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WAITING GAME
Mohan, 40, dates
online and goes to
dances but hasn't
yet found a mate

wed by then move into family-oriented wards. Jody Morrison was a mainstay of her singles ward outside Milwau-

kee, Wis., running the women's group and organizing substitute Family Home Evenings. But after she turned 31 in October 2004, she transferred to her area family ward, where she is the only unmarried person her age. "I did go through a kind of mourning period," she says. In the past year, Morrison has integrated into her new ward by teaching Sunday school and making new friends. Still, she now spends Family Home Evenings home alone.

Some family wards sponsor programs for their single members, but those can be small groups filled with older divorced and widowed people, particularly in areas where the Mormon population is low. Marie Wilson, who converted to the LDS faith 10 years ago, is the only never married member of the singles group in her Winston-Salem, N.C., ward and, at 35, the youngest by at least a decade. Her church friends, she says, "can't relate because most of them have been married since they were in their early 20s. I've lived alone my entire life."

Finding a spouse remains the priority. Internet dating sites, like LDSHearts.com, are popular. But the church prefers to encourage more traditional courtship. When Oaks, the Mormon leader who fretted about the rise of singles, declared in May, "It's marriage time," imploring young people to lay off group activities and date more, single Saints across the country took heed. Even in Manhattan—with a vast support network of

unmarried Mormons—Jeffrey Jackson, 27, says he and friends in his singles ward immediately put "more focus on one-on-one relationships," proposing more dates and trying to consider their female friends as potential wives. Many wards hold dances regularly. Wilson sometimes travels two hours

to attend them in Raleigh, N.C. Michael Mohan went to one in Denver on a recent Friday and another in Colorado Springs, Colo., the following night. He was excited to see how well members encouraged one another to connect at the Saturday affair. He did his part too, securing phone numbers from four women that night. "I'm not going to stay single forever," he vows. ■

Alone in the Pews

More Mormons are marrying later. So can a single guy fit into a faith so focused on family?

By JENINNE LEE-ST. JOHN

MORMONS BELIEVE THAT GOD IS married and that they can achieve divinity by marrying and having children. So couples in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), as the denomination is formally called, often marry young. Their vows, when sealed in a sacred temple ceremony, are pledged not just "until death do us part" but for eternity. Parents and children gather weekly for Family Home Evenings, to study Scripture, pray and bond over other activities. Even wards, or congregations, are organized around familial units. Which is why Michael Mohan, a lifelong Mormon, says, "Sometimes I feel a little bit out of place." At 40, Mohan is single. "The church," he says, "is kind of set up for people who are married."

But that setup is beginning to pose a challenge for the leaders of the church. Like other Americans, Mormon men and women are marrying later. "This tendency to postpone adult responsibilities ... is surely visible among our LDS young adults," said Dallin Oaks, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, one of the highest levels in the LDS hierarchy, in a speech earlier this year. "The average age at marriage has increased in the last few decades, and the

number of children born to LDS married couples has decreased." While the church says it does not keep age statistics for marriage, in Utah—which is more than 60% Mormon—the median age at the first wedding, though still the lowest nationally, went up by about a year in the period from 2000 to 2003, to 21.9 years for women and 23.9 for men, after remaining flat since 1985. Today, more than 30% of Latter-day Saints are singles over 22 (including those widowed or divorced), a figure explained in part by the rising number of adult converts and a generation of the more culturally assimilated offspring of Mormon baby boomers.

The church has tried to do some adjusting itself. Since the 1970s, it has ministered to single members through singles wards, congregations specifically for unmarried 18-to-30-year-olds. In the past five years the number of those congregations has jumped to more than 500, from 300. But there are only around a dozen singles wards nationwide for those over 30, so most who haven't

**THERE ARE
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NATIONALLY FOR
THOSE OVER 30**

TIME, DECEMBER 12, 2005

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Is Europe Due For a Big Chill?

By shutting down ocean currents, global warming could actually cool things off

By MICHAEL D. LEMONICK

EVEN IN THE DEAD OF WINTER, LONG stretches of subzero temperatures are pretty rare in London. It may come as a surprise, therefore, to learn that the capital of Britain lies nearly 400 miles farther north than Montreal—or that Paris is farther from the equator than Fargo, N.D. The relatively balmy climate of much of Western Europe suggests that many countries in that region should lie well south of where they actually are, and that's all thanks to the Gulf Stream, a gigantic river of tropical water that flows up and across the Atlantic, warming the waters that lap figuratively against Europe's western shores. Turn it off, and the region's temperatures could plunge disastrously.

