



**PRESS
RELEASE**

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COVER STORY: THE SECRETS OF CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE

As skepticism subsides and China's herbal-medicine tradition gains acceptance in the West, scientists are studying the traditional formulas to find out whether they work and if so, why. In the process, they are seeking new cures for ailments that have long baffled Eastern and Western healers alike. **Simon Elegant** reports.

AFGHANISTAN: ARMY ON A SHOESTRING

Hamid Karzai is a ruler without an army. But in a land dominated by local warlords, recruiting loyal soldiers and supplying them is a challenge. **Mitch Frank** looks at the U.S. effort to build a new Afghan army, whose success is crucial to the country's future.

EUROPE: WAR AGAINST NATURAL DISASTERS

Across Europe, torrential downpours have triggered raging floods from the Baltic to the Black Sea, costing many lives and billions of dollars in damage. **Jan Stojaspal** takes us through the flooded cities and the aftermath that awaits their people.

ARTS & MEDIA

This month marks the 100th birthday of Leni Riefenstahl, a German film director once associated with Adolf Hitler. **Jeff Chu** looks at her remarkable new book of photographs taken over the past four decades and her first film since 1954.

Richard Schickel reviews the new Christopher Nolan thriller, *Insomnia*, in which a tormented Al Pacino and a creepy Robin Williams tangle in a thoughtful whodunit. Plus, **Richard Corliss** previews the acclaimed sex comedy from Mexico, *Y Tu Mama Tambien*, in which director Alfonso Cuarón weaves bleak social vignettes into the libidinal intrigue.

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**For further information and to arrange local and international interviews,
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