Argentine wine and Japanese sake based in Sausalito, Calif. "Sake is becoming more of a requirement as part of a complete program for distributors and major importers." Lehrman began as a wine connoisseur and marketer, tasting about 3,000 wines a year, before starting Vine Connections with wine partner Nick Ramkowsky and importing what has become a 12-brand sake portfolio, which accounts for about 30% of the company's sales. Lehrman says that sake's lack of tannin structure and its low acidity compared with wine make it a drink that's hard not to like. "Our role is part evangelist and part educator," he says. He educates restaurants and retailers on sake's finer points, which, he says, can be approached through a lens of wine knowledge. "The kind of wine you like is the kind of sake you like," he says. "It seems to be a direct crossover. If you like white Burgundy, you'll like Niigata-style sake. [The taste is] clean."

Three years ago, Henry Sidel, 39, traded the fast track of vodka imports for sake. The former Brooklyn Brewery general manager and marketing director of Millennium Import started Joto Sake, an import firm, with $250,000 in equity and a personal lust for the drink. "More sake is sold in the U.S. than French champagne," he says dryly, sitting in his warehouse office in Manhattan. "People think of sake as a niche category. It's not."

Joto Sake now boasts 150 restaurants and retailers that offer its 10 brands from six Japanese producers. Sales doubled in 2006 from 2005, and Sidel expects to break even this year with revenue of a little more than $1 million. "Sake is transitioning from the image of being cheap, hot and in a little carafe that gets you hammered to one of a fine wine with a lot of complexity, flavor and craftsmanship," he says.

And craftsmanship and authenticity are exactly what sake drinkers seek. "People want authentic experiences," Sidel says. "When they buy sake, they want a piece of Japanese culture." Not being able to read the label, however, is like walking blindfolded off a flight to Tokyo: you may have arrived, but you won't get very far. For Americans, part of the intimidation factor with sake selection is not only lack of exposure but also those pesky Japanese characters. Even after four years of college-level Japanese, Sidel couldn't read the labels, so he has tried to carve out what he calls a middle ground by incorporating more visual

elements and English. Joto Sake's packaging now includes descriptions and a "bit of education." Oversimplifying the label, he says, as some competitors do, "might look cool but isn't helpful to Americans."

Sake buyer Paul Tanguay says more information in English on the label is key to U.S. sales. And he's one to be heard. Having worked with every distributor in the U.S. while he was the beverage director of Sushi Samba restaurants nationwide, Tanguay is a formidable player in the popularization of the drink and imported sake's upward trajectory. "So much of what goes into developing brands in this business is distribution," says Sidel. "This is true of management of any luxury good or product--who is buying it, who is drinking it--and that is determined by distribution."

Tanguay plans to continue educating sake drinkers as Vine Connections' national sake ambassador. "Paul will add significantly more bandwidth," says Lehrman. "He brings a lot of experience from the buyer's side." Tanguay says growth in sake consumption may not be evident in places like New York City, but it's definitely heading inland from the coasts.

As restaurants revamp their sake lists for increasingly refined palates, it is clear that demand for premium sake goes well beyond Asian food. "Sake has the ability to be molded to what you want--to adapt to the flavor of the dish," says Tanguay. "You can't do that with wine." Haute-cuisine restaurants--from New York's Per Se to Chicago's Charlie Trotter's to Rubicon in San Francisco--are increasingly looking to sake pairings to satiate--and educate--diners. This fall, in the custard-colored dining room of Chanterelle, an icon of French cuisine in Manhattan, the restaurant held its ninth annual sake-pairing dinner. The chandeliered room flowed with Japanese syllables as master sommelier Roger Dagorn led the pouring of a different sake with each of the nine courses. At the main table sat the sake master of the Japan Prestige Sake Association, Kazu Yamazaki, a premier importer in the U.S. and probably the first to introduce aged sake to Americans and to teach about sake varieties. He says that while drinking sake in restaurants is common, the real accomplishment is that imports have allowed people to drink sake at home. "To us, that's the way sake should be," Yamazaki says.
Chris Pearce, owner, importer and distributor of World Sake Imports, says the growth of imports is no tsunami, but it is encouraging. "At the corporate level, they're staying away from sake because it's too much work," he says. "My basic rule with anything that has to do with

sake is that it takes 2 1⁄2 times as much effort because the educational element is unknown." Pearce is very much a purist: "You can't go into sake with a wine background and understand it. You have to understand it on its own." But, he adds, "it's exactly like wine, in that people will turn on to better ones." That should keep importers--and the Shinto gods--happy for years to come.

