

Meet the Bay Area visionaries shaping the future
one genome,
one journey,
one school at a time.

THE

FUTURE

BY LEILANI MARIE LABONG

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER STEMBER

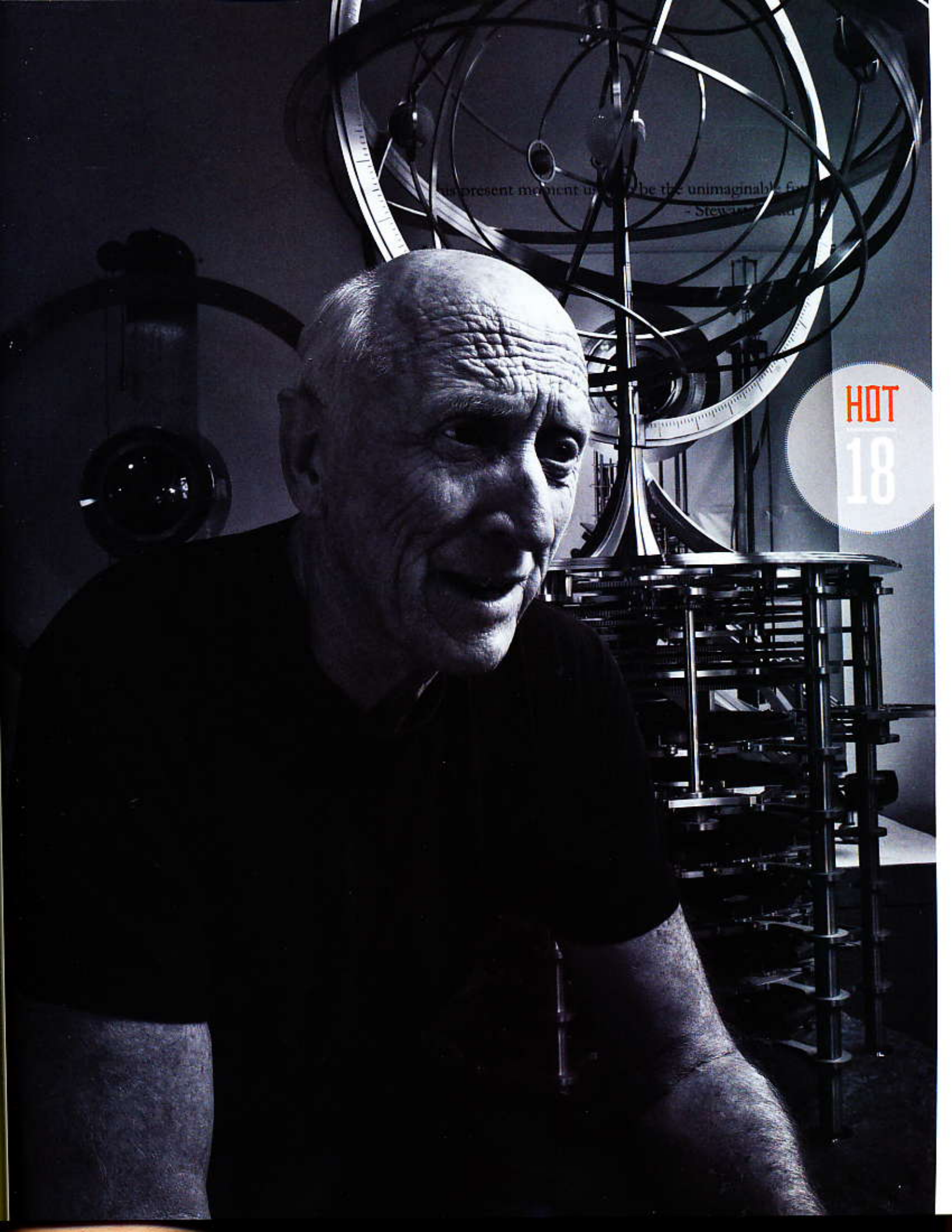
IS NOW

THE REVIVALIST

STEWART BRAND

REVIVE & RESTORE MASTERMIND // AGE 74 // PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE LONG NOW MUSEUM

If the Steller's sea cow—extinct since the mid-18th century—feeds once again on the kelp forests off the California coast, tip your hat in Stewart Brand's direction. "Extinction is not necessarily forever," says Brand from his Sausalito houseboat. The famed ecologist, policy advisor, and cofounder of SF's Long Now Foundation is attempting to turn back the clock on vanished species with his new Revive & Restore project, which works to ethically reconstitute ancient DNA in the name of "deep ecological enrichment." Conceivably, refilling gaps in nature would fortify environmental diversity. But before you get carried away with visions of velociraptors darting down Market Street, understand that full revival of any extinct species will take many years and not all species are eligible for a little R&R (the passenger pigeon and Carolina parakeet are two worthy candidates). The still-emerging bioethics of de-extinction will address many questions about selection criteria, one of which may relate to the human role in extinction. "You could say we're just repairing the damage that we've done," he says.



...present moment is... be the unimaginable fin...
- Stevan H. Hawking

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