

NOTHING ABOUT  
US WITHOUT US;

AND NOTHING,  
WITHOUT US  
AT ALL

# BRIDGES TO BELONGING

a pittsburgh co-de ZINE project



november 2024 | volume I



# introduction

This collaborative zine was co-created by fourteen (12 credited + 2 anonymous) Pittsburgh community members at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in East Liberty to explore and express ideas about access to third places in the city.

## what is a *third place*?

- an informal gathering space outside of work and home (the 1st and 2nd places) where people can connect with their community
- and/or, a familiar public spot where you regularly connect with others known & unknown, over a shared interest or activity.

“yinzers in extraordinary time”

made by erica

# Yinzers

in

*extra*

ORDINARY TIME



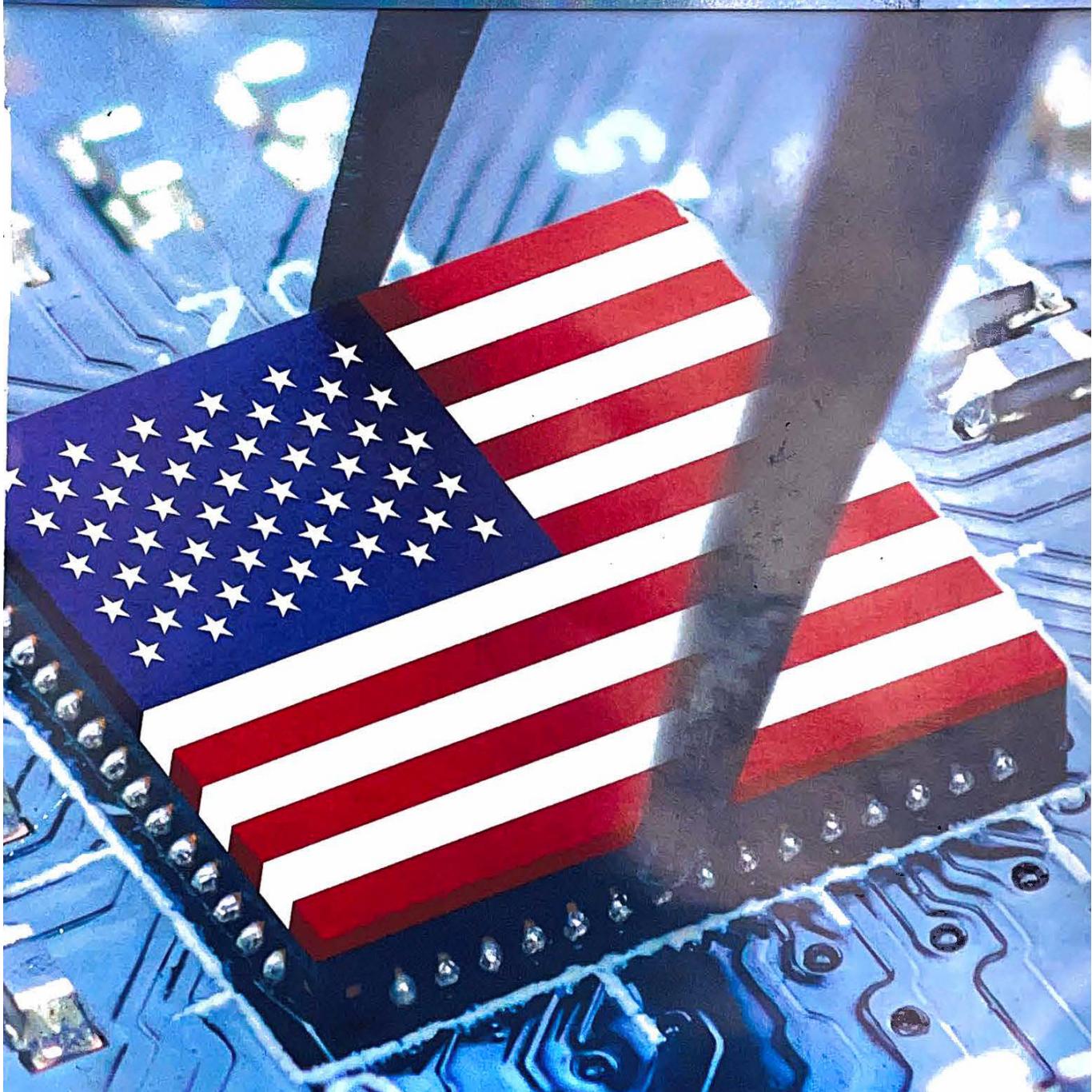
2024

Pittsburgh, PA

“polarizing politics from the  
heart of the empire”

made by marcus

# POLARIZING POLITICS FROM THE HEART OF THE EMPIRE





blind

distortions

Race, identity and

Letting it all  
‘burn’ down

a new culture

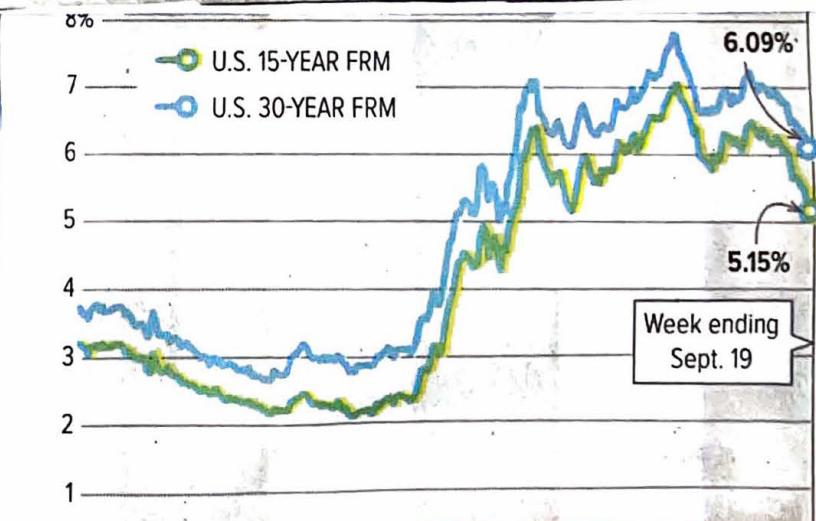
Cleveland

a new language,

and the climate

legacy

# DIFFICULT LESSONS



**UNCOERCIMABLE**







“untitled”

made by ange

Working people demand to live with dignity  
and decency, including utility rates that do not  
force us to choose between heating and eating.

