

UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CENTER

LA3-105

498-5466

MEG CHRISTIAN

"Now is the time to be more out than ever. We have to show them that we are not going to give up an inch of what we have gained" said Meg Christian feminist singer/songwriter.

Born in Lynchberg, Virginia, she took an interest in music early in life. At 5 she started with a ukelele. She soon moved on to playing by ear to popular folk singers, continuing to perform throughout high school. Christian says it would be impossible for her to name one person as being the biggest influence on her musical career. Early in her career she was influenced by folk musicians such as Joan Baez, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Odetta, the Limelighters, the Kingston Trio, and Harry Bellafonte. Show tunes from Broadway musicals were also a big influence. While at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill she discovered classical music and mountain music especially Doc Watson and Elizabeth Cotton. Singers like Joni Mitchell and James Taylor also influenced her. Then she came into contact with women writing out of their own experiences. Margie Adam, Cris Williamson, Alix Dobkin, Meg and others made up this group and began influencing one another and forming their own tradition of music. It was through this that Olivia Records was formed. Olivia was the first woman owned and controlled record company. It was through her work with Olivia that Christian experienced an "audience who wanted to hear who she was, not a stereotype and limited image".

Olivia Records, which originally began as a collective organization, developed a hierarchal structure when members wanted to become more involved in specialized tasks and had different levels of commitment. Olivia Records has a regular office staff, but personnel for albums are hired as needed. Albums are financed through private loans.

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Christian has been described as "one of the founders of women's music". I asked her where she saw women's music going in the future. The term "women's music" is an "umbrella concept" which includes women with different political and commercial goals according to Christian. Some women would like to see it be a woman only venture, where others would like it to evolve into a more mainstream concept.

Whatever direction women's music is headed in, it must rest on a solid business foundation. "In order for our political goals to survive, we need a successful business" Christian stressed. She said that as "marketing skills improve we will be able to reach a larger and larger audience. I asked Christian about the politicalness of women's music. She said that the term "political can't be pigeonholed". It depends on the definition of political that is being used. Political can be dealing with external issues or internal changes.

Christian sees "feminism at the core of any real significant change". She believes the answer lies in changing individuals. The core of the issue is that "we need to look at how we share power and love in the world" Christian said.

Christian, who has been touring for about 10 years, discussed the changes that she has noticed in the productions of women's concerts. Women have gotten better organized. "The skills of women's production companies are getting better", according to Christian.

"We deserve comfort and aesthetic quality in productions" she said. Women's music has come a long way from "church basements and megaphones".

The topics of Christian's songs vary. On her latest album "Turning It Over" Christian has combined instrumentals which show her virtuosity as a guitarist with songs about internal changes, being "on the road", and the light and breezy "Gym II" which expounds on the benefits of working out. Christian structures her time to write music, although she also writes when she gets an inspiration. She has found that she is much more prolific this way.

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ADVISORY BOARD

An advisory board has been formed to provide a broader range of input and suggestions into programming and services of the University Women's Center. The advisory board includes people from the community and campus, who have a wide range of experience and background. It is hoped that the advisory board will help integrate the Center into areas the staff has not had the opportunity to look into. The members of the advisory board include:

Sheila Pokras - Judge
Flo Pickett - Realtor
Carol Nyholm - Executive Director YWCA
LuAnn Boylan - Director Labor Relations Pacific Telephone
June Cooper - Associate V.P. of Academic Affairs
Genie Odeil - member Junior League
Lu Blecher - Counselor, private practice
Betty Long - Director Staff Personnel
Terry Turk - Professor in Sociology
Linda Shaw - Community Representative
Diane Wicker - Instructor, Women's Studies
Fran Valenzuela - Student
Peggy Baxter - Student
Laurie Welch - Student
Roberta Fassler-Katz - MFCC, private practice

The advisory board had its first meeting on Tuesday April 6. The staff of the Women's Center presented information on the past, present & future of the Center. Chuck LePard, Associate V.P. for Academic Affairs/Student Services discussed the administrations role in the Women's Center. The board then discussed possible future programs, touching on possible sources for funding. It was agreed that the board should meet on a regular basis. The next meeting was tentatively set for 2-3 weeks after the first. If you have suggestions, questions or any input you'd like to make to the advisory board (or the Women's Center staff) please feel free to call or write:

c/o University Women's Center LA3-105
1250 Bellflower Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90840

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Christian said that one of the "challenges of a successful performer is learning how to present a balance of old and new material". Although she realizes that everyone wants to hear their favorite song but sometimes she "frankly gets tired of singing a song".

