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The leaders of the world are failing us

Martin Griffiths

OPINION

I have spent much of my career in or on the edges of war zones, but nothing quite prepared me for the breadth and depth of human suffering I have witnessed in my three years as the United Nations’ humanitarian chief.

The early months of my tenure were consumed with the conflict in Ethiopia’s Tigray region, and the effort to get more than a trickle of food and other aid to some five million people who had been cut off from the outside world by brutal fighting.

Then, in February 2022, came Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine: the tanks rolling toward Kyiv; reports of summary executions and sexual violence in towns and villages; the brutal fighting in the east and south of the country that has forced millions of people from their homes; and the relentless attacks on apartment buildings, schools, hospitals and energy infrastructure that continue to this day. Tremors were felt around the world as food prices rose and geopolitical tensions deepened.

Just over a year later, the atrocious conflict in Sudan broke out. As two generals have battled for power, thousands have been killed, millions displaced, and ethnic-based violence has once again emerged as famine looms.

And then came Hamas’s horrendous Oct. 7 attacks on Israel and the ensuing bombardment of Gaza, which has turned the blockade-impooverished enclave into hell on earth. The Ministry of Health in Gaza says more than 37,000 people in Gaza have been killed, and almost the entire population has been forced from their homes, many of them multiple times. Getting humanitarian aid to a population on the verge of famine has been made almost impossible, while humanitarian and United Nations workers have been killed in unconscionable numbers.

Millions of others across the world are suffering no less in long-running and unresolved conflicts that no longer make the headlines — in Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Sahel, to name a few.

This is precisely the situation that the modern global order, created in the aftermath of World War II and embodied with heartfelt ambition in the United Nations Charter, was meant to GRIFITHS, PAGE 1

The New York Times publishes opinion from a wide range of perspectives in hopes of promoting constructive debate about consequential questions.

Taken by Russia

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How the war's most vulnerable victims were stripped of their national identity.

KHERSON CITY, UKRAINE

BY YOUSUR AL-HLOU AND MASHA FROLIAK

As news of Russia’s invasion spread through Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, Dr. Natalia Lukina was waiting for a taxi at her home.

It was 6 a.m., and she was eager to get to work at Kherson Children’s Home, a state-run foster home for institutionalized children with special needs, where she served as a doctor.

By the time she arrived, the rumble of artillery fired by Russian troops advancing on Kherson City, the region’s capital, was already reverberating through the hallways. The doctor and her fellow caregivers faced a wrenching dilemma: how to protect the dozens of vulnerable children.

They were all infants and toddlers, and some had serious disabilities, such as cerebral palsy. Some had living parents who retained limited custody over them; others had been removed from troubled homes or abandoned.

“Who else would have stayed behind to look after them?” Dr. Lukina said about her decision to remain with the children. “Imagine if we all turned our backs and left?”

Olena Korniyenko, the director of the foster home and the children’s legal guardian, had prepared emergency bags for the children two weeks earlier, and she had stocked the home with boxes of food, water and diapers. But the building was not equipped to UKRAINE, PAGE 6

In Africa, women find reproductive autonomy

GOASO, GHANA

Education is improving, along with access to long-acting contraception

BY STEPHANIE NOLEN

On a busy day at the Kwapong Health Centre in rural Ghana, Beatrice Nyamekye put contraceptive implants into the arms of a half-dozen women and gave eight or nine more a three-month hormonal injection to prevent pregnancy. A few sought condoms or birth control pills, but most wanted something longer lasting.

“They like the implants and injections best of all,” said Ms. Nyamekye, a community health nurse. “It frees them from worry, and it is private. They don’t have to even discuss it with a husband or a partner.”

The bustle at the Kwapong clinic is echoed all over Ghana and across much of sub-Saharan Africa, where women have the world’s lowest rate of access to contraception: Just 26 percent of women of reproductive age in the region are using a modern contraceptive method — something other than the rhythm or withdrawal methods — according to the United Nations Population Fund, known as UNFPA, which works on reproductive and maternal health.

But that is changing, as more women have been able to get methods that give them a fast, affordable and discreet increase in reproductive autonomy. Over the past decade, the number of women in the region using modern contraception has nearly doubled, to 66 million.

“We’ve made progress, and it’s growing: You’re going to see huge numbers of women gaining access in the near future,” said Esi Asare Prah, who manages advocacy for the Ghana office of MSI, a reproductive health nonprofit organization.