Third Places  
are nice! in  
theory. In  
Practice? IDK

...aa ptt!



THE  
FATHER

OF

THIR  
PLAC

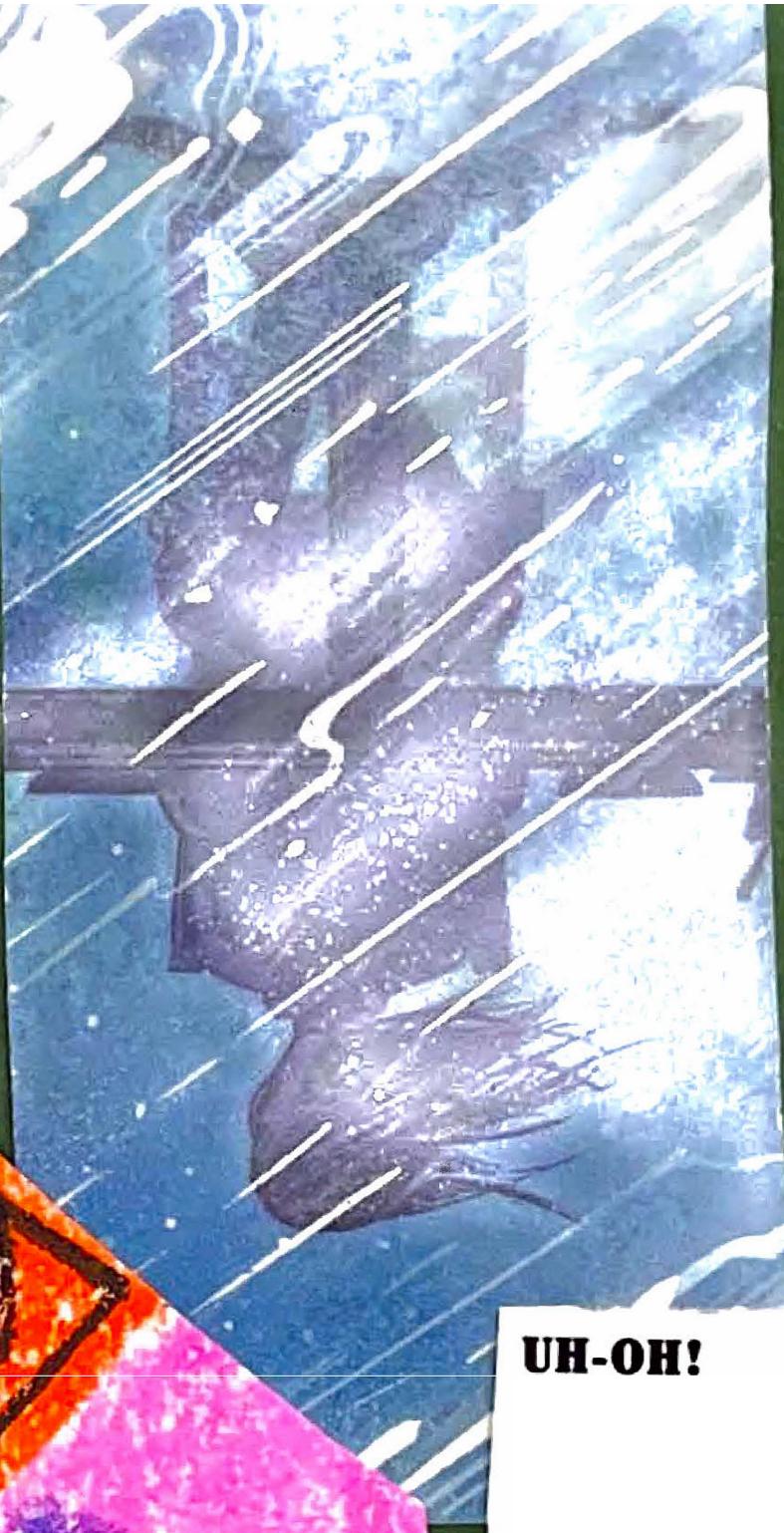
It's hard  
to find  
them. Idk  
if it's be  
ing lazy  
or..

I feel like they should  
be easier... I don't know!

UH-OH!

I DON'T  
KNOW

D  
EE





“untitled”

made by anonymous

# Us vs. Them

It's a question of who they are, who they are immigrating to, the issues, the challenges, the estate planning, facing the world and so on.

THE  
AND WE  
OTHERS

A

MILL HUNKIES  
HAD CHILDREN

who we are and  
are.