What's the Buzz?

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By MARION HUME

Fortnum and Mason’s beekeeper Steve Benbow tends to his beehives near Tower Bridge in the City of London.
Steve J. Benbow

You wouldn't expect a guy wearing muddy boots and worn moleskin pants to saunter past the formally dressed footmen at London's Fortnum & Mason, the famous Piccadilly food emporium that's a favorite of the British royals. But Steve Benbow, 38, is not your average fancy-food consumer. He is one of many urban apiarists, or beekeepers, in the British capital, and although he usually enters Fortnum's by the staff door and heads to the roof, where he oversees four beehives, some days he can't resist stopping on the grand ground floor for the thrill of seeing his name on one of the store's posh products.

Come spring, when Benbow's hives return to the roof after a yearlong renovation at Fortnum's, hundreds of thousands of his honeybees will be buzzing over to Buckingham Palace, specifically its 42-acre (17 hectare) private garden, the source of pollen and nectar for their very fine honey.

For the aficionado, city honey is purer, according to Benbow, because in the country you have oilseed rape, genetically modified crops, pesticides and fertilizers, whereas traffic pollution doesn't seem to affect bees. City bees are more productive: ample food plus warmer temperatures mean they yield up to three times as much honey as their country cousins, according to the British Beekeepers Association. "London's a delight for a bee, because there are so many flowering plants and trees," says Benbow, who describes the taste of the honey he collects from 17 other hives he has hidden on London rooftops as similar to floral toffee. While beekeeper numbers are hard to gauge, Benbow estimates there are several hundred in inner London.

Cities need bees for pollination as well as honey, but honeybees now particularly need city folk for their window boxes and gardens. In the country, their numbers are in steep decline, in part because of intensive farming and the loss of hedgerows. But what of their sting? "The worst-tempered bees I know are those kept on the heather in Wales," says Benbow. "My London honeybees are a gentler breed." That said, Benbow keeps his hives high, so that the bees head out from them way above people's heads before dropping down to forage.

That might be cold comfort if your knowledge of bees is based more on the 1978 movie The Swarm than on this season's box-office honeypot Bee Movie. "My job is to make sure swarming doesn't happen," says Benbow, who monitors his London hives weekly during the high season.

Keeping city bees safely is an art that the French teach right in central Paris in a rucher école (hive school) next to an apiary established in the Luxembourg Gardens in 1856 that houses about a million bees. Beekeeping in Paris is, well, a hive of activity, with colonies living on private balconies, at an inner-city nunnery and, famously, atop both the Opéra Bastille and the Palais Garnier, the latter still tended by Jean Paucton, 73. Paucton's bees forage in the Tuileries Gardens, the chestnut trees of the Champs-Élysées and the linden trees of the Palais Royal. The

honey they produce sells at a premium price at Fauchon.

While urban beekeeping is buzzing in Europe and the U.S.--San Francisco is full of busy bees, and Chicago's green-roof program provides ideal space for hives--it is illegal in Manhattan, where honeybees fall under an ordinance that forbids keeping animals that are "wild, ferocious, fierce, dangerous or naturally inclined to do harm." The solution, it seems, is to put hives up high, where they will be undetected and give the bees easy access to rooftop gardens. David Graves, 57, who has hives on the Upper West Side, in Harlem and on a 12-story hotel in the East Village, says he's never been bothered by the city, "although if a neighbor didn't like bees, I'd give them a jar of honey and move to another roof."