Three factors are driving the change. First, more girls and women are becoming educated: they have more knowledge about contraceptives, often through social media that reaches even into the farthest corners of the region. And they have bigger ambitions, for careers and experiences, that will be easier to fulfill if they delay having children.

Second, the range of contraceptive options available has improved, as generic drug makers have brought more affordable hormonal injections and implants to market.

And third, better roads and planning have made it possible to get contraception to rural areas, like this one, a nine-hour drive from the port in the capital, Accra, where the commodities were shipped from manufacturers in China and Brazil.

The improved access results in tangible gains for women. At a bustling MSI clinic in the town of Kumasi, Faustina AFRICA, PAGE 5

RICHARD LINKLATER'S HIT MAN

“I was always the guy in the corner thinking about everything,” the filmmaker Richard Linklater said. “I’m an introvert who gets put in extroverted situations occasionally.”

Falling in love with art and living in that world

FROM THE MAGAZINE

As he ages, a filmmaker reflects on a shifting ‘parallel universe’

BY DAVID MARCHESE

Richard Linklater’s latest movie, “Hit Man,” is a bit of a departure for the director, who has made some of the most acclaimed and influential indie films of the past 30-plus years. The movie, which stars the ascendant Glen Powell, is about a mild-mannered college professor who has a side gig with the New Orleans Police Department, setting up stings by posing as different hit men. It’s a tight, stylish and sexy thriller, with some twisted romance added in, from a filmmaker better known for the ambling rhythms

and gently existential tone of beloved classics like “Dazed and Confused,” “Boyhood” and “Before Sunrise” (not to mention his great comedy “School of Rock,” which exists in a category of its own).

But alongside its pop charms, “Hit Man” still manages to sneak in a provocative exploration of one of Linklater’s pet themes: the nature and malleability of personal identity. It’s also, as so many of the 63-year-old’s films are, a movie that understands the pure cinematic pleasure of watching smart, inquisitive people converse — exploring ideas and philosophies, making one another laugh, testing one another.

It’s the talking that made me fall in love with Linklater’s films, which he almost always writes or co-writes. (He co-wrote “Hit Man” with Powell.) The way his vivid, relatable characters discuss the big questions, with so much soul and hang-looseness, free LINKLATER, PAGE 2

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Fashion

He finds inspiration at the heights

BY MARK C. O'FLAHERTY

Many designers aspire to the label polymath, but no one polymaths as hard and relentlessly as Ramdane Touhami, whose latest pursuit meshes merchandising, marketing and selling his favorite thing: hiking.

Mr. Touhami is known for acting on impulse, and with intensity. He has lived in New York and Tokyo and owns 51 bicycles, including one of the three made by the French architect-designer Jean Prouvé that are known to still exist.

The 49-year-old French-Moroccan was once the owner of a donkey polo club in Tangier, Morocco; went on to become men's wear director at the department store Liberty in London; and spent years reshaping the beauty business, reviving the fortunes of the scented-candle maker Trudon as its creative director and then the heritage apothecary brand Bully 1803, which he sold to LVMH in 2021.

Mr. Touhami bought, restyled and reopened Hotel Drei Berge in the Swiss Alps last year, and opened the mountaineering boutique A Young Hiker in Paris in January.

It has been a long climb to the top. At school, he introduced a successful T-shirt line that corrupted the Timberland logo and made a fortune, but then he was kidnapped and relieved of a lot of money. He then became a homeless skateboard obsessive, navigating the streets of Paris having no fixed abode.

But recently, from the headquarters of his agency Art Recherche Industrie, shaped out of a decadent 19th-century ballroom in the 10th Arrondissement, he masterminded the restyling of the silverwear maker Christofle and the leather goods house Moynat, as well as his own podcasts, publishing projects and housewares.

His explanation for the new pursuits in Switzerland and at A Young Hiker: "Beauty was my job; mountains are my passion."

The conversation has been edited and condensed.

Opening a store that sells hiking gear between the Paris flagships of Serge Lutens and Rick Owens is quite the statement. Why there?

