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## CULTURE

# Giving birth to a vision

New Portland-based magazine gives women and children a voice

BY GINA DAGGETT

The statistics are indicative: Two-thirds of the world's poor are women; women represent only 13 percent of those at the highest levels of national and international decision-making; only 7 percent of political and governmental news stories are about women.

These numbers seem daunting, giving many a sense of hopelessness. But they're not disheartening to everyone—to visionaries like Jensine Larsen, they're just fuel for the fire.

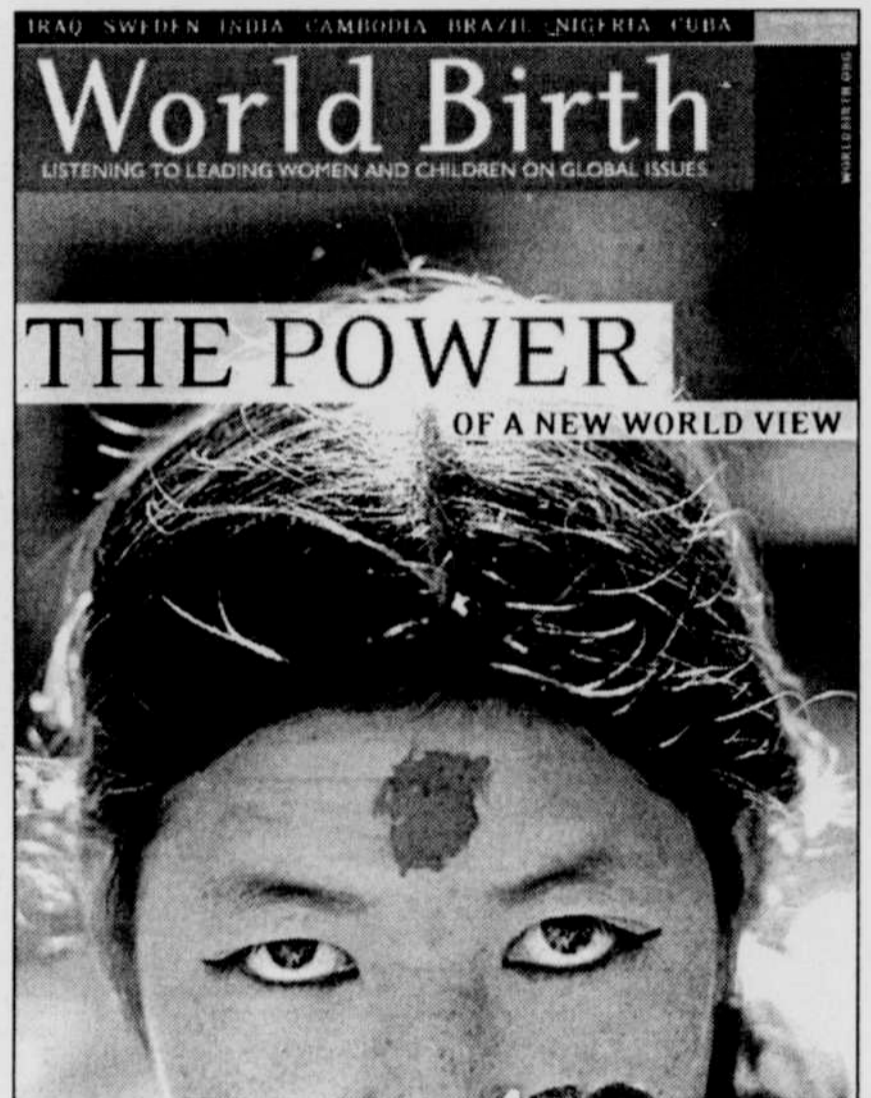
Larsen is on the cusp of something huge—*World Birth* magazine. A culmination of years and dreams, *World Birth* has amalgamated into one vision: a nonprofit publication that gives voice to leading women and children on global issues. "We're birthing a new conversation about the world through the magazine," says Larsen, the publication's queer "Founding Mother." "We want to bring visibility to women and youth voices from all over the world."

*World Birth* is filling a gap for women whose values aren't reflected in the media—women who "feel they're not hearing voices that speak to them on big issues," says 29-year-old Larsen. "You don't hear from women, and you don't hear from youth. And they're talking, but our media isn't paying very much attention."

More than 600 subscribers agree. By word of mouth, the Northeast Portland-based magazine has already attracted a strong subscriber base. And that's before it's published anything. The premiere issue—"Finding True Global Security"—will hit newsstands in May.

### The conception

Larsen says *World Birth* is the magazine she's always wanted to read. "Since I was a little girl, all I've wanted to do is learn about the



"I've always had a mind-set of going beyond dwelling on the problems," says *World Birth* founder and editor Jensine Larsen



PHOTO BY MARCELA PENA

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