

# Comments from the Editor

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Hello everyone:

Welcome to the first issue of 2006 (Vol. 8, No. 1) of the *Journal of Magazine and New Media Research*. This issue includes two excellent articles, another thought-provoking research note by David Abrahamson, and a tribute to Caroline Dow written by our colleague Barbara Reed.

In **“Religion on *TIME*: Personal spiritual quests and religious institutions on the cover of a popular news magazine,”** David W. Scott and Daniel A. Stout use close-text analysis to examine the visual and textual portrayal of religion and spirituality on the covers of Time magazine from January, 1995 through March, 2005. They conclude that the magazine covers have emphasized private rather than public religious practice, which in turn reflects skepticism of institutions and a cooptation of religious symbols as a means of promoting entertainment, art, and popular science. They also note that Christianity dominates the cover pages.

In **“Depicting the sporting body: The intersection of gender, race and disability in women’s sport/fitness magazines,”** Marie Hardin, Susan Lynn, and Kristie Walsdorf conduct a critical content analysis the photographic portrayals of athletes in four women’s sports publications: *Real Sports*, *SI Women (SIW)*, *Shape* and *Women’s Sports & Fitness (WSF)*. They find that women’s sports and fitness magazines have failed to adequately represent athletes with disabilities. In particular, they argue that non-white women with disabilities are almost invisible. As a result, they conclude that these magazines have failed to break free from a “male/ableist hegemonic body standard.”

Once again, our **Research Notes & Commentary** section features an essay from Abrahamson. In his essay, **“The Rise of the New Partisan Press: Forward into the Past,”** Abrahamson raises concerns about what many perceive as the increasing partisan nature and publicly acknowledged biases of the press. “I would suggest that this is not a good thing,” Abrahamson writes, referring to growing loss of objectivity as “an unacceptable outcome, a trend to be turned around.” One solution, he proffers, is a return to greater “truth” in reporting. “They (the public, our readers) want and, I would argue, can handle the truth.”

Finally, we include a tribute to our colleague and friend, Caroline Dow, who recently passed away. Barbara Reed examines the legacy and contributions of this wonderful scholar, teacher, research, friend, and mentor as she reflects back on Caroline’s professional career and involvement with AEJMC, the Magazine Division, and the academy. The Magazine Division has announced that it will name its Best Faculty Paper award after Caroline. We miss her and will always remember her.

As always, I would like to thank the authors and reviewers who have contributed to this issue. I also am grateful for the assistance of our managing editor, David Sumner. Again, I would like to encourage the members of our division, including our graduate students, to submit your manuscripts to the journal. We have seen an increase in the quality of submissions. For your information, the acceptance rate continues to hover in the 30-33 percent range. We also would like to encourage those authors who have received revise-and-resubmit requests to follow-up on the suggestions from our reviewers. As I have read the reviewer comments, I have been impressed by the quality of the reviews and the usefulness of the suggestions and recommendations. We send out many revise-and-resubmit responses to authors, but we rarely hear back. We'd like to have a greater opportunity to help you with your manuscripts.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

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