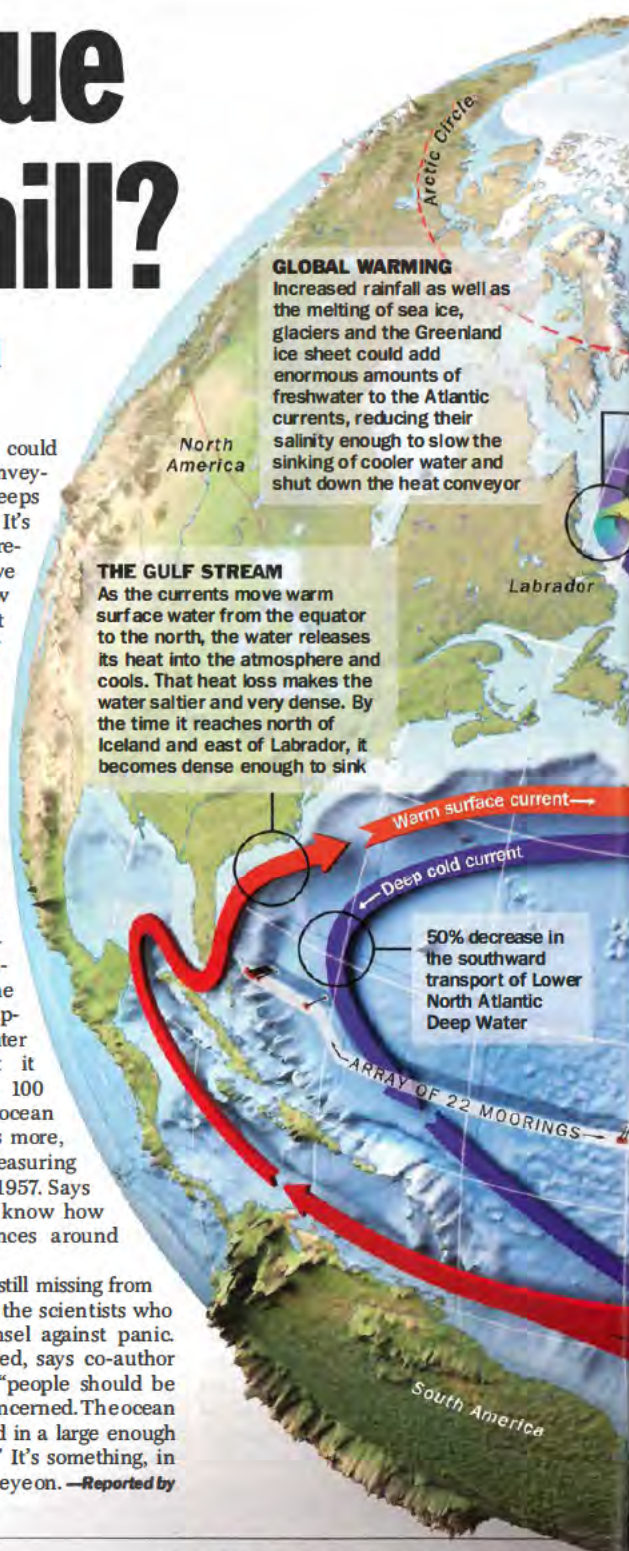
That was precisely the specter raised last week when scientists from Britain's National Oceanography Center reported in *Nature* that a component of the oceanic current system that drives the Gulf Stream has slowed by 30% since 1992. The likely, paradoxical cause? Global warming. While climate experts around the world caution that the data are too preliminary to be definitive, "the result," writes University of Hamburg climatologist Detlef Quadfasel in a commentary on the study that also appears in *Nature*, "is alarming."

It's also not entirely unexpected. Back in the 1980s, Wallace Broecker, a geophysicist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, was trying to understand why temperatures in Greenland had plunged dramatically several times over the past 70,000 years. His theory: fresh water, perhaps from melting glaciers, might have diluted the ocean's salinity, making it harder for cooling water to sink and return southward to pick

up more heat. That could shut off the entire "conveyor belt" of water that keeps Europe temperate. It's hard to determine precisely what would have caused such a big thaw 70,000 years back, but we do know that today global warming is causing more meltwater to stream into the North Atlantic from glaciers and older sea ice, which is lower in salt. Could the conveyor belt stop again?

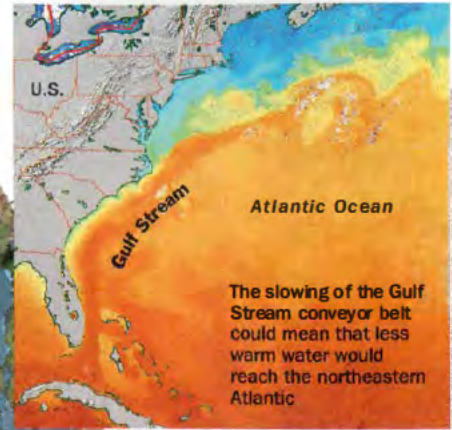
Climate experts are not sure—and some have serious reservations about the new paper—mostly because the observed change is happening too fast. Computer models predict that it should take at least 100 years to weaken the ocean conveyor belt. What's more, nobody was even measuring those currents before 1957. Says Broecker: "We don't know how much the flow bounces around normally."

Clearly, pieces are still missing from the equation, so even the scientists who wrote the study counsel against panic. Rather than be worried, says co-author Stuart Cunningham, "people should be more interested and concerned. The ocean seems to have changed in a large enough way to be detectable." It's something, in other words, to keep an eye on. —Reported by Michael Brunton/London

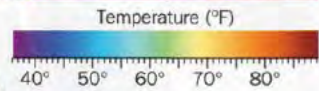


POOR CIRCULATION

Recent findings suggest that the Atlantic Ocean currents that warm Northern Europe are weakening as a result of global warming and may ultimately mean frigid weather for Europe



The slowing of the Gulf Stream conveyor belt could mean that less warm water would reach the northeastern Atlantic