I wanted a store with a view of nature, and the windows look out to the Jardin du Palais Royal. It is a spectacular place. You have clients who are more relaxed, with more time. It is not a shopping mall. Most people who go there just hang and have an ice cream or coffee. It's not random tourists; it's people who know the place. A Young Hiker is a community — many people come just to discuss gear and where to climb. It reminds me a lot of the skateboard places where I used to hang out all day without buying anything. We are also organizing weekends in the



YOUNES KLOUCHE



CALYPSO MAHIEU



ART RECHERCHE INDUSTRIE

mountains in Fontainebleau, outside Paris.

Paris is your base now. Was it always the first place you thought of, to open A Young Hiker?

No, no, no. The big Tokyo store is opening in September, in the Daikanyama district, which is also a very green neighborhood. I only open stores where I like to hang and go by myself, not for economic reasons. It has to suit my mental comfort. Trump was elected the week after we opened a Bully in Bergdorf Goodman in New York, so we closed it and left.

Hiking is having a moment in fashion — Louis Vuitton's latest campaign features Roger Federer and Rafael

Ramdane Touhami, top, at Hotel Drei Berge, the Swiss inn that he renovated last year. Aaron Aujla and Emily Adams Bode Aujla collaborated on one room, above left. And, above right, Mr. Touhami opened a shop, called A Young Hiker, earlier this year in Paris.

Nadal strolling through the snow-capped Dolomites in Italy, wearing light knits and T-shirts, and strapped up with petite Vuitton backpacks stuffed with climbing ropes. How different is your take?

The global narrative attached to mountains is all Swiss chalets and American outdoor wear. It's a pure white world. But there are mountains in Africa and Asia. No one knows you can ski in Congo and there's a glacier. I have two sides to my brain — I grew up in Europe, but I want to show what is happening all over the world. I am only stocking mountain brands coming from Asia.

How did you decide what you were going to sell?

It's all brands I buy, or by people I know. I have a close relationship with Setsumasa Kobayashi of Mountain Research whose concept is anarchy in

the mountains, and I love that. We've talked a lot about the 19th-century naturalist Henry David Thoreau. There's a whole intellectual side to all of this. It's all about bringing new colors and vibes to the mountains, with people as well as design — we are working with the Rastas of the Jahiking Club in Paris on trips now.

There are lots of conversations in fashion about gender and circularity. Do those factor into what you're doing?

We stock a range of sizes from very small to extra large and there is no gender attached to it. It's technical clothing. You don't make a technical skirt. Being waterproof and weather resistant are the most important things. With my own personal brand that's going into the store, we are going to start making things with absolutely no plastic involved. Next

week we are going to stock vintage pieces from the '60s to the '70s. We have been searching around the world for the last year and found the best that exist — North Face from 50 years ago, pieces no one has seen before. I am trying to create a new market in luxury for this kind of vintage.

Why does hiking have such a colorful aesthetic?

You don't wear black in the mountains. If anything happens to you, you need to be visible. Outdoor brands only started making things in black when they found out people were buying their stuff to wear in cities. I developed the Drei Berge Collection of textiles with Fischbacher 1819, which we debuted in Milan this year, and the three different fabrics are all woven in bright colors. I recently was at the opening of a hotel in Nice, in the South of France, and it was all beige. The planet has so many colors, why not use them?

Fashion is a lot about merch right now, and you elevate it to an art form. A Young Hiker produces ceramics, umbrellas, bandannas and rock-shaped candles bearing the typography you developed for Drei Berge. How does the hotel fit into your design practice?

The hotel is a lab. That's the only thing it is. The paneling on the umbrella is a collection of logos and colors associated with different mountains. Fashion is all about things being the same, but this is expressive. When I opened the hotel, I decorated 17 rooms but kept two untouched, so that my friends Aaron Aujla and Emily Adams Bode Aujla [designer of the Bode fashion label] could create something. What they did was really surprising, using jockey silks and horse show ribbons. I didn't want a hotel that was all my own work. It was a fantastic experience — we created bedsheets together based on American horse blankets, with show names on them. I really like the idea that someone will wake up in the sheets we have designed, in the room we designed, then go to the bathroom and brush their teeth with a brush and toothpaste by us, using soap by us. I want it all, A to Z. I like the idea of creating a world with my own logic.

You've been into hiking for 25 years. What's the appeal?

