

Photographs from One Institute at the USC Libraries

## One magazine's mission resonates 70 years later

AN EXHIBIT ABOUT THE GROUNDBREAKING GAY PUBLICATION AT THE LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER KICKS OFF LGBT HISTORY MONTH. BY MANUEL BETANCOURT

HEN ONE MAGAZINE published its first issue in January 1953, it became the first widely distributed gay publication in the United States. Created by One Inc., the gay rights organization founded the year before, the pioneering magazine is celebrating its trailblazing pages and its influential 14-year run with a new exhibit in Los Angeles. ¶ Starting Sunday at the Advocate & Gochis Galleries at the Los Angeles LGBT Center, "ONE Magazine at Seventy" offers visitors a chance to dig into the brainchild of writer Jim Kepner and activist W. Dorr Legg. The exhibit kicks off the inaugural "Circa: Queer Histories Festival," a monthlong celebration of the seven decades of the organization that first founded the storied magazine.

Throughout October, otherwise known as LGBT History Month, and taking place all over the Greater Los Angeles area, Circa will be hosting readings such as "HIV/AIDS: A Literary History" in West Hollywood, panel conversations like "Unapologetically Whole: Queer Elders of Color Speak Out" in Santa Monica, exhibitions such as "Queer Futurism: Transcendence in Time' in the San Gabriel Valley, and film screenings, including of Oat Montien's "Patpong Narcissus," at the Tom of Finland Foundation in Echo

For Tony Valenzuela, executive director of the newly rebranded nonprofit One Institute (formerly One Archives Foundation), the exhibit and the Circa festival are attempts to make these various histories be rightly understood as urgent calls to present action.

'What we're going through — the backlash that LGBTQ people are experiencing today — is the greatest that I've seen in my 30-plus-year career," Valenzuela says. "I mean, not since the dark days of the AIDS epidemic. I haven't seen such open hatred, such shamelessness around scapegoating queer and especially trans people.'

This was an animating principle for the exhibition curated by Alexis Bard Johnson, Quetzal Arévalo and

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NSP NON-STANDARD PR

Sela Kerr. As Johnson explains to The Times, it's important to situate One's archives in conversation with contemporary issues. In its heyday, One tackled everything from gay marriage and the Lavender scare ("Are Homosexuals Security Risks?" its October 1960 cover asked readers) to more specific topics ("Must I Answer That Cop?") about what it meant to live in a society that was openly hostile to so-called perverts and deviants.

Kepner envisioned the publication as arming its readers with the requisite information they needed so as to not feel alone. A column by beloved San Francisco psychologist Blanche M. Baker, for instance, hoped to illuminate "homosexual problems through the psychiatric viewpoint." Elsewhere, writers like Kepner, Sten Russell (pen name of Stella Rush) and Norman Mailer used the magazine's pages to illuminate pressing issues that remain all too familiar.

In doing so, One was a rarity at the time. Joseph Hawkins, head of One National Gay and Lesbian Library and Archives at USC, has heard this firsthand from visitors to the archives. Some older folks have openly wept in front of him when faced with copies of the magazine they hadn't seen in decades. "For them, they were in this complete



A COLLAGE

of inflamma-

tory head-

lines assem-

bled by the

magazine,

from top;

masthead

members

Don Slater.

left, W. Dorr

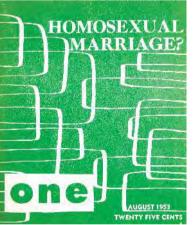
Legg and Jim

Kepner; and

the cover of

the August

1953 issue.



darkness back then and this was the

light that led them out," he says. The magazine's covers, many of which might feel rather staid in 2023, were outright scandalous in the 1950s and 1960s. So much so that readers went out of their way to avoid parading them in public. As Hawkins puts it, "One magazine was

FOR 10/1/2023 ONLY

a closeted publication."

"People were afraid to get an envelope that said 'gay' or 'lesbian' or anything on it," he adds. "People have told me that they actually put the One magazine into a brown paper bag. They would clutch them to their chest and wait until they got to their apartments. And then read them with the drapes closed and the door closed because they were too paranoid that somebody was going to find out. Because you could lose your job, you could get arrested, all kinds of horrible things could hap-

The covers are a central part of the "ONE Magazine at Seventy" exhibit. Their monochromatic, often abstracted, imagery (many designed by Eve Ellery) connects the work of early organizations like One Inc., the Mattachine Society and Daughters of Bilitis with the better known activist efforts that would later flourish following the 1969 Stonewall riots.