SINKING WATER

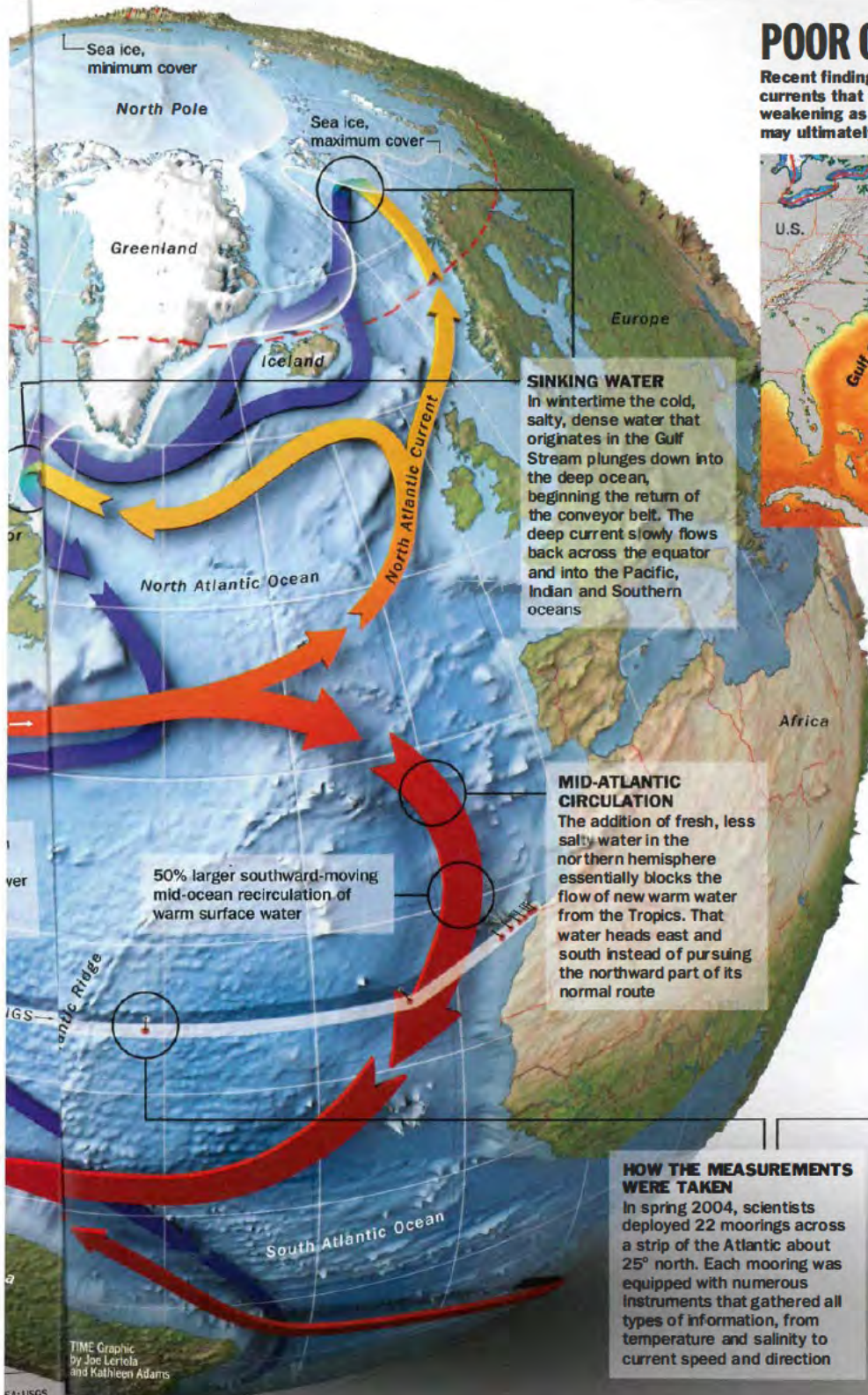
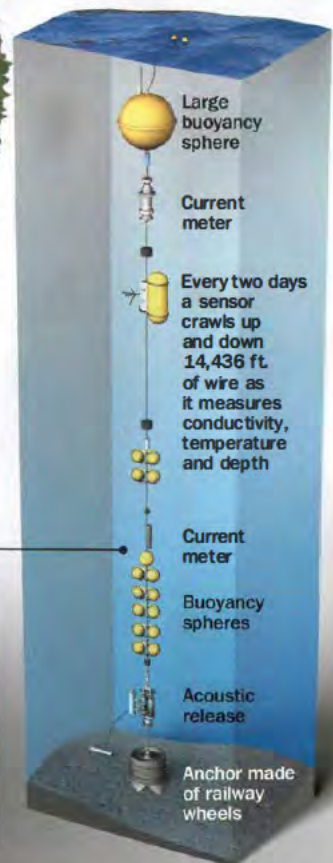
In wintertime the cold, salty, dense water that originates in the Gulf Stream plunges down into the deep ocean, beginning the return of the conveyor belt. The deep current slowly flows back across the equator and into the Pacific, Indian and Southern oceans

MID-ATLANTIC CIRCULATION

The addition of fresh, less salty water in the northern hemisphere essentially blocks the flow of new warm water from the Tropics. That water heads east and south instead of pursuing the northward part of its normal route

HOW THE MEASUREMENTS WERE TAKEN

In spring 2004, scientists deployed 22 moorings across a strip of the Atlantic about 25° north. Each mooring was equipped with numerous instruments that gathered all types of information, from temperature and salinity to current speed and direction



TIME Graphic
by Joe Lertola
and Kathleen Adams

SA; USGS



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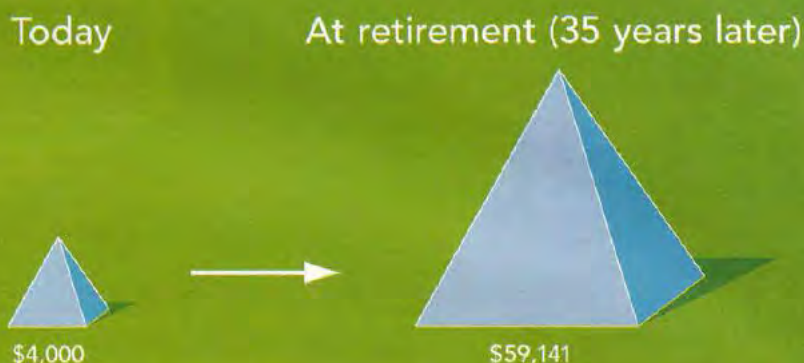
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HEALING: A post-op picture was blurred at the request of the patient before it was released to the press



A Transplant First

Surgeons use a donated face to reclaim a disfigured woman's life. But troubling ethical questions remain

By **CHRISTINE GORMAN**

SO MUCH OF HOW WE SEE OURSELVES—and how other people see us—is bound up in our faces that the idea of transplanting one person's visage onto another seems not just improbable but bizarre. And yet for the past few years, surgeons at a handful of medical centers in the U.S. and Europe have been cautiously preparing for just such a procedure to offer hope to patients who have been severely disfigured by burns or accidents. No one had yet raised a scalpel to try, in part because of numerous medical, ethical and psychological concerns that had to be considered first. That's one reason it was so startling to learn last week that the first face transplant—albeit a partial one—has taken place. Doctors in France reported that they took a triangular patch of facial tissue containing the nose, lips and chin of a brain-dead donor and transplanted them onto a 38-year-old mother of two who had been severely mauled by a dog last May.

By all accounts, the operation, which was approved by at least three different sets of public-health and ethics authorities, was a success. The match and color of the

transplanted section “were even better than we had expected,” said Dr. Bernard Devauchelle, coordinator of one of the surgical teams. “In just four hours we had re-established vascular connections between the skin fragment and [the patient].”