It is therapy for me. Every pore of your body is happy in the mountains, with the clear air and water. If you spend at least six months of the year at a height above 1,500 meters [4,920 feet], you live 10 or 15 years more than the average. I am one of the biggest nerds when it comes to hiking. I have 22,000 magazines about mountaineering that I have collected over 10 years. I was talking to the C.E.O. of VF Corporation five days ago, which owns North Face, and he didn't know where his own archives were. I told him they were at Utah State University. I'd been there the week before. I know what I am talking about.

With Bully, you looked back to calligraphy, imagery and interiors from the 19th century. What has been the main historical inspiration for A Young Hiker?

One of my biggest inspirations was the 1920s Kibbo Kift hiking group, which started out as an antifascist movement in rural England. It was about going back to nature. Nazis seem to be coming again, including in France, and we need to go back to this ideology. They want to destroy everything; we need to protect it. Maybe nature is the answer.

From Ferrari to frozen food

MILAN

BY KERRY OLSEN

Charles Leclerc, one of the fastest drivers in Formula 1, looked a tad sleepy. Despite being between races and time zones — a rainy Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal last week and the Spanish Grand Prix this coming weekend — he was up very early at Lake Como, Italy, for a video call to talk about his new business venture: LEC, a low-calorie ice cream.

It's not uncommon for world-famous sports stars to release brand extensions that include ventures such as sneakers, perfumes and fashion, but ice cream?

Throw into the mix Scuderia Ferrari, a team with the highest of racing pedigrees, and an F1 driver's need to maintain strength, endurance and a precise weight to compete on some of the most demanding tracks in the world at 200 miles per hour, and a sweet treat associated with vegging on a sofa appears to be an off-track move.

Mr. Leclerc, a teen favorite on the Netflix docuseries "Drive to Survive" with his boyish charm and tousled hair, laughed when asked about the pivot.

"Look, my priority remains to be on track and the fastest," he said. A few weeks ago, Mr. Leclerc became the first Monegasque driver to win the Monaco Grand Prix in 93 years.

Formula 1 drivers are subject to crushing physical demands. They can



MARK THOMPSON/GETTY IMAGES

lose roughly four to nine pounds of fluid, burn through 1,500 calories and lose as much as 5 percent of their body weight during races. With nutrition being such a critical part of a driver's life, Mr. Leclerc saw space in the market for low-calorie ice creams suitable for athletes.

The celebrated driver Ayrton Senna once said, "If you no longer go for a gap that exists, you're no longer a racing driver." Mr. Leclerc, a budding entrepreneur at 26, is applying that wisdom to business.

According to the Unione Italiana Food, an Italian association representing food product categories, the average tub of ice cream is about 200 calories per 100 grams. LEC, available in five flavors,