grants arrived  
ey faced great  
blished com-  
g accusations  
uspicion. But

WHO HAD  
CHILDREN

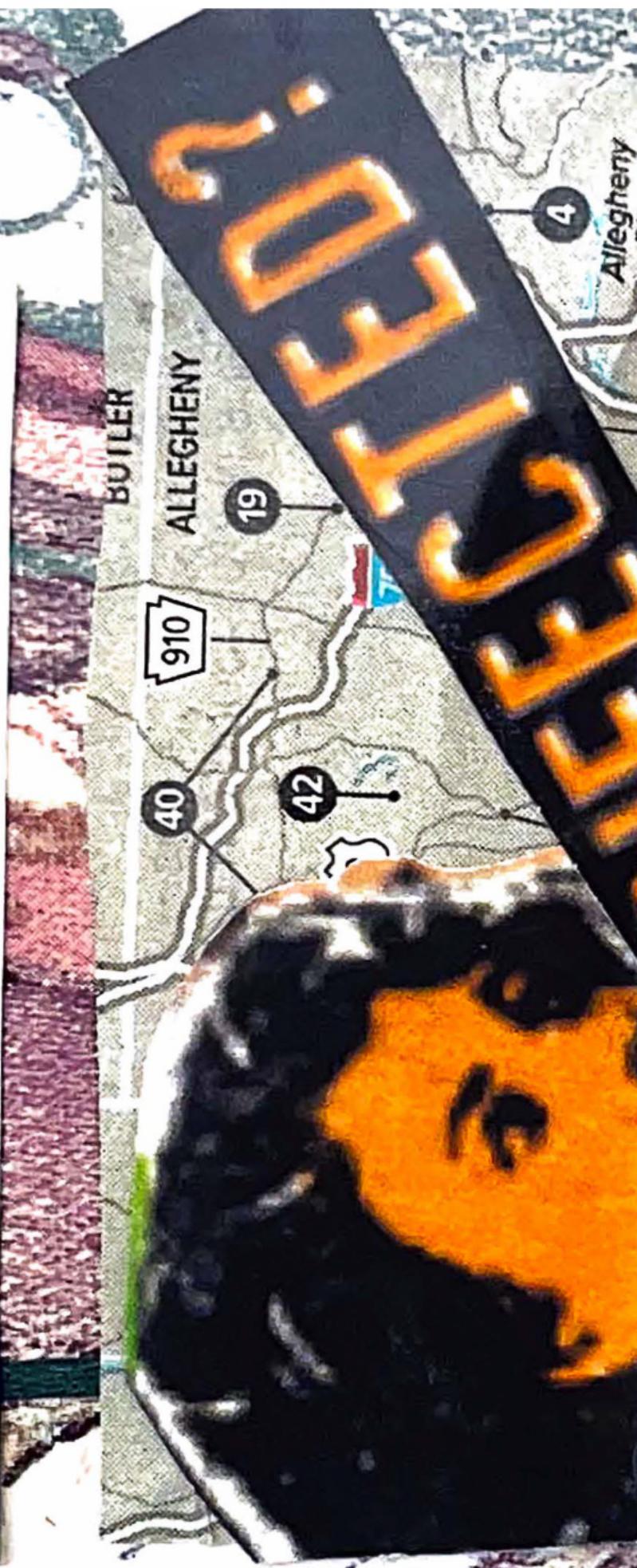
WHO FORGOT HOW

TO DANCE POLKA.

DANCING HALLS CLOSED  
ONLY SEE EACH OTHER  
IN GAS STATION  
PARKING LOTS

MURRAY PA. TOWN

**NO MORE  
STRIP MINING**





Salvaging rural

America



**reckon**

**small**



**with**

**towns**

“november 1999”

made by maria

# November 1999





wheez



Still I wish there was something you could say  
To try and make me change my mind and stay  
We never did too much talking anyway!  
So don't think twice, it's all right.

I'm walking down that long lonesome road, Babe  
Where I'm bound, I can't tell  
Goodbyes, too good a word, so!  
So I'll just say babe see well.

I don't say you treated me unkind  
You could have done better but I don't mind  
It's just kind a wasted my precious time  
But don't think twice, it's all right

It ain't no use in calling out my name gal!

Like you never did before  
It ain't no use in calling out my name gal  
I don't hear you anymore  
I'm thinking and wondering all the way down the road

~~It~~

~~ain't~~

~~no~~

~~use~~

~~an~~

~~more~~

~~Bo~~

~~Be~~

~~it~~

~~ain't~~

~~no~~

~~use~~

~~an~~

~~more~~

~~Am~~

~~it~~

~~ain't~~

~~no~~

~~use~~

~~an~~

~~more~~

~~why~~

~~it~~

~~ain't~~

~~no~~

~~use~~

~~an~~

~~more~~

~~Babe~~

7993N  
Parted Blue

7996N  
Twilight Zone  
CGI

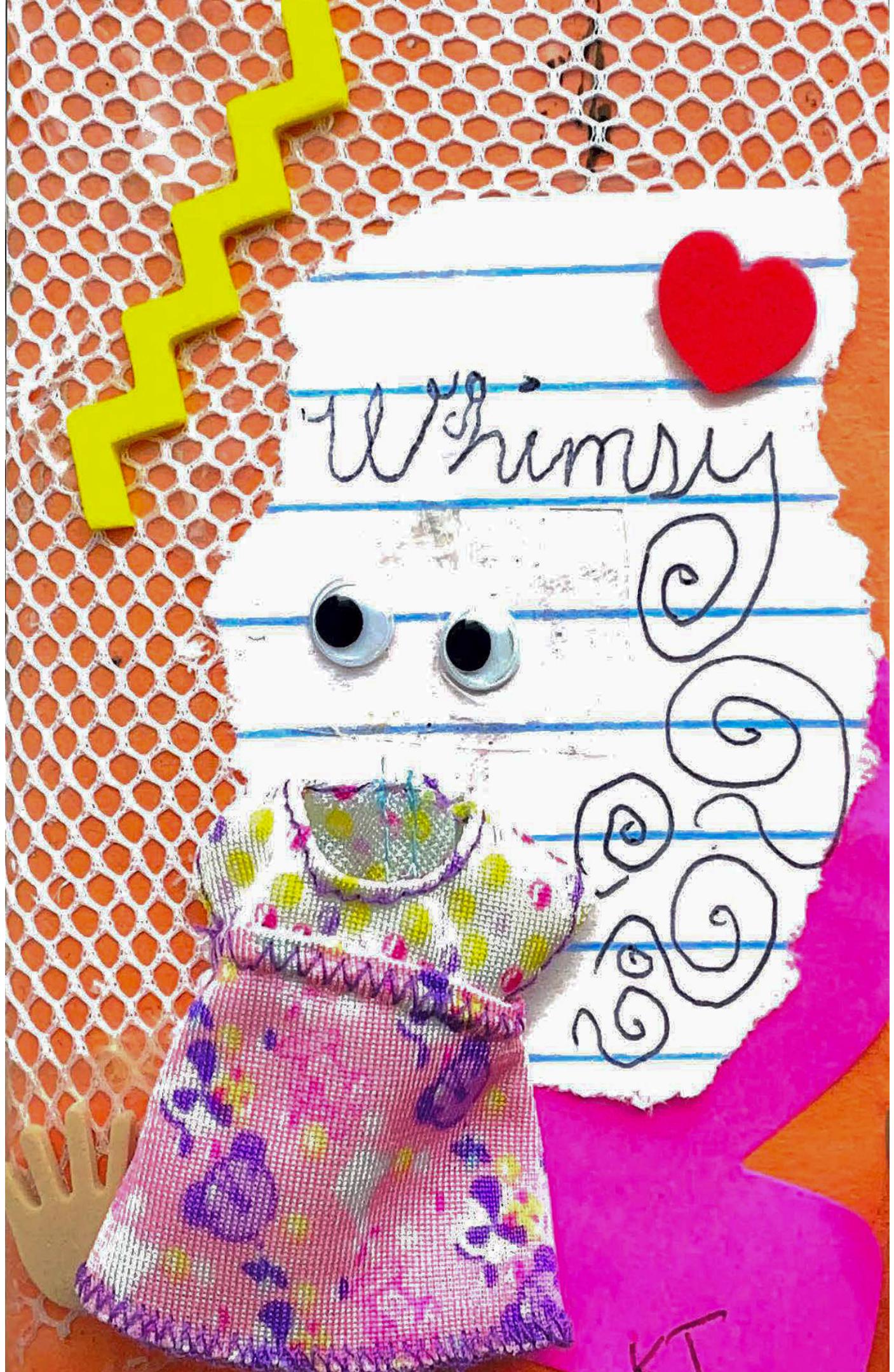
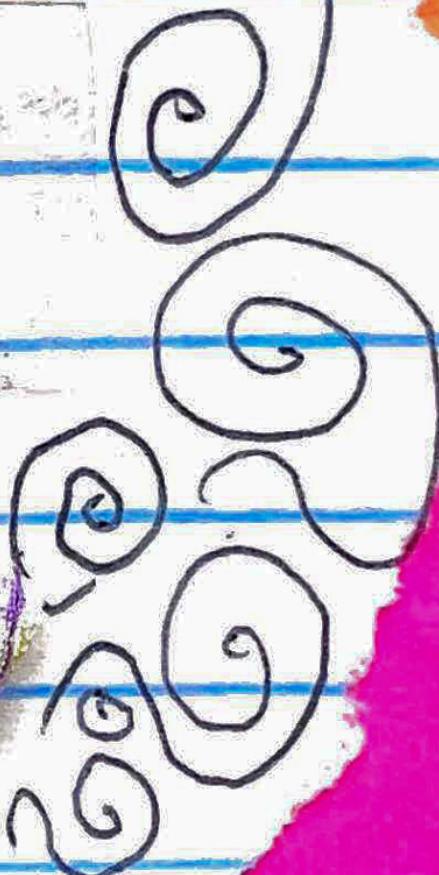
F4