Surgery is, however, just the beginning of the woman's medical odyssey. She must take powerful drugs for the rest of her life to ensure that her immune system does not reject the graft. Of all the tissues in the body, the skin provokes a particularly strong rejection response, which makes sense when you consider that one of its functions is to act as a barrier against germs. The weakened immune system that

results from the drugs also increases the risk of cancer.

The doctors hope to further reduce the danger of rejection by injecting the patient with stem cells taken from the bone marrow of the original donor. That is an experimental approach in which the donated stem cells should, in effect, teach the woman's immune system to tolerate the graft.

The facial transplant, which would have been unusual under any circumstances, stirred heated debate following a French media report that the woman might have sustained her injuries during a suicide attempt in which the dog apparently bit her in an effort to wake her up. That raised the question of whether she was stable enough psychologically to give consent to the operation, never mind care for herself afterward. But Dr. Jean-Michel Dubernard, one of the surgeons who operated on the woman, denied the report. “There was no suicide attempt,” he told reporters. Instead, he said, the woman took a sleeping pill after a family fight, and the dog bit her when she stepped on it in the night. She was examined by several psychiatrists, he added, who determined that she was a suitable candidate for transplant.

Others criticized the operation as a rush to make history. “I believe a better result could have been achieved with careful facial reconstruction,” says Dr. Denys Pellerin, vice president of the French National Academy of Medicine. “This procedure was based on ambition.”

Dubernard would have none of it. “For us, it was not a matter of being first,” he told TIME. “It just happened that we had a good candidate and a good donor and an excellent team.”

For now, the doctors are pleased with their patient's progress. “[She] is happy with the results,” Dubernard says. “She can finally look at herself in the mirror—something she could not do just a week before.” The next few months and years will determine whether that good fortune continues. —Reported by *Helena Bachmann/Lyon*



MICROSURGERY

Doctors made many painstaking connections to restore function

Muscles If all goes well, the patient should be able to open and close her mouth when she speaks and eats

Nerves Both motor and sensory fibers were reattached, which should allow feeling as well as movement

Arteries and veins The woman's blood now nourishes the new tissue. Any blockage could doom the graft

Ho! Ho! Oh!



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Sex, Please—We're Young and Chinese

A generation after Mao suits, China is coping with an epidemic of free love

LI LI HAS LOST EXACT COUNT of how many men she has bedded, but she knows the number is far above 100. "I don't keep statistics," says the former journalist, 27. But she isn't averse to kissing and telling. For the past couple of years, Li has kept a blog—written under the pen name Muzi Mei—that has chronicled everything from her penchant for orgies and Internet dating to her skepticism toward marriage when it means staying faithful to one man. This fall the Beijing resident posted a recording of her own love-making sounds that would make Paris Hilton blush. More than 50,000 people simultaneously tried to download the 25-minute podcast, crashing the host server. Despite government attempts to censor it, the sex diary is so popular that Li's pen name is intermittently the most searched keyword on China's top search engine. "I express my freedom through sex," says Li, unapologetically. "It's my life, and I can do what I want."

Freedom in the bedroom is a novel concept in China, where for decades communist minders dictated most aspects of people's private lives. Dressed in baggy Mao suits—hardly outfits to set the pulse racing—citizens of the People's Republic had to ask permission from local officials on everything from whom to marry to what kind of birth control to use. But these days many Chinese are walking on the wilder side. Sparked by the easing of government control over individual lifestyle choices and the spread of more permissive, Western attitudes toward sex,

Chinese are copulating earlier, more often and with more partners than ever before. Today 70% of Beijing residents say they have had sexual relations before marriage, compared with just 15.5% in 1989, according to Li Yinhe, a sociologist at

from revolutionary movies, so they were very conservative about sex. My generation, we see everything from everywhere, and we are hungry for new experiences." As if to underline the point, Fu has adopted the nickname Carrie—as in Bradshaw, of *Sex and the City*.

All this hanky-panky is spawning new industries. Lingerie boutiques are proliferating in the big cities, and last month's Sex Culture Festival in the southern city of Guangzhou attracted more than 50,000 people eager to procure the very latest in adult toys—70% of which are now manufactured in China. One of the most popu-

With little knowledge of birth control, an increasing number of unmarried women are getting pregnant in a culture in which single motherhood is still taboo. A survey by Shanghai medical researcher Yan Fengting found that 65% of urban women undergoing abortions in 2004 were single, compared with just 25% in 1999. Rates of sexually transmitted diseases are skyrocketing too, with HIV infections growing most quickly among Chinese 15 to 24 years old. Brothels barely disguised as beauty salons crowd the streets of China's big cities, while certain suburbs are known as "concubine villages"

because of their high concentration of mistresses.

Those extra temptations—which the communists largely eradicated after taking power in 1949—have wreaked havoc on marriages, with 1.6 million Chinese couples divorcing in 2004, a 21% rise from the year before, according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs. "Before in society, we had a sense of right and wrong," says the China Sexology Association's Hu. "Now, we can do whatever we want. But do we have any moral standards left?"

Younger Chinese aren't too concerned. A poll by a Beijing magazine found that one-third of Chinese



ROLE MODEL Blogger L. i. i reclines at a Beijing club

the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. A survey taken last January of seven major Chinese cities found that among those 14 to 20, the average age of first sexual experience was 17.4, while those 31 to 40 had lost their virginity much later, at 24.1 years old. Says Fu Zhen, 28, a teacher in Shanghai: "My parents' only entertainment came

lar? The "erotic butterfly," specially designed for women.

But China's sexual revolution has also brought unpleasant side effects. Although sex education is supposedly mandatory in Chinese middle schools, "many older teachers are too embarrassed, so they tear out the pages about sex from the textbooks," says Hu Peicheng, secretary-general of the China Sexology Association in Beijing.

under the age of 26 had no problem with extramarital affairs. In a country where there's little political autonomy for young people, at least there's plenty of free love. "Maybe in the past, everyone was obedient and listened to the old grannies who lectured on who you could have sex with and in what position," says blogger Li. "But we don't have time to listen. We're too busy having sex." ■

TIME, DECEMBER 12, 2005

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Curbing the Puppy Trade

Dog lovers are divided over new efforts to ensure that all breeders treat their pooches humanely

By ANITA HAMILTON

WITH ITS NARROW, WINDING roads dotted with horse-drawn buggies and signs for homemade quilts, candles, jams and jellies, Pennsylvania's Amish country in Lancaster County attracts millions of tourists each year. But giant billboards along a main highway call attention to a less appealing local industry. "WELCOME TO LANCASTER... HOME TO 100'S OF PUPPY MILLS," reads one sign. It was paid for by Last Chance for Animals, a national animal-advocacy organization that opposes commercial breeding facilities where hundreds of puppies are raised in cramped metal cages without proper food, veterinary care and often even fresh air.

