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**Bob Herbert**, New York Times op-ed columnist and author of the compelling new book "Promises Betrayed," discusses how America has ceased to live up to its creed of fairness and justice for working people, minorities, children and others not counted among the powerful.

Moderated by **Glenn Kramon**, New York Times associate managing editor.

*Book sale and signing to follow discussion.*

**Tuesday, June 14, 6:30-8 p.m.**

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## Up Front

**T**HIS week Toni Bentley makes her first appearance on our cover with her review of Lyndall Gordon's "Vindication: A Life of Mary Wollstonecraft." The subject is of longstanding interest to Bentley. At 13, she began collecting biographies of "incredible" women: "Nin, Sand, Woolf, Colette. I always read their books, but I was interested in their lives," she said in a telephone interview. "I wouldn't have known how to live my life if these women hadn't done it before me." She recalls reading, and heavily underlining, Emily Sunstein's biography of Wollstonecraft, "A Different Face," a couple of years later.

Bentley's own history is remarkable. Raised in "an academic family that thought highly of intellectual things," she developed a passion for dance, ultimately landing a coveted place in George Balanchine's New York City Ballet. In 1982, when she was just 21, her book "Winter Season: A Dancer's Journal" was published to wide acclaim. When a hip injury forced her off the stage, she found a new career as a writer. She has since been the co-author of Suzanne Farrell's autobiography and has written a book about the costume designer Barbara Karinska as well as a scholarly study of striptease, centered on four women who danced Salome. Bentley's most recent book, "The Surrender: An Erotic Memoir," was one of the Book Review's 100 Notable Books of 2004.

*The Editors*

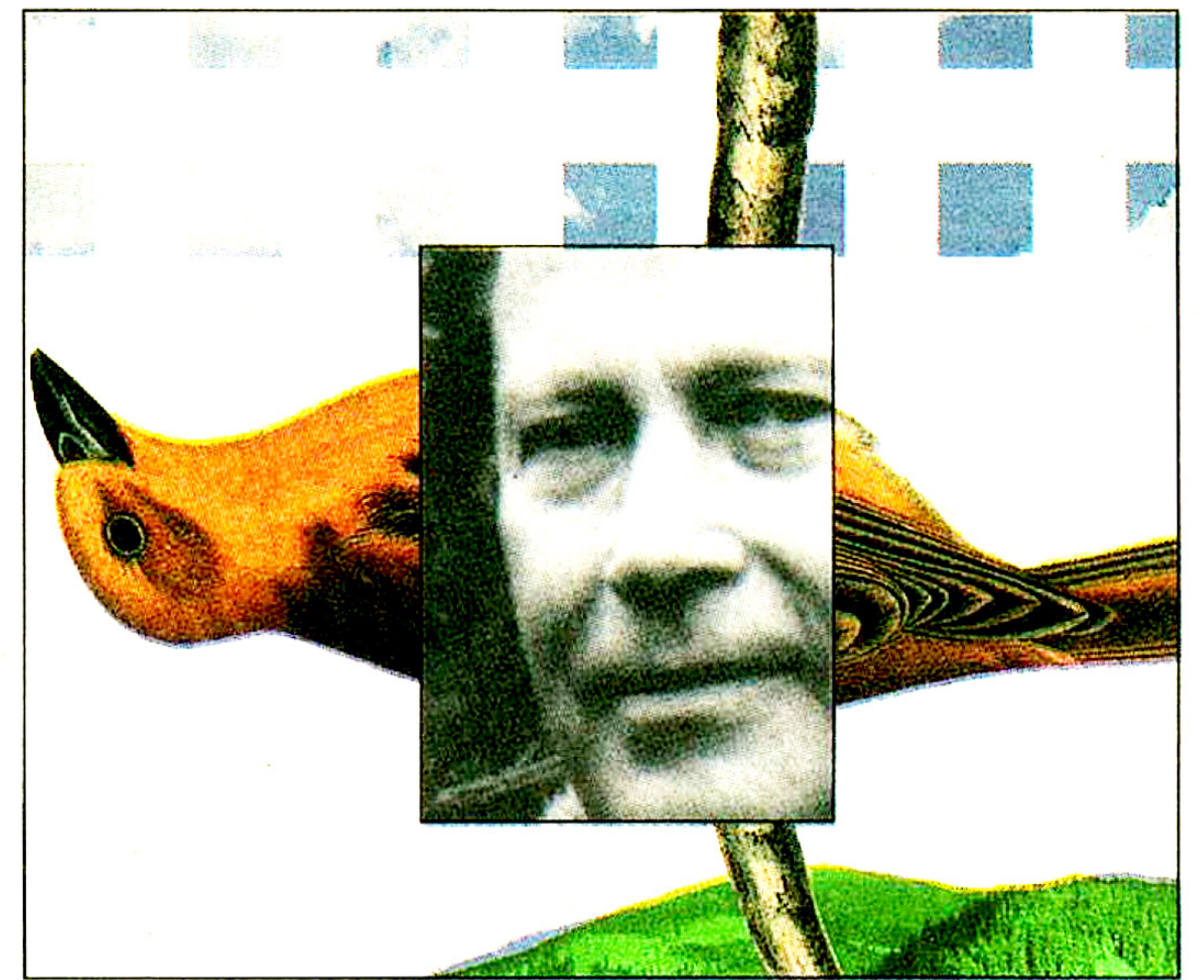


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## On the Web

**Audio:** Richard Wilbur reads selections from "Collected Poems, 1943-2004."

**First Chapters:** Excerpts from "Vindication," by Lyndall Gordon; "No god but God," by Reza Aslan; and other books.

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