

Time magazine needs consistent covers



Holly Fisher

During December 2011, Time magazine received letter after angry letter. This was not because of a story the magazine had printed, but because of the chosen cover design for its U.S. edition. For the Europe, Asia and South Pacific editions, Time highlighted the major political unrest of the Egyptian rebellion. For the U.S. edition, readers were greeted with an innocent cartoon character and the caption, "Why Anxiety is Good For You." Even after a printed apology in the Dec. 12, 2011 issue, Time magazine has released completely different covers for the U.S. compared to every other region of the world more than 50 times since then — this represents close to 30 percent of Time's published issues since December 2011, and each of those issues lies at the very core of America's ignorance and disinterest toward international topics.

In the most recent Sept. 21 issue of Time, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the South Pacific region all caught a tragic glimpse of how more than a quarter of a million Syrian refugees have come to seek asylum on the shores of Greece. This story is a commentary about the escalating state of Syria's civil war and can mean big changes to Europe's current open-door immigration policy. The U.S. edition of Time, however, apparently figured Americans would be more interested in an article about the state of monogamy.

This being said, both editions contained the same articles. News is not being hidden from Americans, but it certainly is being presented with a different level of significance.

Of course, with an entire ocean between the U.S. and Europe, one could argue the story really isn't as relevant to Americans as it might be to the rest of the world. Although, by this logic, why was the story still on the cover for the South Pacific

region? There is an entire continent separating these areas from each other. Is there really nothing more relevant to the South Pacific than what's happening half a world away? If it can be relevant to the South Pacific region, I would argue it should be relevant to America, especially when we've been grappling with our own immigration policy problems for years — and it certainly should be more relevant than some fluff piece about monogamy.

A problem also arises when cover captions like "Obama's Iran Gamble," "Asia's Obama Problem," "Why Gitmo Will Never Close" and "Why the U.S. Will Never Save Afghanistan" decorate newsstands all over the world — unless, of course, those particular newsstands happen to be in the one country the captions focus on.

Time magazine is running a business, so they are going to publish magazines designed to sell the most in a particular region. However, Time has only singled out areas such as Europe, Asia or the South Pacific about 10 times in the way they consistently single out the U.S.

Even with all these places combined, these 10 issues represent only 0.05 percent of published issues since December 2011.

America is becoming increasingly isolated in regards to international news, and outlets like Time magazine are not helping the problem. The world is shrinking as modern technology grows every year, and eventually that ocean between us and everyone else won't seem like much more than a small lake. By the time we decide we can't ignore the outside world anymore it'll be too late, and Time magazine is only adding fuel to the fire.

We as Americans are not so important that we do not need to know what's happening in the rest of the world. We are not so fragile that we cannot handle what's happening in the rest of world. We should not be so apathetic that we do not care what's happening in the rest of the world.

We are a part of the world, and therefore, world news is relevant to us. It's time for us to start being treated like it is.

Holly Fisher is a senior English and linguistics major from Elizabethtown, Ky.

TIME MAGAZINE: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COVER STORIES INTERNATIONALLY AND IN THE UNITED STATES

May 27, 2013

UNITED STATES

THE ANGELINA EFFECT

Jeffrey Kluger and Alice Park

INTERNATIONAL

SYRIA'S DESCENT INTO MADNESS

Aryn Baker

Sept. 16, 2013

UNITED STATES

IT'S TIME TO PAY COLLEGE ATHLETES

Sean Gregory

INTERNATIONAL

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO VLADIMIR PUTIN

Simon Shuster

Dec. 16, 2013

UNITED STATES

MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE

Rana Foroohar

INTERNATIONAL

AL-QAEDA'S DARK STAR RISES

Aryn Baker

SOURCE: TIME.COM

New meal plans have pros and cons



Trevor Hamblin

This year, Truman State's meal plan options have undergone a dramatic shift. Most of you already have noticed, but the change in how meal plans operate has had monumental effects on student experiences with the University's dining options. Meals used to be dealt out on a per-semester basis, but now meal plans operate on weekly schedules. There was much initial optimism about the change, especially about myself, but many now are complaining about the new plan. It's a complicated issue, and while I do like the new plan, its flaws should be examined.

Sodexo's meal plan options come in seven varieties, though two of them are exclusive to off-campus

students. Three of these meal plan options are week-by-week, with increments of 20, 14 and 10 meal blocks per week. The 14 meals a week plan includes \$125 Dining Dollars, while the others include \$100. At the end of the week — specifically, at midnight between Saturday and Sunday — the meals reset and any unused meals are gone. Other options include an all-access plan — but with it, meal blocks cannot be used outside of the dining halls and guests cannot be swiped in — and a 150-meals-per-semester plan, which is similar to last year's options.

Last year, there actually was a weekly meal plan option. It, however, had one major difference to this year's new plans — meal blocks couldn't be used outside of dining halls. Similar to the semester-based plans of last year, the new plans allow students to use meal blocks at the Student Union Building or the convenience stores in West Campus Suites and Dobson Hall. This means these plans are more versatile than last year's.

While the new meal plan options might sound easier to manage, they have some downsides. Because the meals reset weekly, you have to use all your meals or lose them forever. This means Friday and Saturday nights, people start raiding the convenience stores. While this isn't a new phenomenon — with the old system, this was a common occurrence at the

end of each semester — it has been occurring more frequently as people find themselves with an excess of meals to spend. This creates congestion in the stores and a significant lack of products afterward.

The new meal plan system does have its merits, though. With the weekly system, students budget their meals more easily. It's much easier to figure out how to budget for a week than for a semester, and often the extra meal blocks are convenient for buying snacks or soda to store in rooms. I know I have used several of my excess meals to buy boxes of soda, cutting down on my trips to Walmart. I also have benefitted from friends buying extra snacks during the weekly convenience store raids.

The new meal plans have pros and cons, but for the most part I continue to be optimistic about their potential for success this year. Unless the stress of weekly convenience store clean-outs becomes too much for Sodexo, I have faith things will adjust as the semester rolls along. This weekly plan can work, and I'm not ready to throw in the towel just yet.

Trevor Hamblin is a sophomore English and communication major from Moberly, Mo.

AROUND THE QUAD

If you could name Truman State's newly renovated mall, what would you name it?

Letter to the Editor

Dear Index,

I would like to see the Truman State Board of Governors consider naming the new, renovated mall after our great President Troy Paino. He has been at the university the past six years, five of those as our president, and he has just received a new contract to continue in his capacity until 2019. He has and continues to do so much for Truman. Under his guidance and efforts, he assisted in pulling the resources together to fund the much needed renovations and upgrades to the mall area.

It is my hope that the mall can be known as "T-Pain Mall"!

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger Johnson
Staff Member

The Loop, because it kind of goes around in a loop.

Lawrence Cobb
Sophomore



The Center or the Courtyard of Equilibrium

Bailey Jarman
Freshman



I would name it after president T-Pain because he's done so much for the university.

Jonathan Connally
Sophomore

