

# TIME



## The Zika Virus

It's a mysterious illness with devastating effects.

**Is the next major global health crisis on the way?**

**Plus**

The controversial plan to genetically manipulate mosquitoes out of existence

# HELP SAVE THE DIVE MASK

The coral reefs where we dive need help. Overfishing, careless tourism and climate change are putting reefs and people's livelihoods at risk. From the Coral Triangle to the coastlines of Africa and Australia's Great Barrier Reef, WWF is promoting responsible tourism and pushing for protected areas and responsible fishing. Help us look after the world where you live at [panda.org](http://panda.org)



Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, Palawan, Philippines.

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# The Zika Threat

Mosquito season has U.S. health officials scrambling. A TIME primer on a new viral outbreak

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Black Panther

FROM THE PUBLISHER

# A special evening of 100 stars

TIME HAS ALWAYS BEEN RECOGNIZED for its power to convene the brightest minds, the most intriguing entertainers and all those whose impact you feel even if you've never heard their names. And there is no better showcase of influence and excellence than the TIME 100.

Nearly 350 honorees and guests at this year's TIME 100 Gala on April 26 in New York City were treated to performances by Ariana Grande and Nicki Minaj. Toasts by actor and comedian Melissa McCarthy, Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton, Congolese physician Denis Mukwege, activist Caitlyn Jenner and Ford Foundation president Darren Walker amused, moved and inspired.

This incredible evening would not have been possible without the support of five sponsors: Cadillac, Citi, AT&T, Marc Jacobs Beauty and Johnnie Walker. They are excellent partners, and I want to thank them on behalf of TIME and the TIME 100.

What's next? We'll keep TIME center stage, with new live events around the world; new platforms like Motto, reaching millennial women; and our coverage of virtual reality, a frontier all its own. To all our honorees, sponsors and audiences, thank you.



Meredith Long, PUBLISHER



**THE PREGAME** TIME 100 guests mingle before dinner at the Time Warner Center



**TRIBUTE** Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton toasts the memory of Prince, "arguably the best artist of all time"



**ARTISTRY** Designer Riccardo Tisci, left, with rapper Nicki Minaj



**ACTING UP** Comedians Melissa McCarthy, center left, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus get photo-bombed by astronaut Scott Kelly



**ONSTAGE** Ariana Grande sang "Dangerous Woman" and "Leave Me Lonely"



**STRIKE A POSE**  
Caitlyn Jenner, left, and Karlie Kloss smile for the camera



**SHOWRUNNER** Editor Nancy Gibbs introduces the 2016 honorees

INTERIOR: REBECCA SWEENEY—THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; TISCII AND MINAJ: MARK SAGUOCCO—GETTY IMAGES; GRANDE, JENNER AND KLOSS: KEVIN MAZUR—GETTY IMAGES FOR TIME; HAMILTON, MCCARTHY AND LOUIS-DREYFUS: GIBBS; CLINT SPAULDING—PATRICK MCMULLAN

A large, semi-transparent circular graphic is positioned on the right side of the image. It contains a stylized floral pattern in shades of pink and purple. Overlaid on this graphic is the hashtag '#IamSyrian' in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

#IamSyrian

"I USED TO WORK AS A FARMER, LIVING  
AND EATING OFF THE SWEAT OF MY BROW.  
I HAD CONFIDENCE THAT MY CHILDREN  
WERE SAFE." — ZIAD

**This is my story. Share it with the world.**  
**To find out more visit [wfp.org/IamSyrian](http://wfp.org/IamSyrian)**

**VOTERS' VOICE**

RE "LEARNING TO LOVE Ted" [April 18]: Your article on Ted Cruz was interesting and insightful. However, I am sure that many people have been disappointed by their favorite politician and party after learning that issues have not been addressed in the way they had hoped. Usually this is because of unholy political alignments or interest groups lobbying politicians before a vote in Congress or parliament. With the Internet now in the hands of almost everyone, it should be easier for the public to vote on issues. Before a matter is voted on in Congress or parliament, members of the public should give their opinion by voting online, thus giving politicians an idea of what voters think.

*Henry Pool,*  
PRETORIA,  
SOUTH AFRICA

**STRAIGHTEN OUT**

RE "AHEAD OF THE CURVE" [April 18]: It's disappointing that TIME chose to dedicate so many pages to luxury goods. In an era where a great quantity of content is free, quality of content should separate TIME from the rest. This was not much better than junk-mail catalogues.

*Evan Player,*  
PORT DOUGLAS,  
AUSTRALIA

**PORN PROBLEMS**

RE "PORN AND THE THREAT to Virility" [April 18]: We have seen articles like this one before, containing the same claims that porn desensitizes men and degrades women. What is often overlooked is the fact that parents need to communicate with their kids. Porn can be a source of inspiration, but if no one advises which sources to use, yes, kids will end up watching pure trash, which may cause the things described in your article.

*Henrik Blunck,*  
KALUNDBORG,  
DENMARK

I WAS DISMAYED AND appalled by the thinly veiled accusatory tone on pornography, which is portrayed as being sinister and destructive as validated through the dubious stories of a few heterosexual males. The positive aspects of porn are hardly addressed. For many youths (and adults, for that matter), online porn is the only safe outlet through which they can find and relieve themselves. This is particularly so in parts of the world where pre-adulthood sex is discouraged and even condemned. Do I have to emphasize the vital role of porn to many gay youths struggling to come to terms with their



sexuality? Where are the positive experiences of porn consumption?

*Simon Grant,*  
LANE COVE NORTH,  
AUSTRALIA

THANKS AND DEEP RESPECT to Belinda Luscombe for her article on porn. As a 70-year-old granny—and, I hope, an open-minded one—I was dubious about reading about such a sensitive subject, worried that it might offend or be intolerable to absorb. Luscombe managed to convey complete and detailed information on all the aspects of this modern-day preoccupation without offending one's senses or sensibilities. A feat, indeed! Being a female writing on this predominantly male issue, Luscombe deserves kudos for her truly commendable coverage.

*Lesley-Anne Alexandrov,*  
PARIS

**PERSONALITY CULT**

RE "CHINA'S CHAIRMAN" [April 11]: I think no other leader in history held as much power over so many people for so long as China's Mao Zedong, and none inflicted such a catastrophe on his nation. Mao's lust for control and fear of betrayal kept his regime and country in turmoil. His ruthless vision and reckless intrigues threw the People's Republic into a frenzy with the Great Leap Forward and its horrible consequences, the great famine and the Cultural Revolution. But Mao's era is over. The foreseeable future of China depends on whether Xi Jinping is willing to stay away from Mao's Machiavellian rule and reposition himself, or whether his nation must wait for a political storm more powerful than the one that took place on June 4, 1989, in Tiananmen Square.

*Song Xiaowen,*  
TAOYUAN, TAIWAN

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