“whimsy”

made by kt

Whimsy



Jesus  
Loves  
Me



**TO:**  
**FROM:**

**ARC**





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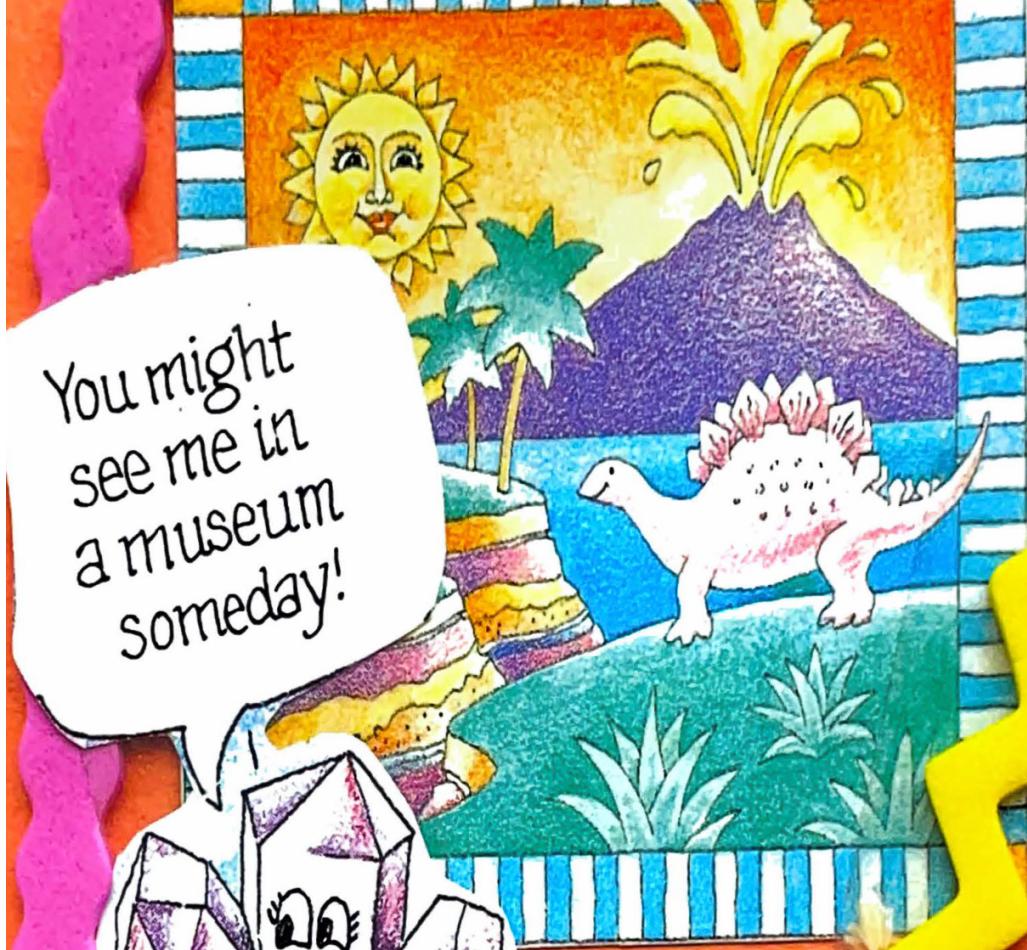




YE  
AD

You wouldn't  
believe all  
the pressure I've  
been under!