Honeypot. Where to find the best urban honey in three cities

Fortnum's Bees Superior Honey www.fortnumandmason-usa.com $21 for 8 oz. (227 g)

Miel récolte sur les toits de l'Opéra de Paris (honey harvested on the rooftops of the Paris Opera): A limited supply is available at Fauchon's Place de la Madeleine store; $17.75 for 4.4 oz. (125 g)

David Graves' Rooftop Magic NYC honey Sold at the Berkshire Berries stand at New York City's Union Square Greenmarket on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, or visit berkshireberries. com $15 for 8 oz. (227 g)

The Ultimate Meal

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 By LYDIA ITOI

A traditional setting for a Japanese Tea Ceremony at Kitcho in Osaka, Japan..
Andreas Seibert for TIME

As my husband and I entered Osaka's Kitcho restaurant, we knew we were in for a one-of-a-kind meal: a master class in kaiseki, or formal banquet cuisine, and also in luxury, Japanese-style. Kaiseki is nothing like most Japanese food abroad. Sukiyaki, tempura, teppanyaki and even sushi are modern and often fusion inventions, many of them created to suit foreign tastes. A kaiseki banquet consists of multiple elaborate minicourses of rare seasonal ingredients, most unknown outside Japan. More than a meal, it's a multidisciplinary feast for the senses. Since it has roots in the Zen tea ceremony, kaiseki encompasses literature, ceramics, ikebana, painting and the art of dinner conversation. It requires some cultural literacy, not to mention deep pockets. It also requires sitting on the floor for hours and decent chopstick skills.

Kitcho is more like a private club than a restaurant. For three generations, the Yuki family has been serving exquisite food to the social and literary élite. It doesn't open its doors to just anyone with a fistful of yen and a taste for adventure. Naturally, our request for a table at the main restaurant was declined. A Kitcho meal is a limited edition not to be squandered on walk-ins. We were politely directed instead to one of Kitcho's licensed branches. These Kitcho-brand outposts, located in posh hotels in major cities, are practical for novices, down to the English menus and the tables and chairs. However, they are the culinary equivalent of ready-to-wear when we had set our hearts on haute couture. I've heard that people in Kyoto will ruin themselves for clothes, while in Osaka it's food. Since the original Kitcho is the bastion of

traditional Osakan gastronomy, we were hell-bent on ruining ourselves there.

I reassured Kitcho that we weren't strangers to kaiseki. We've eaten at many exclusive kaiseki restaurants, including the renowned Hyotei and Kikunoi. I speak passable Japanese, and my epicurean husband happily devours everything from poison-blowfish sperm to stewed snapping turtle. Kitcho doesn't take credit cards, so we were prepared to pay $400 to $600 per person in cash. But in Japan--and certainly at Kitcho--protocol and relationships are sacred. You are nobody until someone introduces you properly. For us the magic word came from a friend, the Catalan chef Santi Santamaria, who had been introduced by the director of a well-known Japanese culinary school.

Once Kitcho's discreet doors finally slid open, it was a lesson in omotenashi, or no-holds-barred hospitality. No detail would be overlooked to make us feel welcome and the experience exceptional. Likewise, we had to fulfill our part of the deal by being appreciative clients. Like a tango, kaiseki is a collaboration between host and guest.

The first move was an invitation to steep ourselves in Kitcho's tradition. We were ushered into a European parlor and sat stiffly on the ornately carved green-leather chairs sipping ice-cold umeshu, a sweet plum cordial. A maid came to conduct us to our table, which was set in a private tatami room and big enough to seat 20. The vast, minimalist space was fit for a state dinner (in fact, the former Prime Minister had once stopped by for lunch). But if there were any other guests, we saw no sign of them. Our privacy was almost daunting.

As we admired our surroundings, the proprietress, or okami-san, came in to keep us company during the meal. For all her aristocratic bearing, Mrs. Hiroko Yuki turned out to be the soul of Kitcho's omotenashi hospitality. Her warmth instantly turned the cavernous banquet hall into an intimate and lively dinner party. We forgot to be self-conscious about having a stranger watch us eat, and soon we were chatting about everything from climbing Mount Fuji to collecting ceramics. We were eating from heirloom Baccarat crystal dishes in traditional Japanese shapes.

