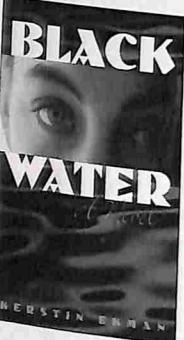


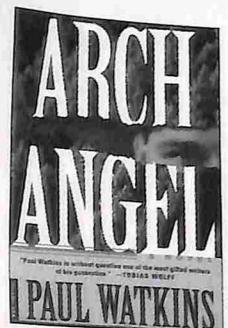
A Swedish forest
hides a woman's
nightmare...



"Blackwater works so
brilliantly both as a mystery
and an evocation of an
unfamiliar world."

"Thrilling...Superbly written."
—WASHINGTON POST BOOK WORLD

The Maine woods
reveals a man's
obsession...



"Wonderful...squarely in the
tradition of Deliverance and
Legends of the Fall."

"Howard Frank Mosher
One of the most gifted writers
of his generation."

—TOBIAS WOLFF

NOW IN PAPERBACK
What to read next
PICADOR
USA



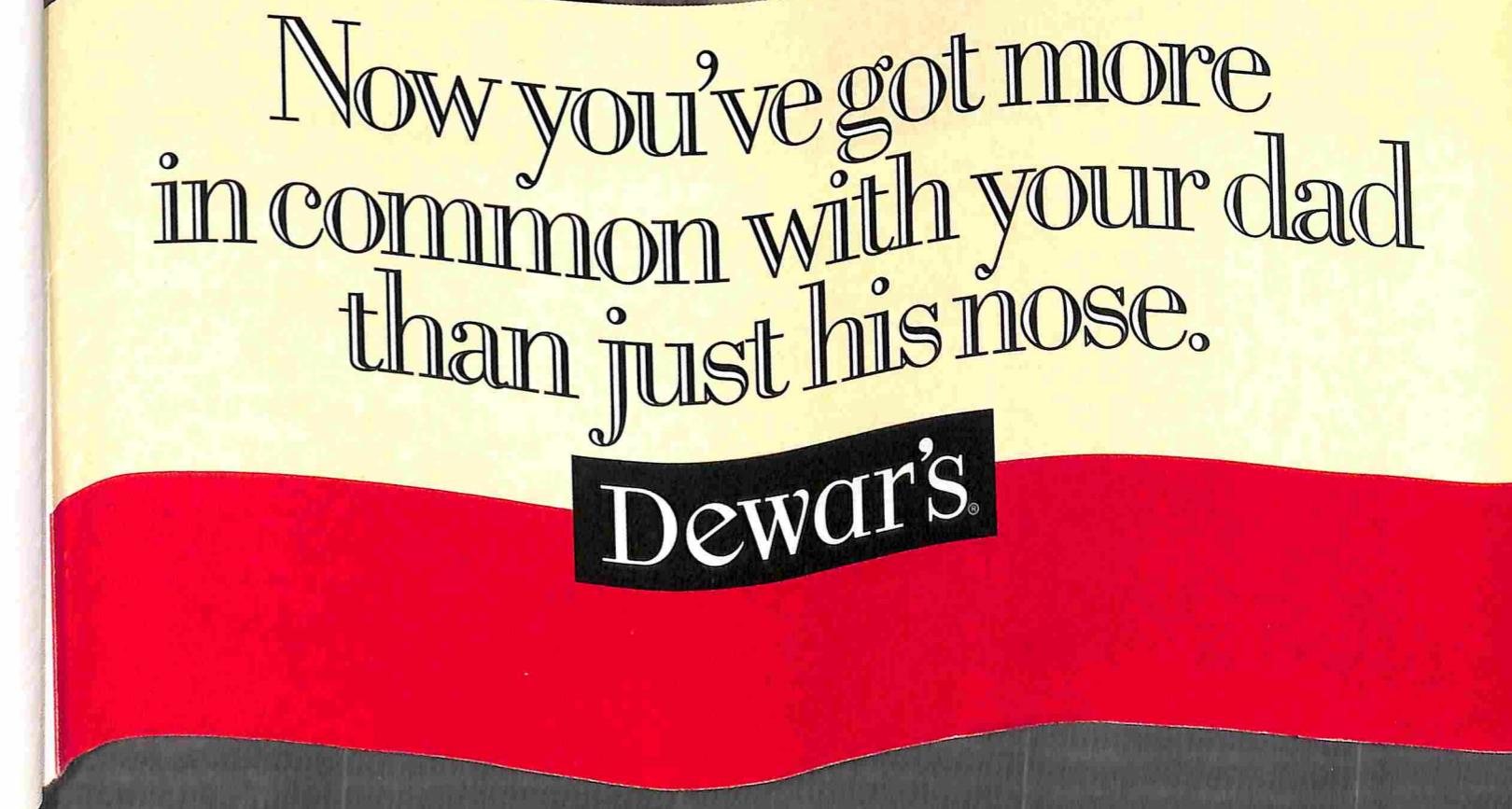
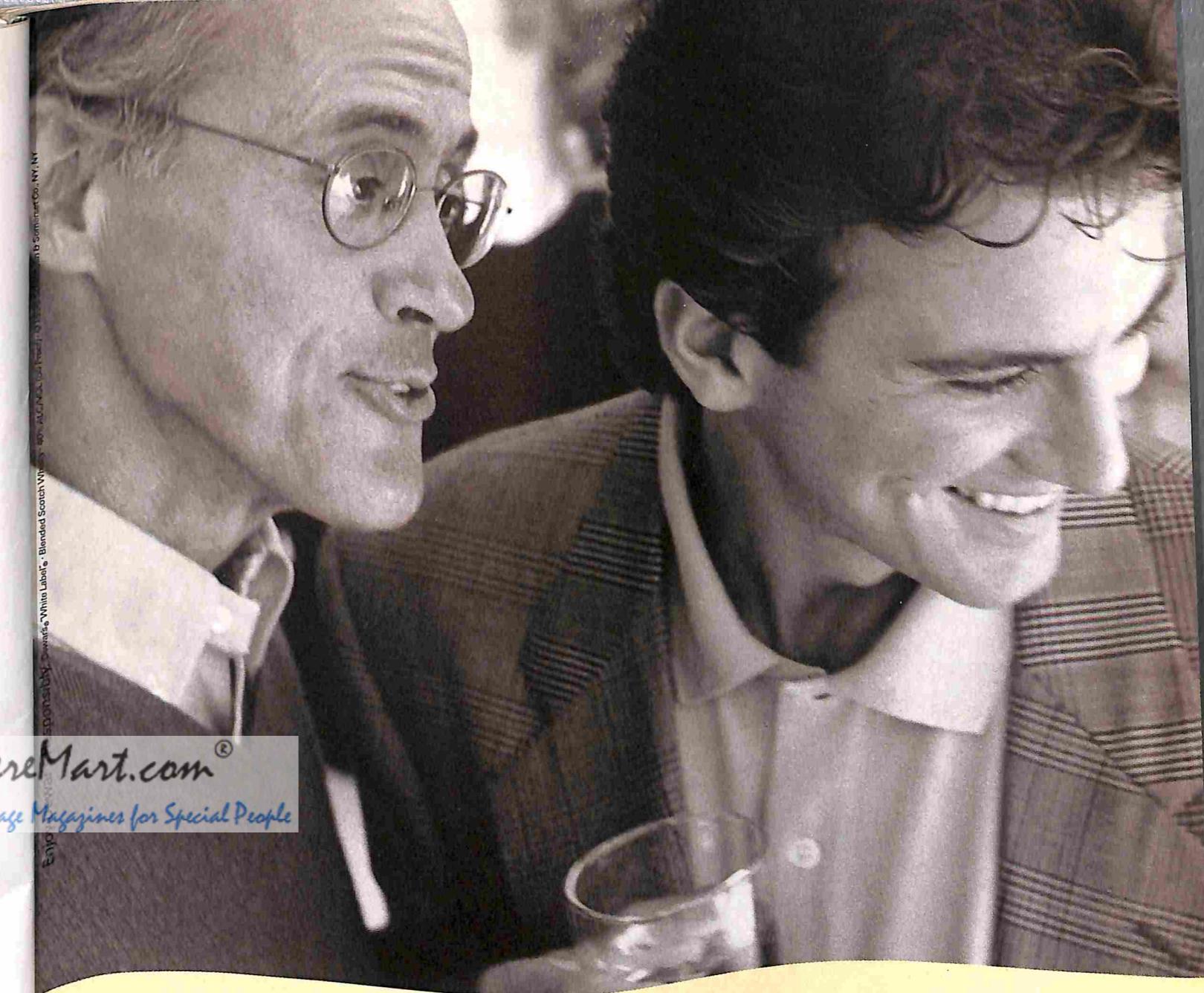
FEBRUARY 3, 1997