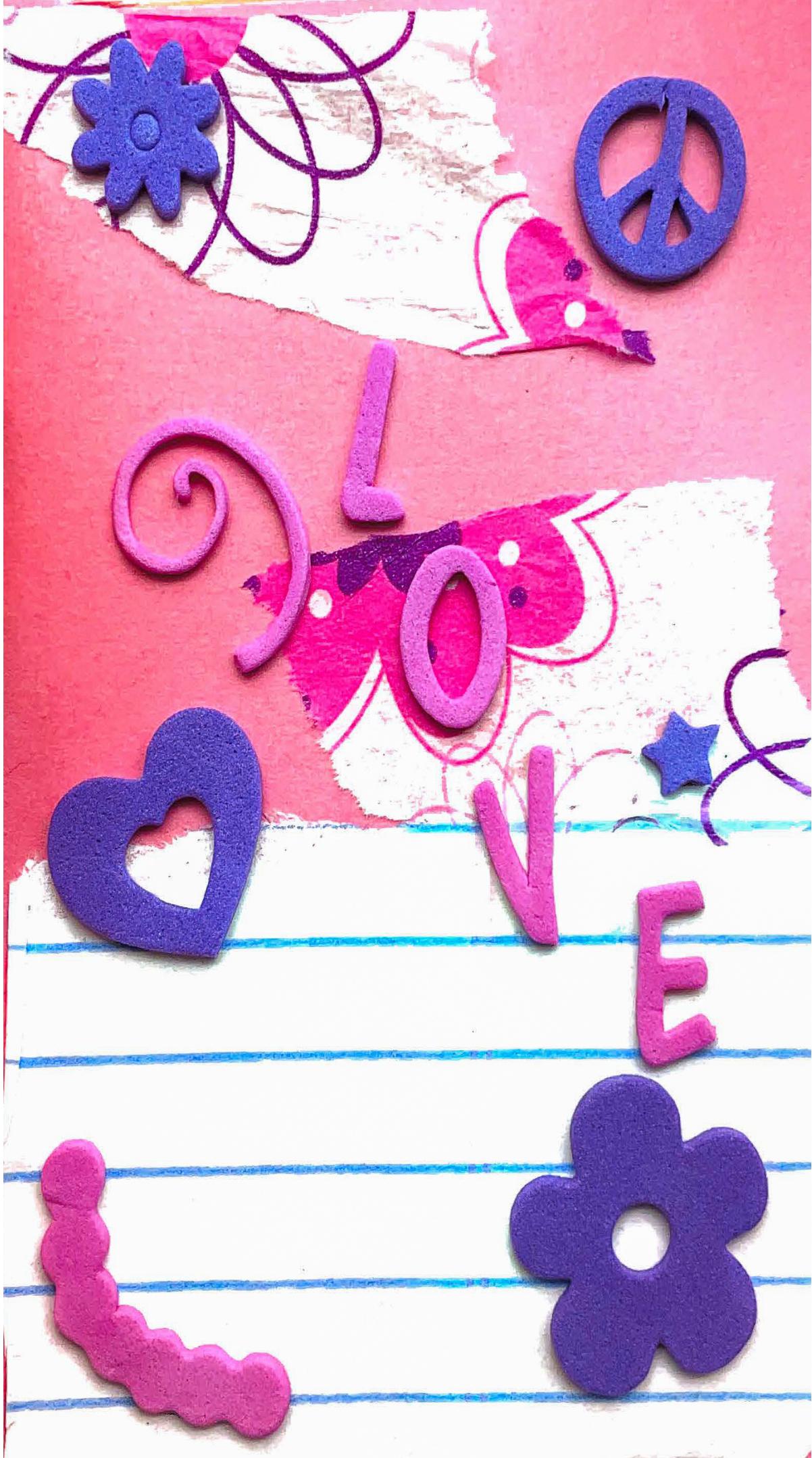
You might  
see me in  
a museum  
someday!



## In Our Life

Sand and minerals are all around you. You can find them in your backyard and as sand and pebbles at the beach. They form the grand canyons of the desert and mountains. They are found throughout the world. Many nations have laws to protect areas of special natural beauty. Sand is used to build our cities. Sand and crushed stone are used to produce gravel and concrete. Many of the buildings we live in are made of concrete.





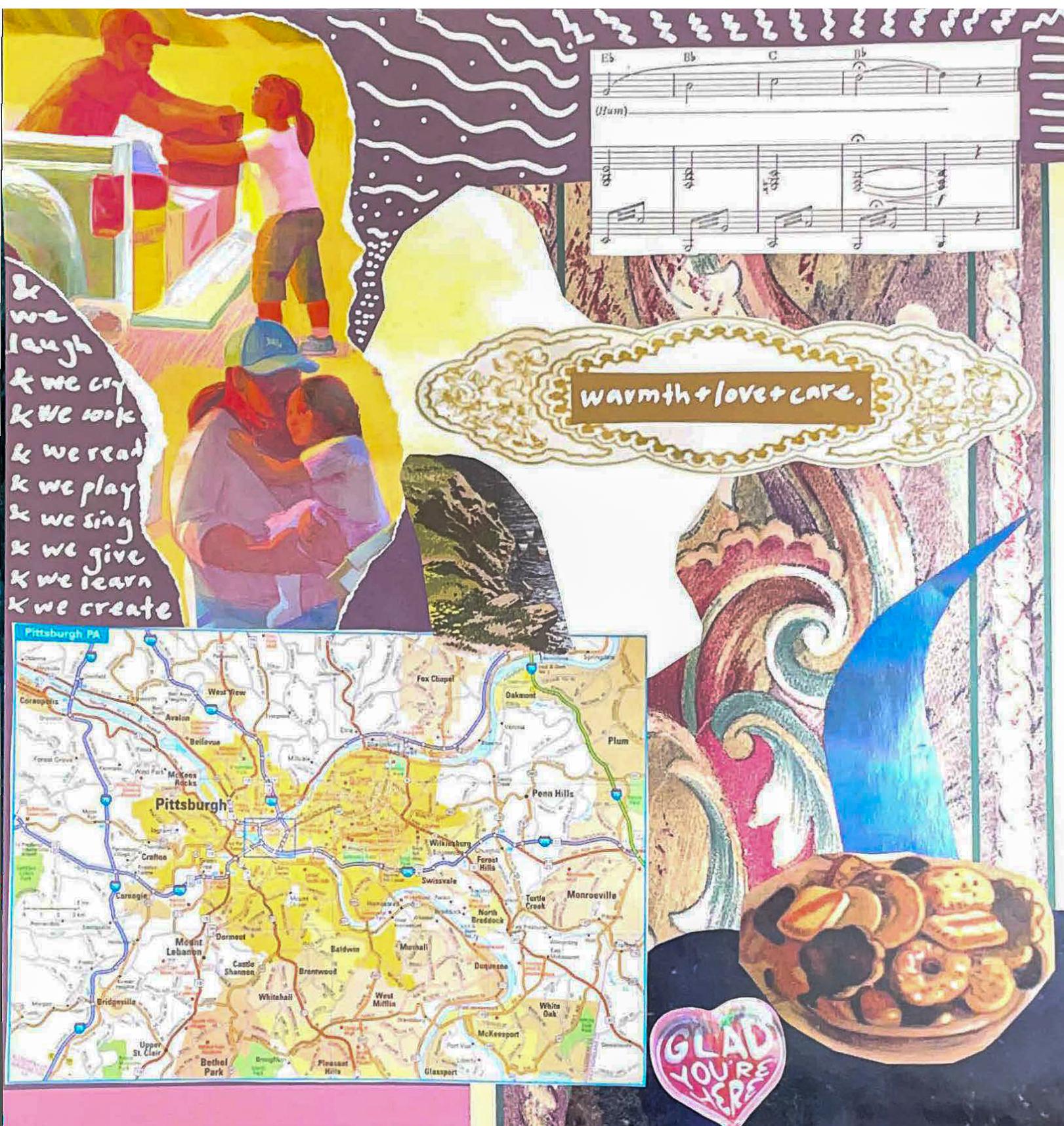
“untitled”

