

2 | Editor's Desk

BRIEFING

5 | Verbatim

6 | LightBox

Brazil celebrates Carnival

8 | World

North Korea tests a nuke; Europe gags on horsemeat

10 | Nation

Republicans mellow on marijuana; Osama's shooter

12 | Health & Science

Introducing the bionic man

14 | Tech

The unstoppable rise of social multimedia

15 | Milestones

Farewell to James DePreist and artist Richard Artschwager

COMMENTARY

16 | Murphy's Law

Mike Murphy on why Obama should stop stumping

17 | In the Arena

Joe Klein on what the President missed in the State of the Union

ON THE COVER:
TIME Photo-Illustration;
Pope Benedict XVI:
Evandro Inetti—
Zuma Press



Dancers in Russia's Bolshoi Ballet perform Swan Lake on the stage of Moscow's historic Bolshoi Theater. Photograph by Yuri Kozyrev—Noor for TIME

FEATURES

18 Pope and Change

Benedict XVI resigns from a paradoxical papacy by Howard Chua-Eoan

26 Jet Setter

The fighter plane with the \$396 billion price tag racks up enemies by Mark Thompson

32 Dancers' Demons

Clan rivalries loom over an acid attack that has disgraced Russia's Bolshoi Ballet by Simon Shuster

38 Rocks of Ages

Inside the race to stop killer asteroids from clobbering Earth by Jeffrey Kluger

THE CULTURE

46 | Pop Chart

Monopoly's mini-makeover; Chaka Khan chocolates

48 | Sports

A female Olympian breaks the mold in mixed martial arts

51 | Movies

Who will take home an Oscar this year?

52 | Education

Should math games accompany bedtime stories for kids?

54 | Travel

Weather sites help sports travelers find powder and surf

58 | The Awesome Column

Joel Stein enlightens the media on the art of naming news

60 | 10 Questions

California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom

