The New Yorker  Circa 2005
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A lot of people have responded to
and have taken seriously. One of Remnick’s surprising deci-
sions last year was to endorse a presi-
dential candidate—a first for The New Yorker, which has always
left but stayed out of the political
realm. He and his team decided to go
to tradition and endorse John
Kerry, though, he joked, “A hell of a lot
more new for me.”
Remnick explained, “We take posi-
tions on any number of things, espe-
cially in the [Talk of the Town] Com-
ment section Why not cover the most
important issue of the moment?”
He added that the choice was made
closer by the editorial team’s over-
all sense of right and wrong, “in
some extent they do, “ said Remnick.
That the readers feel they own, and to
through their letters, broaden the
perspectives of any given topic or
article. “The New Yorker is something
that they read, they believe it, and it
is a way they don’t about other
publications they got.”
He said the forum for response,
the “Letters” section, “is a kind of
steampipe that allows for certain
corrections…and disagreements.”
Remnick’s relatively editing
decisions, such as allowing pro-
fanity in fiction pieces or examining
the war in Iraq in depth, are what
made him go. “The topic seized me and wouldn’t let
me go.”

Above: Mary Ann Caws spoke
about her relationship with
Heilbrun, right.

McDowell, the Alice Griffin
Professor of Literary Studies at
the University of Virginia, read
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