In addition to presenting the museum-quality pieces on the table, Mrs. Yuki directed the feast as three waitresses served course after course with chilled sake specially brewed for the house.

Like a symphony, kaiseki tempo alternates between big movements and adagio interludes. The meal follows a single seasonal theme, but each course features a different cooking method. The overture was mushiawabi--steamed abalone--a luxurious opening. A subdued salad of zuiki, or taro stems, seemed to say that opulence must avoid ostentation. The clear soup arrived, an important kaiseki moment. When we lifted the lacquer lids, an aromatic tsunami swept us away. Matsutake mushrooms! Pairing the first fall mushrooms with the last summer hamo, or conger eel, pinpointed the season exactly. The sashimi course was a spectacular return to Indian summer. It was served not on priceless china but on a dewy lotus leaf, which unfurled to reveal two slices of raw sea bass, another couplet of fatty tuna and a torigai clam on crushed ice. More fresh leaves covered the hassun, a tray containing a medley of elaborate bites peeking out from under the greenery. It was fun discovering each tidbit, ranging from a deep-fried freshwater shrimp to salmon roe in a carved citrus cup.

By the time we came to the roasted oysters dengaku, Mrs. Yuki was discussing my husband's luxury business. In kaiseki, the first half-dozen courses are just nibbles to go with sake; the real meal is rice. In fact, the Japanese words for "meal" and "rice" are the same, gohan. That night's main event was another matsutake masterpiece, which the okami-san herself dished from the old-fashioned pot. The final bowl of shaved ice and matcha-tea syrup combined a clever reference to the tea ceremony with a last, nostalgic taste of summer.

As we reluctantly said goodbye, I remembered the Zen mantra ichigo ichie, meaning "one chance, one meeting." In kaiseki, it is the mandate to treat each moment as precious, never to be repeated. At the door, Mrs. Yuki said she hoped to see us again. No matter how often we do, I know each encounter will be the meal of a lifetime.

Decoding the menu. A matter of courses

Course No. 1: Sakizuke, the first appetizer

Course No. 2: Salad

Course No. 3: Wan (lidded bowl)--usually a clear soup

Course No. 4: Tsukuri (sashimi)

Course No. 5: Naka-choko or shinogi--an interim dish, usually small canapés

Course No. 6: Hassun, an elaborate tray of small bites

Course No. 7: Yakimono--the grilled course, which often consists of fish

Course No. 8: Takiawase (a medley of separately simmered vegetables)

Course No. 9: Gohan (rice course)--considered to be the heart of the meal and usually includes vegetables

Course No. 10: Mizumono (seasonal dessert)--usually fruit

Course No. 11: Kashi (sweet)--shaved ice, ice cream or a cooked dessert

LETTERS

Inbox

Defining the Clinton Doctrine

I am a proud, loyal Democrat who is opposed to the candidacy of Senator Hillary Clinton for President [Nov. 19]. I have no problem with her positions on the issues or her little sashay to the right in anticipation of the general election. And my opposition certainly does not rise to the level of hatred. But the voters (with a little help from the Supreme Court) have already passed the presidency from a Bush to a Clinton to another Bush. Now it could be passed back to another Clinton, and I'd bet that Jeb Bush is patiently awaiting his turn. I have nothing against Clinton, except her name. Alternating the presidency between two political dynasties seems fundamentally undemocratic. There is a full slate of highly capable candidates with names other than Clinton who are vying for the Democratic nomination. I hope one of them wins.