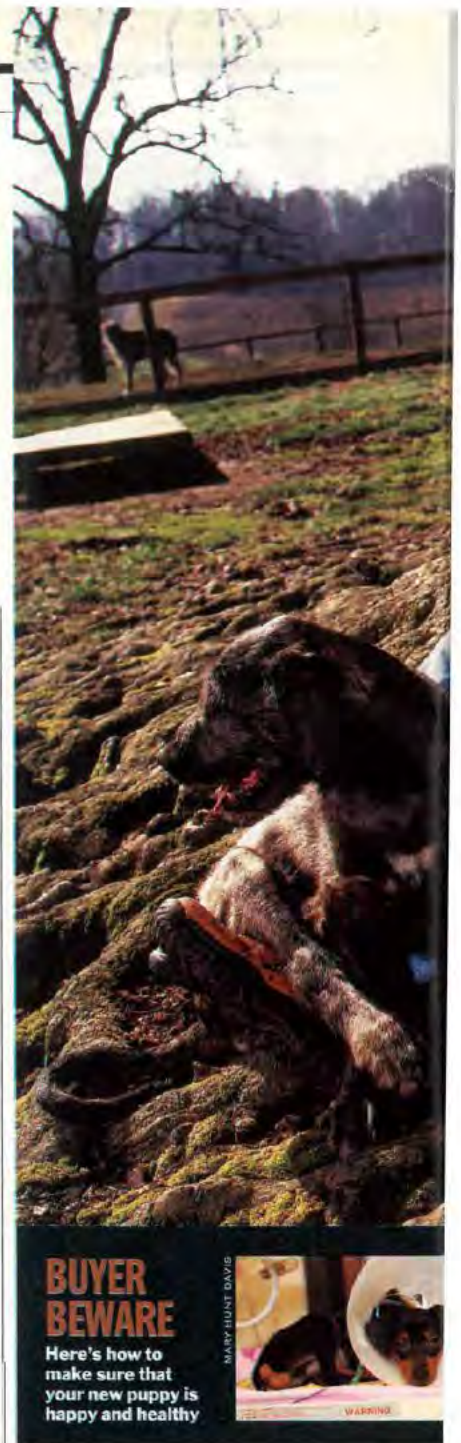
Activists estimate that 200,000 puppies are bred and sold each year in Lancaster County. The public's fascination with new designer dogs like the puggle (a cross between a pug and beagle) as well as the ease of buying a dog on websites like nextdaypets.com has only increased demand. And with that has come a backlash, especially in states like Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri, where there is a high concentration of breeders. There,

and even at the national level, a movement is under way to ensure that the U.S.'s most popular house pets, many of which are purchased during the holiday season, are raised in humane conditions. "No pet store will tell you that its puppies come from a puppy mill," says Ed Sayres, president of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, "but these animals are commercially exploited to generate the highest amount of profit at the lowest possible cost."

The exact number of puppy mills is not known, since offenders often fail to register their operations with the government, as required by law. But hundreds of violations are reported each year. The horrific conditions found in some mills can cause health and behavioral defects ranging from genetic problems caused by overbreeding, such as hip dysplasia, to overaggressive play. "In order for a dog to be a normal dog, it needs to stay with its mother and littermates for a good eight to 10 weeks," says Carol Araneo-Mayer, co-founder of Adopt-A-Pet, a rescue group in Freehold, N.J. She says many puppies are separated and even sold long before they learn how to play with other animals and not to be afraid of people. Also, health problems can pile up. In May, Lancaster County residents Raymond and

Joyce Stoltzfus agreed to pay some \$50,000 to reimburse 171 customers who claimed the puppies they bought from the couple suffered from pneumonia, heart defects and kidney failure.

CRUSADE A highway billboard condemns the way many dogs are raised in Lancaster County, Pa.



Animal-rights advocates contend that commercially bred dogs can be spared much of their misery with just the most basic improvements. "Do they have to be confined to cages 24 hours a day, bred with no limit on the number of litters and no required socialization with other dogs or with humans?" asks Josette Aramini, co-



CARETAKER
Breeder Sam
McDonald favors
the new regulations

PETER MURPHY FOR TIME

Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania. Santorum, who has a German shepherd named Schatzie, has long advocated stricter animal-care laws, which regulate the basic food, shelter and air quality that wholesalers must provide for animals. He says his state's dubious distinction as the "Puppy-Mill Capital of the East" is part of what motivates him to press for change. In May, he introduced the federal Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS), which would require anyone who sells more than 25 dogs a year to comply with the same inspections as large-scale wholesalers, who are regulated by the Animal Welfare Act. Inspectors measure the size of kennels or cages and make sure the living conditions are safe, clean and climate-controlled. Under PAWS, violators could face suspensions for as much as 60 days instead of the current 21-day maximum.

Even though Santorum has widespread support for PAWS among groups like the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Humane Society, there is a rift in the vast community of dog fanciers. Some believe that even midsize dog-breeding operations need regulation, and others are worried that those breeders, who pride themselves on the quality of the dogs they raise, often in their homes, would be put out of business.

That division over PAWS is especially obvious inside the American Kennel Club (A.K.C.), which registers nearly a million purebred dogs each year. The organization officially supports the bill, but many of its member clubs do not. Sam McDonald, an A.K.C. member in Chester Springs, Pa., says he thinks the legislation is fair because "if someone has more than 25 dogs, then there needs to be someone checking out what is going on."

But Margaret Crothers, an A.K.C. member in neighboring Lancaster, who raises Labrador retrievers, says the extra paperwork and inspections would be a nuisance for the "good breeders who are very conscientious." She argues that existing puppy lemon laws in 17 states, which require sellers to refund buyers of diseased dogs, along with local anticruelty statutes, provide enough protection.