| | | |
|--|------------------------|----|
| COMMENT The Era of Sour Feelings | Hendrik Hertzberg | 7 |
| What, exactly, is at the vital center? | | |
| THE MAIL | | 10 |
| GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN | | 12 |
| THE TALK OF THE TOWN | | 29 |
| O.J.'s unlikely chronicler; bridge to the eighteenth century; etc. | | |
| DEPARTMENTS | | |
| The Political Scene Inside the Money Machine | Jane Mayer | 32 |
| Why the Democrats decided to go for it. | | |
| Life and Letters Me and My Books | John Updike | 38 |
| The author reads into his own work. | | |
| The Culture Industry The Age of Unreason | Kurt Andersen | 46 |
| The my-facts-are-better-than-your-facts skepticism. | | |
| DEPT. OF DISPUTATION The Chitlin Circuit | Henry Louis Gates, Jr. | 44 |
| It's not Strindberg, it's not high art, and it's probably not what August Wilson wants theatre to be. But it's fun—and it's for blacks only. | | |
| A REPORTER AT LARGE The Last Tory | Hugo Young | 56 |
| Prime Minister John Major has led Britain into a period of unforeseen cultural and economic buoyancy. Why, then, are the voters ready to sack him? | | |
| FICTION "China Pattern" | Nicholson Baker | 68 |
| An investigation into the fine art of ceramics. | | |
| THE CRITICS | | |
| A Critic at Large The Schubert bicentennial | Alex Ross | 70 |
| Books Tamara Plakins Thornton's "Handwriting in America" | Thomas Mallon | 79 |
| Walter Benn Michaels's "Our America" | Alexander Star | 81 |
| The Current Cinema "In Love and War," "Fierce Creatures" | Anthony Lane | 84 |
| POEM "Entering Scott's Night" | James Dickey | 47 |
| SHOUTS & MURMURS Gimme No Static | Rich Cohen | 86 |
| COVER | | |
| DRAWINGS | | |
| <i>The Sale of the Century, by Bruce McCall</i> | | |
| Michael Maslin, Roz Chast, Donald Reilly, Mort Gerberg, Lee Lorenz, Frank Cotham, Mike Twohy, Leo Cullum, Jack Ziegler, John Jonik, Robert Weber, Bruce Eric Kaplan, Danny Shanahan, Tom Cheney, Peter Porges, Robert Mankoff | | |

THE NEW YORKER (ISSN 0028-792X), published weekly (except for six combined issues: the last week of February and the first week of March, the last week of April and the first week of May, the last two weeks of June, the last week of August and the first week of September, the last two weeks of October, and the last two weeks of December) by The New Yorker Magazine, Inc., 20 W. 43rd St., N.Y., N.Y. 10036. Vol. LXXII, No. 45, February 3, 1997. Periodical postage paid at New York, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices. Authorized as second-class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, Canada, and for payment of postage in cash. Canadian Publication Mail Sales Product Agreement No. 190969. Canadian goods-and-services-tax registration number R123242885. Registered as a newspaper at the British Post Office. Subscription rates: In U.S. and possessions, one year, \$39.95; two years, \$72.00. In Canada, one year, \$83.00 (includes G.S.T.). In Germany, one year, DM290. Mail orders to IP Internationale Presse Distribution & Marketing GmbH, Waldstr. 70, D-63128 Dietzenbach, Germany. Other foreign subscriptions, one year, \$91.00, payable in advance.

Dewar's®

Now you've got more
in common with your dad
than just his nose.



X

Feb. 3, 1997

THE

Price \$2.95

THE NEW YORKER



#BXBCMCJ***CAR-RT SORT**C009
#WLH30194094 1#490684 OX

NEWS

M-M DOUG WILHIDE AUG 24 98
3019 W 43RD ST YE02
MINNEAPOLIS MN #8105
55410-1518

SALE • BARGAIN PRIC

BRUCE M'CALL