Craig Cranston, WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

Joe Klein tended to exaggerate Clinton's strengths and downplay her weaknesses. He even went so far as to declare that her new health-care plan is courageous and detailed. I'll go along with detailed. Indeed, it might be the best of those proposed. But courageous? Why hasn't she submitted such legislation since she became a Senator six years ago? The answer, as anyone but her most blindly loyal supporters ought to see, is that there would have been no political advantage in doing so. Now is the ideal time to present it to voters as a key part of her platform. And Iowa, where the first votes will be cast, was the ideal place to unveil it. If that isn't slippery, cold and calculating, I don't know what is.

Tom Forman GAINESVILLE, FLA.

Clinton's credentials are far superior to those of anyone else in the pack. I consider her the U. S.'s best female public figure since Eleanor Roosevelt. If she does not win her party's nomination, it will be a clear sign to the world that women's equality is another cause America preaches but does not practice.

David L. Enderle, FREEBURG, ILL.

I'm still waiting for the answer as to what she believes. I'd be inspired and excited to vote for the former First Lady if she would just answer a question instead of letting sheep like Klein explain her ambiguous responses. Everybody gets that she can be as politically savvy as any former President--Democrat or Republican--but by continuing to avoid taking and presenting a position, she'll eventually deal herself out of the big card game.

Brian Ahern, SANDWICH, MASS.

Crazy Little Thing Called Hate

Rich Lowry's viewpoint, "The World of Hillary Hatred," was off the mark [Nov. 19]. What conservatives hate about Clinton is that she is a woman. It's nothing more than old-fashioned sexism. Equal rights have always been anathema to them.

Richard Rowland, DELTONA, FLA.

I think most voters don't hate Clinton; they just question if she is the right person to lead the country. I hope people will not base their votes on hatred, gender or any other narrow reason. Otherwise, our great country may wind up on the losing end.

Chuck Arkens, HATFIELD, PA

Lowry wrote, "Conservatives bristle at the sense of being told what to do, and they detect a tone of moral superiority in her advocacy of children's programs and health care." That's ironic since conservatives present themselves as the ones who hold the moral high ground, preaching family values and taking every opportunity to tell the masses how to live their lives. Perhaps when conservatives see Clinton, they see themselves--and don't like it.

Rob Hernandez, LIBERTYVILLE, ILL.

What's in a Name?

Kudos to Katonah, N.Y., for fighting Martha Stewart's efforts to trademark the town's name [Nov. 19]. Is Stewart's ego so big that she has to own a town's name? This is identity theft, another example of the avarice of corporations and the people who run them. Who gives these demigods the right to tell people what's best for them? Stewart should take a page from Katonah's history and move herself!

Beth Keifer, OVIEDO, FLA.

Circa 1964, I was a resident of Katonah and had the privilege of serving as president of the Katonah Village Improvement Society. During my tenure, the society was responsible for building the beautiful library in town. (I just wanted to make the point that the society does more than organize protests.)

William R. Brown, PAUMA VALLEY, CALIF.

Don't Dis Donny

In the obit on George Osmond, you gave his son Donny Osmond short shrift [Nov. 19]. For one thing, you misspelled his first name. And you suggested that Marie was the biggest star in the family. Donny sold more records and had more success onstage. In TV, they're about even. (He hosted the game show Pyramid for a couple of years; she's on Dancing with the Stars.) Give the man his due.

Paul Grein, STUDIO CITY, CALIF.

Dueling Taboos

The Muslim and western cods indeed clash, as Carla Power noted [Nov. 19]. Question any religious people about public displays of flesh, and they will tell you they abhor it. Muslims may take concealing skin a bit too far, but having witnessed what its exposure has done to Western societies, I prefer to wear my head scarf and my long dress. Besides, I like to receive recognition because of the faith I display, not because of the skin I expose. And in the private realm, sex should be discussed with decency.

Belqis Ahmed, YONKERS, N.Y.

It wasn't that long ago that U.S. citizens held views similar to those of today's Muslims. Fifty years ago, most Americans considered public breast-feeding indecent, the comedy of Lenny Bruce criminal, George Carlin's "Seven Dirty Words" punishable and Henry Miller's now classic Tropic of Cancer obscene. Likewise, prior to the 1960s most people openly prayed. In my travels to Muslim countries, I found the younger generation to be just as hip as most of our teenagers. Once they come to power in 30 years, their idea of what's indecent will be closer to ours.