Of course, there is another way to scale down puppy mills: cut back on the demand for the dogs grown in them. Adopting dogs from local shelters—a quarter of which are purebreds—would save some of the estimated 3 million dogs that are euthanized each year, and could result in a happy outcome for all involved. —*With reporting by Sean Scully/Lancaster*

SHOP AT A SHELTER

Local shelters frequently have purebred dogs, like this rescued miniature pinscher, left, and ensure that all animals have had their shots and were checked by a veterinarian.

DON'T BUY ONLINE

It's smart to research the type of dog you want on the Web (at a site like akc.org). But to guarantee that you're getting the pet you expect, always visit the seller directly.

CHECK THE PEDIGREE

Since temperament can be inherited, ask to meet your puppy's mother and father to see what they are like. A good breeder will guarantee your purchase for life.

founder of the new United Against Puppy Mills group in Lancaster. The organization has worked to shutter large-scale breeders by petitioning local zoning boards to deny them permits.

But breeders say such efforts unfairly tarnish those who do treat their dogs well. Ken Brandt, a lobbyist for the Penn-

sylvania Professional Pet Breeders Association, complains that the activists won't be satisfied until all large breeders are shut down. "If we built the biggest kennel in the world, with carpet on the floor and a fireplace for the dogs, animal-rights people would say, 'Can't you make it bigger?'"

Such arguments don't persuade U.S.

THE AVENGERS From left, Craig, Bana, Hinds, Kassovitz and Zischler portray members of an Israeli hit squad charged with killing terrorists



A TIME EXCLUSIVE

SPIELBERG TAKES ON TERROR

Munich adroitly blends high-pressure action and humanity in a historical story that's all about our times

By RICHARD SCHICKEL



BLACK SEPTEMBER A hooded captor at the real '72 Games

THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT thing to say about *Munich*, Steven Spielberg's new film, is that it is a very good movie—good in a particularly Spielbergian way. By which one means that it has all the virtues we've come to expect when he is working at his highest levels. It's narratively clean, clear and perfectly punctuated by suspenseful and expertly staged action sequences. It's full of sympathetic (and in this case, anguished) characters, and it is, morally speaking, infinitely more complex than the action films it superficially resembles—pictures that simply pit terrorists against counterterrorists without an attempt to explore any-

MOVIES

one's motives and their tragic implications.

Munich begins and ends with, and frequently reverts to, an account of an especially heinous historical act: the capture and eventual murder of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games by a Palestinian terrorist group calling itself Black September. Because television was omnipresent at the Games, the entire world was witness to that awful event. Indeed, it's not too much to say that most of us for the first time perceived the face of modern terrorism in the images that ABC and the other networks broadcast of those frightful 24 hours. Or, in fact, did not fully perceive it, since the iconic image of the attack was of a ski-masked terrorist standing on the balcony of the Israelis' Olympic Village quarters peering back at the cameras that were peering at him.

BUT—AND THIS IS WHY *MUNICH* works so well—the movie is not primarily about *that* Munich. It is about the aftermath, in which the Israeli government, with Prime Minister Golda Meir's full endorsement, mounted a secret war of revenge against the murderers. In one of the movie's most crucial lines, she says, "Every civilization finds it necessary to negotiate compromises with its own values." That negotiation—also carried out in the increasingly troubled mind of Avner Kauffman, leader of the Israeli hit squad on which the movie concentrates (there were several)—raises Spielberg's film above the thriller level, granting it real, often poignant, distinction.

"You are assigned a mission, and you do it because you believe in the mission, but there is something about killing people at close range that is excruciating," says Spielberg. "Perhaps [your victims] are leading double lives. But they are, many of them, reasonable and civilized too." Killing them, he says, has unintended consequences. "It's bound to try a man's soul, so it was very important to me to show Avner struggling to keep his soul intact." (The moviemakers would not reveal the identity of the real Avner, whom they talked to at length during their research. In Spielberg's opinion, though, his soul was tried too much. "I don't think he will ever find peace.")

More significantly, Spielberg wonders if the Israelis and the Palestinians will ever find peace. "I'm always in favor of Israel responding strongly when it's threatened. At the same time, a response to a response doesn't really solve anything. It just creates a perpetual-motion machine," he says. "There's been a quagmire of blood for blood for many decades in that



COLLABORATORS Spielberg, above right, took charge during action shots, like the bombing, below, and Kushner during dialogue scenes. Bana's Kauffman, right, begins to feel hunted



region. Where does it end? How can it end?"

A big, expensive movie—reported to have cost around \$70 million—that dives headfirst into Middle East conflicts: Does that give, say, a studio head pause? "Yes, to be honest," says Universal chairman Stacey Snider without hesitation. "At the time when we started it, [the story] felt more quaint. But as we went through the development process, the good and bad news was that it became more relevant."

Indeed, since June, when filming began, the movie has been surrounded by rumors, criticism and suggestions that Spielberg was too pro-Israel to make a fair movie on the subject. The filmmakers responded by keeping the details of the movie very quiet. Reporters were not allowed to visit the sets in Malta, Budapest, New York and Paris, and only a few actors got the complete

script—many didn't even know what the whole movie was about. The shoot took three months, a quick turnaround for a movie to be released Dec. 23. That lessened the chance of leaks, as did the fact that most of the crew members were loyal, tight-lipped veterans of past Spielberg movies. When *TIME* saw the movie, it had just been finished. There had been none of the usual test, press or studio-executive screenings; the movie's star, Eric Bana, had not even seen it. And there has been little advance publicity; Spielberg has done no interviews about the movie with anyone but *TIME* (see page 70).