made by nick



“untitled”

made by vasu



“blueprint for thirds”

made by gale

# BLUEPRINT FOR THIRDS

A ZINE ABOUT MY  
LEAST FAVORITE  
THIRD PLACE

+ SOME THOUGHTS ON  
WHAT MAKES A GOOD ONE

By: GALE

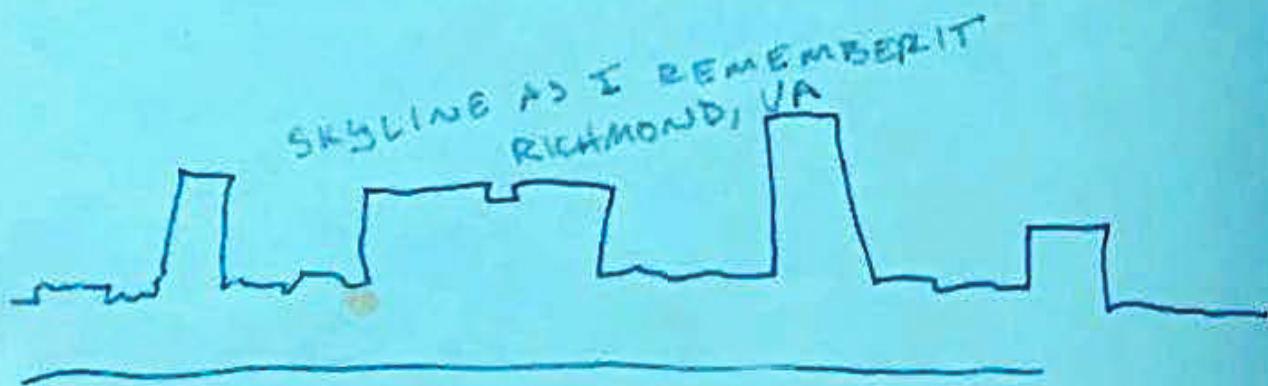
MY LEAST FAUDRITE 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE



LOOKS  
LIKE  
THIS

A MISERABLE  
SQUARE OF  
MUDDY TURF  
AND A  
CONCRETE  
STAIRCASE

SO YOU CAN LOOK AT THE RIVER  
AND THE SHITTY SKYLINE.



I HATED GOING HERE. THERE WAS NOWHERE TO SIT DOWN, AND WALKING THERE WAS A SIMILARLY DANGEROUS AFFAIR. THE STREET WAS FAST-MOVING AND THE SIDEWALKS WERE UNPROTECTED, BOTH FROM THE TRAFFIC AND THE SUN.



## FLOODWALL PARK



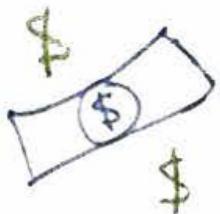
WHAT MAKES A  
3RD SPACE

# BAD

NOWHERE



TO  
SIT



= COSTS  
= MONEY

LOUD



NOT NICE

TO LOOK

AT - FULL

OF SAD  
CONCRETE

OPEN

M-F

9-5



# GOOD

## 3RD PLACES

### ARG.

- \* FREE TO ATTEND
- \* FACILITATES CONVERSATION
- \* AESTHETICALLY THOUGHTFUL
- \* COMFORTABLE TO HANG OUT AT\*
- \* OPEN OUTSIDE OF "BUSINESS HOURS"



- \* COMFORTABLE FOR EVERYONE!  
X-WIDE SEATS, BENCHES, HARD + SOFT CHAIRS, PLACES TO PUT BAGS + CANES.

IT'S NOT FOR EVERYBODY UNLESS IT'S FOR EVERY BODY.

# THIRD PLACES + ACCESS



GOOD DISABILITY ACCESS WELCOMES EVERYONE INTO A SPACE. THE VERY OLD, THE VERY YOUNG, PARENTS AND MORE BENEFIT FROM MOBILITY ACCOMODATION. AND IT ONLY EXPANDS FROM THERE! MORE TO SAY THAN SPACE TO SAY IT IN.

MY LEAST FAVORITE 3RD PLACE IS A NIGHTMARE FOR ACCESS. - THE BROKEN SIDEWALKS, MUDDY LOT, AND LIMITED PARKING WITH NO CURB CUTS MAKES THE RAMPS TO THE OBSERVATION TOWER MORE OF AN INSULT THAN ANYTHING.

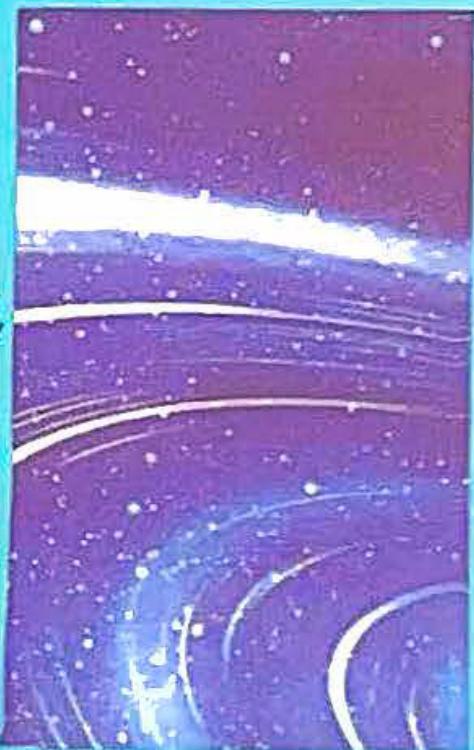
NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US; AND **NOTHING** WITHOUT US **AT ALL**

# VISIBILITY

BEING VISIBLE  
MAKES A SPACE  
SAFE

SO WAVE YOUR FLAG WITH PRIDE

THIRD PLACES ARE  
WHAT WE CONVINCE  
OUR SOCIETY TO MAKE  
THEM. USE YOUR SPACES,  
CALL + WRITE TO IMPROVE  
THEM, AND WELCOME  
YOUR FELLOW CITY DWELLER.  
TOGETHER, WE BLOOM ☺



THIS ZINE MADE POSSIBLE BY

ANNE + OLIVIA AT UPITT.