The October 1953 cover, for instance, served as a two-page spread that explained to its readers why a previous issue had been delayed. 'Your August issue was late because the postal authorities in Washington and Los Angeles had it under a microscope," its text-heavy cover read. The issue was cleared as suitable for mailing. But the magazine's editorial team made it clear it would not be deterred from continuing its

"There's still a bit to be done. Want to help?" it asked its readers outright. That kind of conversational approach was instrumental in One's communications strategy.

The magazine spoke directly to its audience. One fostered a broad if fragmented network of readers all over the United States. One built community behind closed doors; something best illustrated by the

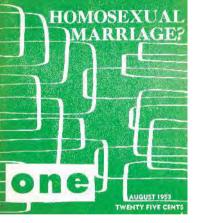
> very personal letters to the editor the magazine made a habit of publishing and responding to, many of which will be on display at this month's exhibit.

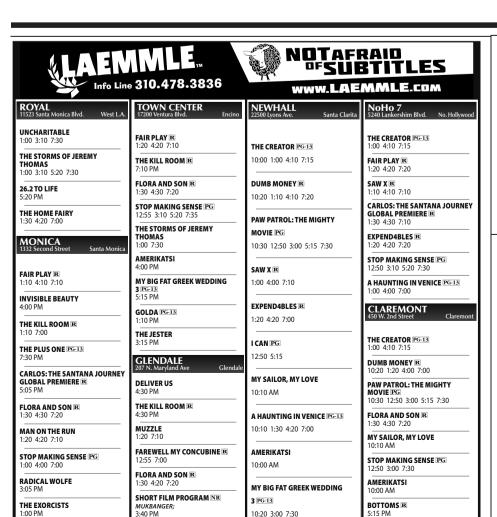
"We're still fighting the same fights that they were fighting," Johnson shares. "Obviously we have a different language. We use different terminology. We think about inclusion a bit differently. But there are a lot of ways in which what they were writing about in the magazine and what people were writing into the magazine — the letters — are just still so resonant."

key portion of the exhibit is dedicated to the landmark legal fight between One and the U.S. Postal Service. A year after delaying that August 1953 issue, L.A. Postmaster Otto Olesen declared the October 1954 issue "obscene, lewd, lascivious and filthy." Attorney Eric Julber, a contributor to One, led the court case all the way to the Supreme Court. There, the eventual 1958 decision in One, Inc. vs. Olesen — the first centered on gay rights ruled in favor of the L.A.-based publication under 1st Amendment protections

'We have to understand that queer and trans folk have been courageous, creative, resilient people for many decades," Valenzuela notes with the gritted wistfulness that characterizes "ONE Magazine at Seventy."

"And yes, we're facing these really scary challenges. But we've been through this before and will remain vigilant. I know we will persevere in these battles because when people know our humanity, we win.







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LOS ANGELES TIMES SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023



"It serves as a gentle reminder to find meaning and connection in the simple joys of life."