Jeffrey Sears, WESTON, CONN.

'Tis Which Season?

Thanks to Nancy Gibbs for her thoughts on the rather confusing and sad overlapping of our

holidays [Nov. 19]. I shopped for a Halloween costume in mid-September for fear there would be none the week before the holiday. Lo and behold, the last week in October, I saw a shift from pumpkins and scarecrows to elves and ornaments--not a costume in sight, and Thanksgiving had just been left in the dust. It's disheartening that holidays have become a retailer's trap for the consumer and that we've lost their real meaning altogether. I had to chuckle while reading the article because just a couple of days before, my son and I walked into a store that was decorated for Christmas and he pointed excitedly and said, "Mama, look at the Halloween tree!"

Jennifer Vachon, PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Real-Life Enemies

Re "The Don Quixote of Darfur" [Nov. 12]: Luis Moreno-Ocampo helped prosecute the worst criminals in the history of my native Argentina, an unimaginable task that would have cost him his life only a few months earlier. But your article's title seemed to imply that Moreno-Ocampo, now prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, is engaged in acts of futility. Don Quixote fought imaginary enemies represented by windmills, while Moreno-Ocampo is fighting the world's worst real enemies: those who commit crimes against humanity. We should cherish the unparalleled moral clarity of Moreno-Ocampo, who provides stark contrast to other officials, like the recently appointed Attorney General, who refused to say whether or not waterboarding is torture.

Ricardoj. Galarza, GUILDERLAND, N.Y.

As an argentine, I am very proud of Moreno-Ocampo. I want to congratulate him for getting so far in his career and working so hard to bring justice to Darfur. I wish him very good luck.

Elina Salvarregui, NASHVILLE

The First Cut Is the Deepest

Your article on male circumcision didn't mention the protective, sensory and sexual functions

of the foreskin [Nov. 12]. A boy's intact foreskin protects against urine and fecal matter during the diaper phase, contains numerous erogenous receptors and matures into a natural sliding and gliding mechanism that enables nonabrasive, self-lubricating sexual activity. Research has found that circumcision removes the most sensitive parts of the penis. Any discussion of circumcision should start with the foreskin's biological role.

Erica Fuchs, AMES, IOWA

Thanks for bringing attention to an issue we rarely give thought to, despite being disgusted by reports of female circumcision. The surgery causes severe pain and trauma, yet many doctors still don't use anesthesia. The genital health of European males is comparable to that of U.S. males, and it is better in some ways--for example, HIV infection rates are lower among (mostly intact) European males than among (mostly circumcised) U.S. males.

Amber Craig, DURHAM, N.C.

Your article was hardly neutral, what with a picture of a crying baby, another showing a banner that read STOP INFANT CIRCUMCISION, and a quote in large boldface type from a member of an anticircumcision group who claims he "always felt something was missing." He should get his head examined, not the body part in question.

Ken Cowan, PARIS

If Americans would get over their religion and sex taboos and teach their children hygiene, parents would not be mutilating their sons. I'm sure God or whoever the grand designer is put the foreskin there for a reason. Leave it on, and keep it clean!

Jim Malatak, SEATTLE

Parking-Lot Potluck

"The Art of Tailgating" reminded me of a luncheon my husband and I planned about 30 years ago, prior to a UNC-Duke football game [Nov. 12]. We encountered horrendous traffic and had no time for our party, so we carried our coolers into the stadium and ate our quiche, raw

vegetables and dip at our seats. Apparently our Yankee menu caused quite a sensation, and people all around us were staring and pointing. Finally, one young Southern gentleman, seated several seats to the right in the row below us, became so curious that he yelled, "What are they eating?" The answer was swift and tinged with horror from those seated immediately in front of us: "Custard pie and uncooked vegetables!" We still get a chuckle over that "tailgate party."

Bonnie Martha Hall, HINGHAM, MASS.