"I never like to draw lessons for people," says screenwriter Tony Kushner of how his script deals with the Middle East question. "It's not an essay; it's art. But I think I can safely say the conflict between national security and ethics raised deep questions in



"We all talk in genres," Kennedy says, "and this is clearly a thriller from a movie-making standpoint." On the other hand, it had to be a character-driven and intellectually acute thriller to satisfy her and Spielberg's ambitions for it. So "we knew and took the approach early on that we are not making a documentary." At some point the phrase "historical fiction" entered their conversations. They understood that they would have to compress and conflate some of their material. And, yes, do some inventing as well. "The fiction," says Spielberg, "comes in the interpersonal relationships of the five members of the ex-Mossad team" on which the film focuses. "I was very careful," he says, "to start the movie by saying 'Inspired by real events,' because until the secret files are opened up nobody will really know actually who did what."

But Kushner could make a good, entertaining guess. Spielberg had long wanted to work with the Pulitzer prizewinning author of *Angels in America*, and once he had solved Kushner's concerns about formatting a screenplay ("I said, 'Well, there's a program called Scriptor—put it on your laptop and you don't have to worry about that again'"), Kushner said he would try a few scenes. They became a 300-page first draft, written largely on spec, after which he and Spielberg happily collaborated for a little more than a year to complete the script. "You speak the words, and I'll provide the pictures," Spielberg remembers saying. "It was a lot of e-mails and arguments on the phone," Kushner says, "and an exciting amount of give and take. I think we really affected one another politically and emotionally." Another challenge was to create a sense of identification with Avner and his team. Avner, in particular, is a man not very in touch with his inner life. "I always felt like the character was trying to convince himself of an ideal without necessarily coming to terms with what the ideal was," says Bana. The whole team, says Kennedy, is five men on a mission who don't want to think of themselves as anything like the men they are pursuing.

Kushner located a dry, allusive, sometimes bleakly comic language for them, and Spielberg often found himself just listening to Kushner's words, momentarily forgetting his picture-making part of their deal. In a situation rare in modern filmmaking, the screenwriter was on the set 90% of the time. "When something was more action driven, Steven would take the lead," says Kennedy, "and when something was more dialogue driven, Tony would take the lead." Says Spielberg: "It was as

terms of working on the film. I was surprised to discover how much the story had to do with nationality vs. family, and questions about home and being in conflict with somebody else over a territory that seems home to both people."

There is an entirely fictional scene in the movie in which Avner and his Palestinian opposite number meet and talk calmly, with the latter getting a chance to make his case for the creation of a homeland for his people. That scene means everything to Kushner and Spielberg. "The only thing that's going to solve this is rational minds, a lot of sitting down and talking until you're blue in the gills," says Spielberg. Without that exchange, "I would have been making a Charles Bronson movie—good guys vs. bad guys and Jews killing Arabs without any context. And I was never going to make that picture."

He almost did not make this picture, which he thrice denied. It was Kathleen Kennedy, his longtime friend and frequent producing partner, who acquired the book on which *Munich* is based, George Jonas' *Vengeance*, in 1998. But Spielberg shied away from it, in part, he says, because he had learned at his parents' knees that Middle East politics is such a difficult, passionately argued and unresolvable topic. "I'll leave it to somebody else," he recalls saying, "somebody braver than me." Then, in 1999, the persistent Kennedy prevailed on him to at least reconsider the matter. But two years later, 9/11 happened, and Spielberg felt the story would be perceived as exploitative. The fact that Spielberg could not get a script that in any way satisfied him—three were written—stalled him further.

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close as I've ever come to directing a play."

That does not mean the picture is sedentary. It ranges the world from Paris to Brooklyn, with stopovers in London, Beirut, Israel, Spain (or their geographical stand-ins), and it is full of derring-do and suspense. (Best such sequence: a child innocently answers a call on an explosive-laden phone meant to blow her father to kingdom come.) At more than 2½ hours, *Munich* allows itself time to efficiently develop character, particularly among Avner's team, which is run—mostly from afar—by Geoffrey Rush's hard-assed executive spook. The assassins include a hot-blooded South African hit man played by Daniel Craig, who is the next James Bond; Ciaran Hinds as his opposite, a meticulous cleanup artist; Mathieu Kassovitz as a toymaker who dabbles in bombmaking; and Hanns Zischler as an expert document forger. None of them have particularly accommodating natures, but the stress of living under constant danger becomes their bonding agent. The cast too came from all over the globe, including Israel and other parts of the Middle East. "It was like going to the U.N. every day," says Bana, an Australian. "There was always plenty of rich social and political discussion, no doubt about it."

Spielberg is at his best in visualizing a world he believes to be more menacing than it has ever been. That is more than a matter of noirish shadows. It is the hint of suspicious movement in the back of the frame, a pan that goes on a few frames longer than necessary, suggesting the possibility of a menace that may be present. Near the movie's end, a casual pan along the Manhattan skyline reveals the World Trade Center buildings. Had to show them, the director says. They existed at a historical moment in the mid-'70s. But there is more than historical veracity at work in that shot. The Twin Towers are the symbols of our new age of high (and endless) anxiety. Maybe there is, as Spielberg insists, no resonance between the fate of the Towers' victims and the fate of a few athletes in long-ago, faraway Munich. But inevitably the destiny of those Towers tinctures our thoughts, however much we wish to deny them. Dutiful men like Avner Kauffman will be sent forth to improvise a response to terrorism, whatever its source. And to live with the unintended consequences of their actions. Any movie that subtly, yet insistently reminds us of this blunt truth about the world we have inherited is worth seeing. And pondering. —With reporting by Desa Philadelphia/Los Angeles

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MUNICH: THE HISTORY

THE MYTHS AND

After the slaughter of its Olympians, Israel vowed to hunt down the killers. But, says a new book, that's not whom it got

By LISA BEYER

GOLDA MEIR DIDN'T WANT to believe the news. The Israeli Prime Minister had heard media reports that West German police had rescued the Israeli Olympic athletes taken hostage by terrorists in Munich. Now Zvi Zamir, head of the Mossad, was phoning from Germany at 3 a.m. to correct that account. "I saw it with my own eyes," he told her. "No one was left alive."