Christian feels she must "always tell the truth about who I am". This included coming out as a recovering alcoholic. Before she dealt with her alcoholism she said that it "gave me the creeps when I was around someone who was open about their sobriety". So it was very scary because she knew "that many women would be threatened". She said that this was scarier than when she came out as a lesbian. It takes a lot of courage "to be this open and honest", but Christian feels that it is worth it because "we are much more likely to get a response from others like us". She has received a lot of support for coming forward as a recovering alcoholic.

For the future, Christian feels that we must do much more coalition work, seeking each other as allies. It is important that "we keep an eye on who the enemy is" and "support one another more lovingly".

Christian's concert at CSULB on April 25 was sold out two weeks prior to the performance.

**FREE Self Defense and
Rape Prevention
Workshop Sat. MAY 8
9-4**

University Women's Center
Staff:
Sheri Persion
Gail Hamilton
Denise Wheeler

PHONE NUMBERS

Alcoholism Center for Women	381-7805
American Civil Liberties Union	487-1720
Asian Pacific Family Outreach	436-4284
Cedar House	436-8276
East Long Beach Neighborhood Center	433-5761
Feminist Women's Health Center	469-4844
Feminist Women's Health Center (Santa Ana)	(714) 972-2772
Nat'l Organization for Women (Long Beach chapter)	420-1928

BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTERS

Womanshelter (Long Beach)	437-4663
Haven House (Pasadena)	681-2626
Harbor YWCA (San Pedro)	547-9343
Women's Transitional Living Center (Orange)	(714) 992-1931

RAPE CRISIS HOT LINES

Long Beach	597-2002
Irvine Community Against Rape	(714) 830-6111
Orange County Rape Crisis Network	(714) 891-5733
L.A. Community	392-8381
Women Against Sexual Assault Southeast L.A.	862-8185
East Los Angeles	262-0944
Riverside	(714) 686-RAPE
Women's and Children's Crisis	696-4551
S. Orange Co. Workers Against Rape	(714) 831-9110

GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES

Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center	464-7400
Gay Community Service Center (Orange County)	(714) 534-3280
Unified Community Services Center Long Beach	434-4455

ON CAMPUS

University Women's Center	498-5466
Women's Coalition Against Violence	498-5466
Women's Studies Program	498-4839

CALENDAR

There will be one more edition of the newsletter before the semester is over. If you have any ideas or submissions please contact us at 498-5466.

APRIL

19 thru 23 Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week at C.S.U.L.B.

*Wednesday 21 Black Women in the Arts Film Series. Noon, Graduate Center. Beverly Smith, director BWAFS will discuss and show "Lorraine Hansberry: The Black Experience in the Creation of Drama".

*Thursday 22 BWAFS 7:30 P.M. Graduate Center. Beverly Smith will show and discuss "...But Then She's Betty Carter".

*Friday 23 Audre Lorde will be reading from The Cancer Journals at Noon on the Speakers Platform.

*Sunday 25 Meg Christian and Diane Lindsay will be performing at 7:30 in the University Theatre. \$8.50.

Wednesday 28 Yvonne Burke 12 to 1:30 Student Union - Small Auditorium.

MAY

Tuesday 4 Women's Center Advisory Board meeting. 9:00 a.m. in the Women's Center, LA3-105.

*Wednesday 5 Resume Writing workshop. 12 to 1 Faculty Lounge, Library East 114.

*Wednesday 12 How to Interview for a Job. Library East 114.

Friday 12 "Resurgence: The Movement For Equality Versus the KKK" 7 p.m. Geneva Church, 3rd and Molino. 439-9139
 May 29 - 31 Jewish Feminist Conference San Francisco, (415)843-1313 Sue.

JUNE

Wed. 16-Sun. 20 National Women's Studies Association Conference, Humboldt, CA.

L.B. RAPE HOTLINE BENEFIT: "ANDROMACHE", a play. May 14-15; 21-22; 28-29 Performances at 8 p.m. at the Evangelical Methodist Church located at Temple and

17th in Long Beach. For information or reservations call 862-2075 or 436-3314 (evenings).

The University Women's Center
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