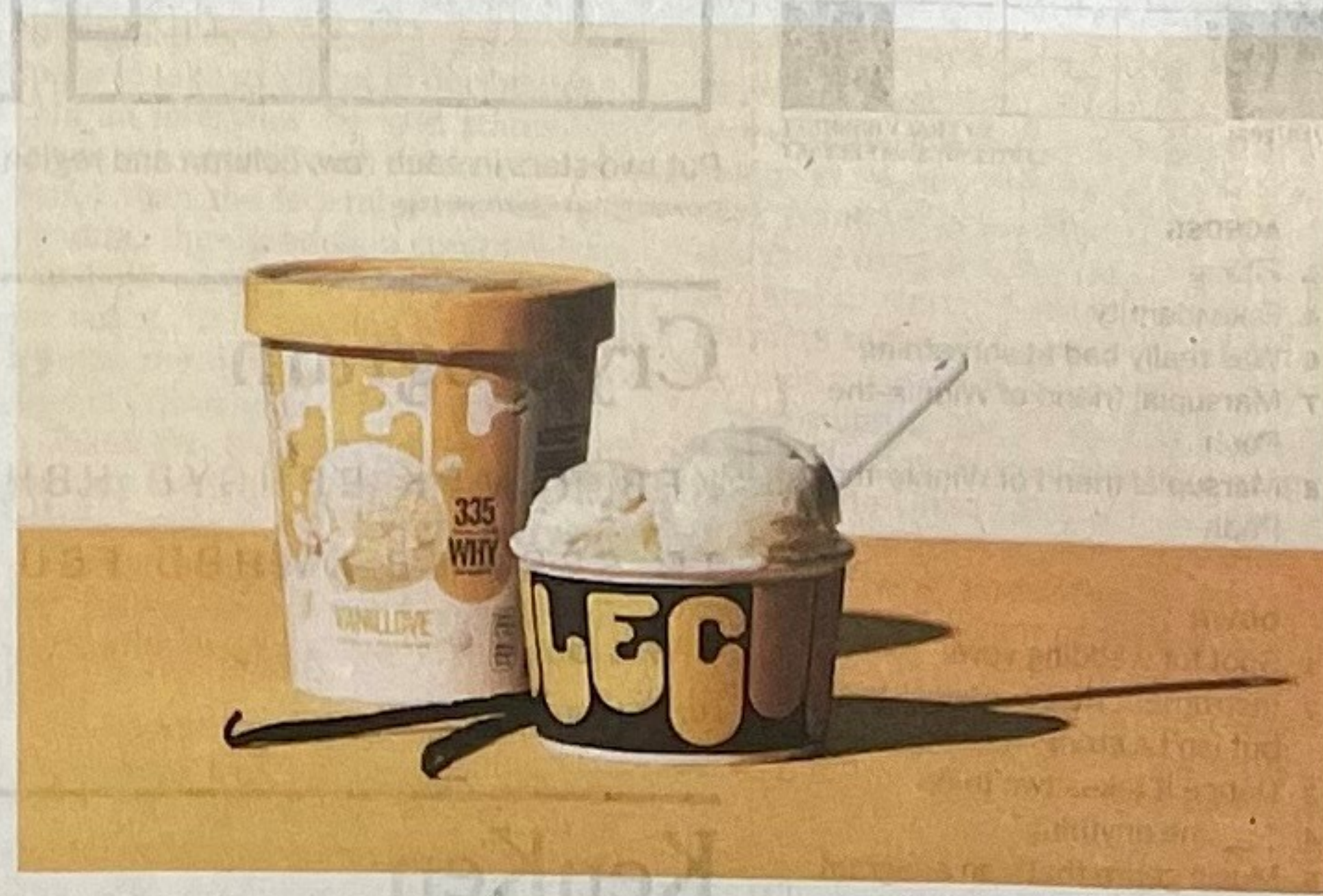
starts at 335 calories for a 258-gram tub (slightly less than a pint) of vanilla — or about 135 calories per 100 grams.

Typically, calorie reduction is achieved by lowering fat and sugar. LEC recipes focus on reducing fat, the brand said, which never exceeds 5.2 percent.

Mr. Leclerc, ever exacting, has tested all of them. He said the team behind the new venture worked through blind tests, trying the competitors' offerings, and ensuring that LEC tastes like regular ice cream was vital to the process. He recalled being a boy watching Grand Prix races with a tub of ice cream.

"I wanted to work on a fun project," he said. "I love ice cream but could eat less as my track responsibilities increased. I

Charles Leclerc, the Scuderia Ferrari Formula 1 driver and budding entrepreneur, has introduced LEC, a low-calorie ice cream sold in Italy in five flavors.



LEC

wanted to create something with reduced calories so I could eat it more often."

His favorite flavor is vanilla, or Vanillove on LEC containers. The names of other variations include Salty Carammamel, Swirly Pistachi-oh!, Peanut Caramel Tango and Chocolate Crunch. A tub sells for 4.99 euros, or about \$5.37.

Mr. Leclerc enjoyed experimenting with the packaging, which has the logo's melting typeface and coloring designed to pique a shopper's interest among the labels found in a supermarket's deep-freeze containers.

"I'm a very creative person," he said. (When the 2020 Formula 1 season was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic, Mr. Leclerc taught himself to play the piano.)

In a bold first move underlining his competitive mettle off the track, LEC

was introduced in Milan, a city where gelato is a pillar of life within a country said to be its birthplace. LEC plays on the Italian verb "leccare," which means to lick, and draws back to his surname.

"I grew up in Italy," Mr. Leclerc said. "And, of course, being a Ferrari driver, I have a special link now."

Mr. Leclerc partnered with his friends Federico Grom and Guido Martinetti, founders of the Grom gelato chain, and his longtime manager, Nicolas Todt, to get LEC to the finish line. It is sold through Italian supermarket chains such as Esselunga.

American fans may have to wait a little longer. In regard to distribution in the United States, he said the team had received a lot of interest and would consider international releases next.

"If it works in Italy, there's no reason we can't try it in other countries," Mr. Leclerc said.