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**OBAMA AND THE BUDGET WAR**  
by George Packer

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## The Middle East of the West?

The biggest North American oil strike in decades is embedded deep underground in North Dakota rock. Can it relieve the energy crisis—and do it safely? **Eric Konigsberg** reports

### The other Malcolm X

**David Remnick** on rewriting a life

### Queen of the D-League

**Ben McGrath** on the N.B.A.'s Nancy Lieberman

### From Coach to first class?

**Ariel Levy** on a designer's change of direction

### The man who tells brain time

**Burkhard Bilger** on the most mysterious dimension

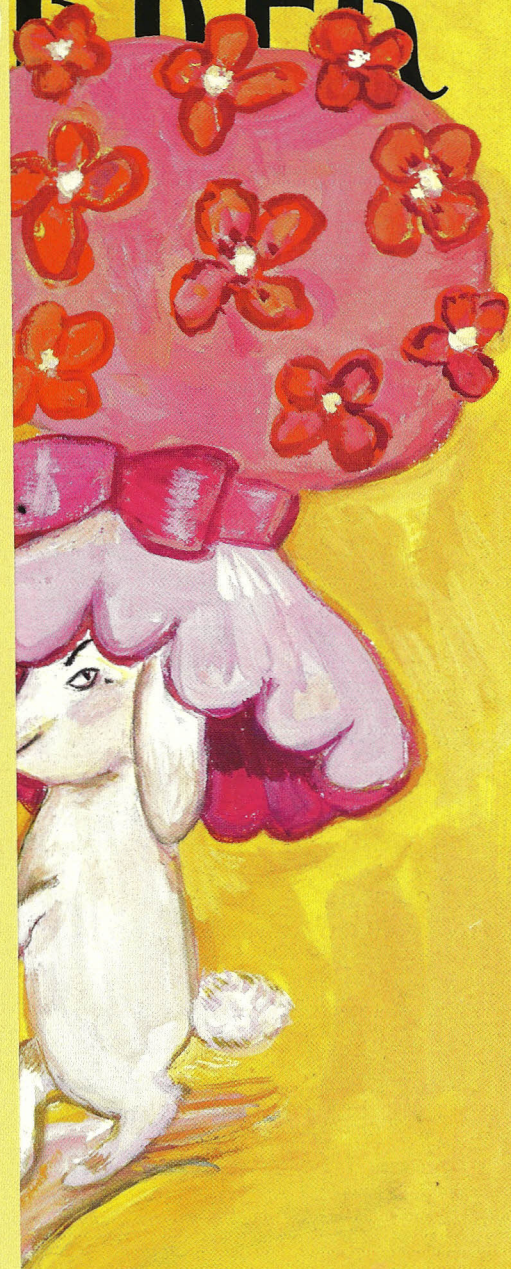


### Plus:

Fiction by **Thomas McGuane**

**Hilton Als** on Broadway's

'The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat'



MAIRA KALMAN