

A Time-Worn Newt Gingrich

'Man of the Year' Mug Is a Pore Likeness

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He may be Time's Man of the Year, but he looks like the thug of the week.

The unsmiling visage of House Speaker Newt Gingrich staring from the magazine's cover bristles with dark stubble. His wrinkles and jowls are prominent. His skin has an orange glow. A purple splotch makes its way from his right eye to the bottom of his nose.

"They gave him Nixon's 5 o'clock shad-

ow," said Tony Blankley, Gingrich's spokesman. "It must have taken special artwork on the part of their team. It's slightly surrealistic."

The brutally explicit mug shot matches the mixed tone of the Man of the Year story, which says the Georgian has dominated the national agenda "ruthlessly, brilliantly, obnoxiously . . . a sometimes unlovely blur . . . a display of discipline that is either impressive or scary."

"Remember . . . it's not necessarily 'con-
See GINGRICH, B2, Col. 1

Gingrich, On Time

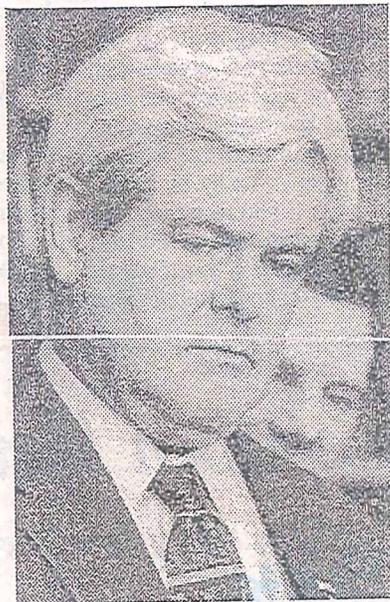
GINGRICH, From B1

gratulations Newt," Time columnist Margaret Carlson said on CNN's "Late Edition." "Hitler was on the cover twice. Stalin was on the cover."

Time executives say the photo, set against a neon-green-and-yellow background, was not altered in any way. "It wasn't as though we said, 'Gee, this one's more unflattering, let's use this one,'" said Arthur Hochstein, Time's art director. "Our intent was to do a very straightforward portrait of him."

"He's an in-your-face, energetic guy. We didn't want it to feel muted or quiet. We wanted something that felt a little more electric. There was no agenda here. . . . I don't think we uglified him. He looks human."

Hochstein said the photographer, Gregory Heisler, is "a technical master" who used special lighting in a Capitol office to produce the multi-hued effect. "They tried to achieve this interesting lighting effect that is made up of bunches of interesting colors," he said, adding that Gingrich



Time's Man of the Year: Gonna buy five copies for his mother?

seemed tired during the late-afternoon session.

Michael Ruby, co-editor of U.S. News & World Report, said he would not have run such a cover shot. "It's not a terribly flattering picture, with the 5 o'clock shadow and the Day-Glo background, and it looks like he's on the way to a black eye," he said. "I expected to see some acknowledgment

that the thing had been manipulated a bit. I don't know what kind of signal they were trying to send."

An earlier version was cropped even tighter until editors grew concerned that Gingrich appeared a bit too unvarnished, Hochstein said.

Time spokesman Robert Pondiscio said questions about the picture were ironic in light of the controversy last year when Time electronically darkened a cover photo of O.J. Simpson. "We're kicked around if we alter a cover and kicked around if we don't," he said.

After the Republicans captured Congress last fall, the new speaker's aides complained that he was often caricatured as a Dickensian figure, "the Gingrich who stole Christmas."

But given the nature of being named Man of the Year and the high-level interview (with Time Inc. editor-in-chief Norman Pearlstine and incoming managing editor Walter Isaacson, among others), Gingrich might have expected a different sort of cover photo. Sort of like the two-page picture inside—a power shot from ground level, Gingrich staring into a cloudless blue sky, the Capitol dome gleaming in the background.

His staff had no such illusions.

"I never expect anyone to try to make him look good, so this doesn't surprise me," Blankley said.