THANK YOU EAST LIBERTY LIBRARY!

AND MY SPOUSE (FOR LETTING ME COME +  
NOT COMPLAINING ABOUT BIKING HOME IN THE  
RAIN.)

YOU CANNOT FIND ME ANYWHERE, I'M  
ALLERGIC TO SOCIAL MEDIA!!

PEACE + PROGRESS

- GALE





“little haven”

made by olivia

I Can Hear the





“ask a neighbor for an action  
word”

made by andy

**Wild Card**

**Ask a  
neighbor  
for an  
action  
word**

T

There's more than one problem here. Honest to god I think the literal lack of third spaces isn't the biggest one, although it does suck.

I am mostly going to speak from personal experience here, that being one of a well-off suburbanite - if your experience is different, my opinion does not override it.

My thesis is that people  
changed because their work  
lives changed. It's less that  
third spaces are gone, although  
free\* and accessible community  
gathering places are quickly  
vanishing - and that's my definition  
of a third space. It's more  
that people are  
always FUCKING  
EXHAUSTED

also depressed.

\* cheap but  
fine if not ideal

When I was in high

School and bored out of

my mind, my Friends and

I would do dumb bullshit

like wear cloaks and pretend

to be in a cult, or throw

a pumpkin as hard as we

could - kid shit. And we

would do that kind of

shit anywhere. Parks and

playgrounds were good, but

the middle of the street,

or someone's back yard, or

a parking lot worked.

I think people can make  
a third space out of  
anything if the  
desire is there.

And there's our  
problem - the desire,  
in general, is still  
there. 

but we are forced  
to put work first  
and use the internet  
to fill in the gaps.

now to be very clear

o Home Office

o supermarket

o supermarket

so much

the internet in and of  
itself is NOT the problem.

Just... a shitty solution for  
the problem.

If you feed a hummingbird  
only stevia, it'll die, but  
using stevia in your coffee  
is fine, you know?

but in this metaphor, the  
younger generations are overworked  
hummingbirds offered stevia on  
a silver platter while the sugar  
is a 30 minute drive away.

After working an eight hour shift at your minimum wage customer service job, then driving doordash

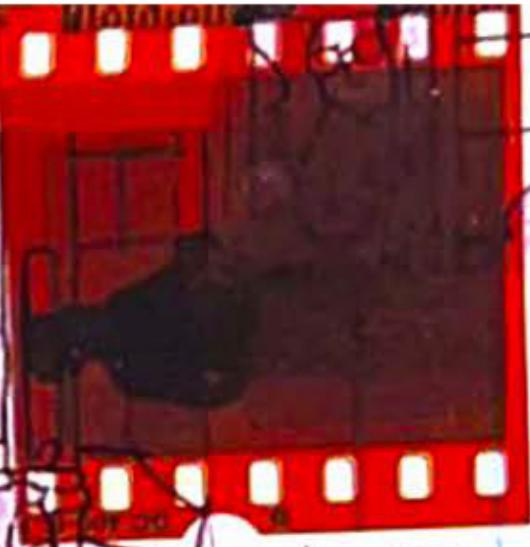
for two hours, then cleaning yourself and your apartment

(and it IS an apartment,  
you can't afford a house)