— Munir Muhammad, Reader's Favorite

DON E PICKETT



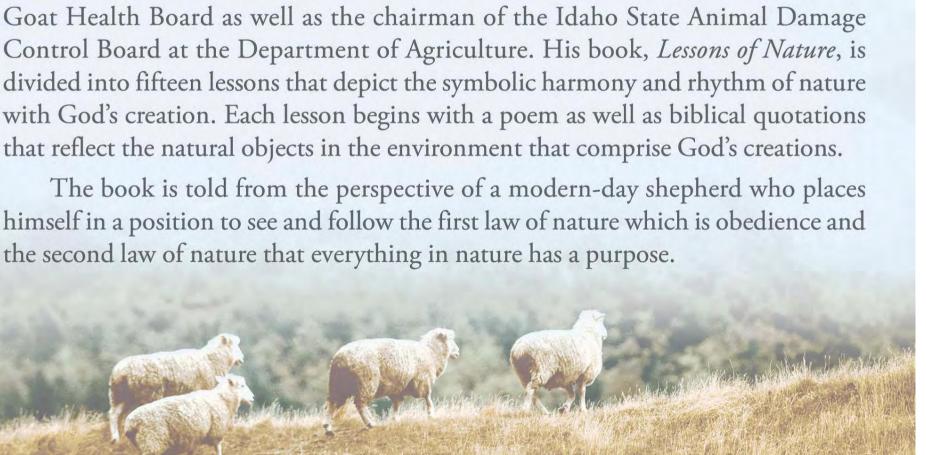
# LESSONS NATURE

PAPERBACK 979-8-88963-491-1 | \$7.99 HARDBACK 979-8-88963-701-1 | \$15.99 E-BOOK 979-8-88963-492-8 | \$2.99

Lessons of Nature is the published book of Don

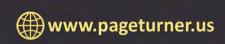
F. Pickett, a fourth-generation sheep rancher from Oakley, Idaho. Before managing his family's sheep operation, Don served a two-year mission at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in South Africa and Zimbabwe. After this, he finished his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics. He has also earned a Juris Doctor's degree from the University of Idaho. By the time he had published his book, he had served as the chairman of the Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board as well as the chairman of the Idaho State Animal Damage Control Board at the Department of Agriculture. His book, Lessons of Nature, is divided into fifteen lessons that depict the symbolic harmony and rhythm of nature

The book is told from the perspective of a modern-day shepherd who places himself in a position to see and follow the first law of nature which is obedience and the second law of nature that everything in nature has a purpose.



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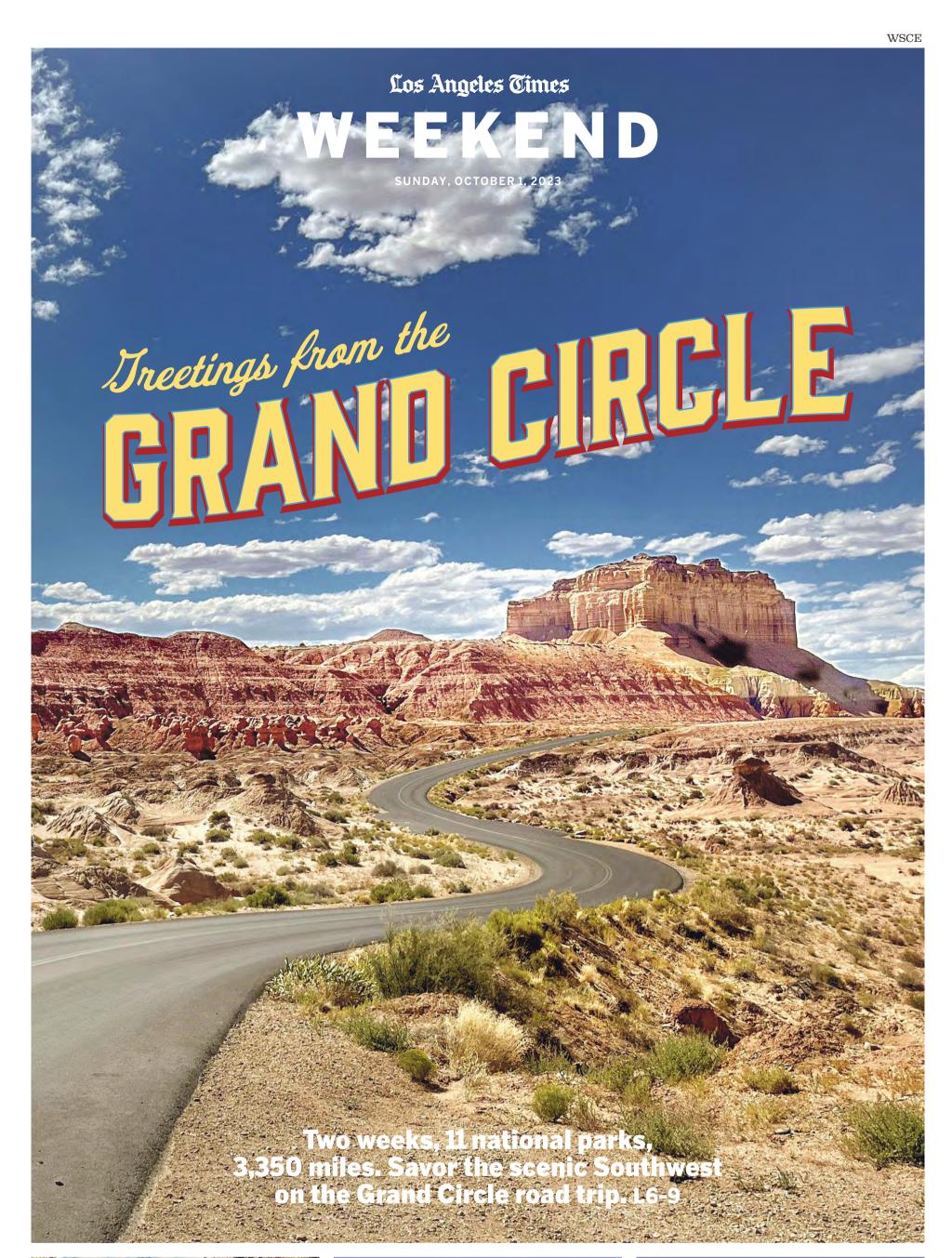
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Photographs of Goblin Valley, clockwise from top, by JULIA CARMEL L.A. Times; the Utah-Colorado border and Dinosaur Journey Museum in Fruita, Colo., by LIV PAGGIARINO L.A. Times; the Narrows at Zion National Park by CALVIN ALAGOT L.A. Times



