

## The Last Word by Bebé Démelo

Would somebody please explain the rationale behind the CBC's cuts to their creative personnel (but leaving the lawyers - subtle, eh?) right when we're trying desperately to create *more* quality Canadian programming. Perhaps the folks at CBC TV should show some initiative and follow their radio star's foray into publishing...may we suggest the title *Shrinking Without Thinking*?

This year, several old-time Banffers engaged in various purifying fasts to prepare themselves for the inevitable week of gluttony, only to end up at receptions with either no food (WIF!), scant food (CBC!), or the same food as yesterday (A&E!). Around 10 o'clock every night, starving delegates could be seen stuffing their faces at local eateries, with many sneaking after-dinner mints out in their backpacks. It takes energy to schmooze, people! One wonders if there were a class breakdown happening there—with secret nosh sessions being held for the super-elite at decadent hidden-away restaurants, while the rest of us wannabes were left chewing our knuckles.

That said, the real Alberta beef served at the BBQ came in the nick of time. But unlike past BBQs, no scandalous behaviour was observed by this fly on the

wall, though clusters of producers (looking much like mushroom patches in their cowboy hats) were seen dotting the woods bordering the BBQ, the sounds of deep creative processes floating in the air above on clouds of illicit, fragrant smoke. Will we ever know which future hit series (or future star) was conceived right there in the woods that night?

Vancouver Women in Film and Video—oops! make that Women in Film and Video Vancouver (so much for the nicely balanced acronym)—Awards Gala was a lovely evening with great stories about dykes with mics and midnight runs to the border to free unedited films...well, when we finally got to them. Perhaps next year board appointments should be granted based not on credentials but on the candidate's ability to avoid wordy, lengthy, redundant speeches which simply say the same thing a hundred different ways, unlike this writer who is known for her brevity and shortness of content and...

By the way, I was happy to see Mr. Wayne Sterloff receive an "Honorary Friends Of" at the Gala because of his staff of women. Perhaps one day a WOMAN will have his job, then she can hire a bunch of *men* to work for her!



Women in Film and Video Vancouver (WIF&VV) is a non-profit organization of professional women founded to promote the achievements and improve the status and portrayal of women in film, video and television through education, training, lobbying, networking and advocacy. Vancouver Women in Film and Video is an independent entity internationally affiliated with Women in Film chapters throughout North America, Great Britain, Europe and Australia. Membership is open to all professionals in film, video and television and includes representation from creative, technical, administrative and service fields.

### M A N D A T E