and cooking and taking care of kids or pets or other dependants and hobbies

And whatever else,

; would choose the stevia too

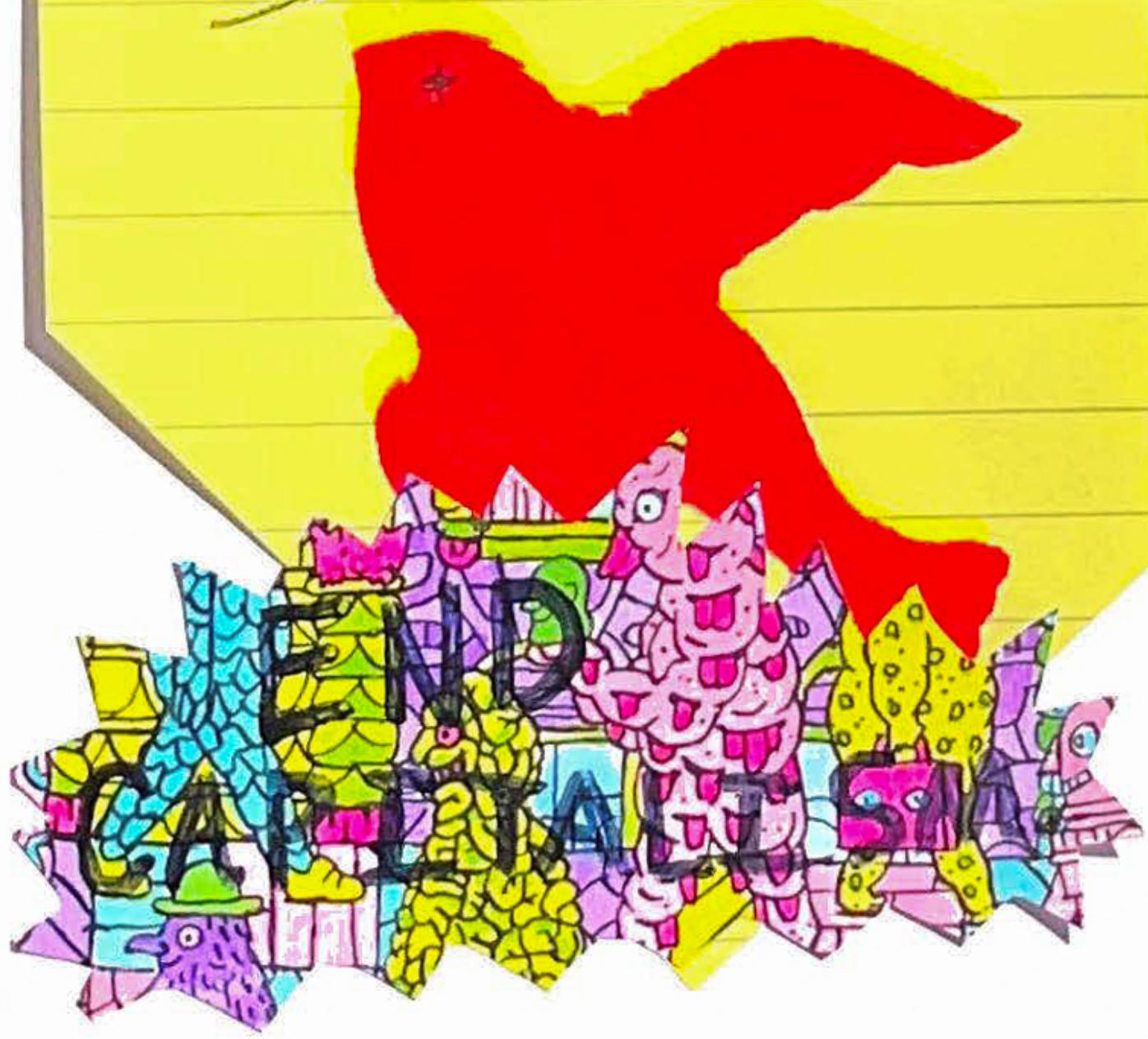


and of course none of that even begins to touch on mental health. Gen Z is more depressed than ever. In my experience, depression makes you T-R-E-D. Fatigue

is a commonly recognized symptom, medically speaking however.



You may ask -  
"OK, great —  
WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?"



! IF you're Boring I  
guess you could make  
more third spaces,  
or make the minimum  
wage higher, or put  
various pressures on the  
housing market to lower  
costs, but that's like  
putting a bandaid on  
a bullet hole.

THANKS FOR READING

talk to  
your neighbors,  
find each other!

“untitled”

made by maia





“untitled”

made by kurt



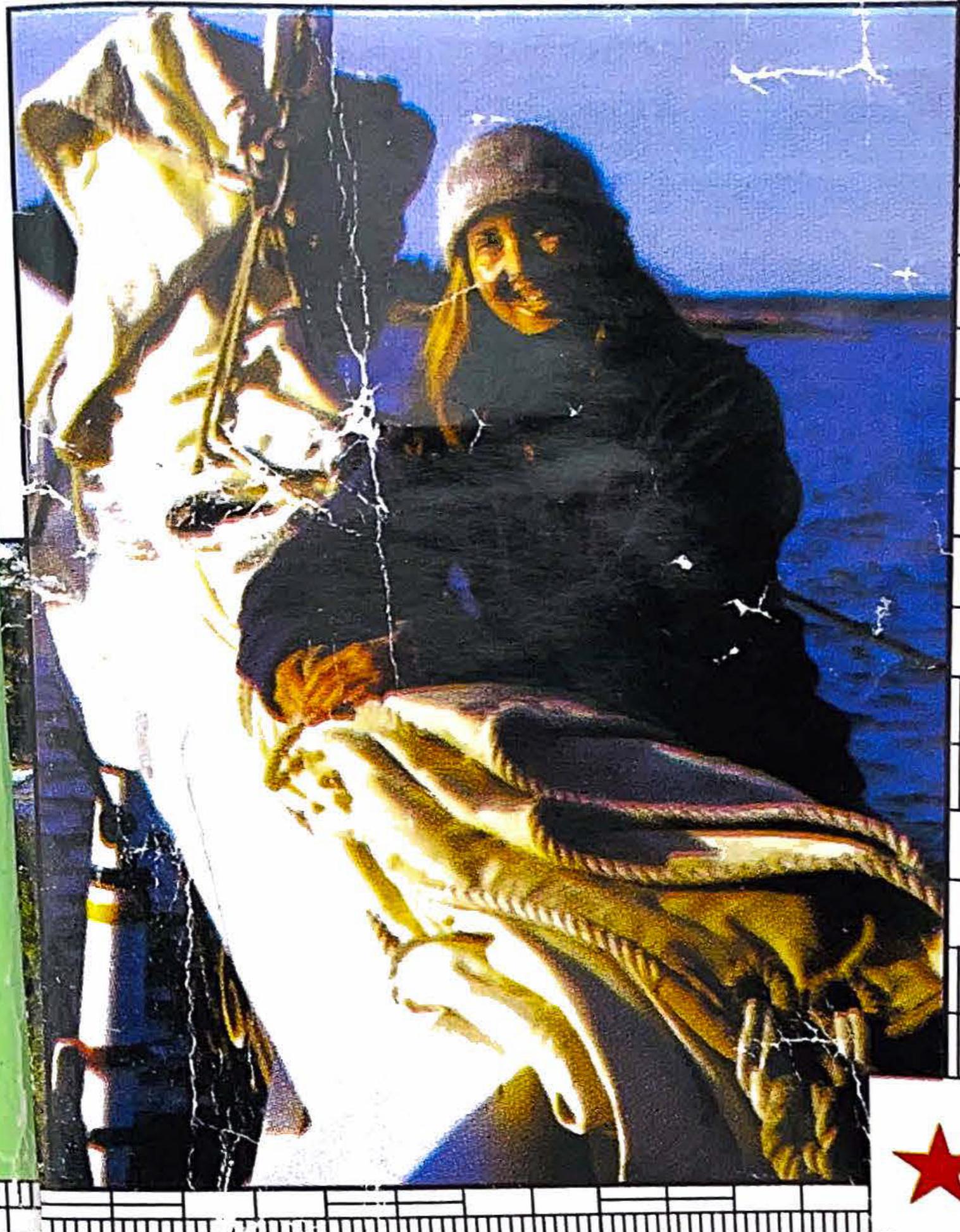


It's not to  
add be  
your gard

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

too late to  
ans to  
len scene







## acknowledgements

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TOGETHER, WE BLOOM



BLUEPRINT FOR THIRDS - GALE

Marcus Vonderheid

Erich Vonderheid

KT Kaage

Cand

Vasu!

Olivia Terry!

Maia McCabe

Andy \*\*

Kierdn Gorman ^~^

NICK

Ange Pho



yinzers on third places  
the bridges to belonging project  
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