#### **MUTTS** By Patrick McDonnell



#### By Dean Young & John Marshall

**BLONDIE** 













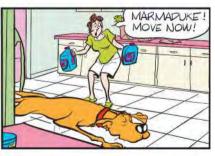




**MARMADUKE** By Brad & Paul Anderson











MATHY AND ROBERT JONAS
HAVE SASMA, A POLICE DOG
RESCUE. THEY ALSO HAVE
TWO GATS, SYLVESTER AND
FLOWER, WHO FIGHT EVERY
CHANCE THEY GET. WHEN THEY
START FIGHTING, SASHA GRABS
HER SQUEAKY TOY AND GETS
BETWEEN THEM, SQUEAKING
LOUDLY, ONCE A POLICE
DOG, ALWAYS A POLICE DOG!

### **ZITS** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



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IT LOOKS LIKE THAT

OFFICERIS

OUTON

PATROL





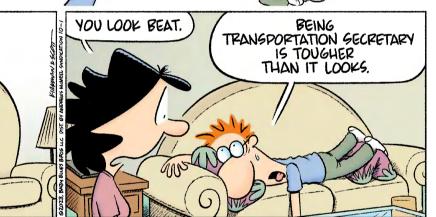


THANK

BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott

d





**MACANUDO** By Liniers

















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Thermometer unit

#### HOROSCOPE

HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19): You celebrate when relationships are smooth. You've known plenty of days when they haven't been, and you felt your day was hijacked by the feelings you had about

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You'll have a new awareness of what you're feeling and what you need. The better you are at relaying this, the more help you'll get.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Fluctuations in your emotional landscape teach you about your strength and your capacity for joy.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): There's an action you know you should take, but it will be uncomfortable. But since the discomfort of not doing it will eventually be worse, you'll get it done.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): There have been times you believed when it was a lie, loved when it was not reciprocated, risked alone, Now you offer your heart more protection. Compassion is still your best guide.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Today has its ups and downs, but the formula for feeling better will be really simple: lend a hand, get a lift.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Logic gets derailed. Fantasy is happy to take the reins; no imaginary scenario is more viable than another. You have to make it real to know which ideas rank.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Present your case and be willing to lovingly, but definitely, move on if the others aren't on the same page.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): There are times to distinguish yourself from the crowd, but not today. You know why and how you're special, so it's not hard for you to keep that to yourself while you listen to and learn from others.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It used to take effort to be cheerful, but now you find it easy, which is why so many consider it a pleasure to be around you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Check in with your emotions often. You'll stand steady atop slippery emotional slopes and carefully back away.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): In life and in classrooms, when the substitute teacher walks in the room, all bets are off. There are those who will push the rules; as for your part in it, the options are character-defining.

Today's birthday (Oct. 1): You won't wait for the waves of joy; you'll go to the level where currents of happiness are always flowing. The year also brings perfectly imperfect company, and a million laughs. You'll make personal and work environments that suit multiple needs, and be praised and payed for it. Gemini and Scorpio adore vou. Your lucky numbers: 32, 33, 8, 20 and 15.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

## Tick Tock

EDITED BY PATTI VAROL AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

By Rebecca Goldstein

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#### **ASK AMY**

**Dear Amy:** My stepfather has two adult children, and my mother has three adult children.

Our stepfather died. Over time Mother changed the will so all money she'd inherited from him would go to her biological kids (which includes me), instead of sharing it among all five.

She was not fond of the stepchildren.

My sister, who was the executor of our mother's will, says that two weeks before our mother died (suddenly), Mom said that she was thinking of changing the will

to include all five. Should we who inherited the entire estate split it with

the stepchildren? It feels awkward. Other dynamics are that our stepbrother is a millionaire, who most likely would think we are not giving him enough or not appreciate the gesture.

We're not sure it would

"fix" dynamics created by

my mother's actions. What

would be fair might not heal the situation. Is there a way to heal it? Is it "right" if she deliberately made this will?