That was the end of a debacle that had begun 23 hours earlier, when Palestinian terrorists from the Black September organization burst into the dorm housing the Israeli delegation at the 1972 Olympics and took 11 of its members hostage. It was also the start of a much longer, more complicated chapter in the saga: Israel's methodical extraction of revenge. About the events in Munich on Sept. 5, 1972, there is considerable clarity. The story of the reprisal missions, on the other hand, has been befogged by mystery. The notion persists that the Israelis drew up a list of those responsible for Munich, then, one by one, knocked them off. But that's largely a myth, according to an upcoming book by TIME reporter Aaron J. Klein, *Striking Back: The 1972 Munich Olympics Massacre and Israel's Deadly Response* (Random House; 272 pages). The Israelis, Klein writes, had to settle for smaller targets, killing activists who for the most part had nothing to do with the Munich massacre and leaving

alive, to this day, some who were involved.

The Munich spectacular was designed to be just that. Black September was an unacknowledged offshoot of Fatah, Yasser Arafat's faction within the Palestine Liberation Organization (P.L.O.). Abu Iyad, the Arafat deputy who headed Black September, later explained that the hostage taking was meant "to use the unprecedented number of media outlets in one city to display the Palestinian struggle—for better or worse!"



REASS ESS MENI
Klein debunks the retaliation myth

Security was lax at the Olympic Village. Wearing sweat suits, eight men simply climbed over a 6-ft. barrier around the village at 4:10 a.m. Armed with AK-47s, they rounded up 11 Israeli athletes, coaches and a referee, shooting two dead early on. The terrorists demanded the release of 234 prisoners from Israeli jails. Negotiations were ruled out by the Israelis, but the Germans began fake ones to buy time. In the afternoon, the Black September commander, distinctive in his white hat, insisted that his team and the hostages be flown to Cairo.

The Germans choppered them to Fürstenfeldbruck military airfield. When Issa, as the Black September commander called himself, and a comrade inspected the Boeing 727 they were promised, they found it empty and cold. As they raced back to the two helicopters, German snipers on the roof of a nearby building opened fire. The Palestinians shot out the lights on the tarmac, and the Germans were paralyzed for nearly an hour, until four armored police vehicles

REALITY OF MUNICH



HIGH DRAMA Israel's team parades at the Games' opening ceremony; terrorist leader "Issa," in hat, talks with a German official; the helicopters that held the hostages after the firefight; the three terrorists in L bya after West Germany freed them

arrived. That prompted a terrorist to toss a grenade into one helicopter, and another to shoot the hostages in the other helicopter. Three Black September operatives survived; Germany freed them nearly two months later for the release of passengers on a hijacked Lufthansa jet.

Vowing to hunt down the perpetrators of Munich, Prime Minister Meir set up a process by which the head of the Mossad, Israel's spy



agency, could make the case for a candidate's assassination. The PM and select Cabinet members would say yea or nay. If yea, the hit would be executed by a unit called Caesarea, dubbed by some media the Wrath of God team.

The first Palestinian to die was Wael Zwaiter, shot in Rome six weeks after Munich. Mossad told Meir he was head of Black September in Rome and had

abetted the Munich massacre. But Klein, who based his book in large part on rare interviews with key Mossad officers involved in the reprisal missions, writes that the intelligence on Zwaiter was "uncorroborated and improperly cross-referenced. Looking back, his assassination was a mistake."

The Israelis, of course, wanted to get to the real planners and executors of Munich, but these had hunkered down with bodyguards in East-bloc and Arab countries, where the Israelis couldn't reach them. Meanwhile, lesser Palestinian activists wandered around West Europe unprotected, and so Palestinians began to die at the hands of assassins across Europe. Israeli security officials claimed these dead men were responsible for Munich; P.L.O. pronouncements made them out to be important figures; and so the image of the Mossad as capable of delivering death at will grew and grew.

The idea behind the slayings was not just to punish the perpetrators of Munich but also to disrupt and deter future terrorist acts. For the second goal, one dead P.L.O. operative was as good as another. Klein quotes a senior intelligence source: "Our blood was boiling. When there was information implicating someone, we didn't inspect it with a magnifying glass."

And Munich's actual perpetrators? Klein believes the Mossad got only one man directly connected to the massacre: Atef Bseiso, shot in Paris as late as 1992. Abu Iyad, Black September's chief, was killed by a fellow Palestinian in 1991. Abu Daoud, who commanded the Munich attack, was, ironically, allowed to enter Israel in 1996 so he could go to the Gaza Strip for a P.L.O. meeting convened to rescind an article in its charter calling for Israel's eradication. Of the three terrorists who survived the airfield firefight, one died of heart failure in the '70s. Another, Jamal al Gashey, appeared in the 2000 documentary *One Day in September*. Last summer P.L.O. veteran Tawfiq Tirawi told Klein that the third, his friend Mohammed Safady, was "as alive as you are." ■

HIS "PRAYER FOR PEACE"

JUST AFTER FINISHING HIS NEW MOVIE ABOUT THE aftermath of the massacre at the Munich Olympics, Steven Spielberg talked with TIME movie critic Richard Schickel, who collaborated with him on the TV documentary *Shooting War*, about his reasons for taking on Munich, his anger at the International Olympic Committee and his modest plan for improving Arab-Israeli relations.

TIME: WOULD IT BE FAIR TO SAY THAT THIS MOVIE IS, IN THE END, ABOUT THE HUMAN COST OF A QUAGMIRE? Yes.

And also for me this movie is a prayer for peace. I always kept thinking about that as I was making it. Somewhere inside all this intransigence there has to be a prayer for peace. Because the biggest enemy is not the Palestinians or the Israelis. The biggest enemy in the region is intransigence. Do you know Amos Oz's books? There's a wonderful quote we found, that sort of makes sense to me: "In the lives of individuals, and of peoples, too, the worst conflicts are often those that break out between those who are persecuted." They see in each other's faces a reflection of some larger oppressor. That may well be the case with the 100-year conflict between Arabs and Jews.

DO YOU THINK THIS FILM WILL DO ANY GOOD? I've never, ever made a movie where I said I'm making this picture because the message can do some good for the world—even when I made *Schindler's List*. I was terrified that it was going to do the opposite of good. I thought perhaps it might bring shame to the memory of those who didn't survive the Holocaust—and even worse to those who did. I made the picture out of just pure wanting to get that story told. I thought it was



ALL GROWN UP: The director of *E.T.* has moved on from "childlike" films

MICHAEL GRECCO FOR TIME

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