Am I just finding argu-

ments to keep the money? GUILTY

Dear Guilty: Your mother mentioned wanting to change the will but doesn't

seem to have left specifics. I assume you and your siblings might not agree on sharing the estate. It is their right to hold onto their legal inheritance, just as you have the right to share yours.

It is imperative that you three siblings speak with a lawyer about this idea.

If all of your stepfather's money and property was inherited by your mother, in my opinion you should do your best to ensure that your step-siblings are given his personal possessions and property, or anything that might have come down

of damned if you do and damned if you don't, but you should do your best to walk the most ethical path while being realistic about the emotional fallout.

Email questions to Amy

Dickinson at askamy@

amudickinson.com

This truly might be a case

through his family.

POKER JONATHAN LITTLE

Late in a six-handed nolimit hold'em \$1,000 buy-in poker tournament, you have 6,400,000 with blinds at 100,000/200,000. A loose, aggressive player in first position raises to 800,000 and everyone folds around to you in the big blind with 5 \* 5 \*.

Three-betting small is not a great option because when you face an all-in, you have to fold a hand with decently high equity, and when your opponent calls your three-bet, you will usually not flop well. Going all in does not have

merit because when you get called against a presumably strong lojack range, you will be in terrible shape. Folding is not ideal because vou really want to see a flop with hands that have a decent chance to improve to an effective nut hand. So, call and see the flop.

You call and the flop comes A♠ A♥ A♣. You check and your opponent bets 225,000 (20% pot). With your flopped full

best hand by a decent mar-

gin or you are drawing dead.

When you have the best

house, you either have the

hand, you are still susceptible to getting outdrawn, so raising has some merit. The problem is that your lojack opponent has lots of aces in their range as well as better full houses that will not fold. The best play is to call with your marginal made hand and proceed to the turn.

Hero's hand

Flop

 $\mathbf{A}$ 

5

River

5

 $\mathbf{A}$ 

÷

Turn

You call and the turn is the 9♥. You and your oppo-

nent both check. The river is the **Q**♠. From out of position with a hand that is likely good but

could be crushed, your de-

cent options are to either check and call a bet or to bet small for value. Betting is quite strong because when you check and face a bet, if your opponent plays in a balanced manner, you will be indifferent, resulting in you winning no equity on aver-

However, if you bet small, you can often extract a bit of value from a few worse made hands.

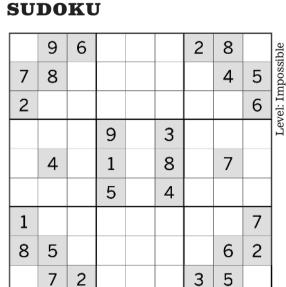
You may also opt to check and fold to a bet if you are confident that your opponent will rarely bluff when checked to and will usually only call a bet when you are beat. When running this spot through a GTO solver, vou will find that you have between 48% and 55% equity against your opponent's range, making a tiny bet ide-

You bet 300,000 and your opponent calls. After revealing your full house, they muck their hand, rewarding

Little is a professional poker player and author with over \$7 million in live

you with a nice pot.

tournament earnings



8 2 3 5 6 5 3 9 6 4 8 3 2 2 8 3 5 8 3 9 2 9 6 5 3 1 5 6 3 9 2 2 8 6 3

7 4 8 Solution to last week's puzzle

For other brain-teasing challenges,

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©Amuse Labs Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.





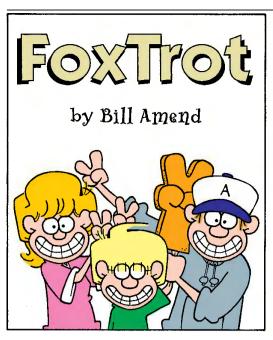






































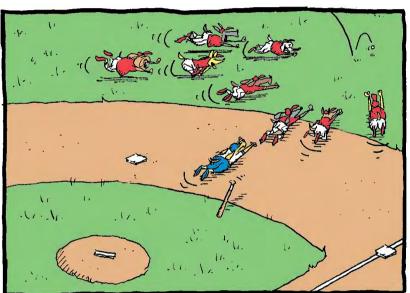




**IN THE BLEACHERS** By Steve Moore



**CANDORVILLE** By Darrin Bell



NON SEQUITUR By Wiley







WHOAH. WHAT IS

THIS, LEMONT?

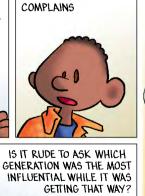


HANG ON, PAULIE















playing.

Not

mine

HRARO.

10. 1. 23 BIZARRO.COM



I thought

YOU were

I thought 400

were playing

Me neither.





